

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Part of our series on Immigration Reform is coming up fast. On Sunday afternoon, March 7th at 5:00 p.m., we are hosting an Ecumenical gathering and Prayer Service for the newly formed Christian Clergy of Astoria-Long Island City.

As part of this Prayer Service Bishop DiMarzio, our Diocesan Bishop, will give the talk on Immigration. He will share with us the moral underpinnings of the issue as well as his vision of a better immigration policy.

Bishop DiMarzio is an internationally renowned authority on Immigration issues having been on the United Nations Committee on Migration.

It is my hope that we have a big showing for this event. I would ask each organization in the parish to send a delegation of 5-10 members and to sit in specifically designated rows for the event. It would be a good way to show our Bishop that the social concerns of the immigrants of Astoria are foremost in our minds.

While everyone knows the immigration system needs to be overhauled, people are divided on how to do this. We have 12 million undocumented in America. To do it legally could take as long as 14 years!

Some countries like Canada have developed a point system so that those people who have a special claim to immigrate here might find a fair and well administered system.

We have lost control of our borders and yet we need the workers here for our economy. We need to find ways to be both humane and just in our policy and to administrate it effectively.

We need to pray to the Lord who was an immigrant Himself when the Holy Family was forced to flee Egypt to save the life of the Infant Jesus.

There are many compelling stories even today that can fill the pages of many novels.

Let us pray together for justice and for our beautiful country: a nation of immigrants!

**LENTEN VESPERS FOR VOCATIONS
RIGHT HERE: THE CALL OF THE LORD
VOCATIONS FROM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH**

February 23 The Vocation to the Consecrated Life of Sisters – Sr. Margaret McCabe S.U.S.C.

March 2 The Vocation to the Consecrated Life of Brothers – Br. Joseph Rocco S.C.

March 9 The Vocation to the Priesthood – Fr. Joseph Grimaldi

March 16 The Vocation to Marriage and the Diaconate – Deacon Franklin Munoz and Ana Maria Munoz

All are Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All vocations were nurtured here at Immaculate Conception Parish. Come and hear their stories from the very streets of Astoria! Immaculate Conception Church – Ditmars Blvd. and 29th Street – www.ic-astoria.org.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday ushers in the Holy Season of Lent. This is a 40 day period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving which is meant to purify Christians for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery during the week we call “Holy”. As we did last year: Confessions will be offered all day from 6:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. except during the Masses.

The schedule of Masses is as follows:

7:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Mass (bi-lingual: English-Italian)
12 Noon Mass
3:15 p.m. Service of the Word
7:30 p.m. Mass (bi-lingual: English-Spanish)

Ashes will be distributed after the homily only. There will be NO distribution of ashes at any other times and in other places!

WANTED: ADORERS OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Once again during Lent this year we would like to offer an expanded time set aside for adoration of the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. For the weekdays (Monday to Friday) during Lent we will expose the Blessed Sacrament for the entire afternoon: from after the 12 Noon mass to 5:00 pm when one of the priests on staff will lead the people in the recitation of Evening Prayer (also known as Vespers). The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed after Evening Prayer.

Monday night novena will take place right after Evening Prayer at 5:00 pm.

In order to be sure that there is someone in Church at all times during the exposition, we are asking parishioners to sign up for one hour of adoration per week. For example: if you choose Mondays from 2:00 to 3:00 pm, then you would be expected to be in church to pray during that time for all the Mondays in Lent. It is a

sacrifice, but a beautiful one! In addition, whoever signs up the 3:00 pm time slot will lead the Divine Mercy Chapelet with anyone who is present. So sign up now! Just go to the Sacristy before or after mass and sign up for one hour “quality time” with the Lord!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is only the beginning! We need to structure our observance of Lent around three basic foundations: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving.

Prayer: We need to increase the amount of time devoted to prayer as well as increase our attentiveness during prayer. Some ideas:

1. Attend daily Mass during Lent
2. Make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament each day.
3. Attend our Centering Contemplative Prayer group that meets on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. in the lower Church, or the English prayer group on Thursday evenings in the lower Church as well as the Spanish Charismatic Meeting on Thursday evenings in the Gym.
4. Attend our Lenten Vespers Series (see related announcement in this bulletin).

There are many more ideas that I will leave up to your creativity.

Fasting: The idea behind fasting is to do away with what is not necessary to our lives so that we can concentrate on essentials. It is also a way of disciplining our appetites so that we can serve God with freedom. Some ideas:

1. Fast every day except Sunday during the season of Lent.
2. Abstain from meat throughout the season of Lent (check with your doctor first!)
3. Abstain from television or from other diversions
4. Fast from unnecessary conversations that may lead to gossip

Almsgiving: It is important to remember the poor during the season. It is another form of self-denial. Some ideas:

1. Use our Operation Rice Bowl containers to help Catholic Relief Services. (we will provide these on the first Sunday of Lent).
2. Increase your giving to our poor boxes. This money goes directly to Sr. Eileen Davey’s mission in Haiti and to our expanding food pantry.
3. Volunteer in some capacity to assist the poor.
4. Help the Diocese and our parish by making a pledge to our Annual Catholic Appeal.

One of the good things about our observances during Lent is that they are meant to be self chosen and private. The Lord frowned on the people that told others about what they were doing. So be generous and

private about what you choose to do. Depending on how generous you are with the Lord, the Holy Days of Holy Week will be times of great spiritual insight. The Lord must see our seriousness so that he can give us the rewards of our labors.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH MASS

Every Sunday at 5:00 p.m.
Held in the ‘Underground’ Church
Ditmars Blvd. and 29th Street
A Catholic Mass for Young People
Staffed by the Youth and Young Adults of Astoria
Beginning Sunday night March 21st

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – February 15th

7:00 a.m. Sylvestre Family
9:00 a.m. Eugene M. Roberts
12 Noon Francesco & Maria D’Addario

TUESDAY – February 16th

7:00 a.m. John Scarano
9:00 a.m. Emanuel Sala (Birth. Remb.)
12 Noon Sean Brown & John J. Prager

WEDNESDAY - February 17th

7:00a.m. Mary Arevalo, Lazaro Hernandez
Arevalo
9:00 a.m. Sally Pappas
12 Noon Antonino & Enza Frisina

THURSDAY- February 18th

7:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 a.m. Diane Stafford
12 Noon Rose Pokorny

FRIDAY - February 19th

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Thomas Collins (Birth. Remb.)
12 Noon Carmen Diaz & Ramon Hernandez

SATURDAY - February 20th

7:00 a.m. Edgar A. Grech
9:00 a.m. Gizella Cseri
12 Noon Denise, Blanche & Jesse Smith
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

SUNDAY - February 21st

7:00 a.m. Sr. Anita Rosaire Fay, OP
9:00 a.m. Gizella & Ignac Cseri
10:30 a.m. Simone Ruggiero (10th Anniv.)
11:45 a.m. **Spanish**- Victor M. Feneque
1:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

Lower Church:

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

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Edgar A. Grech requested by his daughter Judith.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Ncncy & Frank Pisido requested by Eda Barese.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Frank Grisoli requested by his cousin.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Dr. Augusto Mesia
Joseph D'Oro
Frank Tratano
Evelyn Cinaglia
Sigifredo Gomez

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

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>.

COLLECTION

Week of:	February 6 th & 7 th
Amount of Collection:	\$9,474.38
Attendance:	2,004
Per Capita:	\$4.86

SCHOOL NEWS

A Middle States Accredited School
Celebrating 85 Years of Excellence in Education and
Promoting Christian Values



Toddler Program - 18 to 36 months
Nursery Program - 3 year olds / half or full day 2,3,5 day programs
Pre-Kindergarten - 4 year olds / half or full day 5 day program
Kindergarten - 5 year olds / full day 5 day program
Elementary School - Grades 1-8
New York State/Diocesan Curriculum
Exceptional New York State Scores
Early Morning Program: beginning at 7:30am
After School Program: 3:00pm-6:00pm
Title I Services (Math, Reading and a School Social Worker)
Computer, Library, Gym, Music, and Art
Home School Association - sponsored activities
After School Clubs
Full Time Nurse
Summer Camp / Monday-Friday 7:30am-6:00pm
Flexible Payment Plans and Tuition Assistance Available

Come Be a Part of the
Best Little Catholic School in the Heart of Astoria

For more Information please contact us at
(718) 728-1969 or visit our website @
www.icsastoria.org