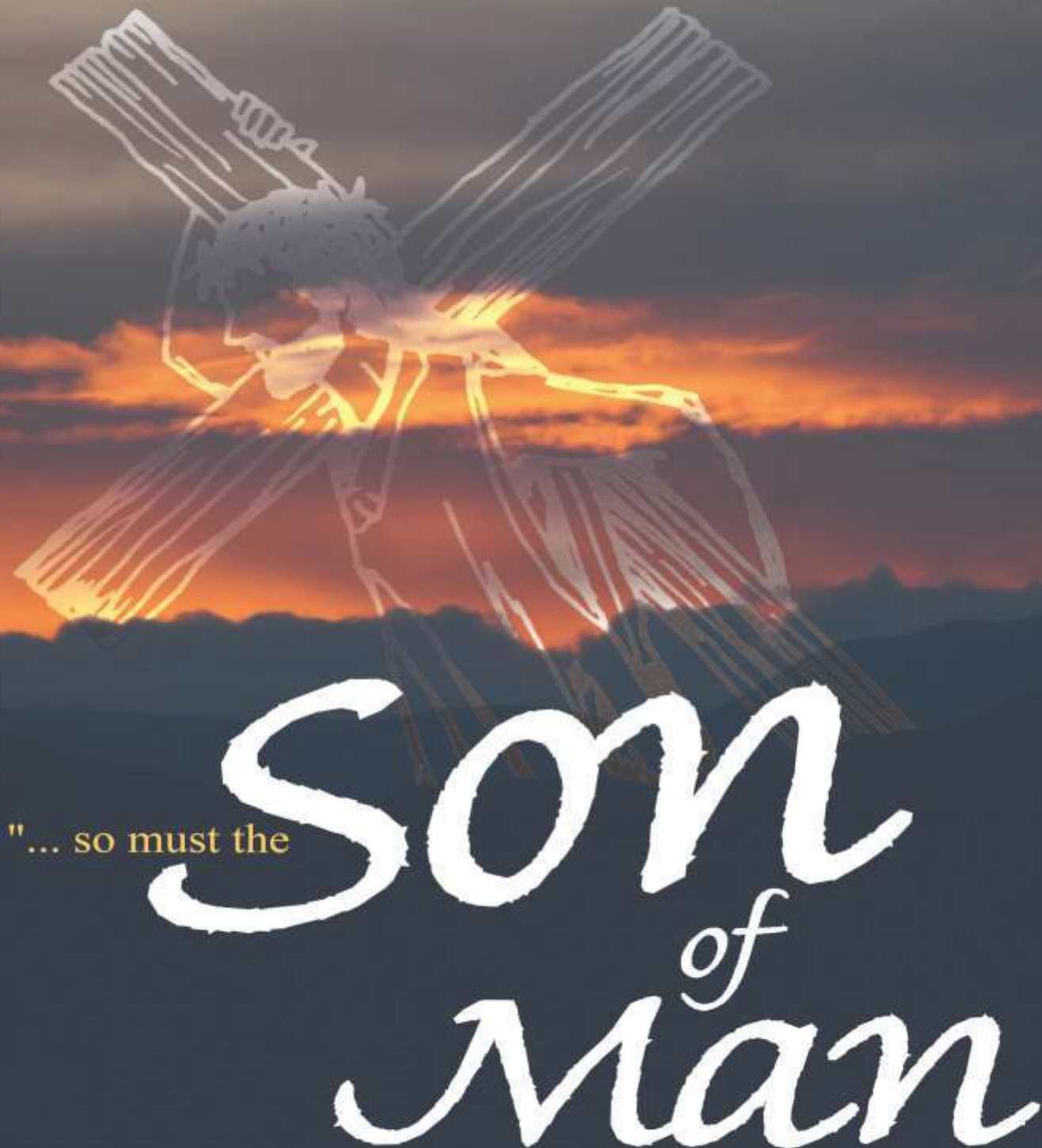


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
March 10, 2024



"... so must the

be lifted up, so that everyone  
who believes in him may have eternal life."

John 3:14-21



## 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:** Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54  
**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16  
**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18;  
 Jn 5:17-30  
**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47  
**Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23;  
 Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53  
**Sunday:** Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9;  
 Jn 12:20-33 Alternate readings (Year A):  
 Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;  
 Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** The wrath and the mercy of the LORD are revealed in the exile and liberation of the Chosen People (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) *or* 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.  
**Psalm:** Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) *or* Psalm 23.  
**Second Reading:** God, who is rich in mercy, brought us to life with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-10) *or* Ephesians 5:8-14.  
**Gospel:** The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life (John 3:14-21) *or* John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

## SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend our parish takes up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Thank you for your generosity. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

## 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
03/03/2024	Weekly Collection	\$6,392.00
0305/2023	Weekly Collection	\$5,705.50
Thank you for your continuous support!		

## MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday** **March 9**  
 5:00pm Irene Barrow (Fr. Ken)  
**Sunday** **March 10**  
 8:00am Dave Francescani (Fr. Michael)  
 9:30am Joseph & Celia Maturando (Fr. Peter)  
 11:00am People of the Parish (Fr. Ken)  
 6:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Mike)  
**Monday** **March 11**  
 8:00am Nellie & David Fenton  
**Tuesday** **March 12**  
 8:00am Daniel Biesak  
**Wednesday** **March 13**  
 8:00am (Guild Mass) Louis Graziano;  
 Ruth Bleasdale  
**Thursday** **March 14**  
 8:00am Jim Coniglio  
**Friday** **March 15**  
 8:00am Patrick Fenton  
**Saturday** **March 16**  
 4:00pm **Confessions**  
 5:00pm Irene Barrow (Fr. Peter)  
**Sunday** **March 17**  
 8:00am Michael Betjemann (Fr. Ken)  
 9:30am Dave Francescani (Fr. Ken)  
 11:00am Bill Masterson (Fr. Peter)  
 6:00pm People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Tyler Accardi, Karl B., Courtney Cosentino, Blythe Fickenwirth, Joe Giglia, Patricia Gillin, Mary Sipp Green, Theresa Heffernan, Gina Hil, Stephen Jensen, Elizabeth Kotz, John McAuley, Alex Peplowski, Paul Ramondetta, John Ritter, 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	\$ 42,610.00
Payments Received	\$ 42,535.00

Donors: 108

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.





**DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE**  
**WESTERN VICARIATE**

42 Dover Street  
Williston Park, New York 11596

Phone: 516.744.6850 Fax: 516.746.6900  
westernvicariate@drvc.org

Lent 2024

*...We need our prayer to rise with greater insistence to the Father,  
So that He may hear the voice of those who turn to Him  
on the confidence of being answered... Pope Francis*

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

On Sunday, January 21 of this year, Pope Francis inaugurated a Year of Prayer ahead of the 2025 Jubilee Year. The Holy Father is calling on the faithful "to pray more fervently to prepare ourselves to live properly this grace-filled event and to experience the power of hope in God." This Year of Prayer, the Holy Father explained, is dedicated "to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer, prayer in personal life, in the life of the Church, prayer in the world."

In response to the Holy Father's initiative, together with Bishop Barres, all the Bishops and I would like to encourage you, especially during this 2024 Season of Lent in particular, to focus on prayer. Traditionally, during this time all Christians are called to practice fasting, prayer, repentance, and almsgiving as a way of drawing us closer to God and reflecting on the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection in anticipation of the gift of new life at Easter. All pillars of Lent complement and support each other. Customarily, fasting is a way of disciplining ourselves and expressing our repentance for our sins. By abstaining from certain foods or activities, we show our love for God and our gratitude for His mercy. Fasting also helps us to empathize with those who are less fortunate and to share our resources with them. In fact, prayer binds all these Lenten practices all together, giving them an extra strength and direction. In days to come, as we prepare for the celebration of Easter, let us take this great opportunity to renew ourselves in the life of prayer, making it not just a duty or an obligation but also as a privilege and a joy.

Prayer is a gift from God, connecting us with Him and allowing us to experience His love in our lives. It is a ground for an authentic encounter which God uses to transform us and to make us more like Christ to one another. It is also a power that God grants us to overcome sin and evil and to advance His cause in the world, especially very much needed peace as we reflect these days on the situations in Ukraine, the Holy Land, Syria, Congo, and many other troubled places.

**Personal Prayer.** A classic description says that prayer is "the raising of our mind and heart to God." We all might have our own experiences of prayer, and we can define prayer in our own and unique ways. However, most important is the fact that during sacred time of the year each of us should make the best effort to make a time for prayer, short or longer, in our daily lives. There are many ways in which we can engage with it during Lent. Many people might continue to follow a lectionary and other materials that provide Scripture readings and reflections for each day of Lent and be led by it to prayer. It is possible use prayer books, journals, apps, or online resources that offer different forms of prayer, such as meditation, contemplation, praise, worship, adoration, thanksgiving, and supplication. In some

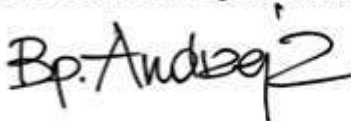
places there are groups of friends, or parishioners, who join prayer meetings, retreats, or online communities that share prayer requests and support each other in prayer. Most people create a prayer space in their home or workplace that helps them to focus on God. We should all look for an opportunity to pray without distractions and practice silence or solitude as a way of listening to God and being attentive to His presence. Whatever method or style of prayer we choose, the important thing is to pray with sincerity of heart, humility, honesty, and openness. During Lent, we should pray especially for the grace of conversion, so we can be inspired to experience the need of repentance and change and be led to encounter Jesus in the Sacrament of Penance. May we all grow in a deep desire to know the Lord more intimately and to love him more fully with the hunger for his grace and a thirst for his Spirit.

**Communal Prayer.** Time spent in prayer is never only personal. We all know that every individual action of one person has an impact on the whole community. Together in prayer, as we walk a synodal way, we grow in a deep sense of awareness that every act of love or time of common worship can profoundly strengthen and sanctify the whole Christian community and the whole human family. We are all connected in a special way as members of the Body of Christ, and we share the same mission and vision by celebrating of the Eucharist. This is the most profound and ultimate way of prayer. At each Mass we engage personally with the Paschal Mystery of the Lord and make it our own to be led by him, through the sacrifice of the cross to the glory of his Resurrection and our life in Him. The mystery of the Cross and the mystery of love Jesus shares with us can be understood in a deeper sense through prayer. Renewing our commitment to attend the Mass every Sunday would be the best step to renew ourselves in the life of prayer.

**Prayers for the World.** Both the celebration of the Eucharist and our personal daily prayer nourishes our faith, strengthens our hope, and increases our charity towards others. During Lent and beyond we are called to share our gifts and resources with the world around us, especially with those who are in need. We are to take care of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized, and are to join them in their struggle for justice and dignity in the best way we can. Every good deed is always inspired and properly executed with the assistance of our continuing prayers, making us God's instruments of peace, justice, and mercy, which is so much needed in the world today.

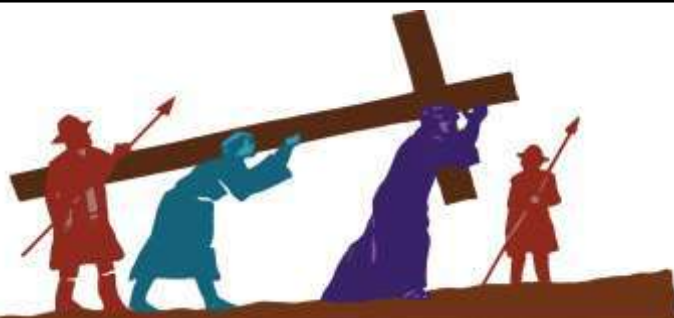
Dear Friends, prayer is basically a conversation with God who is waiting for us. It doesn't have to be made up of loads of words as it is all about the conversion of heart. It's not just "saying prayers", it is more about living by them, letting our heart declare our love for God and others. Let this Lent be for all of us a sacred time of our spiritual renewal in prayer so we can all become who we are supposed to be in relationship with God and with each other. Our life prayer is a statement about who we are. The future of the world depends on our prayers and begins in us. Even though our prayers do not give any extra reverence to God, they certainly make us more revered before Him so we walk "humbly with the Lord."

Have a blessed and grace filled Lent,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bp. Andrzej Zglejszewski". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

**Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski**  
Episcopal Vicar

## LENT



### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent

8:30am in the Church

(Sign-up sheet in the Sacristy for those who would like to lead)

### COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY

The people of God forgot the covenant and flouted God's laws. They did not listen to the prophets among them, who spoke for God in warning them. Prophets are sent from God to remind us why we are here, but they are often, even in our own time, mocked, disregarded, and mistreated rather than thanked and listened to.

The book of Chronicles tells the results of these sins: the destruction of the temple and all of Jerusalem, murder, mayhem, and finally exile to a foreign land. Why are these stories in the Bible? Just to inform us of what happened to our ancient forebears? What good would that be unless there were a message and a warning for us as well? Are we people who follow the teachings of God, who obey the words of Christ in the second covenant in his blood? Or do we continue to wreak works of darkness and violence? We are reminded by these readings that we will be judged as a people, not just as individuals.

### EASTER FLOWERS & REMEMBRANCE ENVELOPES

**Easter Flowers** can be dedicated to or in memory of your loved ones. Their names will be printed in the Easter bulletin if received by March 14<sup>th</sup>. Those donations received after the 14<sup>th</sup> will be printed in future bulletins. A minimum suggested offering is \$20.

You may use the envelopes you received in the mail or use envelopes you may find in the lobby of the Church and you can place them either in the collection baskets during Mass or drop off at the Parish Office. Thank you!

## Holy Week & Easter Schedule



### Palm Sunday

March 24<sup>th</sup>

5:00pm, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am,  
6:00pm (Spanish)

### Reconciliation Day

Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

8:30am – 8:00pm



### Holy Thursday

March 28<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

Morning Prayer

7:30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper  
(followed by Adoration in Our  
Lady's Hall until Midnight)



### Good Friday

March 29<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

Morning Prayer

12:00pm

Stations of the Cross

3:00pm

Liturgy of the  
Lord's Passion

4:00pm

Spanish Living Stations  
of the Cross

7:30pm

Stations of the Cross

8:00pm

Spanish Service

### Holy Saturday

March 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

Morning Prayer

10:30am

Blessing of Food

8:00pm

Easter Vigil



### Easter Sunday

March 31<sup>st</sup>

8:00am

9:30am (Church & Parish Center)

11:00am (Church & Parish Center)

12:30pm Spanish

### NOT ENOUGH

It is not enough for me to love God,  
if my neighbor does not love God.

—St. Vincent de Paul



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Religious Education Office Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
9am to 3:30pm  
631-288-4188

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Monday – March 11<sup>th</sup>

5:30pm – Level 10 Confirmation Rehearsal for teens & sponsors/parents (for those scheduled on the morning Confirmation) – Church

7:30pm – Level 10 Confirmation Rehearsal for teens & sponsors/parents (for those scheduled on the afternoon Confirmation) – Church

#### Saturday – March 16<sup>th</sup>

10:30am & 1:30pm – Confirmation – Church

### 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.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

God’s only begotten Son was raised up on the cross, that we might be saved. For this eternal sacrifice we now give thanks around this holy table.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny; Daylight Saving Time begins; Girl Scouting Sunday

**Friday:** Abstinence

**Saturday:** Saint Patrick

## MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

## 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.

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**We are in DIRE need of  
TUNA & MAYONNAISE**

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

## 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

## REFLECTIONS

### Living Stewardship

As Catholics, we are called to bring the light of Christ to others. Let your light attract others to Christ through good works, compassion and patience.



### Bulletin Reflection

Jesus died to give us life.

## SACRAMENTALS

**Altar Bread and Wine**

**Altar Flowers**

**Sanctuary Lamp**

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:** March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

**Altar Flowers:** April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16

**Sanctuary Lamp:** March 18, 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



## QUESTION OF THE WEEK



Am I willing to live out my faith in the light of day, even when it makes me uncomfortable because I am ridiculed or rejected by much of society?

Annual  
(Not Just)  
**Pancake  
Breakfast  
Is Back!**



**Palm Sunday**

**Parish Center**

**Immaculate Conception Church**

**Following 8, 9:30, & 11 AM Masses**

**Tickets On Sale After Masses & At The Door**

*Proceeds will go to Scholarships & Seminarians.*



**FATHER SLOMSKI  
COUNCIL #7423**





## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

at Immaculate Conception Church

**Thursday mornings at Our Lady's Hall**

**@ 9:30am**

**All are Welcome!**

Share your Faith and Fellowship with other Ladies from the Parish while we learn more about "PETER: Keys to Following Jesus" [by Dr. Tim Gray, a highly respected Bible Scholar and Author] and Scripture from the Bible.

BIBLE Study Guides  
are available at the meeting

**NOTE:** To Register and Reserve a copy of the Bible Study Book, please email at:  
mtpilo.esq@gmail.com; frankiernan@gmail.com;  
or Kris0330@optonline.net

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Year B of the Lectionary has the Letter to the Ephesians today. Ephesus, today in Turkey, was in the first century a great Greek city, the center for the worship of Diana, the goddess of the hunt. It was a vast city even by modern standards, having nearly half a million people in the time of Paul. Yet that was a time of economic recession and moral decay. No wonder Saint Paul stayed here the longest. It gave him an enormous and religiously curious audience. His preaching stirred up the artisans who depended on the pilgrims who came to honor (and buy mementos of) seventeen gods and goddesses enshrined in the city's temples. You can still see the open-air theater where Paul's homily triggered a riot. Paul did have success here, and many conversions among Jews and Gentiles. They seem to have struggled with hope, perhaps because of their suffering from economic woes and isolation.

Some old traditions say that the Apostle John lived out his days here, and that the Blessed Mother was cared for by him. There's no biblical basis for this, but it is certain that a small house just outside the city has been treasured by Christians and Muslims for centuries as the last dwelling of Mary. Long ago, the harbor silted up and the city was nearly abandoned, becoming a small village. As is so often the case, that accident of history preserved the ancient city, so that archeologists have been very successful in revealing ancient Christian sites. One such site is the Church of Mary, probably the first church to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and the site of the Council of Ephesus in 431. Today, a visit to Ephesus is one of the most rewarding journeys for any pilgrim.



**Because no marriage is beyond hope...**

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- Do you feel hurt and angry?
- Does talking make it worse?
- Thought of leaving or divorce?
- Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

**Retrouvaille can help.**

**Our Next Weekend is**

**April 26-28, 2024**

**at The Immaculate Conception Seminary  
Huntington**

**To register or for more information:  
1-800-470-2230 or HelpOurMarriage.org**

**Retrouvaille** is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not counseling and you will not be asked to share the personal details of your story. **Retrouvaille** is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage. **Catholic** in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.

## TEDDY'S CORNER



Alex Perez Reynoso received his First Holy Communion last Sunday. He's accompanied by his parents, Marcelino and Petrona. It was a beautiful day & Teddy was happy to get his hugs in!



Suffolk County Department of Health

# Learn to be... Tobacco-free program



**Catholic  
Health**

St. Catherine of  
Siena Hospital

Date	Details
Class 1, March 18	Program overview
Class 2, March 25	Tobacco additives
Class 3, April 8	Pam Laffin video presentation
Class 4, April 15	The physical, psychological & habitual
Class 5, April 22	Creating support systems
Class 6, April 29	Relapse prevention
Class 7, May 13	Reunion class

**Free smoking  
cessation classes  
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

Location:

St. Catherine of Siena Hospital  
Medical Office Building, Lower Level  
St. Vincent Conference Room  
48 Rte. 25A  
Smithtown, NY 11787

For more information  
or to register, please call  
Debora at (631) 853-2928,  
Wanda at (631) 853-4017 or email  
debora.rippel@suffolkcountyny.gov



Program website including list of new classes:  
[www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health](http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health)





# Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School



## ADMISSION

### OPEN FOR **2023-24** Academic Year






**Schedule  
a Tour!**



*Scan the  
QR Code*

631-878-1033

2 St. John's Place  
Center Moriches, NY 11934

### ABOUT US...

- ▶ Grounded in our Catholic Faith & Service
- ▶ Small, Individualized Educational Program
- ▶ Special Education Program
- ▶ Before & After Care
- ▶ Financial Aid

**AND MORE...**

Want to learn more?  
Visit our website:  
[olqany.org](http://olqany.org)



# CFN

CATHOLIC FAITH NETWORK

## Watch live & on demand.



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

POWERED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

