

MARCH 7, 2010
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

**ECUMENICAL SERVICE FOR IMMIGRATION
REFORM**

Sunday, March 7th – 5:00 pm

Immaculate Conception Church

Speaker: Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio

Bishop of Brooklyn

Sponsored by Christian Clergy of Astoria – Long
Island City

****DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER LAST WEEKEND,
THE FOLLOWING IS A REPRINT OF MONSIGNOR'S
MESSAGE:**

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 8th

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Luca Guarnaccia & Felice Benvenuto
12 Noon Joseph Leone

TUESDAY – March 9th

7:00 a.m. Michael DePace (Birth. Remb.)
9:00 a.m. Mary & George Samanich
12 Noon Albert Cappella

WEDNESDAY – March 10th

7:00 a.m. Deceased members of the St. Ludmila Society
9:00 a.m. Clemente Rabak (Birth, Remb.)
12 Noon Joan Koenderman

THURSDAY – March 11th

7:00 a.m. Rene & Melanie Sylvestre
9:00 a.m. Mary Browne
12 Noon Giuseppe & Giustina Pace

FRIDAY – March 12th

7:00 a.m. Brian O’Grady
9:00 a.m. Violet Ann Naeja (5th Anniv.)
12 Noon Mary C. Browne

SATURDAY – March 13th

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Tenaglia
9:00 a.m. Vitale & Celesta Cresini
12 Noon Margaret & Victor Lynch, Kelleher & Kata Families
5:00 p.m. Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - March 14th

7:00 a.m. **Living & Deceased Parishioners**
9:00 a.m. Alice Bradshaw
10:30 a.m. Rozina Xuereb
11:45 a.m. **Spanish** – Luis Eduardo Posada
1:00 p.m. Joseph & Esther Mule

Lower Church

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Donato & Serafina Cicolini

THE BREAD & WINE are donated this week in loving memory of John Cavagnolo requested by his children.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Clemy Grisoli requested by her family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is donated this week in loving memory of Annette Pasquale requested by the Crum Family



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Edio Cipollone
Brian O’Grady
Elba Tirado

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

LENTEN VESPERS FOR VOCATIONS RIGHT HERE: THE CALL OF THE LORD

VOCATIONS FROM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

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

These 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.

COLLECTION:	
Week of: Feb. 27 th & 28 th	
Amount:	\$8917.36
Attendance:	2,005
Per Capita:	\$4.45

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

INFORMATIONAL IMMIGRATION SEMINAR

An Informational Immigration Seminar, sponsored by the United States Citizenship & Immigration Service, Immigration Advocacy Services, Manhattan District Attorney’s Office and the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will be held at our parish on Thursday, March 11th, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the school hall. Become informed on legal immigration procedures and your rights, learn about becoming a citizen: go through a mock interview with the USCIS/Homeland Security and learn how to stop immigration fraud in its tracks.

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 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.

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY DINNER-DANCE

The Knights of Columbus, Immaculate Conception Council #11449 will be hosting a St. Joseph's Dinner/Dance on Saturday, March 20th from 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. in the school hall. Admission is \$10.00 (children under 12 years old – free) and includes: Caesar salad, Penne “al fileto di Pomodoro”, Linguini “Alfredo”, Chicken cutlet “alla Parmigiana”, oven roasted potatoes with fresh oregano, wine, beer, soda, coffee, tea, dessert. Raffles – Music – Prizes. Tickets are being sold in the school hall on Sunday, March 7th & 19th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



The Knights of Columbus will be Sponsoring a “Fish Fry” on Friday, March 26th 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!

INVITATION FROM THE ROSARY SOCIETY

Please join the Rosary Society on Saturday, March 20, from 10:00 a.m. through lunch. Father Frank Mann, Director of Creative Development for Communications in the Diocese of Brooklyn, will present a stellar documentary film on the life of Dorothy Day, Servant of God. We will explore her unique and complex life, share her contemporary spirituality, and witness her selfless charity in action. Please join this special gathering and be inspired by this authentic twentieth century apostle. We will begin with a recitation of the Rosary at 10:00 a.m.

Please feel free to attend just the film and talk or you are welcome to stay for lunch. If you plan to join us for lunch, the cost is \$10. Please call or email Karen at 917-836-0995 or karen_weinhofer@mckinsey.com if you do plan to stay for lunch as we would like to ensure that we have enough food for everyone.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SQUIRES

The Squires, the youth group of the Knights of Columbus, wishes to thank all the parishioners of Immaculate Conception, for helping them to help others during the month of December and January.

In December, you helped them raise over 160 new toys for children at Christmas. They donated a supply of toys to the Immaculate Conception Parish, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Bridge to Life, a pro-life organization that helps young mothers who have chosen life. The toys were distributed by their volunteers after being delivered by the Squires.

The Squires gave 90+ toys to all the children at St. Margaret Mary's Head Start Program. Here the Squires interacted with the little ones ages 2-4 and played Santa's helpers in giving each child a gift. In January, the Squires collected coats for the needy of St. Margaret Mary's Parish Center and donated over 125 coats to the parish. The Squires planned to have a fundraiser for their Convention costs and planned the raffle of a flat screen TV to help cover that cost and a donation to Immaculate Conception School. The TV was won by Mr. Gil Mendez, just in time for the Super Bowl. Then the horrible tragedy in Haiti happened and the Squires decided to make a \$500 donation for Haitian relief. The Squires were advised that Sr. Eileen Davey, a graduate of Immaculate Conception School and a Holy Union Sister, ran a mission in Haiti. Sr. Eileen met with the Squires to talk about the ordeal in Haiti and the daily costs of feeding the children at \$.55 a child. A donation of \$500 was given to Sr. Eileen which was made from the TV raffle. An 11 year old squire made the motion to donate an extra \$350 to supply a week's food for the kids that the sister was servicing. The motion was approved unanimously by the circle leaving them with \$100 left to donate to the school knowing an additional fundraiser would be needed for the convention.

The Squires are planning an Easter egg hunt and roll for the little ones at St. Margaret Mary's Head Start program and will be asking for your assistance in collecting nut-free chocolate, other candies and stuffed Easter animals. They will also raffle a large Easter basket as a fund raiser for their convention. The Squires will be collecting the candy and toys on March 21st & 28th. Any extras will be given to Bridge to Life for their Easter Celebration. They will also be collecting new and/or slightly used clothing for toddlers up to the age of 5 years for Bridge to Life.

We would like to thank all of you again for your continued support..

DIOCESAN UNION COMMUNION BRUNCH

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

REMINDER:

PLEASE RETURN THE BRIDGE TO LIFE BABY BOTTLES TO EITHER THE RECTORY OR SACRISTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR PICK-UP