

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

**Church of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

Website: iccwhb.org
Parish email: parishoffice@iccwhb.org
FB: www.facebook.com/iccwhb
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@iccwhb

*And then they will see
the Son of Man
coming in a cloud
with power and
great glory.*

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 1, 2024

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

PARISH TRUSTEES

Beth Hard & Linda O'Brien

PARISH COUNCIL

Michael Berdinka, Tom Day, Lori Francescani,
Lisa Guzman, Tara Hudson, Verna Merkel,
Amabilia Estrada Ruiz, & Tony (Nancy)



PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

Kevin Dwyer, Beth Hard, Daily Hill,
Christine Lennon, Linda O'Brien, Scott O'Brien,
Rich O'Hara, Joe Sala, & Michael Strebel

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 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: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;
Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6;
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;
Lk 3:1-6

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The days are coming when the LORD will fulfill the promise made to Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 33:14-16).

Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul (Psalm 25).

Second Reading: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love that you may be blameless in holiness; conduct yourselves so as to please God (1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2).

Gospel: There will be signs and you will see the Son of Man coming with power and great glory. Be vigilant (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36).

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>

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Virginia Bennetter

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Due to early bulletin submission requirements, the weekly collection figures from November 24th will be reflected in next week's bulletin. Thank you.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am
9:30am
11:00am
6:00pm
Monday 8:00am
Tuesday 8:00am
Wednesday 8:00am
Thursday 8:00am
Friday 12:00pm
Saturday 9:00am
4:00pm
5:00pm
Sunday 8:00am
9:30am
11:00am
6:00pm

November 30
Shirley Scates Smith (Fr. Ken)
December 1
Gigi Duarte (Fr. Peter)
Joseph & Celia Maturando (Fr. Ken)
Kathleen Tolan (Anniversary in Heaven) (Msgr. Mirro)
The People of the Parish (Fr. Jorge)
December 2
Fenton Anniversary (1973)
December 3
(Guild Mass) Nan Scrivener
December 4
Maria C. Santomassimo
December 5
Kenneth Beck
December 6
Intentions of Msgr. John Graham (Ordination Anniversary)
December 7
Alex Mausser
Confessions
Marco Oliveri (Msgr. Mirro)
December 8
Marco Oliveri (Fr. Peter)
Anthony Mineo (Fr. Peter)
The People of the Parish (Fr. Ken)
Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Mike)



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	\$ 38,415.00
Payments Received	\$ 37,216.00
Donors: 83	% of Goal: 61.86%

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.



Christmas Tree Lighting

Please join us for a
festive evening
as we light our
Christmas Tree
in front of the Church
on our Feast Day,
Immaculate Conception,
Sunday, December 8 at 7:00pm
We'll have carols & refreshments.
Let's come together and
welcome the Christmas
season!



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office Hours are:

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

SAINT FAIR

Our Level 1-6 parents joined their children for a Saint Fair in November. We continued our lesson on intercessory prayer (which started with our Living Rosary last month) and the Communion of Saints. The children rotated among the classrooms where they “met” various Saints and received a takeaway for each one. It was so nice to see the children hearing stories and learning all about the Saints that ARE PART OF OUR BEAUTIFUL Catholic Faith.

Many thanks to our wonderful Level 1-6 Catechists. We couldn't have made this happen without their untiring efforts, creativity, and dedication – they did a phenomenal job!



Dates to Remember for December:

December 8th

Level 8 Mass of Commitment & Level 10 Mass @ 9:30 in Church

December 9th, 10th or 11th

Level 1-8 w/ parent: Adoration in Church @ 4:00pm

December 11th

Level 9 & 10 w/parent: Adoration in Church @ 7:30pm

December 15th

Level 2 & Level 9 Mass @ 9:30 in Church

December 18th

Level 9 & 10 Retreat Forms due back

December 23rd – January 8th

Christmas Break – NO CLASSES

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Toiletries (shampoo & soap), Juice Boxes, Cereal, Pasta, Tuna, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Tuna, Hearty Soup, & Condiments.

The Pantry is in NEED of:

Canned Fruit, Juice, & Vegetables (all varieties), Rice, & Beans.

Thank you for your on-going generosity!

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Around this sacred altar we lift our hearts in a prayer of everlasting thanksgiving. As our prayer is lifted up, we humbly ask God to give us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in the life to come.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: First Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier
Wednesday: St. John of Damascus
Friday: St. Nicholas; First Friday
Saturday: First Saturday; St. Ambrose

SACRAMENTALS

BREAD & WINE, SANCTUARY LAMP, ALTAR FLOWERS

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: December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Altar Flowers: January 2025

Sanctuary Lamp: December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Kevin Chisholm, Lisa Falcone, Blythe Fickenwirth, Catherine Heffernan, 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.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



What will I do to prioritize Christ's coming over all the persistent anxieties of the season? Can I take ten minutes of each day this Advent to pray?

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

As we begin our journey through Advent, we are called to prepare ourselves appropriately for the coming of Christ. This is a great time to go to confession, especially if you haven't been to confession in a while.



Bulletin Reflection

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus tell us about coming tribulations and His Second Coming.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

On this first day of December, this first day of the season of Advent, and this first day of a new liturgical year, we are reminded that our relationship with the Lord can always begin anew. Even as we prepare for the coming of Jesus as an infant on Christmas night, we can also make this season an opportunity to receive him more deeply into our hearts and make him more central to the way we live our lives. Let us resolve to give Jesus a new birth in our hearts as we prepare for the celebration of his birth into the world.

MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

TEDDY'S CORNER



Even Teddy is getting ready for the Christmas Season with his festive blanket! Happy Advent Teddy!



PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bentley (Navy)
Julia Blake (Navy)
Joseph Ferraro III (Air Force)
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

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 or call their Customer Service team at 866-507-8757.

THE THREE COMINGS OF ADVENT

There are three distinct comings of the Lord of which I know, His coming to humankind, His coming into humankind, and His coming against humankind.
~ St. Bernard

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.

Congratulations to the following young parishioners who received Honor Roll certificates for the First Quarter at St. Anthony's High School:

Lily Connor
Jaiel Lindo-Jean Louis
Christian Pinto



BETWEEN THE LIGHTS

A Celebration of
Chanukah and Christmas
Sunday, December 29th
1:30pm

St. Mark Parish Hall, Shoreham
Interfaith Prayer Service and presentation by
Rabbi Gadi Capela, Fr. Roy Tvrdik,
& Dr. Don Russo.

\$25 per person includes lunch.
RSVP 12/22 projectgenesis1212@gmail.com

GREATNESS

The measure of greatness
is not the number of servants you have,
but the number of people you serve.
~ Anonymous



Prayer for Healing

Please join us **Tuesday, December 10th** 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!



Children's Living Nativity
CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00pm
Parish Center

This year, the children in Levels 1-6 are invited to participate in a Living Nativity at the 4:00pm Mass (Parish Center) on Christmas Eve. The children will process in with Father dressed in a Nativity character costume (of their choice). The children will then sit with their families in the front. The children will be brought up to sing songs during the Mass.

*Please contact the Religious Education Office
for more information 631-288-4188.*

Let's make this a fun Christmas Mass for all!

Aging religious need your help. “Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious next weekend, December 7th/8th.



“In the quiet corners of service, women and men religious have dedicated their lives to others. Your donations help us honor their lifelong devotion with the care they so richly deserve.”

Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92, center

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Our aging religious need your help. Like those pictured here, more than 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated their lives to service—praying, teaching, and caring for those in need—usually, for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation is crucial and can help bridge this gap, providing critical support for their essential care, medicine, and daily needs. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

From left:
 Father Maury Smith, OFM, 87;
 Sister Olivia Bellegante, OSF, 92;
 Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, FSGM, 72.
 Visit retiredreligious.org/2024photos
 to meet the religious pictured.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

Amount: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip code _____

Email address (for e-newsletters) _____

(Arch)diocese _____

Data Preference (Please check Yes or No.)

The data I provided may be used to complete this transaction and may be used and stored in the records of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Retirement Fund for Religious.

Yes, I agree.

No, the data I provided may only be used for this transaction.

Please check with your employer about matching gifts.

National Religious Retirement Office - 3211 Fourth Street NE - Washington DC 20017-1194 • Phone (202) 541-3215 • Fax (202) 541-3053

ALCOLYTES WANTED

We're looking for adults who would like to serve at the table of the Lord on Sundays by helping the celebrant at the Altar during Mass.

Training is provided.

Please contact the
Parish Office
631-288-1423

if you're interested in serving
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SALE**



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Fr. Joseph Slomski Council

Knights of Columbus

The Knights are back this year selling Christmas Wreaths and Cemetery Pillows after every Mass beginning this weekend, December 1st. Thank you for your support!

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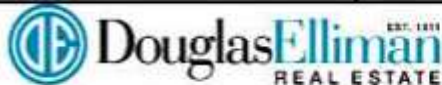


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