

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 28, 2024**

**I KNOW  
WHO YOU ARE  
THE  
HOLY  
ONE  
OF GOD!**

**MARK 1:21-28**



## Church of the Immaculate Conception

580 Main Street

P.O. Box 1227

Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-7227

### STAFF

**Rev. Kenneth Grooms, Pastor**

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  
Deacon Ed Karan, Facilities Manager  
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

**Religious Education** 631-288-4188  
Fax 631-288-8215  
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  
6:00pm (Spanish Mass)

#### Daily Mass

8:00am Monday through Friday  
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:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7;  
Mk 5:1-20  
**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3;  
Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43  
**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7;  
Mk 6:1-6  
**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12;  
Mk 6:7-13  
**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;  
Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]  
**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34  
**Sunday:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6;  
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** Moses spoke to all the people, saying: "A prophet like me will the LORD, your God, raise up for you" (Deuteronomy 18:15-20).

**Psalm:** If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

**Second Reading:** Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties (1 Corinthians 7:32-35).

**Gospel:** The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching (Mark 1:21-28).

## LEADERS

Leaders are like eagles. They don't flock.  
You find them . . . one at a time.

~Anonymous

## 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
01/21/2024	Weekly Collection	\$3,742.00
01/21/2024	Fuel Collection	\$1,837.00
01/22/2023	Weekly Collection	\$5,487.00

**Thank you for your continuous support!**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 27</b>
5:00pm	Jessica Gabriel (Fr. Ken)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 28</b>
8:00am	Waclaw Fabiszewski (Fr. Peter)
9:30am	Barbara McAuley (Fr. Michael)
11:00am	People of the Parish (Fr. Ken)
6:00pm	Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Mike)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 29</b>
8:00am	Terry Quinn
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 30</b>
8:00am	Marty Gately
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 31</b>
8:00am	(Guild Mass) Jim Byrne; Kevin Graham
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 1</b>
8:00am	Corey Whitney
<b>Friday</b>	<b>February 2</b>
8:00am	Jane S. Campbell
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>February 3</b>
9:00am	David Francescani
<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>Confessions</b>
5:00pm	Joseph Zawrotniak (Fr. Ken)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 4</b>
8:00am	Martin J. Gately (Fr. Michael)
9:30am	Irene Barrow (Fr. Michael)
11:00am	Patrick Fenton (Fr. Ken)
6:00pm	People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Tyler Accardi, Karl B., Blythe Fickenwirth,  
Joe Giglia, Patricia Gillin, Mary Sipp Green,  
Theresa Heffernan, Gina Hil, Elizabeth Kotz,  
John McAuley, Daisy Helen O'Neill,  
Paul Ramondetta, Kendra Seth, & Ed Silvia

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

## 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	\$ 42,450.00
Payments Received	\$ 42,330.00

Donors: 107

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.



## **DON'T WIDEN THE PLATE**

Baseball College Hall of Fame coach John Scolinos in 1996 at the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual American Baseball Coaches Association convention, in front of over 4,000 coaches, walked out on stage with a home plate tied around his neck. After some opening remarks, Coach asked: "Do we have any Little League coaches out there?" Several hands went up. "Do any of you know how wide home plate is in Little League?" One quiet voice answered, "Seventeen inches?" "That's right," the old coach said.

"Now, are there any high school baseball coaches in the room today?" Over a hundred hands shot up. "How wide is home plate in high school?" "Seventeen inches," someone said. "You're right!" the coach replied. "How about college baseball coaches?" Half the room raised their hands. "Well how wide is home plate in college baseball?" "Seventeen inches!" everyone yelled out in unison.

"Back in Babe Ruth's day, how wide was home plate?" Silence hit the room, then someone sheepishly yelled out: "Seventeen inches?" "That's right," said the coach. The coach changed his focus and asked, "What do you suppose a Major League team's management would do if a big-league pitcher couldn't throw a ball over a seventeen-inch plate?" He paused and the room fell silent. He filled the void with, "They would send him down to the minors or fire him!"

"But let me tell you what they would never ever do. They would never say, 'Ah, that's alright buddy, if you can't throw a baseball over a seventeen-inch target we'll make it bigger for you – maybe we'll widen it to nineteen or twenty inches so it will be easier for you; and if that's not enough we'll make it twenty-five inches wide.'"

Scolinos then asked the audience ... "Here's a question for each of you. What would you do if your best player consistently showed up late for practice? Or if your team rules forbid facial hair and some of your players showed up on game days unshaven? What about if one of your players got caught drinking after hours the night before a game? Would you hold those players accountable, or would you widen home plate for them to fit their new standard?" The 4,000 coaches sat quiet as the old coach's message began to mesmerize them.

Coach Scolinos then turned the plate on his chest towards himself and took out a black magic marker to draw something on it. When he finished, he turned the plate around for the crowd to see. He had drawn a simple house complete with a front door and two windows. He then said, "The problem with most homes in America today – and with many organizations – is people haven't created and enforced standards. We no longer teach our children, players, employees, or our members accountability. It's so much easier for parents, managers, and executive directors to just simply widen the plate!" The result is there are no consequences when people today fail to meet standards.

"Let's face it; we've lowered standards in education. Has widening the plate helped our schools? We've changed the standards in some religions – has widening the plate helped our churches? We have lowered the standards across the government – has widening the plate made our governments better?" Then he turned the home plate on his chest around to reveal the backside of it again and said "When we fail to hold ourselves, our children, our players or our employees accountable to any standards our future gets dark" – as the backside was completely black.

Coach Scolinos' message could not be clearer. It's so easy to call a ball a strike. It's easier to watch a standard be missed than to correct it on the spot. It's more comfortable to ignore a problem than to fix it. We all need to personally uphold the standard and correct those that are not meeting it. Not in an angry, righteous manner but, as John Scolinos would do, by holding firm to the standard and prioritizing accountability. The message of upholding the standard that coach wanted to convey was that it applies to every aspect of life. Walking by a problem, or even recording it on a cell phone, has been socially acceptable for years. It's time we all realign to the standard and hold ourselves and others responsible in a professional, coaching way. Know the standard. Espouse the standard. Live the standard. Enforce the standard.  
Don't Widen the Plate!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education Office Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday

9am to 5pm

631-288-4188



### IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY



February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Level 9 Retreat: 9am – 12pm in the Parish Center

February 7<sup>th</sup> – Level 10 Sponsor/Parent & Teen Meeting: 7:30pm in the Parish Center

February 14<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday – Please attend an Ash Wednesday Mass or Service

February 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> NO CLASSES

February 28<sup>th</sup> – Level 10 Rite of Election Mass w/Parents: 7:30pm in the Parish Center



Our families who are enrolled in our Sunday class enjoyed a wonderful lesson led by Deacon Mark after the 9:30am Mass last weekend. Smiles abounded as the children were given the opportunity to experience a “baptism”.

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### 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.

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## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS We are in DIRE need of Rice & Cereal

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

## SACRAMENTALS

To arrange one of these in loving memory of or for the  
intentions of your loved one, please visit the Parish Office.

### Available Dates:

**Altar Bread/Wine:** February 5, 12, 19, 26

**Altar Flowers:** February 4, 11

**Sanctuary Lamp:** February 5, 12, 19, 26

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK



Can I identify an unclean spirit in me that  
seeks to destroy me? Can I find the courage  
to ask God to free me from this demon?

## SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, January 27/28, we take up a second  
collection for the Church in Need. Please be as  
generous as your means will allow. Thank you!

## MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Our hearts open to the transforming power of God's  
love, we stand around this holy table to offer our  
great prayer of thanks and praise.

## 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.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Catholic Schools Week

**Wednesday:** St. John Bosco

**Friday:** The Presentation of the Lord;  
Groundhog Day; First Friday

**Saturday:** St. Blaise; St. Ansgar; First Saturday;  
Blessing of Throats; Blessed Virgin Mary

## REFLECTIONS

### Living Stewardship

When life gets you down or you start to  
feel depressed or despair—turn to our God  
in prayer. Let Him know everything that is  
bothering you and invite Him into your  
life.



### Bulletin Reflection

Jesus is more powerful than evil, trust in Him and  
turn to Him always.

## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bentley (Navy)

Lt. Cameron Worden

Lt. Matthew Worden (Navy)

Lt. Col. William Robesch

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

## FROM THE SACRISTAN

If you would like to be part of the Eucharistic  
procession for a specific Mass (date & time) there  
will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church.  
Then just prior to the Mass starting, please see an  
Usher and confirm your arrival. You will then  
proceed to the rear of the Church at the offertory to  
bring up the gifts.

## TEDDY'S CORNER



Tommy Booth  
loving Teddy  
... I was there  
when he was  
born 27 years  
ago at Mercy  
Hospital!



"We pledge to persevere in prayer,  
fasting and witnessing to the  
sacredness of every human life."

- *Bishop Barres' statement regarding the  
U.S. Supreme Court Decision in  
Dobbs v. Jackson, June 24, 2022*



# *Rosary for Life*



JOIN the OFFICE of HUMAN LIFE, FAMILY and BIOETHICS in PRAYER

*Every Friday - 3:00 PM*

***Via Zoom***

***Click here for link***

Meeting ID: 811 9648 1100

Passcode: 20EWp7

Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923

Email [lhonkanen@drvclife.org](mailto:lhonkanen@drvclife.org)

if you would like the link sent  
to you each month.



**[www.drvclife.org](http://www.drvclife.org)**



# Our Students are Thriving!

Come and see why other parents in the community chose Catholic Education for their families!

**School Tours & Open Houses Happening During Catholic Schools Week in January 2024!**



Sun, Jan 28, 2024  
Mass at 10 am  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm

 **OUR LADY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**  
Center Moriches, NY • [www.olqany.org](http://www.olqany.org) • (631) 878-1033



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sun, Jan 28, 2024  
11:00 am - 1:00 pm  
& Jan 29 - Feb 2, 2024  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

 **ST. JOHN PAUL II REGIONAL SCHOOL** • Riverhead, NY  
[www.sjp2regional.org](http://www.sjp2regional.org) • (631) 727-1650



**OPEN HOUSE**  
Sun, Jan 28, 2024  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
School Tours  
Jan 28 - Feb 2

 **OUR LADY OF THE HAMPTONS REGIONAL SCHOOL** • Southampton, NY  
[www.olhamptons.org](http://www.olhamptons.org) • (631) 283-9140



**WWW.LISCHOOLS.ORG**



The Diocese of Rockville Centre

# GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years

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The Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to honor those couples who celebrated Fifty Years of Marriage in 2024 by inviting them to attend one of the Masses below for a special blessing.

**Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.**

The Cathedral of St. Agnes, Rockville Centre

Celebrant: Most Reverend Andrzej Zglejszewski

Registration must be received by Tuesday, April 16, 2024

**Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.**

Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patchogue

Celebrant: Most Reverend Robert J. Coyle

Registration must be received by Tuesday, April 30, 2024

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**Register online at [drvc-faith.org](https://drvc-faith.org)**

For questions, please contact Lisette Robustelli, Associate Director at (516)678-5800 ext. 200 or via email at [lrobustelli@drvc.org](mailto:lrobustelli@drvc.org)





Join us for an Elegant Evening with Monsignor James C. Vlaun

## REAL FOOD LIVE

**Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

at St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School in Monsignor Code Auditorium  
101 Maple Avenue, Westbury, NY 11590

**\$125.00 per ticket includes dinner**



To purchase tickets, sponsorships, journal ads or raffle tickets **ONLINE**,  
SCAN THIS QR CODE. To register via phone, contact 516-334-0021



St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Regional School is a Catholic elementary school located in Westbury, Long Island NY. We offer outstanding programs for children from 2-years-old through 8th Grade. Our school is one of the top performers on Long Island, based on test results from the Department of Education.

Learn more or schedule a visit through our website, [www.StBOLH.org](http://www.StBOLH.org)

Like us on Facebook:  
St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope  
Regional School - Westbury



Follow us on Instagram:  
StBOLH



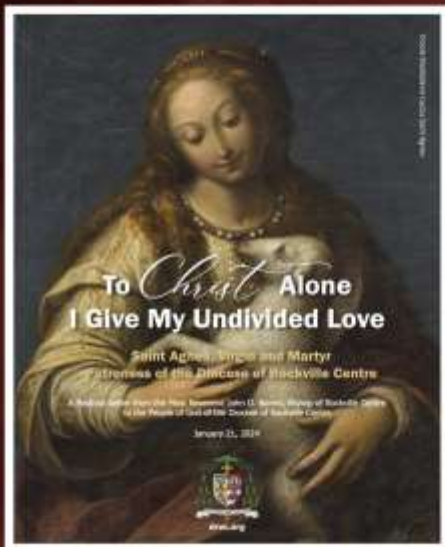


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live & on  
demand.



[www.cfntv.org](http://www.cfntv.org)

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## *To Christ Alone I Give My Undivided Love*

A Pastoral Letter from  
Bishop John Barres on St. Agnes,  
Virgin and Martyr and Patroness  
of the Diocese of Rockville Centre

**Available January 18th  
at [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org).**



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