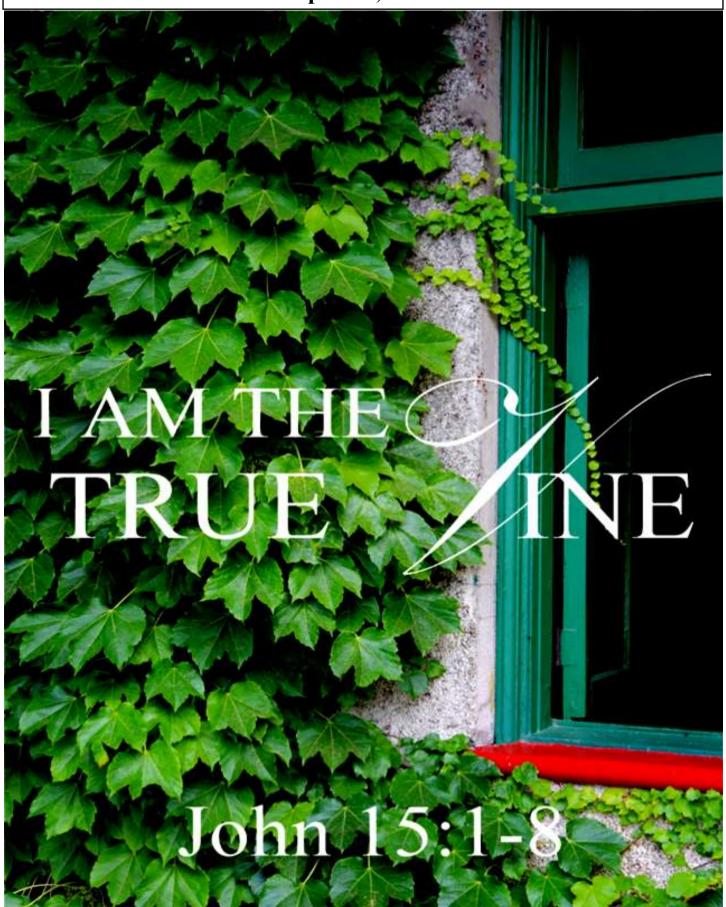
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER April 28, 2024





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
Victor Nicotra, Maintenance Manager

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 1st 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: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-4, 15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13ab, 21;

Jn 14:27-31a or (for the memorial) Gn 1:26-2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Ps 90:2-4, 12-14, 16;

Mt 13:54-58

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8 Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8; Ps 19:2-5; Jn 14:6-14 Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-10, 12; Jn 15:12-17 Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1b-3, 5; Jn 15:18-21 Sunday: Acts 10:25-36, 34-35, 44-48; Ps 98:1-4; 1 Jn 4:7-10 or 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 15:9-17 or Jn 17:11b-19

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The church was being built up, and grew in numbers (Acts 9:26-31).

Psalm: I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people (Psalm 22).

Second Reading: Let us love not in word or speech, but in deed and truth (1 John 3:18-24).

Gospel: Remain in me, as I remain in you. I am the vine, you are the branches (John 15:1-8).

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!

MASS ATTENDANCE							
DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6рт	TOTAL	
3/31/24	219	240	466	623	305	1,853	
4/7/24	160	151	125	148	150	734	
4/14/24	130	111	119	134	150	644	
4/21/24	148	92	65	122	150	577	

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS					
DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT			
04/21/2024	Weekly Collection	\$5,542.00			
04/23/2023	Weekly Collection	\$4,984.00			
Thank you for your continuous support!					

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday April 27

5:00pm Mary & Louis Ansalone (Fr. Michael)

Sunday April 28

8:00am People of the Parish (Fr. Ken)
9:30am Peter Krajewski (Fr. Peter)
11:00am Peter Gambino (Fr. Peter)

6:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Mike)

Monday April 29

8:00am Fergus O'Daly, Jr.

Tuesday April 30

8:00am Barbara Mietzner

Wednesday May 1

8:00am (Guild Mass) Msgr. John Heinlein

Thursday May 2

8:00am Intentions of the Dempsey & Geraghty

Families

Friday May 3

8:00am Kathleen Tolan (Birthday in Heaven)

Saturday May 4

9:00am Lucille Florence Campos

4:00pm Confessions

5:00pm Anna Sicuranza (Fr. Ken)

Sunday May 5

8:00am Anna Maria Sicuranza (Fr. Peter) 9:30am People of the Parish (Fr. Michael) 11:00am Patrick McNamara (Fr. Ken) 6:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Jorge)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Monday: St. Pius V

Tuesday: St. Joseph the Worker Wednesday: St. Athanasius

Thursday: Ss. Philip and James; National Day of

Prayer

Friday: First Friday

Saturday: First Saturday; Cinco de Mayo

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
 \$ 21,740.00

 Payments Received
 \$ 18,317.00

Donors: 37 % of Goal: 35.01%

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office Hours are:

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

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

May 5th

11:00am – Confirmation Going Forth Mass – Church

May 19th

11:00am – May Crowning & First Holy Communion Going Forth Mass – Church. Please wear your communion outfits!



REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-2025 YEAR IS NOW UNDERWAY!

Registration forms have been given out or mailed to all families of current students and are due by July 1st.

Do you know of a child entering first grade?

If you do, it's time for them to enter their two-year process of preparing to receive First Holy Communion. Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Church begins in first grade and continues every year through tenth grade. If you have an incoming first grader, please contact the religious education office at (631) 288-4188 or email to religioused@iccwhb.org.

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.

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

As Catholics, let us spread love and compassion wherever we go. Let us allow the Spirit to guide us to be hospitable to all we come across.



Bulletin Reflection

In the Gospel, we are called to remain close to Christ—for this is how we grow.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS We are in DIRE need of CANNED FRUIT & SIZE 5 DIAPERS

Juice Boxes, Rice, Beans, Cereal, Pasta, Tuna, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Vegetables (all varieties)

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: May 6, 20, 27

Altar Flowers: May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Sanctuary Lamp: May 6, 13, 20, 27

MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

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

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



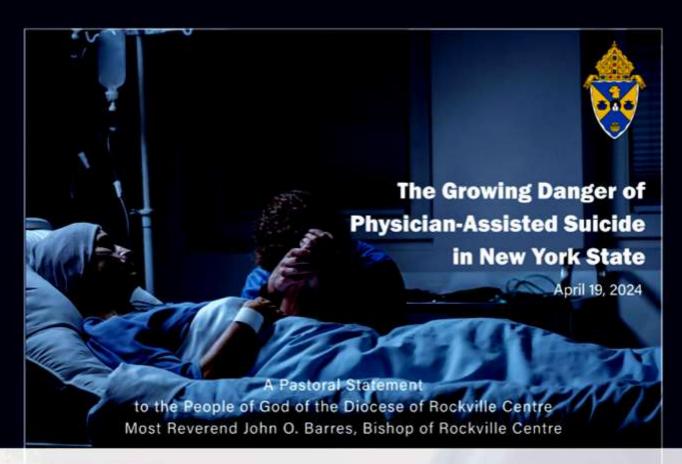
How will I bear fruit this week . . . at home, at work or school, and in my community?

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Around this sacred altar we lift up heart and voice in thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Christ Jesus.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

"I am the vine, you are the branches," we hear Jesus tell his disciples in today's Gospel. We are those branches now. Connected to the vine that is the Lord, we are expected to bear fruit. What fruit do we bear? Let us contemplate that question as we prepare to celebrate Mass today. May listening to God's word and sharing in the Eucharist nourish us as we strive to bear good fruit for the Lord.





My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Long Island is blessed to be home to several of the nation's most renowned healthcare systems. These systems consist of a vast network of physicians, nurses, technicians, and medical professionals of all kinds who live and work in our communities. In my weekly travels across the Diocese of Rockville Centre, I meet so many of these health professionals and I never fail to be inspired by their commitment to accompanying their patients throughout the courses of their lives. This includes the end of life.

However, legislation pending in Albany seeks to upend the doctor-patient relationship at its most vulnerable moment via physician-assisted suicide. The bill, which seems to be gaining momentum, authorizes doctors (whose careers are dedicated to healing and preserving life) to dispense pills that literally poison patients who have been given terminal diagnoses. Such a practice flies in the face of human dignity.

In fact, a groundbreaking new Vatican document approved in April by Pope Francis, titled–appropriately – Dignitas Infinita (Infinite Dignity), specifically singles out euthanasia and assisted suicide as grave assaults on human dignity which utilize "a mistaken understanding of human dignity to turn the concept of dignity against itself."

This comment refers directly to the euphemism "death with dignity" that promoters of assisted suicide favor. *Dignitas Infinita* notes that, even in serious infirmity, "human life carries a dignity that must always be upheld, that can never be lost, and that calls for unconditional respect. Indeed, there are no circumstances under which human life would cease from being dignified and could, as a result, be put to an end."

Clearly, Pope Francis views euthanasia and assisted suicide as symptoms of what he repeatedly has called a "throwaway culture" that has taken hold in the West. The pope, in his wisdom, sees what many supporters of this practice do not.

By virtue of their very humanity, people who are ill or who lack self-sufficiency never cease being infinitely valuable, even if society sends them a message to the contrary by urging them to "get out of the way" and end their lives.

What is being peddled by advocates as a last resort for those suffering from interminable pain will very quickly be expanded to resemble the dystopian nightmare we are seeing play out in Canada, which passed a law very similar to the New York bill in 2016 but which already has been expanded to allow people with non-terminal diagnoses to end their lives. In March, an Ottawa judge approved assisted suicide for a young woman whose only diagnoses are autism and ADHD, over her parents' pleading objection. The Canadian law is set to expand again in 2027 – incredibly – to allow people with mental illnesses like depression, anorexia, or bipolar disorder to access suicide pills as prescribed by a medical professional.



Sadly, Canada is not an isolated case. The situation is similar in the Netherlands, the first nation to approve euthanasia, where people living with autism and intellectual disabilities reportedly are being euthanized.

I know that these scenarios are not what people have in mind when they answer a survey question asking if they support "medical aid in dying" or "death with dignity." But we must not fool ourselves. What I'm

describing is not fiction or fear mongering; these abuses are really happening today in jurisdictions that have legalized assisted suicide.

The medical professionals whom I speak with in our parishes and at Catholic Health medical facilities understand clearly that assisted suicide is a terrible, untenable policy. They know that when the end-of-life approaches, the answer is not to actively kill patients or to help them to kill themselves. Instead, true dignity is upheld by providing compassionate palliative care which manages patients' pain and other symptoms, keeps them clean, tends to their bodily needs, and spiritually prepares them for their journey home.

As Pope Francis has said, "We must accompany people towards death, but not provoke death or facilitate any form of suicide... Life is a right, not death, which must be welcomed, not administered."

During this time when we celebrate a National Eucharistic Revival, we pray that our reverence for the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ may inspire our witness in New York State's public square to the reverence for the sanctity of human life at every stage of life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres Bishop of Rockville Centre

SECOND COLLECTION

Next weekend, May 4th/5th, we take up a second collection for Catholic Elementary Schools. A Catholic education is important to our very young children. Help support our Catholic Elementary Schools next weekend by giving generously to this collection. Thank you & God bless you!

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



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In medieval times, one country, Scotland, linked its economy to the liturgy. Four holy days of the church calendar were keyed to the legal year. On these days, rents were due, clergy and servants were paid, and contracts and leases would begin or end. The term days were Pentecost (called Whitsunday), the Feast of Saint Martin on November 11 (Martinmas), the Feast of the Presentation on February 2 (Candlemas), and August 2 (Lammas), a harvest festival. On Lammas day, the first loaf of bread from the summer wheat harvest was given to the village priest. After the Reformation, which swept the Catholic festivals away, the term days were gradually detached from the old feasts. It was only in 1990 that the term days were anchored on the 28th of February, May, August, and November. Today the old Scottish universities are the last hold-outs, still naming their terms or semesters after the old festivals. Scottish students today may not know about the liturgical year, but they still call the fall term Martinmas, and the spring session Candlemas.

TEDDY'S CORNER



Teddy has gotten much bigger since this picture, but hey, it's HIS corner! We love Teddy!





VIRTUS CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

We are happy to announce that **2 classes** for VIRTUS Training have been scheduled: Thursday, May 2nd, at 3pm and 7pm. **Please register at VIRTUS.org.**

All Volunteers are REQUIRED by the Diocese of Rockville Centre to attend 1 training class in order to volunteer in any parish. A background check, done by a reputable & safe agency through the Diocese, and a completed Code of Conduct are also needed and can be done on-line when you register for the class.

If you are NOT sure if you've taken the class, or if you have any questions, please contact the Parish VIRTUS Facilitator and Safe-Environment Coordinator:

Linda at 631-288-1423 Monday through Thursday, 9am-5pm.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Every first Saturday of the Month parishioners here at Immaculate Conception have the opportunity to participate in First Saturday Devotion also known as the Act of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This devotion aims to console the Immaculate Heart of Mary and make reparation for sins. Doing so fosters spiritual growth and is an occasion to respond to Our Lady's call for conversion and peace in the world. The efficacy of this devotion is that the Blessed Mother promised to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation.

First Saturday Devotions at Immaculate Conception begin at 8:45am with the praying of 3 decades of the rosary then mass is celebrated followed by 2 decades of the rosary. The devotion is completed in approximately 35 minutes.

HISTORY

The ancient practice of honoring the Blessed Mother on Saturdays dates back to a Benedictine monk Alcuin (735-804) living in Northumbria. He assigned a collection of set forms or formulas to Saturday in honor of Mary. The practice was embraced by both clergy and laity. Fast forward to 1889 when in Rovigo Italy the practice of "Communion in Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary" was endorsed by Bishop Antonio Polin of the Diocese of Adria. The practice spread across Italy and beyond. In 1905, Pope Pius X approved and granted indulgences for the practice of First Saturday for twelve consecutive months. Twenty years later in 1925 in Pontevedra, Spain Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucia dos Santos, the only surviving seer of Our Lady of Fatima. Our Lady requested that devout Catholics observe "communion of reparation" on five consecutive First Saturdays of each month to make reparations for the offenses endured by the Immaculate Heart of Mary due to human ingratitude and blasphemies.

REQUIREMENTS

According to Catholic Answers these four steps are requirements to fulfill this devotion:

- Go to confession
- Receive Holy Communion
- Say five decades of the rosary
- Keep Mary company for fifteen minutes meditating on the twenty mysteries of the rosary

The sacramental confession can be received within <u>twenty days</u> either before or after the reception of Communion, as the <u>Holy See's Apostolic Penitentiary</u> has decreed, provided the communicant is in a state of grace for Communion. Reception of Holy Communion must take place within twenty-four hours of the first Saturday. The reception of Communion need not be part of participating in a Mass.

Please join us next Saturday, May 4th at 9:00am for Mass and this special devotion to our Blessed Mother.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Father Joseph Slomski Council #7423 PARISH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Eligibility: The candidate must be a high school senior who has been accepted and will attend an accredited four-year or two-year college or vocational program beginning in the Fall of 2024. In addition, the candidate's family must be registered parishioners in Immaculate Conception Church Parish. A completed application must be submitted to the Parish Office in the Parish Center (Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm) no later than Thursday, May 23rd. The application must be submitted with a copy of your high school transcript and a copy of your college essay or similar personal statement that will help our committee to better understand your goals and unique qualities.

Please pick up an application at the Parish Office.



Invest in the Future of Our Church!

Support Catholic education on Long Island!

100% of your donation supports Catholic school students. Half goes directly to your local Catholic school, and half supports scholarships for students throughout Long Island attending our Catholic schools.





Give to the Second Collection during Mass: Saturday, May 4th | Sunday, May 5th



¡Inviertan en el Futuro de Nuestra Iglesia!

¡Apoye la educación católica en Long Island!

El 100% de su donación apoya a los estudiantes de escuelas católicas. La mitad va directamente a su escuela católica local y la otra mitad apoya becas para estudiantes de Long Island que asisten a nuestras escuelas católicas.





Aporte a la Segunda Colecta durante la Misa: Sábado 4 de mayo | Domingo 5 de mayo Our Lady Queen of Apostles Mission Middle School Academy invites you to

an afternoon celebrating the wisdom of our senior citizens

Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Mass at IIAM at St. John the Evangelist Church followed by lunch and activities in the school auditorium as we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

No children permitted to the luncheon

email ghalversen@olqany.org or call 631-878-1033 to rsvp 25 Ocean Ave. Center Moriches

WHAT'S THE MISSION?

The Mission Middle School Academy at Our Lady Queen of Apostles School was established in 2018. This innovative approach to middle school education challenges students to academic excellence in the context of a faith filled environment. Steeped in respect and dignity of the human person, students are given a strong foundation to excell as leaders and missionary disciples in high school, college, and beyond.



Please join a nationwide prayer effort for the end of abortion and the protection of women and preborn children.



St. Joseph, Defender of Life, pray for us!

Explanation from Bishops Broglio and Burbidge available by clicking on the QR code







John's Pools & Spas is seeking trustworthy individuals for pool cleaners and store help. Please call to inquire 631-288-5222.

Westhampton Beach School District announces its

FULL DAY UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Program for the 2024-2025 school year

- Students residing within the Westhampton Beach School District
- Four (4) years old by December 1, 2024
- Full day (5 hours) five (5) days per week
- NO transportation is provided
- FREE to participating families
- Application deadline is Friday, May 17th 3:00pm
- Informational meeting April 17th 3:30pm in the Elementary School Library

Please contact Ms. Seidler at 631-288-3800 ext.201 for more registration details

WOMEN'S RETREAT AND BRUNCH

Villa Immaculata Retreat House (Riverhead)
May 11th
9:30am-12:00pm
Cost: \$45

All women 19+ years are invited. Bring friend(s), neighbor(s), make it a mother-daughter day!

NOTE: Limit of 30 people!

Theme: Living as Martha or Mary:

Theme: Living as Martha or Mary:
Reflecting on Our Role as Christian Women
Presented by Rita Dlug and Helen Halloran
To register: RSVP by May 8th to
rmd.word@gmail.com or 631-377-0794.
Payment accepted the day of the retreat.



WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Let us make a decision to love our spouse. Signing up for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience will help you and teach you tools to

transform your marriage. Our next experience will be held in Huntington on June 21-June 23. 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://wwwmenyli.org/.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF LI EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

CCLI is looking for a *Bilingual Office Receptionist* with a generous heart and a desire to contribute to the well-being of others to carry out our mission on Long Island. By joining our team, you will share in the joy of providing "care with dignity and life with hope."

Qualifications: HS diploma/GED; 1-3 years of office experience; Bilingual capability in Spanish/English; 1-2 years of Microsoft Office Experience; Demonstrated organizational skills

Schedule: full time – 35 hours per week – Work schedule: Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm except for Tuesdays 11am – 7pm twice per month.

Rate of Pay: \$18 per hour.: This rate of pay serves as a good faith estimate. Actual pay is based on a number of factors which may include a candidate's qualifications, skills, competencies, experience and work location. The salary range or rate listed does not include any differential pay or other forms of compensation, such as the value of benefits, which may be applicable to this position.

To apply: Email resume to: jobs@catholiccharities.cc or fax to: 516-733-7038. Please reference "Bilingual Office Receptionist" in the subject line of your email.