

**FEBRUARY 28, 2010  
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT**

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM**

Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 pm

Immaculate Conception Church

Speaker: Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio

Bishop of Brooklyn

Sponsored by Christian Clergy of Astoria – Long Island  
City

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

It is that time of year again! No, not the beginning of spring training!

We are back with our Annual Catholic Appeal. I am speaking at all the masses about the appeal this weekend and next weekend I will be conducting an in pew solicitation so that we can reach our goal of \$120,000.

Like in the previous years, we divide the money between the diocese and a parish need we would like to address. This year \$64,869 will be given to the Diocese. This is the same diocesan goal that we had last year. The first money goes to the Diocese for their work with the poor and the aged (Catholic Charities), Education (tuition assistance), vocations (seminary support), etc. Without the generosity of the parishioners of our parishes, many worthwhile things would not be able to be accomplished. The second part of the appeal is the parish project that we designate as a capital improvement.

The first year of my pastorate we renovated the pastoral or public area in the rectory to reflect a more welcoming impression on those who come for help with sacraments, etc. It is a beautiful, bright and clean environment thanks to your assistance.

Last year we saved for a state of the art surveillance system which is already operative. If you like to see it, go to the rectory or the sacristy and I think that you would be impressed. Our parish church and outside grounds are now safer because of your commitment to making our parish a place of peace and security, especially for those who are elderly and for our children.

This year we turn a liturgical need that in one sense does not seem as obvious but is probably the most important in terms of theology: the relocation of the Tabernacle back to a central spot in our beautiful church.

When the Church was built, the Tabernacle was in the center of the Church right behind the main altar. At

the last renovation (in the 1990s) the Liturgy office thought that it should be moved into the Chapel and the Chapel cut off from the main body of the church by a wall or partition. Msgr. Boccio rightly rejected that plan because of the large number of people who love to sit in the chapel for Sunday and weekday masses.

The Liturgical thinking at that time was to move the Tabernacle from behind the altar so that the priests back would not be facing the Tabernacle and thus signaling a lack of respect. It was further thought that the Tabernacle behind the altar took away from the Mass in that it was too prominent a display. Msgr. Boccio acceded rather unwillingly to the compromise position where the Tabernacle is now. Unfortunately, as it later became clear, this was an inappropriate place for the Tabernacle for a number of reasons.

1. It is not central, but in a corner of the sanctuary.
2. it's placement seems to demote the Eucharist instead of enhancing its importance.
3. it is in a passage way between two doors that go into the sacristy.
4. it is right next to the 'money chute' that ushers use to pour the collection to the safe and secure lower vault.
5. the Priest still has his back to the Tabernacle when he is sitting at the presider's chair!

The Tabernacle is one of the most important parts of the Church. Some would argue: the most important. It is what makes Catholic Churches different from other churches. We have the Real Presence of Christ for anyone whom comes into the Church at any hour. But now this great mystery is in the corner, between a door and a money chute! The solution that the Liturgical Committee came up with was truly ingenious: to place the Tabernacle behind the Altar in a recessed location that could be covered during the mass with an icon but would be opened at all other times so that the Real Presence of Christ can be worshipped in an unambiguously central place.

Hopefully we will be able to rectify this situation. A very gifted artist is coming up with a design that would highlight with great dignity our belief that Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, is at the very center of our parish.

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY** ~ March 1<sup>st</sup>

7:00 a.m. Anna Marie & Frank Hirschy  
9:00 a.m. Rose Pokorny  
12 Noon Cristina & Giovanni Frisina

**TUESDAY** – March 2<sup>nd</sup>

7:00 a.m. Laurence, Margaret & Patrick Cassidy  
9:00 a.m. Ellen & Patrick Egan  
12 Noon Martha McDougall (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniv.)

**WEDNESDAY** – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

7:00 a.m. Maria Oliva  
9:00 a.m. Ignac Cseri  
12 Noon Gino LoFrano

**THURSDAY** – March 4<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Marie & Joe Davi  
9:00 a.m. Elsie & Harold Smith  
12 Noon Rose, Walter, Sr. & Walter, Jr. Reynolds

**FRIDAY** – March 5<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Carmelo Mallia, Joseph, Paula & Anna Bezzina  
9:00 a.m. John Porcari (Birth. Remb.)  
12 Noon Edward & Mary Casey, Mary Duffy

**SATURDAY** – March 6<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Rev. Francis Flynn  
9:00 a.m. Joseph Cseri (1<sup>st</sup> Anniv.)  
12 Noon Denise, Blanche & Jesse Smith  
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

**SUNDAY** - March 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. **Living & Deceased Parishioners**  
9:00 a.m. Rose & Anthony Marzano  
10:30 a.m. Margaret, Tom & James O’Neill  
11:45 a.m. **Spanish** – Evelio, Juan, Ricardo & Hilda Reyes  
1:00 p.m. Nino Bonici (5<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)

**Lower Church**

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Salvatore Barrera

**THE BREAD & WINE** are donated this week in loving memory of Rose, Walter Sr. & Walter, Jr. Reynolds, requested by Mary Rose Reynolds.

**THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR** are donated this week in loving memory of John Porcari requested by the Caruana Family.

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

**COLLECTION:**

Week of: Feb. 20 & 21  
Amount: \$8,324.05  
Attendance: 1,767  
Per Capita: \$4.71

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

**March 2** The Vocation to the Consecrated Life of Brothers – Bro. 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

The 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 29<sup>th</sup> Street – [www.ic-astoria.org](http://www.ic-astoria.org).

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH MASS**

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

**MARCH 12 – 14, 2010 YOUTH RETREAT AGES 15-30 AT IMMAC**

Our parish is pleased to announce that on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 this 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 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 U.S. At present, YOUTH 2000 is active in the U.S., 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 Youth 2000NY website at: <http://www.youth2000NY.com/MajorEvent2009/ME09.htm>.

**ST. GIANNA RESPECT LIFE MEETING**

The St. Gianna Respect Life Committee meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 3rd in the Immaculate Conception Church Rectory. All are welcome.

**AMORE Y FE**

El grupo de oracion “Amor y Fe” te invita a que compartas con nosotros el Curso de Formacion Biblica y Apologetica. Durante 7 semanas, empezando el Jueves 4 de Febrero hasta el Jueves 18 de Marzo a las 7:30 pm en el gimnasio de la Escuela.



The Knights of Columbus will be Sponsoring a **“Fish Fry”** on **Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** in the School Hall.

Come and enjoy a complete meal consisting of fish, French fries, bun, coleslaw, soda, beer or water. You can choose to “eat in” or “take out”. **Price: \$6.00**  
**Come and Enjoy a Lenten Meal with Us!**

### **PILGRIMAGE**

Please join Fr. Thomas Gilbert and Seminarian Sean Suckiel on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Sites of France (Lourdes, Ars, Paray le Monial, Nevers, Mont St. Michel and Paris). We will visit the sites of St. John Vianney, St. Bernadette, St. Jeanne Jugan, St. Vincent de Paul, sites where our Blessed Mother appeared in Lourdes and the Miraculous Medal.

It will be a beautiful time of the year to visit France! The dates are May 10-19, 2010. If anyone is interested in the opportunity, please contact seminarian Sean Suckiel @ 718-278-1834.

### **DIOCESAN UNION COMMUNION BRUNCH**

The Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies is holding it Annual Communion Brunch on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Snows Church located at 258-15 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Floral Park, NY in support of vocations. Most Rev. Ignatius Catanello will be the main celebrant at

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

St. Francis of Assisi Bereavement Support Group will begin a new session on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will take place in the rectory basement, located at 21-17 45<sup>th</sup> Street. If you or someone you know are mourning the death of a loved one and are having a hard time coping with daily events, you may find some comfort by attending these sessions. Please call the St. Francis rectory at 718-728-7801 if you wish to attend or need more information.