

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2010
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is just around the corner! Ash Wednesday is on February 17th this year. We are gearing up as a parish for this Spiritual Season.

Once again we will offer confession all day on Ash Wednesday. Ashes are a sign of repentance. The sacrament of Confession is the actual repentance. Except for the times that masses or the prayer service is being celebrated, we will offer the sacrament of reconciliation. We will begin at 6:30 a.m. (I'm trying to resist calling this time: early bird special!). And we will be hearing confessions until the last penitent leaves late on Wednesday night. We think this is worth it. The two times we have already done this produced a harvest of hundreds of confessions for each of the two days!

The Schedule for Ashes is:

7:00 a.m. Mass
9:00 a.m. Mass in English/Italian
12 Noon Mass
3:15 p.m. Service
7:30 p.m. Mass in Spanish/English

Also planned is our annual Lenten Vespers (see notice in this bulletin). Missions in Spanish and Italian. (English Mission was already held in December).

On the First Sunday of Lent we will be celebrating the Rite of Election for those who have been studying in our RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We have 9 for full initiation (Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation), 9 for the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation and 3 to enter the Catholic Church from other Christian Denominations. We are very happy to welcome all these new members!

In addition, we have another 10 that are studying as adults to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Lent was originally a season of intense spiritual prayer and study for those preparing for the Easter Sacraments. We are very blessed to see so many people answering the call.

**SPECIAL ANOINTING MASS IS SET FOR FEBRUARY
10TH**

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes is the day set for prayers for the sick. On the eve of that feast, Wednesday, February 10th at the 12 Noon Mass, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. If you have a serious or chronic malady or are a senior citizen, we invite you to that mass to receive the sacrament.

NET TV (NEW EVANGELIZATION TELEVISION)

Catholic Television needs your help to accomplish the mission of New Evangelization envisions by Pope John Paul II. In order to accomplish this goal the NET needs to increase it's broadcast reach to include Verizon FIOS, RCN, Dish Networks & Direct TV. Please do your part by simply filling out the Net Postcard provided this weekend. When completed, please place your cards in the collection basket. Remember, the NET is Good TV!

**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.

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 8th

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Bert Ralph
12 Noon Paul Curtin

TUESDAY – February 9th

7:00 a.m. Maria Oliva
9:00 a.m. Grazia Santamaria
12 Noon Maria Sferrazza

WEDNESDAY – February 10th

7:00a.m. Tiha Wallace (living)
9:00 a.m. Rose Walsh
12 Noon Charles, Genevieve & Peter Jackson

THURSDAY - February 11th

7:00 a.m. John Sivak
9:00 a.m. Nidya Nodarse
12 Noon Joseph & Ermina Conti

FRIDAY - February 12th

7:00 a.m. Laurence, Margaret & Patrick Cassidy
9:00 a.m. Frank Docar
12 Noon Nadine, Maude & Edward Casey

SATURDAY - February 13th

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Tenaglia
9:00 a.m. Egidia Giaccio
12 Noon Jen, Thomas & Richard Anzalone
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

SUNDAY - February 14th

7:00 a.m. Donald Fitzgerald
9:00 a.m. James F. Mullen
10:30 a.m. Antoinetta Avena
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Hector Monsalve
1:00 p.m. Zupo Family

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Pietro Agnese Paolo Famiglia

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli requested by their daughter Virginia Camenzuli.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Juric Mate requested by Anna Marcic and Family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Rose Cavagnolo requested by her children.

THE FLOWERS AT THE TABERNACLE are donated this week in loving memory of William Vokurka requested by the Knights of Columbus Council #11449.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Manuel Gil
Frank A. Dattoma
Nilda Banegas

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

DAY OF RECOLLECTION

The Holy Name Societies of Immaculate Conception and St. Francis of Assisi are sponsoring a Day of Recollection for men on February 6th, 2010 at St. Ignatius Retreat House in Manhasset, Long Island. All men of the parish are invited to attend. Space is limited. Transportation is available. A donation of \$40 is requested. For information or reservation please contact Matt Bogovich (646) 642-4275.

“BABY BOTTLES SAVE LIVES”

This weekend, February 6th & 7th, members of the St. Gianna Respect Life Committee and the Knights of Columbus will be outside the church doors giving out empty baby bottles. Please take one home, fill it up with your coins and bring it back on February 14th when the Knights of Columbus volunteers will be outside the Church to collect them. Bottles may also be returned to the Rectory between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Your coins or check made payable to The Bridge to Life will help them to continue their mission of helping mothers, their babies, children and their families.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS

Celebrate St. Valentine’s Eve by renewing your wedding vows at the 5 o’clock Mass on Saturday, February 13th. Wine and cheese will be served in the School Hall after Mass for participating couples. \$10.00 per couple. Advance Registration. Please contact Steve Wilhelm (718) 274-2969 by Wednesday, February 10th. All married couples are welcome

A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND KNIGHT OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Since September, we have held three major events: our annual Oktoberfest, Night at the Races and the annual New Year’s Eve party. Each event was a success due to the hard work and dedication of our brother Knights and the support from our fellow parishioners. We held a first and second degree and welcomed our new brothers to the order. Jointly with other parish organizations, we held parish breakfasts each month. In December we held a blood drive in which approximately 50 pints of blood were collected. Our Squire Circle held many charity drives, and Fr. Liju Augustine was named Father Prior for the Squire program. The State Charitable and Benevolent Program was a success and we surpassed our quota of selling 170 raffle books due to the support of Immaculate Conception School and the CCD program.

In the upcoming months we will continue to bring the council and parish more exciting events. We look forward to the Renewal of Wedding Vows on the eve of St. Valentine’s Day, a Fish Fry to start and end the season of Lent and a dinner dance to celebrate St. Joseph’s Day. We will help the parish with the upcoming Youth 2000 retreat and we look forward to the annual Flag Day ceremony in June.

On April 25th, we also have the honor this year of hosting the Exemplification of the Fourth Degree for the St. Isaac Jogues, St. John’s Province First New York District in which the honor of Sir Knight is bestowed upon Knights attaining the degree of Patriotism. Upon completion of the degree, Mass will be held and we will process to Riccardo’s.

I also want to thank all you have supported the council's efforts in bringing our principles to light: Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. We look forward to a rewarding year and May God bless you.

Joseph Marino, Sr.
Grand Knight
Immaculate Conception Council

INFORMATIONAL IMMIGRATION SEMINAR

An informational immigration seminar will be held at our parish on Thursday, February 11th from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the school hall. Learn about becoming a citizen, become informed on legal immigration procedures and your rights. Learn how to stop immigration fraud in its tracks.

Updates on Haitian TPS & Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

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:	<u>January 30th & 31st</u>
Amount of Collection:	\$9,077.10
Attendance:	1,879
Per Capita:	\$4.83

SCHOOL NEWS

Immaculate Conception Students have given an additional \$430 for a total of \$1,260 for Haiti Relief. This donation will be given to Holy Union Sister, Sr. Eileen Davey, to rebuild her work for children in Port au Prince, Haiti.

Thanks to our Home School Association for hosting a delicious Pasta Lunch for Student Appreciation Day during Catholic Schools Week. In addition to lunch, students in Grades 5 – 8 received inspirational bracelets. Students in Grades N – 4 went home with balloons and shouts of glee!

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



We Offer:

- 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

Evening Registration: February 9, 2010 6:00pm-7:30pm

Daily Registrations Starting, February 10, 2010 Monday-Friday 9:00am to 11:00am

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