

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2009
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Year after year we try to keep Christ in Christmas. The commercial onslaught is both deafening and unnerving. In this vast buying spree, it is very easy to forget the quiet simplicity and dignity of the feast we celebrate.

The Creator of the Universe (so immense that we cannot know its outer limits) humbled Himself to be born by a teenage woman in a remote outpost of a third world nation. Not even born to royalty, the child first saw the light of the day He created in a stable, kept warm by the animals that fed on the straw he lay on. Homeless and in danger, his family flees to Egypt and are aliens in a strange land.

This simple story is both beautiful and sobering. While the good feelings that it generates could be grace filled, these impulses could shift us away from the story and cause us to concentrate on ourselves which is the very opposite of the Christmas Spirit.

In the midst of the decorating, the card writing, the gift buying etc. lets remember the simple story we celebrate: the love of God knows no bounds. We have a God who 'let go' being God and accepted the vulnerability of a human infant. It is simply a time of love. Amidst all the hoopla, let us come down to earth and see how God's incarnation changed everything—for the better.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Monsignor Fernando Ferrarese

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH HELPS FUND
THE GOD THE FATHER CHAPEL IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Devotion to God the Father has been a special apostolate here at Immac. This devotion began in Italy in the 20th century to help underscore the Trinitarian dimensions of the Christian Faith. While the majority of the adherents in our parish are Filipinos, this is not exclusively so. It has a diverse following.

One of the members, Linda Jimenez, helped organize a fundraising drive to build a chapel in a rural area of the Philippines. The following is a letter written by Linda to thank all the parishioners of Immac for their sponsorship of this worthy effort:

Thank you from our Father's Heart

The Fundraising campaign for God the Father's Chapel in Binan, Laguna was officially launched on Tuesday, December 1st, 2009 coinciding with my 60th birthday.

I have felt strongly about bringing God the Father to my hometown. My birthplace, Binan, Laguna, while fast becoming a bustling city, now needs to address

crime which is rapidly increasing. Building the chapel will make a difference in the lives of the poor people.

With the mission statement "Evangelization and Outreach through Bible Study, Eucharistic Adoration, Free Health and Dental Care" the project was adopted by God the Father's Children Apostolate, the Immaculate Conception Prayer Group and the Santo Nino Ilaw.

I wish to inform everyone that all donations are tax deductible and 100% of the funds raised will go to the project. Additionally, your name will be included in prayers of the God the Father's congregation – the Missionarie Unitas in Christo ad Patrem in Rome, Italy. All supporters can take delight in Our Father's promise through Mother Eugenia, the community's foundress.

"And you who work for my glory and engage yourselves to make me known, honored and loved, I assure you that your reward will be great since I will consider all, even the least effort you will make. And I will reward you for everything a hundredfold in eternity."

This chapel is a round shape measuring 91.26 square meters. The roof features skylights to save energy. The rear section, with additional storage a bathroom, also has a skylight roof. There is a steel, see through gated grill near the altar which can be closed when not in use. The pagoda and columns are built from steel. A fifty foot walkway connects the chapel and the street. Three steps lead to the round shaped chapel. In addition, Sr. Andrea Oliva Florendo will design a Mary's Garden. The approximate cost of the chapel is 2,500,000 pesos. I am confident that with ongoing pledges and support, we can meet this goal. Your generous donations were remarkable given the short notice in sending out invitations to this event. All of us showed the same desire, and we do good to glorify Our Lord "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10)

Thank you all for your enthusiastic and overwhelming support. Most especially, thank you to our pastor, Rev. Monsignor Fernando Ferrarese, for standing behind this project and providing the venue for our December 1st gathering.

May god bless you and all your loved ones,
Linda Jimenez

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – December 21st

7:00 a.m.	Helen Marsic
9:00 a.m.	Rose & Anthony Marzano
12 Noon	Costantino & Angela Sferrazza

TUESDAY – December 22nd

7:00 a.m. Deceased members of Camenzuli & Cusumano Families
9:00 a.m. Rose Gualtieri
12Noon Edward Casey & Carol Murphy Family

WEDNESDAY - December 23rd

7:00a.m. Melanie & Rene Sylvestre
9:00 a.m. Mary Maffei
12 Noon Joseph J. Conti (13th Anniv.)

THURSDAY- December 24th

7:00 a.m. Virginia Arevalo
9:00 a.m. Mary C. Follett
12 Noon Nina Borda
5:00 p.m. Betty & Frank Evangelista
12 Midnight Living & Deceased Parishioners

FRIDAY - December 25th - Christmas

The Masses today will be offered for the intentions of the celebrant, living and deceased members of our parish family, those visiting with us, our benefactors and your special intentions.

SATURDAY - December 26th

7:00 a.m. Joseph Cseri
9:00 a.m. Antonio Carattoni
12:00 Noon Patrick F. Bridges (9th Anniv.)
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

SUNDAY - December 27th

7:00 a.m. Michael DePace
9:00 a.m. Malachy McGurran
10:30 a.m. John & Katherine Halpern
11:45 a.m. **Spanish**- Jorge Rojas
1:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Onafrino Giannattasio

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Deceased members of Capizzi, Caronia & Coppolo Families requested by Josephine & Larry Caronia.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Anna & Paul Manna, Bridget & Salvatore Persico, requested by Milly & Anthony Persico.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Jennie Capizzi requested by Josephine & Larry Caronia.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Michael Manniello

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

CHOIR NEWS

The choir is seeking men and women who like to sing. Come join them for practice on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the choir loft. Enter the church through the front side doors.



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

MASSES:

Feast of Christmas: (Christmas Eve – Thursday, December 24th)

Family Mass 5:00 p.m.
Lessons & Carols 11:25 p.m.
Mass 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25th (Holy Day of Obligation)

Upper Church: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (English)
11:45 a.m. (Spanish)
Lower Church: 9:00 a.m. (Italian)

****PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO 1:00 p.m. Mass****

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Thursday, December 31st- (New Year's Eve)

Mass: 7:00 p.m.

FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD – NEW YEAR'S DAY - Friday, January 1, 2010

Upper Church: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. (English)
11:45 a.m. (Spanish)
Lower Church: 9:00 a.m. (Italian)

****PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO 1:00 p.m. Mass****

“KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS”

The Holy Name Society has a limited supply of “Keep Christ In Christmas” bumper stickers. They will be available (Free) following the 9:00 a.m. Mass today in front of the school hall.

ROSARY SOCIETY MASS & MEETING

Please join us for the Rosary Society mass and meeting on Sunday, January 3. Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. We will pray the rosary at 10:00 a.m. if anyone would like to join us. We will sit in the main area of the church on the left side toward the front if you are facing the altar. After mass, we will have a meeting downstairs in the school hall where coffee and a light snack will be served. Yearly dues will also be collected. New members are always welcome.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION

Bishop DiMarzio invites all to join him in this year’s Annual Catholic Charities Collection. The collection takes place at all Christmas Masses. Please return the special Catholic Charities envelope from your envelope packet with your gift. If you do not receive monthly envelopes, we ask you to please use your own blank envelope and write “Catholic Charities” on it. Bishop DiMarzio urges all to join in sharing God’s love with families and children in need by giving generously to this year’s Charities Christmas collection.

PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

“My Christmas Gift to the Parish” collection will be taken up in our parish this weekend, December 19th & 20th. This collection is very important for the upkeep of the parish. We depend a great deal on the contributions received at Christmas and Easter.

I understand that this is a busy time for everyone. I don’t want to ask for a set amount of contribution because circumstances vary from person to person. However, it would be appreciated if each person, especially each wage earner, would give a gift to the church as generous as you would give to one who is very close to you...One whom you love and cherish.

***Please note: a special envelope for this collection is included in your monthly envelopes. If you do not receive envelopes, we have placed additional envelopes around the church for your convenience.**

<u>COLLECTION:</u>	
Week of 12/12 & 12/13:	
Collection:	\$9,513.03
Attendance:	1,745
Per Capita:	\$5.45

TREE LIGHTING / CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Today, Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m., our parish family will gather in the church to sing Christmas carols. We will then process to the Crib for the blessing and sing our way up to the rectory for the tree lighting. A special visitor then awaits us in the school hall. Refreshments for all!!! Please come and join in the festivities.

MARCH 12-14, 2010 YOUTH RETREAT (AGES 15-30) AT IMMAC

Our parish is pleased to announce that on March 12th, 13th & 14th, we will be hosting a **Youth 2000 NY Retreat** weekend. This is a beautiful and unique opportunity for the youth of our parish and surrounding parishes, and they are invited and strongly encouraged to attend the weekend. They will join young people from around the metropolitan area to pray, talk and socialize. Registration forms are available in the back of the Church and in the rectory. Please call Kitty Prager at 917-714-7360 for more information.

Youth 2000 is organized by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. They have held monthly prayer festivals that have touched the lives of thousands of young people in the Metropolitan area. Their simple life style, love of Christ, and service to the poor present to the young people a powerful and much-needed witness of Christ living in today’s world. YOUTH 2000 was invited by the World Youth day committee to lead Eucharistic Adoration at the World Youth Days in Manila in 1995, Paris in 1997, Rome in 2000 and again in Toronto in 2002. YOUTH 2000 Prayer Festivals occur almost every week somewhere in the US. At present, YOUTH 2000 is active in the US, England, Ireland, Germany, Australia, Panama, the West Indies, and hopes to expand into other countries in Europe and in Africa. One may also visit the Youth2000NY website: <http://www.youth2000ny.com/MajorEvent2009/ME09.htm>.

TOY DRIVE

The Immaculate Conception Columbian Squire Circle #4411 will be collecting **NEW** toys from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the school hall **today, Sunday, December 20th**.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEW YEAR’S EVE PARTY

The Knights of Columbus Immaculate Conception Council #11449, invite you to join them for a Family New Year’s Eve Party in the school hall on December 31st from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Admission is \$10.00 for adults and children are free. Bring your own food. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. Table reservations and tickets will be available in the school hall on Sunday, December 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the door.