



Church of the Immaculate Conception 580 Main Street P.O. Box 1227 Westhampton Beach, NY 11978-7227

STAFF Rev. Kenneth Grooms, Pastor	Celebration of the Eucharist
Deacon Joseph Byrne Deacon Mark Herrmann	Saturday5:00pmVigil Mass
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	 <u>Sundav</u> 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am 6:00pm (Spanish Mass) <u>Daily Mass</u> 8:00am Monday through Friday The Rosary is recited immediately after daily Mass
<u>Parish Office Hours:</u> Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm CLOSED Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays	Holy Days Vigil @ 7:00pm (Spanish Mass) Day @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm First Saturday Mass 9:00am
Parish Office 631-288-1423 Fax 631-288-5498 parishoffice@iccwhb.org Religious Education 631-288-4188 Fax 631-288-4188 Fax 631-288-8215 religioused@iccwhb.org Queen of Apostles, Regional School 631-878-1033	Rosary starts at 8:45am <u>Eucharistic Adoration</u> FIRST FRIDAYS of each month following the 8:00am Mass and LAST MONDAYS of each month at 7:00pm in the Church. <u>Confessions</u> Every Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm
Queen of Apostles, Regional School 631-878-1033	

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 1:15-27, 20-26; Ps 113:1-8; Jn 15:9-17 **Tuesday:** Acts 20:17-27; Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Ps 68:29-30, 33-36ab; Jn 17:11b-19 Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26 Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab; Jn 21:15-19 Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4, 5, 7; Jn 21:20-25 Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-30; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39 Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25; Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

MOTHER

Mother is the name for God on the lips and in the hearts of little children. ~ William Makepeace Thackeray

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: <u>https://membership</u>.faithdirect.net/NY66 Thank you for your continued support!

MASS ATTENDANCE						
DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6pm	TOTAL
4/14/24	130	111	119	134	150	644
4/21/24	148	92	65	122	150	577
4/28/24	122	131	119	182	150	704

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT
05/05/2024	Weekly Collection	\$5,806.00
05/05/2024	Catholic Elem Schools	\$1,457.00
05/07/2023	Weekly Collection	\$5,330.50
Thank you for your continuous support!		

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday	May 11
5:00pm	Anna Sicuranza (Fr. Peter)
Sunday	May 12
8:00am	Intentions of the Sena & Krotka
	Families (Fr. Ken)
9:30am	Catherine Mineo (Fr. Ken)
11:00am	Kathryn Ferrara (Fr. Michael)
6:00pm	People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)
Monday	May 13
8:00am	John Davonski
Tuesday	May 14
8:00am	(Guild Mass) Poor Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday	May 15
8:00am	Anthony Mirro
Thursday	May 16
8:00am	Intentions of Rev. Jose Jacobs
Friday	May 17
8:00am	John Davonski
Saturday	May 18
4:00pm	Confessions
5:00pm	Ralph Scott Johnson (Fr. Ken)
Sunday	May 19
8:00am	Jane, Eileen & Sally McElroy (Fr. Peter)
9:30am	Joseph & Celia Maturando (Fr. Michael)
11:00am	Joseph & Celia Maturando (Fr. Ken)
6:00pm	People of the Parish (Fr. Jorge)

MARRIAGE BANNS

Anthony Norris to Mikela Stevkovski

Π



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	\$ 23,040.00
Payments Received	\$ 19,889.00
Donors: 43	% of Goal: 37.10%

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Altar Servers, Dolores Vicente, Sophia Vicente, Mirsia Oliva, Felipe Algua,

Family Estrada-Cordova & Family Ruiz-Estrada



A SURPRISE VISIT from Bishop Barres

Sunday, May 5, 2024



Dear ICC Family,

We had a 2nd surprise visit from **Bishop John Barres** on Sunday! This time, he celebrated the Spanish Mass. I told him I must be very lucky to have the bishop come to my parish two weeks in a row!

He was very happy to meet everyone! By the way, Fr. Jorge is a phenomenal priest and a great guy. We are so blessed to have him help us out with the Spanish Masses!

God bless you,

Fr. Ken

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9am to 5pm 631-288-4188

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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 <u>religioused@iccwhb.org</u>.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Courtney Cosentino

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

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

This week, we will celebrate Ascension Thursday (an event we also remember during the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary) Throughout this week rememb



Rosary). Throughout this week, remember the words of St. Teresa of Ávila, "Christ has...no hands, no feet on earth, but yours." Be at service to your brothers and sisters and do it for Our Lord.

Bulletin Reflection

No matter how much the world pushes against our Catholic values, we are to never waver. "I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world."

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS We are in DIRE need of CANNED FRUIT & SIZE 6 DIAPERS

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

SACRAMENTALS

The Altar Bread and Wine this week are in loving memory of *Veronica Palamidessi*

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in loving memory of *Jack Mellert*

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

Available Dates:

Altar Bread/Wine: May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15 Altar Flowers: May 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21 Sanctuary Lamp: May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1, 8, 15

MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us be one around the table of the Eucharist and offer our great prayer of thanksgiving.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Saint John wrote that when we love one another God's love is brought to perfection in us. What an appropriate reading for Mother's Day! For many of us, our mother's love may have seemed to be close to perfection, our first and greatest model of selfless love. As we worship God, who is love, let us pray for all those blessed women who have brought God's love to perfection in our lives.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, May 11th/12th, our special collection supports the Catholic Communications Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more, visit <u>www.usccb.org/ccc</u>.

Nuestra colecta especial en la próxima semana apoya a la **Campaña Católica de la Comunicaciónes**. Esta campaña conecta a las personas con Cristo y construye comunidades católicas en los Estados Unidos y en los países en desarrollo, utilizando la Internet, la televisión, la radio y los medios impresos. La mitad del dinero recaudado permanece aquí en la Diocese of Rockville Centre para financiar los esfuerzos locales de comunicación. ¡Tu apoyo ayuda a difundir el mensaje del Evangelio! Para informarte más, visita <u>www.usccb.org/ccc</u>.

> **DEEP DEBT** All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother. ~ Attributed to Abraham Lincoln

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Matthias was added to the eleven apostles (Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26).

Psalm: The Lord has set his throne in heaven (Psalm 103).

Second Reading: If God so loved us, we also must love one another (1 John 4:11-16).

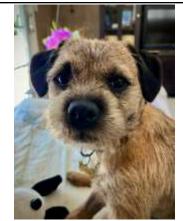
Gospel: Holy Father, keep them in your name, so that they may be one just as we are one (John 17:11b-19).

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

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

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

TEDDY'S CORNER



QUESTION OF THE WEEK



How have I experienced disunity with other Christians? How can I reconcile with those whom I disagree with?

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Seventh Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day;
World Communications Day
Monday: St. Matthias
Tuesday: St. Isidore the Farmer
Thursday: Julian Calendar Ascension
Friday: St. John I
Saturday: Armed Forces Day; Vigil of Pentecost;
Shavuot (Jewish observance) begins at sunset

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.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Deacon Joe will be holding a special prayer service each month for the Parishes of Long Island. We will name the different parishes/towns and pray specifically for healing. It will take place after the 8am Mass during the week. Please watch future bulletins for a specific date when this will begin. We hope you can join Deacon Joe in this special prayer service.



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.

WORRIES The greatest of worries can't pay the smallest of debts. ~ Anonymous



Thank you to all the parishioners who have attended the VIRTUS Training sessions. We have added more classes for your convenience! 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.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In Ireland and the United Kingdom, Mother's Day is over. "Mothering Sunday" was on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. Long ago, people were freed from work to travel on this day to the parish where they were baptized, their "Mother



where they were baptized, their "Mother Church." Often, people were reunited with their mothers on this day. Employers would release their workers and servants for this visit. The American celebration, while based on this custom, really has to do with an anti-war movement of mothers in Civil War times. They crusaded for better sanitary conditions for their sons. When President Wilson instituted the first Mother's Day in 1912, it was a day to fly the flag in honor of mothers whose children had died in battle. Knowing the tradition is a good balance to our celebration today. We can enfold in prayer the mothers who have suffered the loss of their children in war.





The Most Serious Miscalculation of All?

Physician-assisted suicide, according to its advocates, offers a good way to wrap up our life as we face extreme suffering. When we think we have reached the limit of what we can bear in terms of pain and discomfort, they assure us we can choose death on "our own terms." Given that our life belongs to us and no one else, we are told we should feel free to end it, supported by professionals from the medical community. Once our physician has prescribed us a toxic pharmaceutical, we are at liberty to ingest it whenever we are ready and "want out." This final act will putatively close out our time of suffering, resolving our situation for the better, and giving permanent testimony that we believe we are, quite literally, "better off dead."

But are we?

What if multiple mistaken ideas and flawed assumptions sustain this whole line of thinking? For example, what if we are mistaken in supposing that our life is exclusively our own? What if it also belongs, in important ways, to God and to others? And what if we are mistaken in supposing that suffering can no longer befall those who pass through death to the other side?

Some might be tempted to reply, "There is no God and no 'other side." Beyond the portal of death, they argue, lies nothing — mere void and blackness. We vanish, and life does not continue on in any form.

Careful thinkers, however, would have to admit that, since we have not actually died yet, we lack the first-hand experience or positive knowledge to be certain about this conclusion. Given that many religious traditions teach strongly about our existence after death, careful thinkers face still greater uncertainty when it comes to the claim that there is no "other side." It could even be the case that they may be simply deceiving themselves about something that they wish were true.

Many people today take this same approach when speaking about others who have died. "She is with the angels," they may declare, or "He's in a better place now." Even though they lack any first-hand or real knowledge that would support such claims about other people's post-mortem destinies, they simply want it to be so, and because they desire it to be that way, they jump to the conclusion that it actually is so.

This can have a practical impact whereby Catholics, for example, may not pray or have Masses offered for the repose of the soul of departed loved ones, even though both of these activities, objectively speaking, could be of potentially great assistance to those who have died. Instead, they play along in a kind of cultural fiction tempting us to believe that if we feel or want something to be true, then it must be so.

In considering our own death, then, we may similarly entertain a strong wish that there be no more sufferings on the other side, especially when it comes to justifying our decision to engage in physician-assisted suicide. Simply having such a wish, however, does not actually make it so. From our limited vantage point, we cannot safely rule out the possibility that after we die, we could encounter purifications and afflictions similar to, or exceeding, those we left behind, especially if we had chosen to become the direct cause and agent of our own demise.

Careful thinkers, then, will acknowledge that, at a minimum, they lack certitude regarding the conclusion that suffering, purgation and punishment are impossible in the hereafter. They also need to consider scenarios in which the hereafter may be much longer than they might initially suppose, perhaps even eternal, as they ponder the ethical questions involved in death, dying and self-killing.

Given our lack of first-hand awareness of what awaits us after death, and the potential for serious, extended consequences, we may indeed be foolishly gambling with our most valuable asset, our very selves, if we choose physician-assisted suicide as a means of ending our earthly existence. This could engender profound regret. In thinking through the worst-case scenario, we could even envision the prospect of catastrophic repercussions and the loss of everything through eternal perdition, if we had, with full awareness and intention, and in the absence of mental illness or other mitigating factors, freely pursued the wrongful action of suicide.

Looking squarely at these logical possibilities and unpacking some of the flawed assumptions behind physician-assisted suicide can help us avoid the most serious miscalculation of all, whereby we end up, not in deliverance, but in straits potentially far worse than the limited, earthly travails we are seeking to escape. Instead of trusting in worldly slogans and leaning on human wishes, careful thinkers will seek to discern the deeper eschatological order governing human perishing and death.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See <u>www.ncbcenter.org</u> and <u>www.fathertad.com</u>.



There are times when only a Mother's love can understand our tears, can soothe our sadness and calm all of our fears.

There are times when only a Mother's love can share the joy we feel when something we have dreamed about quite suddenly is real.

There are times when a Mother's faith can help us on life's way and inspire us the confidence we need from day to day.

For a Mother's heart and a Mother's faith and a Mother's steadfast love were fashioned by the Angels and sent from God above.



COMMISSIONED TO LIVE IN THE WORLD

In today's scriptures we hear two different stories about commissioning. In the Acts of the

Apostles Peter leads the assembly in prayer that the Lord will choose and commission the person to replace Judas among the Twelve. In the Gospel Jesus prays that his chosen disciples might be consecrated or made holy.

Jesus does not ask his Father to keep the disciples separate from the world, but instead sends them out into the world. While we might think that holy people are set apart from the world, we cannot hear today's scriptures without realizing that God's holy, chosen people are commissioned to live in the midst of the world, where they can reveal the love of God that makes the entire world holy.

> Pentecost Sunday May 19, 2024

Celebrate RCIA Confirmations (at the 11:00am Mass) by wearing something **HOLY-SPIRIT-RED** to Mass next weekend!



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 September 13-15 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.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Catholic Pilgrimage with daily Mass to the Shrines of France. September 23 - October 4, 2024. Lourdes, Lisieux, Nevers, Chartres, Mont Saint Michel, Paris and more! \$6199 per person includes air from JFK, all sightseeing, breakfast and dinner daily. For a Flyer and more detailed information please call Mike Milano at 631-569-2620.

A Healing Mass for Young Adults

A Healing Mass for Young Adults will be held at St. Patrick Church, 280 East Main Street in Smithtown on Friday, May 17th. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Liam McDonald, pastor of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Montauk. Adoration will begin at 7:30pm, followed by Holy Mass at 8:00pm.



Spring Breakfast A Doctor's Journey of Faith.

Saturday, June 1, 2024 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast begins promptly at 9:30 a.m

Moose Lodge #1742 On the beautiful Peconic River, 51 Madison Street Riverhead, NY 11901



GUEST SPEAKER: DR. JEN DEMARCO

Dr. Jen DeMarco, DO is a pro-life family medicine physician specializing in women's health and infertility. While practicing family medicine in private practice for over 20 years, Dr DeMarco pursued a certification in Women's Health and Infortility at the Saint Pope Paul VI Institute. In addition to her private practice, Dr DeMarco is also the Director of the Gianna Center for Women's Health and Fertility, located in Rockville Centre.

Dr. DeMarco raised her four children as a single mother after her marriage was severely impacted by addiction. She credits her Catholic faith and the impiration of the Holy Spirit for informing her choices and empowering her vocation as a single mom and a physician. Jet's devotion to Our Lady, praying the rowary and the Eucharist has given her the strength to endure years of difficult trials and to find hope.

Please join us for a morning of prayer and praise and to be encouraged by her impiring testimony! Register TODAY to reserve your sport

> Cost S50 per person Scan QR or click code to register. By May 30, 2024 For more information please email magnificato/suffolk@gmail.com



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



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

diocese of rockville centre

Office of Human Life, Family and Bioethics





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