

**SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

Ascension of Jesus, May 13th is a Holy Day of Obligation. The schedule of Masses are:

Wednesday Evening –	7:30 p.m. English
Thursday, May 13 th	7:00 a.m. – English
	9:00 a.m. – English & Italian
	12 Noon – English
	7:30 p.m. - Spanish

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Last Monday I attended a lecture at Fordham University's Lincoln Center campus given by Cardinal Roger Mahoney of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. The topic of the lecture was: Immigration Reform: A Moral Imperative.

He began the talk with the words: "Thank You Arizona!" By that beginning he did not mean that he approved of the Arizona State law, but that it was so hideously Un-American that it put immigration reform at the center of the national political stage. Arizona, by enacting this desperate measure, was making a statement about the failure of the Federal Government in tackling the subject with comprehensive, fair, and far sighted legislation.

We have 12 million undocumented workers, porous borders, a need for unskilled labor. All of this puts a strain on local government who are not equipped to deal with this national issue. Cardinal Mahoney in addressing the border issues with Mexico said that we have two signs on the border: Keep Out! And Help Wanted! The mixed message and the confusion it causes are at the heart of a need for us to have comprehensive reform.

He showed clips of some human stories because it is not about law and statistics, but about our common humanity and what has made this nation great. One teenage girl who was born here in the US had police storm her house in the middle of the night to arrest her father who was undocumented. Her mother escaped but she is in constant terror that they will take away her mother. In another video, a recent graduate from college spoke about his fears and his inability to get a job or even apply for one. Why? He was brought to the US when he was one year old. He went through elementary school, high school and college with honors, speaks little Spanish but is in constant fear of being picked up and sent back to the country where he was born. But this is his country now. These are but two examples of the human tragedies that happen with our current immigration system which is broken. Senator Schumer has proposed a balanced bill that answers

most of the issues that need to be covered. But he fights an uphill battle with some pretty powerful forces.

I am proud of the fact that our parish has been at the forefront of standing up for justice and fairness in this immigration debate. This year's series: Operation Welcome with the jammed Ecumenical Prayer Service for Immigration Reform as a centerpiece has been our contribution to this timely issue that affects the life of so many Astorians!

Monsignor Ferrarese

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

The first novena (nine days of prayer) was prayed by Mary and the Apostles between the Ascension and Pentecost.

We will also pray that novena **after the 9:00 mass** beginning on the Friday after the Ascension and ending on Saturday May 22nd, the vigil of the great feast of Pentecost.

PENTECOST VIGIL IS SET

On the evening of May 22nd, we will have our third annual Pentecost Vigil Mass at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Church. At that Mass a number of our adult parishioners will be receiving confirmation.

As you know, we beautifully decorate our altar with many candles (signifying the tongues of flame) and a beautiful and lush display of flowers. You can contribute the floral display the same way we do at Christmas and Easter – by memorializing your contribution. Envelopes for that can be found around the Church.

Please join us for the Pentecost Vigil which counts for Sunday Mass as well.

WE ARE GETTING THERE!

Our Annual Catholic Appeal is slowly climbing the charts! The goal for the Diocese is \$64,869. So far we have pledged \$79,597.51. Our hope is to reach a total of \$120,000 so that we can make the Liturgical changes we have outlined. We are getting some beautiful drawings of what we plan to do if you will make it happen!

During the next few weeks a representative of the parish (Msgr. or one of our Finance Committee members) will be calling prospective donors who have not taken out a pledge.

C.S. LEWIS – A GREAT SPIRITUAL GUIDE

All Films are at 7:30 p.m.

May seems to be the month we look carefully at one of the most interesting and prolific writers on the spiritual journey. Wikipedia has this to say about him:

C.S. Lewis is known to his friends and family as Jack, an Irish-born British novelist, lay theologian and Christian apologist. He is also known for his fiction, especially *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Space Trilogy*.

Lewis was a close friend of J.R.R. Tolkien, and both authors were leading figures in the English faculty at Oxford University and in the informal Oxford literary group known as the "Inklings". According to his memoir *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis had by baptized in the Church of Ireland at birth, but fell away from his faith during his adolescence. Owing to the influence of Tolkien and other friends, at the age of 32 Lewis returned to Christianity, becoming "a very ordinary layman of the Church of England". His conversion had a profound effect on his work, and his wartime radio broadcasts on the subject of Christianity brought him wide acclaim. In 1956 he married the American writer Joy Gresham, 17 years his junior, who died four years later of cancer at the age of 45. Lewis died three years after his wife, as the result of renal failure. His death came one week before his 65th birthday. Media coverage of his death was minimal, as he died on 22 November 1963 – the same day that U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and the same day another famous author died, Aldous Huxley.

Lewis' works have been translated into more than 30 languages and sold millions of copies over the years. The books that make up *The Chronicles of Narnia* have sold the most and have been popularized on stage, in TV, in radio and in cinema.

Besides our Film Festival: Faith and the Imagination based on the works of C.S. Lewis, our Flannery O'Connor book club has picked his book: The Great Divorce for its next discussion. This is an imaginative work about a bus excursion from Hell to Heaven. It is though provoking and just plain fun to read.

The next meeting of our Book Club is on Wednesday, May 26th at 7:30 p.m. Why not give it a good read and join us. The book is short and delightful. Lest you think C.S. Lewis is just a topic here at Immac, a Broadway Production of his book The Screwtape Letters is currently in previews.

In addition, Msgr. Ferrarese is asking every society to take a pledge or give an amount to this campaign. Once again our beloved Knights of Columbus have led the way with a one-time gift of \$250. It is our hope that the different societies and ministries in the parish could

follow suit so that we can rightly place the Blessed Sacrament where it belongs: At the very center of our parish church!

Week of: May 1 st & 2 nd	COLLECTION	\$8,465.89
Attendance:		1,783
Per Capita:		\$4.75

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – May 10th

7:00 a.m. Rosa Sabatino
9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon Francesco & Francesca Ferdinandi

TUESDAY – May 11th

7:00 a.m. Antonio Jimenez
9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon Lucia Antoncic (Anniv.)

WEDNESDAY - May 12th

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Tenaglia
9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon Angela Sferrazza

THURSDAY- May 13th

7:00 a.m. Giacomo Rodorigo (Birth. Remb.)
9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon Ronaghan & Prager Families

FRIDAY - May 14th

7:00 a.m. Pauline & James Rao
9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon Nina Borda

SATURDAY - May 15th

7:00 a.m. Ubidia Burgos Family
9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon Brendan O'Neill, Ann & Edward Kennedy
5:00 p.m. All those enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - May 16th

7:00 a.m. Angela Sarro (Birth. Remb.)
9:00 a.m. Mother's Day Novena
10:30 a.m. Deceased members of the Sansone Family
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Florinda Ortega, Mercedes Ortiz, Pastora Gonzalez, Alejandrina Gonzalez
1:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
Lower Church:
9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Vincenzo Asaro

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Pietro Dugnani (Anniv) requested by Margaret & Fred DeSimone.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR were donated last week and this week in loving memory of Anna Manna & Bridget Persico requested by Milly & Anthony Persico.

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

THE FLOWERS AT THE TABERNACLE are donated this week in loving memory of Jennie Capizzi, Theresa Caronia & Margaret Coppolo requested by Josephine & Larry Caronia.

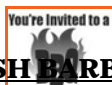
PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Maria Eloisa Stefatos

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



PARISH BARBEQUE

Immaculate Conception Knights of Columbus Council #11449 will be hosting their annual barbeque on Sunday, May 16th, from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the school yard between the rectory and school. Hot dogs, burgers, sausage heroes, chicken kebobs, corn on the cob, soda, beer and wine will be available for purchase. Come join the fun!

SCHOOL NEWS

Thanks to the generosity of Jack Bruccleri, Immaculate Conception School students in grades 2 to 8 were treated to a performance of Inside Broadway of Sophisticated Ladies on May 6th in the School Hall.

Continuing their annual tradition to sharpen their oral reading skills, the current Third Grade Class, guided by their teacher Mrs. Joan Bertorelli, read stories to students in the Early Childhood grades while sitting on blankets in the school hallway! It was a special time for all!

Mrs. Graeper's First Grade Class collected \$218.00 for the Missions. They sent the donation to Sr. Eileen Davey for her work with children in Haiti.

On Saturday, April 17th, members of Immaculate Conception Columbian Squires Circle 4411 attended

Mass at Gate of Heaven Cemetery to honor Brother Barnabas, the founder of the Columbian Squires.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 14th: Annual Walkathon

Fundraiser Update:

Coordinator, Mrs. Barbara Sauli reports that the 16th annual Math-A-Thon donation of \$1,972.15 to benefit the children at St. Jude Children Research Hospital brings our 16 year total to \$46,767.15! The generosity of our students and families are deeply appreciated.

PIZZERIA UNO FUNDRAISER!

Immaculate Conception School will receive 10% to 20% of your lunch or dinner check when you eat in or take-out food from Pizzeria Uno at 37-11 35 Avenue, Astoria on Thursday, May 13. Visit Pizzeria Uno for lunch beginning at 12 PM until 11 PM for dinner! Download the ticket to present to your server or cashier at the school web site: www.icsastoria.org! We appreciate your support for this event.

*******LAST CALL*******

PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOTTLES (EMPTY OR FULL) TO THE SACRISTY OR RECTORY OFFICE. BRIDGE TO LIFE WILL BE PICKING THEM UP. THANK YOU!

75TH ANNIVERSARY

Catholic War Veterans, Post #1, is celebrating its 75th Anniversary on **Saturday, May 15, 2010**. Catholic War Veterans was founded here in Astoria in 1935. There will be a 5:00 p.m. concelebrated Mass at Immaculate Conception Church followed by a dinner-dance at 7:00 p.m. at Riccardo's by the Bridge. Tickets are \$65.00 and can be obtained by contacting Ed Babor at 718-726-5461. **Tickets will also be on sale in the school hall from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 9th.**

THANK YOU!

A special "Thank You" to the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church for the most generous donation of clothing made on Sunday, April 18th to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. This clothing donation will help defray the cost of the Free Burial Assistance Program that the Society runs within the Diocese of Brooklyn. Again, many thanks.