

P.O. Box 1227  
580 Main Street  
Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

**Church of the  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**

Website: [iccwhb.org](http://iccwhb.org)  
Parish email: [parishoffice@iccwhb.org](mailto:parishoffice@iccwhb.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/iccwhb](https://www.facebook.com/iccwhb)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@iccwhb](https://www.youtube.com/@iccwhb)



The  
blind man  
replied to him,  
*"Master  
I want to see."*

Mark 10:46-52

**THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**October 27, 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  
Juan Vicente, 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 Thursday  
12:00pm 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

The FIRST FRIDAYS (Novena & silent adoration to Sacred Heart) of each month at 12:30pm and the 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 12:00pm 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:** Eph 4:32-5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17

**Tuesday:** Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21

**Wednesday:** Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-14; Lk 13:22-30

**Thursday:** Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

**Friday:** Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016

**Saturday:** Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11

**Sunday:** Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** I will lead the people to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble (Jeremiah 31:7-9).

**Psalm:** The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy (Psalm 126).

**Second Reading:** It was not Christ who glorified himself, but rather the one who said to him: You are my son: this day I have begotten you (Hebrews 5:1-6).

**Gospel:** Immediately the blind man received his sight and followed Jesus on the way (Mark 10:46-52).

## 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>

## MASS ATTENDANCE

DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6pm	TOTAL
9/29/24	120	187	136	205	135	<b>783</b>
10/6/24	146	197	127	201	100	<b>771</b>
10/13/24	146	187	147	207	100	<b>787</b>
10/20/24	119	183	168	178	100	<b>748</b>

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT
10/20/2024	Weekly Collection	\$6,400.00
10/22/2023	Weekly Collection	\$8,021.00

**Thank you for your continuous support!**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday**

5:00pm

**October 26**

Aidan Garcia (Fr. Ken)

**Sunday**

8:00am

**October 27**

The People of the Parish (Fr. Ken)

9:30am

Angelo J. Santomassimo (Fr. Peter)

11:00am

Nicholas Perri (Fr. Peter)

6:00pm

Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Mike)

**Monday**

8:00am

**October 28**

Catherine M. Fields

**Tuesday**

8:00am

**October 29**

Billy Thorne

**Wednesday**

8:00am

**October 30**

(Guild Mass) Henry Arnold

**Thursday**

8:00am

**October 31**

Intentions of Bob & Nancy Giglio (53<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary)

7:00pm

(Spanish) The People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)

**Friday**

8:00am

**November 1**

Kathleen Tolan (Fr. Peter)

12:00pm

Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Jose)

7:00pm

Leigh Farrell (Fr. Ken)

**Saturday**

9:00am

**November 2**

Teddy Kruckel

**4:00pm**

**Confessions**

5:00pm

Marco Oliveri (Fr. Peter)

**Sunday**

8:00am

**November 3**

Kay Coupe (Fr. Peter)

9:30am

Susanne Neppell (Fr. Ken)

11:00am

Patrick Kelly (Msgr. Mirro)

6:00pm

The People of the Parish (Fr. Jorge)

**Neither Father Ken, nor any other staff member, will ever contact you asking for money via email or text. Please do not respond or reply to any such requests.**

## 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	\$ 35,740.00
Payments Received	\$ 34,369.00

Donors: 75 % of Goal: 57.55%

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



Welcome Back to Religious Education!  
We are looking forward to a great year!

### Dates to Remember in October:

#### Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

Level 10 Confirmation Parent Meeting @ 7:00pm in Parish Center.

#### Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

Level 9 Confirmation Parent Meeting @ 7:30pm in Parish Center.

### MOLLOY UNIVERSITY

#### FALL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm – Campus Tours begin at 12:00pm

Register at

<https://www.molloy.edu/openhouse24>

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK



What will I do this week to discern the way for me? What else do I want to see?

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Agustin Veliz Arriaza, Kevin Chisholm,  
Lisa Falcone, Blythe Fickenwirth, Richard Hewes,  
Michael Hubbard, Young Katie Kennedy,  
Maureen Lawrence, Dick Nolan, & Rosanna.

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

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

This week will feature two parades of sorts. On Halloween, we'll see a parade of children dressed in costumes going from door to door. On All Saints Day, we sing of a parade of saints who "go marching in." In today's first reading, another parade: "the remnant of Israel" whom the LORD gathers from all over the world. As we celebrate Mass today, let us praise a God who gathers us together, ready to march to our promised land, to the eternal kingdom.

## REFLECTIONS

### Living Stewardship

Have courage to come to Jesus in prayer and ask for His help and protection. Be not afraid to speak to Him and trust in Him.



### Bulletin Reflection

In today's Gospel, Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus for help.

## WELCOME MINISTRY

### Are you new to

### Immaculate Conception Church?

If so, we'd like to give you a Welcome packet! Please call the Parish office at 631-288-1423 or stop by to pick one up!

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday; National World Youth Day

**Monday:** Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

**Thursday:** Halloween

**Friday:** All Saints; First Friday

**Saturday:** Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); First Saturday

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In this great prayer of thanksgiving, God offers us the way of his light and love. All we need do is become like Bartimaeus and call out to the Lord for mercy. In offering this prayer, may we discover the light of Christ and share it with others.

## MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

## SACRAMENTALS

### BREAD & WINE, ALTAR FLOWERS, and the SANCTUARY LAMP

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:** November 4, 11, 18, 25

**Altar Flowers:** November 3, 10, 17, 24

**Sanctuary Lamp:** November 4, 11, 18, 25

## PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

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

Once again, our Food Pantry has been selected by **Stop & Shop** for their **Bloomin' 4 Good Program**. We will receive \$1 for each *specially marked* \$10.99 Bloomin 4 Good bouquet sold in the month of **October**. Please purchase your special bouquet at 194 West Montauk Hwy., Hampton Bays, and support our Food Pantry while bringing home some pretty flowers for that someone special!



## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bentley (Navy)  
Julia Blake (Navy)  
Thomas Hellman (USSF)  
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

## 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.

## TEDDY'S CORNER



## FAITH DIRECT

Why not make a change this fall in the way you support our parish?

This season, rich in the symbolism of harvest and sowing, offers a beautiful reminder: your acts of generosity reverberate, touching countless lives. Sign up for eGiving through Faith Direct, which is the most convenient and secure way for you to make your weekly offering. Making either one-time or automatic contributions through Faith Direct will also save valuable time for both you and our parish staff.

Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/NY66](http://faith.direct/NY66) or call their Customer Service team at 866-507-8757.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Today is the feast of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales, the first representative body of many Catholics who died for their faith between 1535 and 1679 to be beatified or canonized. Almost all of them died at Tyburn, a place of public execution near today's Marble Arch in Hyde Park, London. The first to suffer were Carthusian monks who refused to

swear an oath supporting Henry VIII as supreme head of the Church in England, and the last was Saint Oliver Plunkett, the Primate Archbishop of Ireland. The method of execution was particularly vile, since the condemned were hanged and their living bodies quartered to be displayed around London as a horrific warning.

Today, the tree-like gallows provides the design of a religious symbol, the canopy over the altar of the martyrs in Tyburn Convent. There, at the heart of the bustling city, a monastic community of women practices contemplative prayer and "spiritual hospitality" in the Benedictine tradition. Oddly, the community is French in origin; it was expelled from France a century ago when France outlawed contemplative monastic life. England, where the laws against Catholicism had been lifted, invited the community in. In gratitude to their new homeland, and in honor of those who gave their lives for the Catholic faith, the nuns came to Tyburn. In the public crypt, coats of arms stand for each of the 350 martyrs.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 23, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

At this year's general election, New York voters will decide whether to approve a proposed amendment to the State Constitution. Officially known as "Proposal One", the amendment would add new language to the State's version of the "Bill of Rights" that, if approved, could insert gender ideology into child and adult sports, schools, hospitals, and even our churches.

The proponents of Proposal One refer to it as the "Equal Rights Amendment" and claim that the amendment is intended to protect the right to access an abortion. Proposal One, however, does nothing to ensure "equal rights" nor does it have anything to do with the legality of abortion in New York.

Since 1938, the State Constitution has guaranteed the right to the equal protection of the laws and has barred discrimination against any individual by a public or private institution based upon "race, color, creed or religion." Now, eighty-five years after the adoption of the Constitution's prohibition on discrimination, the State Legislature has discovered that we need an "Equal Rights Amendment" that ensures a "right" to an abortion in New York.

New York's abortion laws are already among the most permissive in the nation. Proposal One does nothing to alter the abortion laws or to further liberalize them. In fact, the word "abortion" does not appear anywhere in the proposed amendment. New Yorkers who vote in favor of Proposal One because they believe it will provide additional legal guarantees related to abortion are victims of a misleading campaign that masks the true purpose of the amendment.

Voters need only to read the language set forth in Proposal One to learn its actual purpose and to discern its potential for harm. While they will find no mention of abortion, voters will discover that, if adopted, Proposal One would prohibit discrimination based upon "gender identity" or "gender expression." This language would transform the laudable and longstanding anti-discrimination article in the State Constitution into a legal weapon that would force institutions across the state—public and private, religious, and secular—to accommodate the most radical forms of gender ideology.

Under this language, for example, a CYO girls' basketball team, or a local girls' soccer club, could be forced to allow a biological male to participate on the team if he wishes to do so because of his "gender expression." To bar such a person from the team would constitute an act of illegal discrimination.



The same language can be employed against health clubs, public and private schools, restaurants, and other public places to mandate that these institutions open their bathrooms and locker rooms to anyone, regardless of biological sex, based upon an individual's "gender identity." To restrict access to a bathroom or locker room according to biological sex would be another form of unconstitutional discrimination.

Furthermore, Proposal One would undermine the bedrock religious liberty protections that the State Constitution is supposed provide for Catholic parishes, schools, and hospitals, as well as for the religious institutions administered by other faiths. The amendment would expose a church or school to a lawsuit if, for example, it refused to hire a "transgender" catechist or dismissed an employee for the promotion of notions about gender that are antithetical to Church teaching. A teacher could demand to be called by a "preferred pronoun", as could any student, regardless of age. A refusal to adopt this sort of language regime would violate the Constitution.

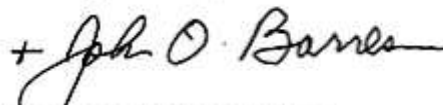
Catholic hospitals that do not perform gender-related surgeries could be sued for illegal discrimination against people who wish to express their gender identity through a medical procedure.

Supporters of Proposal One dismiss these concerns as far-fetched fearmongering. Yet they cannot offer any other plausible application of the language in the amendment. Unlike proposals in other states that were designed to limit the power of a state legislature to regulate access to abortion, Proposal One never mentions abortion, nor does it expressly restrict the power of the State Legislature to pass laws related to abortion. Instead, the amendment adds a "word salad" of terms to the State Constitution that would turn the shield of anti-discrimination protection into a sword that can be used to pierce religious and secular institutions in order to impose, by force of law, a gender ideology that voters have never endorsed.

New York's Constitution has, for nearly a century, expressly prohibited discriminatory practices. Proposal One does nothing to enhance the universally accepted principle of equality before the law. Proposal One is, instead, a deceptive effort to impose an ideological agenda upon the State disguised by popular and inoffensive rhetoric about "equal rights" and by appealing to voters who believe the state's abortion laws are at risk of change. But, to paraphrase the Gospel, by its language you shall know it. The words of Proposal One reveal its true intent and the effects it would have if adopted.

New Yorkers who do not wish to see the State Constitution used to implement a harmful gender ideology that would reach into nearly every facet of ever day life, from sports to schools, from bathrooms to gyms to hospitals—even into churches, synagogues and mosques—must vote "NO" on Proposal One.

Sincerely in Christ,

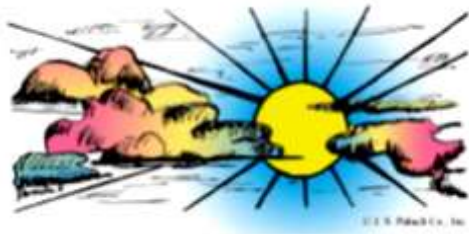


Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

at Immaculate Conception Church  
**Thursday mornings at  
Our Lady's Hall @ 9:30am**  
**All are Welcome!**  
Zoom is also available for those  
unable to attend in person.



### A SAINTLY DEFINITION

The saint does everything that any other decent person does, only somewhat better and with a totally different motive.  
~ Coventry Patmore

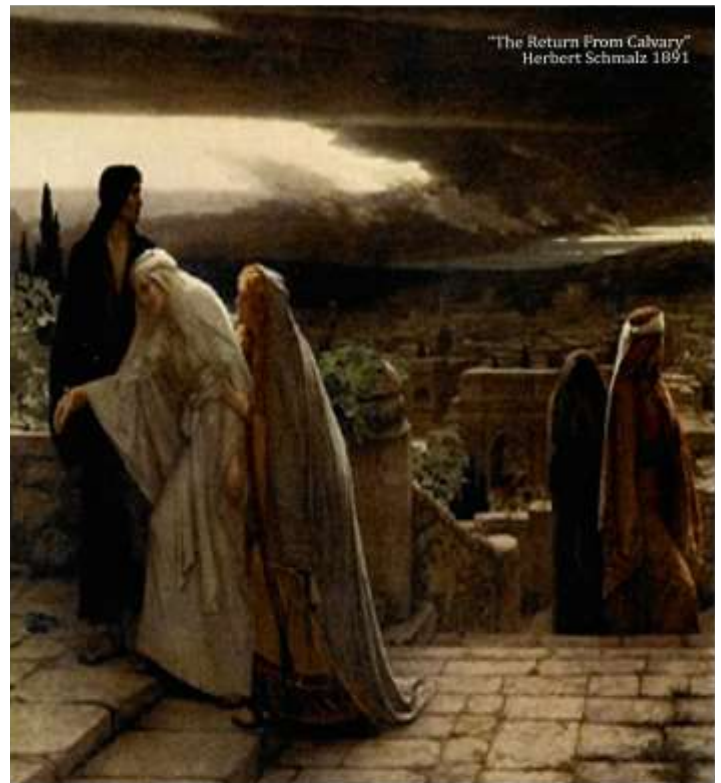


Don't forget we "FALL" behind – by setting our clocks back an hour next weekend,  
Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
(or before you go to bed Saturday night)

# ATTENTION LECTORS



**2025 Lector Workbooks have arrived!**  
Please pick your copy up at the Parish Office  
**BEFORE November 18<sup>th</sup>.**



## *Prayer for Healing*

Please join us Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> after the 8:00am Mass for a special prayer service for the Parishes on Long Island. All towns will be announced while we pray for the people of God within those parishes. The prayer will be led by Deacon Joe. We hope to see you there!





## 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 fifteen mysteries of the rosary

The sacramental confession can be received within [twenty days](#) either before or after the reception of Communion, as the [Holy See's Apostolic Penitentiary](#) 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.



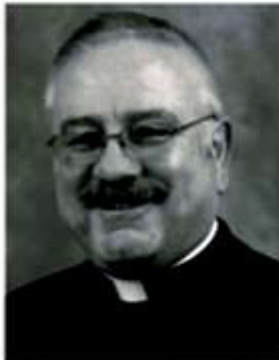
**Join us this Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**



**Fall Breakfast with First Saturday Mass**  
**Saturday, November 2, 2024**

***Got HOPE?***

"Hope anchors the soul." Hebrews 6:19



**First Saturday Mass**  
**with Fr. Roy Tvrdik**

8:30am

Sts. Peter & Paul Church  
731 Wading River Road  
Manorville, NY 11949

**Fall Breakfast**

9:30am to 12:30pm

Doors open at 9:00 am. Breakfast begins promptly at 9:30am

**Rock Hill Country Club**  
**105 Clancy Road**  
**Manorville, NY 11949**

Join us for our fall breakfast as we prepare our hearts for the **Jubilee Year of Hope**. Hear testimonies to the power of HOPE by our Magnificat Sisters. Extended praise and worship and prayers for healing will be offered in intercession to heal our hearts, families, and nation to receive the virtue of HOPE.



Cost \$50 per person  
Scan QR or [Click The Link](#)  
By Thursday, October 31, 2024  
For more information please email  
[magnificatofsuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:magnificatofsuffolk@gmail.com)

# LECTIO DIVINA

- Lectio
- Meditatio
- Oratio
- Contemplatio



## Join Bishop Andrzej

For Scripture Reflection Series  
on JESUS and NICODEMUS

**Wednesday, November 6, 2024**

at 7:30 pm - ZOOM webinar.



### Bible Study Verse

**NICODEMUS the PHARISEE**

**Living the New Life in Spirit**

**Gospel of John 3. 1-21**

Registration is required in order to receive the ZOOM  
link to each session.

Please contact the Western Vicariate office with your  
name, parish, email address and phone number.

Send your email to:

[westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org)

or call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.







**THE EASTPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT WILL BE HOSTING ITS FAMOUS BUFFET BREAKFAST:**

**Sunday from 8am-12 Noon**  
November 3rd  
November 10th  
November 17th  
November 24th  
Breakfast with Santa  
December 1st

**Admission:**  
\$15.00 Adults  
\$10.00 Seniors  
\$5.00 Children  
(5-12 Years of Age)  
Tots 5yrs & under free!

**All proceeds benefit the Eastport Fire Department and support our local food banks this holiday season.**

**Please bring a non perishable food item to "Stuff" our 1931 Fire Truck donating to our local food banks**





Our Lady Queen of Apostles  
Regional Catholic School

Contact  
Us!

631-878-1033

olqany.org



Scan QR Code

## SEE WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO!



- **HURRICANE RELIEF:** Our students donated food and supplies to help those affected by the recent hurricanes in the snd southeast. Items were given to the organization "Helping Makes You Happy."



- **FALL FIELD TRIP:** To kick off the Fall Season, our students in Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade visited Harbes Farm and went pumpkin picking!



- **TRUNK OR TREAT:** We had a great turnout for our Trunk or Treat event yesterday! A big thank you to our National Junior Honor Society and all who decorated their cars as our families Trick or Treated.



# Catholic Hospitals and “Gender Reassignment” for Minors?

In October of 2024, a group known as “Do No Harm” released the Stop the Harm Database (STHD), a searchable internet resource that comprehensively catalogs sex change treatments performed between 2019-2023 on minors in healthcare facilities throughout the United States.

Do No Harm profiled children’s hospitals and examined their advertised services to determine which medical interventions they provide. They also analyzed insurance claims data to determine which sex change procedures each healthcare facility had administered to minors. The data come from medical billing codes, which are submitted to insurance companies to claim payment.

The public release of the database revealed that a number of Catholic health care facilities have been involved in "gender reassignment" practices. According to the findings, Providence Health & Services, which owns 51 hospitals across seven western states, is the Catholic health system that performed its findings.

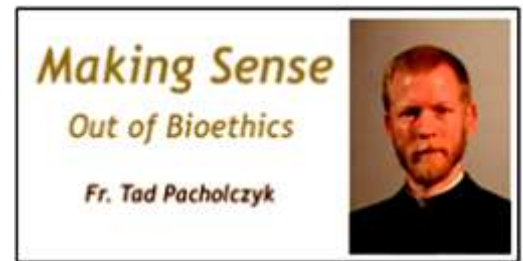
The best interpretation of authoritative Catholic teaching and moral principles is that a person should not cause damage to his or her healthy body (via surgery or hormones) the largest number of transgender interventions on children, carrying out a total of 81 transgender surgeries, and prescribing hormones or puberty blockers to 113 children. The National Catholic Bioethics Center, which has years of experience in working with the same types of medical billing codes, has analyzed the STHD report and issued a statement on its homepage ([nbccenter.org](http://nbccenter.org)) addressing the report ) based on a mistaken and subjective impression that he or she was “born in the wrong body.” The corollary would be that Catholic health care institutions should not perform or cooperate with any gender-transitioning surgical procedures, nor provide puberty-blocking or cross-sex hormones for gender transitions.

The fact that some Catholic hospitals are involved in sex reassignment procedures reminds us of the need for continued vigilance on the part of diocesan bishops and Catholic health care leaders when it comes to Catholic health care facilities within their purview. There may also be a need for more thoroughgoing ethical formation for employees and administrators to assist them in countering the pro-transgender ideological messaging that has recently become commonplace.

When a Catholic hospital appears in a database as having offered hormones or carried out gender reassignment surgeries, it should be noted that this may not be indicative of current policy or practice. Some Catholic hospitals, for example, have had pediatric endocrinologists on staff who had prescribed puberty blockers or cross-sex hormones, but when the fact was discovered, and meetings were arranged to review and discuss the situation, the practice came to a stop. The cessation of such practices would not typically be indicated in such databases.

The Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services (ERDs) are a set of authoritative ethical guidelines prepared by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops for Catholic hospitals and health care facilities. As of 2024, there was no directive dealing explicitly with transgenderism in the ERDs. The bishops are poised to address this matter in upcoming editions of the ERDs, and have offered other definitive guidance through their March 2023 “Doctrinal Note on the Moral Limits to Technological Manipulation of the Human Body.” This latter document clarifies that gender reassignment interventions are not licit, even as some Catholic hospitals may have continued to operate under the impression that definitive guidance is not yet available.

Catholic hospitals clearly must hold to a higher standard than that of their secular counterparts. Secular hospitals may promote practices that violate human dignity, by harming, mutilating, or even ending the lives of the those whose health they are supposed to be serving and protecting.





Catholic hospitals may never condone or participate in these unethical practices, whether they be vasectomies, tubal ligations, direct abortions or physician-assisted suicides, nor may they condone or participate in the range of practices coming under the heading of "gender transition." This is especially important when these involve offering puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, "top surgeries" and "bottom surgeries" to children and young people.

Our sex is a fixed reality of our being, given by God, not a personally-negotiable or otherwise malleable quantity, even if we may face significant struggles in accepting and fully integrating this remarkable gift.

To treat our human maleness or femaleness as "re-assignable" is to invite serious harm into the lives of those who may be dealing with genuine and deep-seated psychological challenges regarding their own "gender identity." Catholic health care facilities serve the best interests of their patients with gender confusion by directing them towards supportive psychotherapy that works to address the underlying psychiatric issues prompting them to seek gender-transition.

By holding firmly to the impermissibility of immoral procedures and safeguarding their patients' dignity in the practice of medicine, Catholic health care leaders serve the Lord's restorative designs and assure that medical practice remains an authentically healing art.

*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 [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org) and [www.fathertad.com](http://www.fathertad.com).*



## THE FOUR LAST THINGS

Death, Judgement, Heaven, & Hell

**Monday, Nov 4**

- 10am Queen of All Hearts Formation Day starts
- 11:30am Mass
- Followed by All Souls Novena Prayers
- 1:30pm Conference
- 3pm Holy Rosary

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