

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 3, 2023



**BE ON GUARD,  
KEEP AWAKE.**

***FOR YOU DO NOT  
KNOW WHEN THE  
TIME WILL COME.***

**MARK 13:33-37**



## Church of the Immaculate Conception

580 Main Street

P.O. Box 1227

Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-7227

### STAFF

**Rev. Kenneth Grooms, Pastor**

Rev. Richard Hoerning, in Residence

Deacon Joseph Byrne

Deacon Mark Herrmann

Shawn Pinson, Sacristan

Bobby Peterson, Music Director

Donna Cosme, Director of Religious Education

Anne Dean, Assistant to Director of Religious Ed

Linda Geoghan, Parish Secretary

Victor Nicotra, Maintenance Assistant

Lyubov Pechenyuk, Rectory Cook

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday

9:00am to 5:00pm

CLOSED Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays

#### Parish Office

631-288-1423

Fax 631-288-5498

[parishoffice@iccwhb.org](mailto:parishoffice@iccwhb.org)

#### Religious Education

631-288-4188

Fax 631-288-8215

[religioused@iccwhb.org](mailto:religioused@iccwhb.org)

Queen of Apostles, Regional School 631-878-1033

### Celebration of the Eucharist

#### Saturday

5:00pm

Vigil Mass

#### Sunday

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

5:00pm (Spanish Mass)

#### Daily Mass

8:00am Monday through Friday

(January, February, & March at 9:00am)

The Rosary is recited immediately after daily Mass

#### Holy Days

Vigil @ 7:00pm (Spanish Mass)

Day @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm

#### First Saturday Mass 9:00am

Rosary starts at 8:45am

#### Eucharistic Adoration

FIRST FRIDAYS of each month following the

8:00am Mass and LAST MONDAYS of each month

at 7:00pm in the Church

#### Confessions

Every Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm

**MARRIAGES:** Arrangements should be made at least 1 year in advance. Marriage dates may be made only with the priest after he interviews the couple. Please call the Parish Office to set up an appointment. Pre- Cana classes are required.

**BAPTISMS:** Parents are required to attend one evening class before Baptism; and are encouraged to attend class during pregnancy. Baptismal class is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. To register for Baptism, please contact the Parish Office.

#### **SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING THE SICK:**

Emergency calls for the Sacraments for the seriously ill may be made any time of the day or night, every day of the year. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will also be celebrated every second Friday of the month at the 8:00am Mass. All those who are seriously ill, including those preparing for surgery or a hospital stay, are invited to receive the Sacrament.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Monday:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11  
**Tuesday:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;  
 Lk 10:21-24  
**Wednesday:** Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37  
**Thursday:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;  
 Mt 7:21, 24-27  
**Friday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
 Lk 1:26-38  
**Saturday:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;  
 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  
**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14;  
 Mk 1:1-8

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).  
**Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).  
**Second Reading:** God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).  
**Gospel:** Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).

## PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Isabelle M. Kemp  
 David R. Francescani

## eGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

eGiving makes it easy to give, anytime, anywhere. To continue lifesaving ministries and outreach in our parish community, we depend on generous online donations from our church family. We prayerfully invite you to use eGiving from your computer, smartphone, or tablet to set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

### FAITH DIRECT

Enrolling with Faith Direct will provide Immaculate Conception with consistent support and simplify your giving without the use of envelopes. Visit: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY66>  
 Thank you for your continued support!

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT
11/19/2023	Weekly Collection	\$7,580.00
11/20/2022	Weekly Collection	\$5,662.00
11/26/2023	Weekly Collection	\$8,040.00
11/27/2022	Weekly Collection	\$6,161.00

**Thank you for your continuous support!**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00pm	<b>December 2</b> Kenneth Beck (Msgr. Mike)
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00am	<b>December 3</b> Sylvia Frustaci (Fr. Ken)
9:30am	Kathleen Tolan (Fr. Richard)
11:00am	Nan Scrivener (Fr. Peter)
5:00pm	People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)
<b>Monday</b> 8:00am	<b>December 4</b> Maria C. Santomassimo (Fr. Ken)
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00am	<b>December 5</b> MEMORIAL MASS (Fr. Ken)
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:00am	<b>December 6</b> Intentions of Msgr. John Graham on his Ordination (Fr. Richard)
<b>Thursday</b> 8:00am	<b>December 7</b> Irwin Billman (Fr. Peter)
7:00pm	People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)
<b>Friday</b> 8:00am	<b>December 8</b> Kathleen Mary DeBrita (Fr. Peter)
12:00pm	Rose Loos (Fr. Ken)
7:00pm	Frank DiFazio (Fr. Richard)
<b>Saturday</b> 4:00pm	<b>December 9</b> Confessions (Fr. Richard)
5:00pm	Mary McGuire (Fr. Ken)
<b>Sunday</b> 8:00am	<b>December 10</b> Michael Betjemann (Fr. Richard)
9:30am	Anthony Mineo (Fr. Peter)
11:00am	Kathleen DeBrita (Msgr. Mike)
5:00pm	People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)

Please check the website for an updated Presider schedule.

## CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

### The 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The 2024 Catholic Ministries Appeal is on-going in our parish and in parishes across the Diocese. Please give prayerful consideration to help fund the essential ministries and services supported by this appeal.

Goal	\$ 62,100.00
Total Pledged	\$ 38,485.00
Payments Received	\$ 38,005.00

Donors: 93

The parish will receive 20% of the goal once all pledged payments are received. The parish will receive an additional 80% of monies pledged & received over goal.

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Blythe Fickenwirth, Joe Giglia, Patricia Gillin, Theresa Heffernan, Gina Hil, Elizabeth Kotz, Daisy Helen O'Neill, & Kendra Seth

\*Please call the Parish Office (631-288-1423) to add a name to the sick list. This list will be cleared bi-monthly.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear ICC Family,

This week is the beginning of Advent. I have invited a good friend of mine, Mike Grogan, to lead our Advent Mission. I met Mike ten years ago at Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery in my home state of South Carolina. I was a Postulant, and Mike was on retreat. As soon as he met me, Mike said: "You're outta here. You like to talk and you like food too much to be a monk!" He was right!

Mike is a native Long Islander from St. William the Abbot parish in Seaford. He, and his entire family, is legally blind. But don't feel sorry for him. He is one of the most capable and gifted people you will ever meet.

Mike and I used to work for Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity Sisters in the South Bronx at their Queen of Peace soup kitchen and men's shelter. Now Mike has "graduated" up to working with the homeless in the Kensington area of Philadelphia, which he says is even worse than the South Bronx. I'll take his word for it!

If you would like to meet Mike and hear about his work with the poorest of the poor, please plan to attend our **ADVENT RETREAT** on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday nights **THIS WEEK** from 7:00pm - 8:00pm in the Church. Mike will also sing and play the guitar!

If you would like to support his charity, Connect with Heaven, we will have a second collection this weekend. Checks can be written to either "Mike Grogan Ministries" or "Connect with Heaven." Mike is a living saint and a charismatic speaker. You won't want to miss him!

God Bless! Fr. Ken



Teddy is being a good boy!

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### Thanksgiving was a complete SUCCESS!

We provided 75 families with a full Thanksgiving meal, including turkeys! Thank you to Kristin Kalisak who has run the Thanksgiving/Christmas Gift Program here at Immaculate Conception Church for more than 10 years ... and longer than that if you count the years she helped her dad run it! Kristin has this program run like a well-oiled wheel. Thank you to the many volunteers that come down to the Parish Center to help bag all the groceries and carefully load them into the cars. We are so blessed to have such wonderful volunteers!

A special thank you to Victor, our Maintenance Assistant who also worked so very hard to make sure we had all we needed in the Parish Center. The biggest thank you to all the generous parishioners who donated food and turkeys - your continuous generosity to those in need in our community is extremely appreciated.

Let's talk turkeys! Lots of them!! Thank you to the following businesses/organizations who provided so many turkeys for our families. We couldn't have done this again without their support:



**Rico's Clothing in Center Moriches**  
**Justin's Chop Shop in Westhampton Beach**  
**Police Benevolent Association**  
**Kiwanis Club**





Dear Parishioners:  
Fr. Ken will bless our New Nativity set in the front of our church on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> after the 11:00am Mass. Light Refreshments will be provided by the Hospitality Committee immediately following. Please join us on this very special occasion.

God Bless,  
Joe Sala, Grand Knight

**Family members attending weekend masses for a loved one and who would like to bring up the gifts, should see an usher before Mass begins.**

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and newfangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (*Rathaus*) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated.


Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you!

Sign up for the **free** weekly diocesan E-Newsletter

Subscribe today!

 [www.drvc.org/newsletter](http://www.drvc.org/newsletter)

POWERED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

 **HOLY HOURS**  
FOR VOCATIONS | 2023-2024 DATES

9.15 // 10.20 // 12.15 // 1.19 // 2.23 // 3.15 // 4.19

SPONSORED BY DRVCVOCATIONS.COM

DOORS OPEN 7 PM, BEGINS 7:30 PM | AT THE SEMINARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

# Parish Mission

**Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday**  
**December 3 - 5, 2023 7 to 8 PM**



*Connect  
with  
Heaven*

*Connecting lives  
with Heaven's love.*

*ConnectWithHeaven.org*

Our ongoing ministry aims to bring the Kingdom of God down into the streets of one of America's poorest neighborhoods, by reminding people of their profound identity as children of God the Father, and making them disciples of Jesus Christ.

## **Mission Leader: Michael Grogan**

A legally blind lay missionary serving the people of Kensington (Philadelphia).

Author of the new book, *Connect with Heaven. Encounters with God.*



### **Sunday Evening**

*Give God Permission To Love You*

### **Monday Evening**

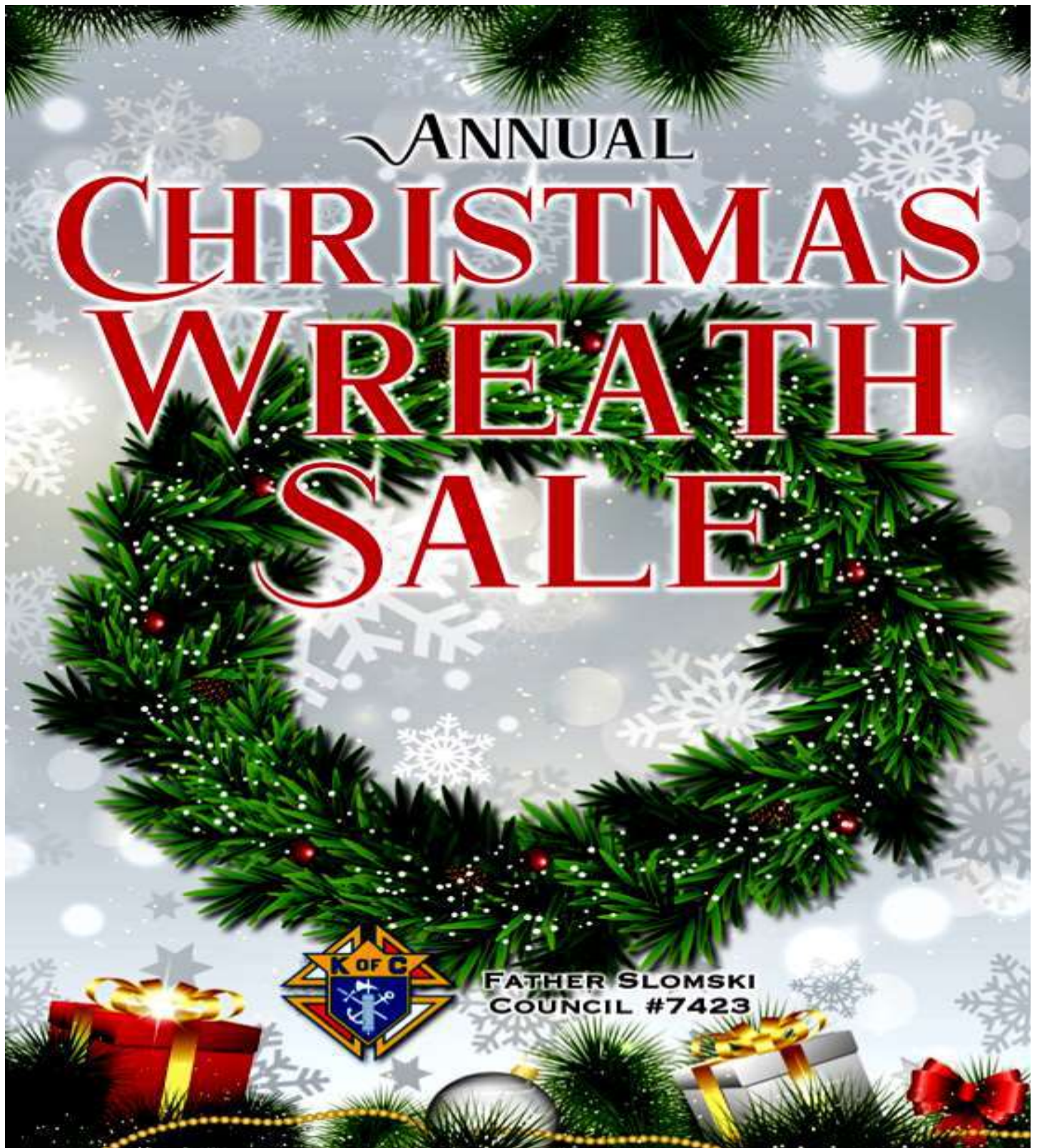
*For God So Loved the World That He Gave His Only Son*

### **Tuesday Evening**

*For God So Loved the World That He Gave You and Me*

## **Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church**

580 Main Street, Westhampton Beach, New York 11978 | 631.288.1423



**The Knights of Columbus, Fr. Joseph Slomski Council,  
are here selling  
Christmas Wreaths and Cemetery Pillows  
after every Mass.  
Thank you for your support!**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education Office Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
9am to 5pm  
631-288-4188

## Happy Advent!

The Advent season is a time of preparation for our hearts and minds for the Lord's birth on Christmas. Are we ready for Christmas? As we make our plans for this busy season, let us remember to add Mass attendance to our Advent plans. Celebrating Mass is a great opportunity to come together and spend some time with Jesus.

### Living our Faith Family Activity Idea:

Make an advent wreath to place on your dinner table. Use four candles: 3 purple and 1 pink (Alternatively, you can use all white candles and place a purple ribbon around 3 of them and a pink ribbon around 1). The 4 candles represent Hope, Peace, Joy & Love. Have your family gather around and light a single candle each week while saying a prayer together or you can sing a verse of "Maranatha" each week - It's a beautiful song.

### DATES TO REMEMBER FOR DECEMBER

12/11/23	Levels 5 & 6 Adoration at Church w/ Parents @ 4:00pm
12/12/23	Levels 3 & 4 Adoration at Church w/ Parents @ 4:00pm
12/13/23	Levels 1 & 2 Adoration at Church w/ Parents @ 4:00pm
	Levels 9 & 10 Adoration at Church w/ Parents @ 7:30pm
12/17/23	Level 2 Mass @ 11:00am in Church – Santa will be visiting!
12/18/23 through 1/1/23	NO CLASSES

**Please remember all students are required to attend at least one Advent Mass.  
Mass attendance cards are located in the back of the church for children to fill out.**

## Advent has come to the Parish Center

Please take notice in the Parish Center of the handmade Christmas decorations adorning our tree. As the wise men followed the star that led them to Jesus, we've asked the children to write on their stars how they will follow Jesus during this Christmas season.

Additionally, the children have taken on a service project this season to support the food pantry and the families that we serve in the community. They have been extremely generous!

~ Thank you to all ~

### **WEATHER REMINDER:**

For weather related cancellations, all parents and volunteers will receive notification through "Remind" text message. Also, the notice will be on the local TV – channel 12.



# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



**PLEASE JOIN US!**

THIS Monday,  
December 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00pm in the  
Parish Center  
as our children present the  
Nativity of our Lord

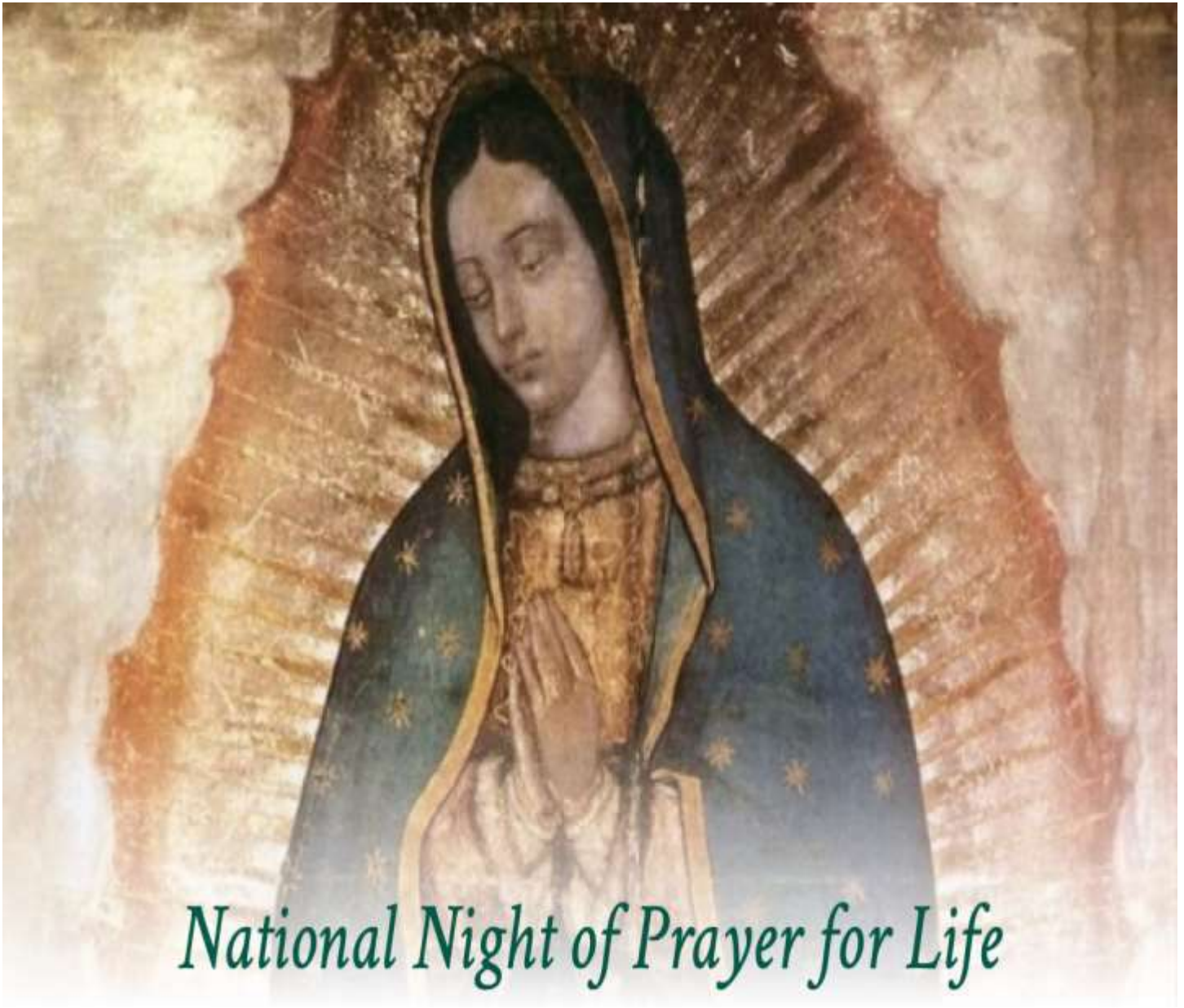
**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**A Holy Day of Obligation**

Masses will be offered:

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm (Spanish)

Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm



*National Night of Prayer for Life*

**"Could you not watch one hour with Me?"**

Our parish will be united in prayer with churches throughout the Diocese and the country on December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, in praying for the unborn during the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night of Prayer for Life.

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**

**ADORATION & BENEDICTION**

**Immediately following the 7:00pm Holy Day Mass in the Church**

## NEWLY BAPTIZED



Aylin Yuliana Aju Andrade  
Jordan Isaac Aju Andrade  
Goldie Britt Hoey  
June Susan Hoey  
Steven Vincent Parisi  
Anthony Robert Portillo  
Vienna Rose Portillo  
Sheyla Renata Rojas Jacinto

## SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, December 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>, our second collection will be for Religious Retirement. Thank you for your generosity.



### KEEP THE DATE!

#### BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

Our Lady's Hall

More info to follow in future bulletins

Congratulations to the following students who received Honor Roll certificates for the First Quarter at St. Anthony's High School:

Luca Carriero  
Jaiel Lindo-Jean Louis  
Christian Pinto  
Isabella Pinto  
Congratulations! Job well done!

## SACRAMENTALS

### Altar Bread & Wine, Altar Flowers, and the Sanctuary Lamp

These sacramentals are available for intentions each week. The offerings are:

Altar Bread and Wine	\$20
Altar Flowers	\$50
Sanctuary Lamp	\$20

To arrange one of these in loving memory of or for the intentions of your loved one, please contact the Parish Office at 631-288-1423.

*Altar Bread/Wine available dates:* December 11, 18

*Altar Flowers available dates:* 2023 is closed

*Sanctuary Lamp available dates:* December 11, 18

## MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

Tuesdays at 2pm in the Parish Center  
Try this spiritual practice, it will surprise you!  
(masks encouraged)

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Canned fruit, Toiletries (shampoo & soap),  
Juice Boxes, Rice, Beans, Cereal, Pasta, Tuna,  
Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Vegetables  
(all varieties)

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** First Sunday of Advent

**Monday:** St. John Damascene

**Wednesday:** St. Nicholas

**Thursday:** St. Ambrose; Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

**Friday:** Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Saturday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

## THE DEADLINE FOR ALL BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS IS FRIDAY.

Please send your submissions to:  
[parishoffice@iccwhb.org](mailto:parishoffice@iccwhb.org)

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bentley (Navy)  
Lt. Cameron Worden  
Lt. Col. William Robesch

Please contact the Rectory @631-288-1423 to add a loved one to the military list

## REFLECTIONS

### Living Stewardship

This week, put Jesus' warning into practice in your life- make time to go to confession and prepare yourself for this Advent season.



### Bulletin Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus warns us to always be vigilant in our spiritual life.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a great power in prayer. It is our lifeline to God. Through it we communicate with God, and people are strengthened, helped, and made whole.

Do you know of some concern, or of some person with a special need for whom we ought to pray? We have 29 prayer warriors praying, please call Charles Schmidt at 631-288-4243 and leave a message with your prayer request.



# Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

Contact Us!

631-878-1033

olqany.org



Scan QR Code

## Field Trip

Our second-grade class took a trip to Harbes Farm. They enjoyed pumpkin picking and meeting some of the furry friends on the farm.



## Student Mentorship

First & Fifth Grade Buddies are back in full effect! Last month, they spent their first day working together during a STREAM class.



## Team Building Fun

The Middle School "Core Team" had fun with team building activities recently. The Core Team puts Faith into action through service projects and friendly competition.



# Thanksgiving Feast!

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

## LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's.  
—St. Nicholas



## All are Welcome!

Women's Bible Study  
Thursday mornings  
in Our Lady's Hall.

To Register or for more information:  
516-356-6200 or 410-493-8407

[mtpilo.esq@gmail.com](mailto:mtpilo.esq@gmail.com); [frankiernan@gmail.com](mailto:frankiernan@gmail.com);  
or [Kris0330@optonline.net](mailto:Kris0330@optonline.net)



JESUS IS CLOSE. YOU DON'T NEED BINOCULARS TO WATCH FOR HIM.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." Mk 13:33



**CHRISTMAS  
EVENING OF PRAYER**  
for the  
**BEREAVED**

**Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm in the Church**

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,  
which means “God is with us.”

We are never alone for God is always with us ... especially in our grief and mourning.

You and your family are cordially invited to this special evening of hope to remember and honor those we've had to say goodbye to. Please bring a *free-standing* framed picture of your loved one to the service (no larger than 8x10).

Kindly contact the Parish Office 631-288-1423  
to register if you plan on attending



# **COFFEE with JESUS**

## **Advent Zoom Webinars**

### **Join Bishop Andrzej**

10:00 am on Friday mornings in December:

**December 1, 8, 15, 22**

Online Advent Reflections

### **on Scripture Readings**

with the special emphasis  
on Mary, Joseph and Jesus.



Great opportunity to prepare and nourish your mind and heart,  
in preparation for Christmas.

To register,  
please call Suzanne 516-744-6850  
or email [westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org).

Once you are registered, you will be emailed the  
OOM Webinar information prior to each session  
of this Advent series.



## WHAT'S GOING ON

### PART TIME DIRECTOR OF PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY

St. John the Evangelist in Center Moriches is seeking a part time Director of Parish Social Ministry to lead the parish in its efforts to serve the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized in the local community and raise the parish's awareness to our solidarity with all those in need in accordance with Catholic Social Teaching. Reporting to the Pastor and as a member of the Pastoral Team, the Director of Parish Social Ministry is responsible for visioning, directing, and managing all aspects of the parish's outreach programs and services. As the primary organizer and motivator, provides services, arranges ministries, coordinates parishioners and volunteers and is collaborative in discerning new and necessary ways for the parish to minister more effectively to those in need.

TO APPLY: Email resume and cover letter to [kwaller@sjecm.org](mailto:kwaller@sjecm.org)

### ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

Earn your MA Degree or a Certificate in Theology through Saint Joseph's Seminary. Spring 2024 Classes Have Been Announced! At St. Joseph's Seminary you can:

- Take classes in person or 100% online
- Expand your understanding of the Catholic faith
- Enjoy affordable tuition & discounts (50% discount program for full-time employees of parishes, Catholic schools, and diocesan employees)
- Learn the authentic teaching of the Church from world-renowned faculty
- Attend conveniently scheduled classes

Apply Today! For more information go to: [www.dunwoodie.edu](http://www.dunwoodie.edu)



### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

First Sunday of Advent:

**We are the clay and you are the potter. Be watchful! Be alert!**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Kevin & Regina Hickson at 516-554-3835 or <https://wwmenyli.org/>.

Give your spouse a gift by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next gathering is February 9-11 in Huntington.



### 2024 MASS BOOK

**The 2024 Mass Book is OPEN!**

To schedule a Mass for the deceased or for the intentions of the living, please visit the Parish Office Monday through Thursday between 9:00am - 5:00pm.

Consider having a Mass offered for someone as a Christmas gift ...