

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Things are really happening in a fast and furious way! I would like to take this opportunity to keep you informed and up to date about a number of parish endeavors.

Parish Pastoral Planning:

A number of implementation teams have been meeting to put into effect the pastoral goals that we have selected as a parish. One of the goals that has immediate implications is the one related to Youth Activity. A committee of young people have been meeting to plan a Youth Mass for Sunday evenings. This will be a Mass held each Sunday night in the lower church that will be completely staffed by the youth of the parish: Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, Lectors, Ushers, Choir, Music, etc. We hope to have this ready by the beginning of Lent. In addition we have a large committee working on a Youth Retreat called Youth 2000. We hope to have 200 teenagers and young adults for a lock down retreat in the school on the weekend of March 12th, 13th & 14th. Because these two initiatives will affect the youth of our parish for many years to come, I am pleased to announce that we have hired a Youth Minister: Michael Meloni who will oversee all these efforts. Michael grew up in our parish and has been an invaluable help in the past. I am so pleased that he has been able to assume this new position for Immac!

Operation Welcome:

Last November 13th we kicked off our campaign to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform by showing "The Sixth Section" and having the film maker, Alex Rivera, to lead us in a reflection of this film. We had over 100 participants!

The next events include the showing of the film "El Norte" with a talk by our own Anthony Meloni on the history of immigration law and its impact on our country.

Also in the planning stages is an interfaith service and a theatrical experience. Hopefully we will see our efforts bearing fruit in good immigration legislation.

Vocations:

As you may know the weekend before last I gave a retreat to men who will be ordained deacons and then priests this coming year. It has been a great privilege to be able to give this retreat for the past 8 or 9 years. I am humbled by the goodness of the men seeking to be priests in our church, but we must redouble our efforts to have our own vocation

come forth from Immac. Sometimes I am asked what plans do you have for the parish and what goals do I have. The thing that would make me most happy is to see one of our parishioners ordained as a priest or consecrated as a male or female religious. I think that this is the ultimate fruit of a thriving faith community: the vocations that are inspired to serve the Church!

Rev. Monsignor Fernando Ferrarese

DONATION OF MADONNA STATUE

We would like to sincerely thank Mr. Tony D'Ambrosio for his kind donation of the beautiful Madonna that we will use as a center focus devotional piece for our Mission and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mr. D'Ambrosio has been a friend to us at Immac for many years. He is responsible for the beautifully redecorated rectory pastoral area as well as many renovations in the Church. A great thanks to him and his staff!

CONCELEBRATION STOLES HAVE BEEN DELIVERED

Eight very generous parishioners donated the money for a set of eight concelebration stoles hand made by the Trappist Monks of Spencer Massachusetts. They have finally been delivered. Those who donated them may see them in the sacristy whenever they come for mass. Thank you for this beautiful addition to our liturgy!

SECURITY PACKAGE ON TRACK

We are happy to announce that the security system that was part of the Annual Catholic Appeal package is a few weeks away from full implementation. You probably have not noticed the cameras all through the Church and outside in the parking lots. And that is a good thing! They are meant to be unobtrusive. But, they carefully record everything that happens with great detail and this recording is done on state of the art DVRs that can burn a DVD at a moment's notice to give to Police should any unwelcome activity occur on Church property.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

The Catholic War Veterans Post #1 wish to thank all those who donated to the "adopt a platoon" program. We were able to send 53 boxes to Iraq and the postage was also paid by your donations .

Please keep our platoon in your prayers during this Christmas season. Hopefully, our boxes will bring a little cheer to those so far from home.



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****

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – December 7th

7:00 a.m. Buddy, Charles & Leah Vallone
9:00 a.m. Margaret, Tom & James O'Neill
12 Noon Deceased sailors of the Arizona
7:30 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

TUESDAY – December 8th

7:00 a.m. Sylvestre Family
9:00 a.m. Rose Gallo
12 Noon Filomena & Rocco Sansone
7:30 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

WEDNESDAY - December 9th

7:00a.m. Jeter J. Vasquez
9:00 a.m. Catherine & Harry Mulgannon
12 Noon Ellen & Patrick Egan

THURSDAY- December 10th

7:00 a.m. Rev. Michael J. Walsh
9:00 a.m. Giuseppe & Vittoria Lombardi
12 Noon Mario Sokolic

FRIDAY - December 11th

7:00 a.m. Donald Fitzgerald
9:00 a.m. Pasquale Mazzuca (1st Anniv.)
12 Noon Gaspare Caradonna

SATURDAY - December 12th

7:00 a.m. Rev. Walter Murphy
9:00 a.m. In honor of St. Lucy
12:00 Noon Corino Penso (13th Anniv.)
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

SUNDAY - December 13th

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Tenaglia
9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:30 a.m. Rose & John Cavagnolo
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Oscar Serna (Anniv.)
1:00 p.m. Sinisa Pesa

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Lucia DiCostanzo

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Mario Sokolic requested by Morfia Sokolic.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Mario Sokolic requested by Morfia Sokolic.

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Mario Sokolic requested by Morfia Sokolic.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Ulderico Toma

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 PLANTS AND DECORATIONS

Envelopes have been placed around the church for those wishing to donate flowers/plants in memory of a deceased loved one or as a gift to the church for the holiday season. The donation is \$25.00. Please return the envelope as soon as possible to permit the printing of the names in time for Christmas. All those who participated in the sanctuary Christmas decorations, either in memory of a deceased loved one or as a gift to the church will be remembered at the Masses on Christmas day.

PARISH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

“My Christmas Gift to the Parish” collection will be taken up in our parish the weekend of 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.**

COLLECTIONS:

Week of 11/21 & 11/22:

Collection:	\$8,813.81
Attendance:	2,357
Per Capita:	\$3.74

Week of 11/28 & 11/29:

Collection:	\$8,230.76
Attendance:	1,684
Per Capita:	\$4.89

THANK YOU!

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank all those who attended Night at the Races and making it a great success.

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 on Sunday, December 6th, 13th & 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 6th, 13th & 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tickets will also be available at the door.