

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2010  
BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**PASTOR'S COLUMN**

Dear Friends in Christ:

Some updates:

1. The installation of security cameras proceeds. We had a few glitches but are very close to having a state of the art system in place. This is all due to your generosity of course.

2. Operation Welcome: Immigration Reform: the Next Big Thing continues on Friday night, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a showing of the film: EL NORTE. This powerful and dramatic film successfully shows the true picture of the inequities in our immigration system at present. Following the movie, Tony Meloni, who has great experience in immigration work, will give a talk on the history of immigration policy in this country. This night is not to be missed! It will begin at 7:00 p.m. and is free. So tell your friends about it.

3. Our Youth Outreach continues. We are making preparations for our Youth 2000 retreat in March. We urge all teens to sign up as soon as possible so as not to be closed out of this experience.

We are also working out plans for our Youth Mass that will begin in February. This will take place each Sunday evening at a time to be soon decided. This Mass will be completely run by our Young People and will be held in our "underground" Church.

4. We have a newly designed Web site. We urge you to visit it whenever you can. Studies have shown that many people come to join a Church after having been attracted by their web site. Our new site can be translated instantaneously into 12 foreign languages including: Spanish, Italian, Maltese, Tagalog, Galician and even Irish! There is also a video section including the Midnight Mass segment from NY1 and the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary segment from NET TV. You will also find an interview I gave on TV on Christian Yoga.

We hope to keep building our new site and improving it. You can access our site at:

[www.ic-astoria.org](http://www.ic-astoria.org).

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**MONDAY – January 11<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Concetta & Giuseppe Davolas

9:00 a.m. Maria & Ramon Cires

12 Noon Zora Hrelja

**TUESDAY – January 12<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Tenaglia

9:00 a.m. Alvaro Roco

12 Noon Gerarda Maglio

**WEDNESDAY - January 13<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Bernice Borkowski &

Sr. M. Fulgenitta

9:00 a.m. Lina Moreschi & Family

12 Noon Katherine & John Halpin

**THURSDAY- January 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli

9:00 a.m. Ulderico Toma

12 Noon Margaret & Victor Lynch, Kelleher & Kata Families

**FRIDAY - January 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Calogero Ajusto

9:00 a.m. Elidia Fajardo

12 Noon Bernadette Judge

**SATURDAY - January 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. Nikolas Russel Racelis (Birthday – Living)

9:00 a.m. Cristina & Frank DiMarco

12:00 Noon John J. O'Connell, Sr.

5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

**SUNDAY - January 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 a.m. In honor of San Antonio Abate

9:00 a.m. William Duane

10:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** German Rodas, Ovidio Montoya

1:00 p.m. Maria Garcia & Raul Garcia

**Lower Church:**

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

**THE BREAD AND WINE** are donated this week in loving memory of Vito & Joe Bullaro requested by the Colletta Family.

**THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR** are donated this week in loving memory of Rocco Vendome requested by Omar & Milena Vendome.

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP** is burning this week in loving memory of Nellie, James & John McCauley, requested by Florence McCauley & Family.

**THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR** are donated this week in loving memory of Rocco Vendome requested by Giuseppa Vendome, Jerry, Nino & Family.

**PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**



**Please pray for the recently deceased:**

Joseph Conti  
Consiglia Croce  
Rose Walsh  
Michael E. Ryan  
Anthony Tragna  
Josephine Sottile  
Mary Gorman  
Josephine Russo  
Dominick Calabrese  
Virginia Tormos

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

**CHRISTMAS PLANTS AND DECORATIONS**

Following is an additional list of names who donated to the parish Christmas plants and decorations.

**In Memory of:**

Mary C. Browne  
Eugenio & Eugenia Gasparro, Giuseppe & Donata D'Andrea  
Jamie Giel  
Emilio, Rosa Giorgetti & Family  
Tony Jimenez & Mom & Dad  
Stephan J. Marshall  
Amelia & Maurice Myers  
Patrick John Myers  
George Napolitano  
John J. Prager & Sean Brown  
Josephine & John Prager, Joan Williams  
Evelyn & James Ronaghan, Eugene Williams  
Kathleen, Edward & Edward P. Ronaghan  
Alexander Strolla

**A Gift to My Church:**

James I. Breheny

**WINTER DANCE**

Join us for an after New Year's celebration! The Home School Association of Immaculate Conception School is hosting a winter dance on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 11:00 p.m. in the school hall. All you can eat, drink & dance. Tickets are \$20 and are available in the school office until January 13<sup>th</sup>. **ADULTS ONLY!**

**COAT COLLECTION**

The Columbian Squires of our parish will be collecting coats in the school hall from 9:00 a.m. –

2:00 p.m. today, January 10<sup>th</sup> and next Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

**PRAYER VIGIL**

The next Helpers of God's Precious Infants prayer vigil is scheduled for Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at St. John Vianney Church located at 139-25 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue (between Union Street & Parsons Blvd.), Flushing – 718-762-7920. Mass begins at 7:30 a.m.

**“This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”**

Are you considering making known the love of our Heavenly Father as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Speak with a priest or religious or contact the Vocation Office at 718-827-2454 or [vocations@diobrook.org](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org).

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS YOUTH PROGRAM**

The Youth Program will continue on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Children who have not yet registered can still sign up from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. only. All new registrants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Weekly admission fee is \$4.00.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

We would like to congratulate the following students of Msgr. McClancy Memorial High School who achieved academic honors during the first quarter:

Peter Zupo	Principal's List
George Giampietro	First Honors
Nicolas Triantaphilides	Second Honors

**PROJECT WELCOME**

*“I want to encourage you and your communities to continue to welcome the immigrants who join your ranks today, to share their joys and hopes, to support them in their sorrows and trials, and to help them flourish in their new home.”*

*--Pope Benedict XVI, Celebration of Vespers and Meeting with the Bishops of the United States of America, April 2008*

**Distortions in the Immigration Debate:**

Too often, discussions surrounding illegal immigration are reduced to distortions about who undocumented immigrants are and what they want.

Some people say that undocumented immigrants don't pay taxes. In fact, undocumented immigrants pay billions of dollars in sales, income and property

taxes each year – directly if they own, and indirectly if they rent. According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), undocumented workers pay as much as \$7 billion in Social Security and Medicare taxes each year and have contributed as much as a half-trillion dollars since 1984.

Others say that immigrants don't want to learn English. In fact, while first-generation, non-English speaking immigrants predictably have lower rates of English proficiency than native speakers, 91% of second-generation immigrants are fluent or near-fluent English speakers. By the third generation, 97% speak English fluently or near fluently.

Still others conclude that we need to close our borders to prevent another catastrophe like 9/11. In fact, seventeen of the nineteen 9/11 terrorists were in the country legally on student visas – only two had overstayed their visas. By legalizing the undocumented population and by creating more visas for workers to enter legally, we can better know who is in the country and who is coming, thus making us safer as a nation.

To learn more about the USCCB's policy positions on issues related to immigrations, please visit [www.usccb.org/mrs/policypositions.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/mrs/policypositions.shtml).

**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 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**

<b>Week of:</b>	<b><u>January 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup></u></b>
Amount of Collection:	\$8,054.25
Attendance:	1,503
Per Capita:	\$5.36

**RIGHT TO LIFE MARCH**

Please join members of the St. Gianna Respect Life Committee at the Annual March for Life on January 22<sup>nd</sup> in Washington, DC. The bus is FREE and leaves from St Joseph's in Astoria at 5:00 a.m. Please call Ann Gilmartin at 718-651-9017 to reserve a place on the bus.

After you reserve your seat, please call one of our two senators or our representative (contact information below) to ask for an appointment to discuss your concerns, especially the innocent preborn baby's right to life. Make your appointment for the afternoon after the March. Your bus captain will give you information and you will stay with a group so you will not have to worry if you do not know your way around Washington, D.C.

The March for Life Rally takes place on the Mall at 7th Street at 12:00 Noon. Speakers will address the huge throng of pro-lifers who have traveled from all over the world to witness for Life. The March begins after the Rally. After the March you will have some free time before the trip home. We will stop on the way home to get a bite to eat.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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