

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2010
TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PASTOR'S COLUMN

As some of you can see a lot is happening around the Church building. You may also be wondering when the new Tabernacle placement will occur. I would like to use this week's column to bring you up-to-date with things.

There was an elaborate and expensive design that was proposed for the tabernacle placement. This involved the moving of an entire wall of the sanctuary. In discussing this design with our Liturgy Committee, they thought that it was too expensive and the design would be too radical. I agreed with their recommendations.

We sought a simpler design. This second design was even more beautiful than the first and required less demolition. It was much less expensive as well. So I ok'd that design and it will be worked on this week. Hopefully by next weekend it will be completed.

Because it was cheaper, I decided to take the remaining monies that you have so generously given in our Annual Catholic Appeal and do some other badly needed things:

1. The replacement of the outer protective glass on our stained glass windows. The old plexiglass has yellowed and actually keeps light out of the Church. We are replacing some of those window protections with a new form of plastic which fits right over the glass and does not yellow. We also needed to replace many of the wooden frames since they had rotted. You may notice the difference when you walk on 29 Street or look at the central glass on Ditmars Blvd. It has made a big difference.
2. The placement of discreet banisters that go up the steps to the sanctuary. We have had some bad accidents that could have been avoided if we had banisters.
3. We have designated an area in the front of the Church (near the ramp from outside) as a place for people with handicaps. A couple of benches will be removed so that those who have wheelchairs will not have to be left in the

aisles but may have a dignified and honored place near the sanctuary.

All of this would not have been possible without your generosity. You help make our parish Church a beautiful and reverent place!

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – August 23

7:00 a.m. Lloyd Strayhorn
9:00 a.m. Katherine & Paul Schaefer
12 Noon Mary Kelly (2 Anniv.)

TUESDAY – August 24

7:00 a.m. Luis Wheeler
9:00 a.m. Gino Legovich
12 Noon Ronaghan & Prager Families

WEDNESDAY - August 25

7:00 a.m. John Adikimenakis
9:00 a.m. Bridget & John McGettigan
12 Noon Peter Mulvihill

THURSDAY- August 26

7:00 a.m. Lucille Strayhorn
9:00 a.m. Zeljka Zic
12 Noon William Guhring

FRIDAY - August 27

7:00 a.m. Corlito Collazo
9:00 a.m. Browne, Doyle & Cecco Families
12 Noon Francisco Cardona

SATURDAY - August 28

7:00 a.m. Mr. Zeljko Bogic
9:00 a.m. Antonio Pace
12 Noon Margaret & Victor Lynch, Kelleher & Kata Families
5:00 p.m. All those enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - August 29

7:00 a.m. Sylvestre Family
9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:30 a.m. Angelo Catano
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Nestor Cardona
1:00 p.m. Joseph Romanelli
3:00 p.m. Wedding: Eric Scuccimarra & Stellies Xuereb

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian-** Antonia Pezzuto

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of my wife Rose Dimech, my parents Joseph & Maria Assunta and my sisters Gaetana & Carmen, requested by Frank Dimech & children.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Lisa Ameruoso requested by the friends of the Barmonde Family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of James J. McCauley requested by Florence McCauley and Family.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Maria Sacramone

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them forever. +

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Religious Education Office is now closed for the summer. It will reopen on September 7th. First Registration date will be September 12th. To all of our students and parents have a wonderful Summer!!! See you in September.

COLLECTION

Weekend of:	August 7 & 8
Collection:	\$7,837.88
Attendance:	1,620
Per Capita:	\$4.84

Weekend of:	August 14 & 15
Collection:	\$7,666.44
Attendance:	1,609
Per Capita:	\$4.76

SCHOOL NEWS

Registration continues to be ongoing for grades N to 8. Please leave a message on the School Office phone 718-728-1969 or email Ms. Harnischfeger at principal@icsastoria.org if you would like to set up a meeting to register your child for the 2010-2011 School Year. We look

forward to meeting with you and giving you the best Catholic Education in Astoria!

The New York City Fire Department Safety Unit brought a 35 foot Safety House to give a lesson on Fire Safety to the 65 participants of the Summer Program on Wednesday, August 4th from 10 AM until 12PM. The children viewed the different fire hazards in the mock room and were able to then learn how to crawl safely out of the house for emergencies. This event was covered by NY1 TV and Currents NET TV. Here is the link to the televised New York 1 Coverage: http://queens.ny1.com/content/top_stories/123252/fdny-brings-fire-safety-lesson-on-wheels-to-astoria

On Monday, August 16, the children in the Summer Program at Immaculate Conception School will be researching water samples under microscope in the Bio Bus! This all green bus runs on discarded oil from restaurants! The Bio Bus will be parked by the big school yard from 10AM until 1 PM. Check out information about the Bio Bus: <http://biobus.org/education>.

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

For those of you who registered for the DAY sessions, please meet at 9:45am in the Lower Church (use the 29th Street entrance) Arrive at 9:45 to receive your materials, the study will run from 10-11:30am.

For those of you who registered for the EVENING sessions, please meet at 6:45pm in the Nazareth Center, side door to school near the back entrance church on 29th Street.

Dates:

Sep. 8, 15, 22, 29
 Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27
 Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26
 Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23
 May 4, 11, 18, 25
 June 1, 8, 15, 22



The New York Blood Center will be holding a Blood Drive at our parish on **Monday, August 23 from 4:30 - 9:00 p.m.** in the school hall.

Please help and donate blood. People can't live without it.



ICS Alumni Association's 1st Annual Golf Outing

Immac's Alumni Association is pleased to host its first golf outing to benefit the children of Immaculate Conception School. It will be held on **Thursday, September 16, 2010** at the famed Knickerbocker Country Club in Tenafly, New Jersey. This course was designed by Donald Ross. Buffet brunch, cocktail and dinner included. Sponsorships available. For information or to RSVP contact Peter Prager, Chairperson at threelumps@yahoo.com or 914-439-2552

"DO YOUR SHOPPING WITH IMMAC!!

Our school will be selling gift cards to some of your favorite stores (GameStop, Barnes & Noble, Shop and Stop, Peapod, Amazon.com, CVS, Toys R Us to just name a handful). Each gift card you buy earns money for the school, and you pay nothing extra, just the value of the card. We have literally hundreds of different gift cards available for purchase and each one will help support Immac. For a complete list of available gift cards, pick up an order form.

This will be offered on an ongoing basis, beginning in September, but since several people have inquired about placing back-to-school related orders (think : Staples for book covers and desk supplies, Toys R Us for fun backpacks, Payless for sneakers, CVS for lunchboxes and snacks, etc) we are doing a mid-summer order

Order forms are available in the school gym during the hours of 7:45 am – 5:45 pm. If the gym is closed due to a field trip, please go to the rectory. Forms can be returned to the same location. Look for the drop box.

If you are interested in ordering, but cannot get / drop-off forms during these hours, please contact scrip@icsastoria.org to make alternate arrangements. We will try to accommodate anyone who is interested."

AUTUMN AUCTION

The Immaculate Conception School Alumni Association is happy to announce that it is hosting an Autumn Auction to benefit our students and school on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at Riccardo's by the Bridge from 1-5pm. A buffet dinner, beer, wine, soda and dessert will be served. Tickets cost \$45.00 per person and are available in the school office or the rectory. Bring your family and friends. Volunteers for the event are also needed. For more information call Committee Chairperson: Ms. Frances Rocco at 917-482-6124.

Autumn Auction Committee members are already at working securing and collecting donations from our business neighbors and hope to have an extensive array of 200 gifts, baskets and certificates. Chances will be sold the day of the auction and these prizes raffled away. If you would like to donate an item or basket, please contact : kprager@stjohnsprepschool.org

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, located at 23-40 Astoria Blvd., is offering free ESL classes - 4 days a week for 10 weeks. Register now. For more information please call 718-726-9790.

REMEMBER IMMAC!

Countless charitable organizations rely on Estate Planning and Bequests to help them survive financially in a troubled economy. Our beloved parish is no different. Occasionally a far thinking and generous parishioner remembers the parish in the will.

It is important that everyone plans for the future by naming a health care proxy and an individual to be the Executor of their estate. To not plan is to give the government a foothold to make its own demands. So plan ahead for your family's sake and when you do, please remember to name Immaculate Conception Parish or School as one of your beneficiaries. The thanks of future generations will accompany you on your journey to the Lord!

"THE ARTIST'S WAY"

This fall, take a walk on "The Artist's Way", an intense 12 week process to assist any and all artists to discover and recover your creative self. Sessions will be held at the parish on Sunday evenings from September 12 - December 19.

Open to any type of artists or creative individuals looking to tap more deeply into their creativity. This will be a supportive, facilitated group meeting weekly to learn and grow together. Sessions are free.

If interested contact Dana at holly.ruhl@gmail.com.

**CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND WORK OF
MOTHER TERESA ON HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY AT ATHENS SQUARE PARK**

Mother Teresa brightened the lives of so many worldwide. To commemorate her 100th Birthday, Council Member Peter Vallone, Jr. will host an interfaith celebration with music, performances and a candlelight vigil to reflect on the great humanitarian legacy of this renowned figure.

**August 26th - 7:30 p.m.
Candlelight Vigil - 8:30 p.m.
Athens Square Park
(30 Avenue & 30 Street)**

****THIS EVENT IS FREE****