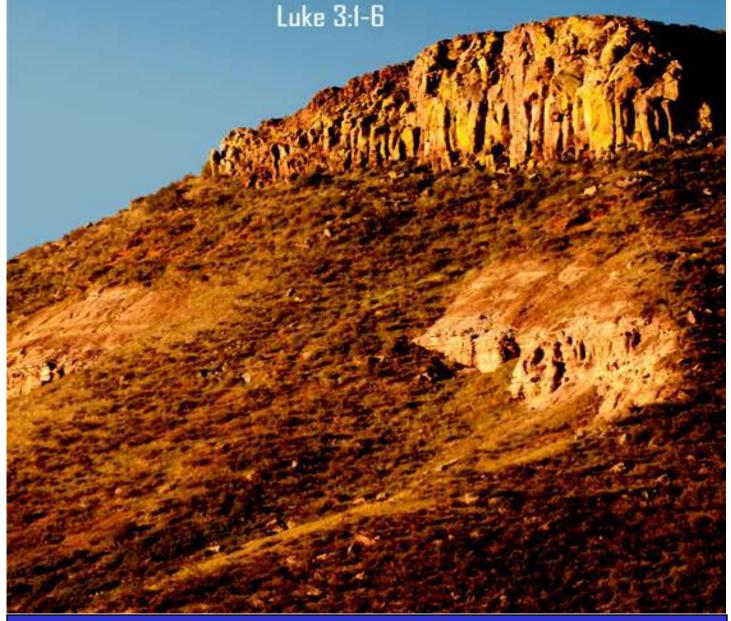
P.O. Box 1227 580 Main Street Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

# Church of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

Every VALLEY shall be filled ...
every MOUNTAIN and HILL shall be made low ...
the WINDING ROADS shall be made straight ...
the ROUGH ways made smooth ...



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 8, 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 Reserve is recited immediately of

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 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:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 5:17-26 **Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;

Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10;

Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9-13ab;

Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Mt 11:16-19 **Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of the Blessed

Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

**Sunday:** Zep 3:14-18a; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Phil 4:4-7;

Lk 3:10-18

# PRAY FOR OUR NEWLY BAPTIZED



Brooks Warren Dodge Maria Jose Donis Ortiz James Edward Hludzinski Isla Ryan Schulz Henry Francis Urbank Alessia Camila Vargas

# **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	6рт	TOTAL
11/03/24	120	181	226	180	100	807
11/10/24	135	137	130	190	100	692
11/17/24	128	195	186	180	210	899
11/24/24	112	131	100	149	187	679

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS					
DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT			
11/24/2024	Weekly Collection	\$6,884.00			
11/26/2023	Weekly Collection	\$8,040.00			
12/01/2024	Weekly Collection	\$8,935.00			
12/03/2023	Weekly Collection	\$5,031.00			
Thank you for your continuous support!					

# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

December 7 Saturday

5:00pm Marco Oliveri (Msgr. Mirro)

Sunday **December 8** 

8:00am Marco Oliveri (Fr. Peter) 9:30am Anthony Mineo (Fr. Peter)

The People of the Parish (Fr. Ken) 11:00am 6:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Mike)

Monday December 9

8:00am Deceased Members of the Pristash &

Giglio Families

**Tuesday** December 10

8:00am Kathleen Mary DeBrita

Wednesday December 11

(Guild Mass) Poor Souls in Purgatory 8:00am

**Thursday** December 12

8:00am Intentions of Joseph Guzman

**Friday December 13** 12:00pm Donna Gordon Saturday **December 14** 4:00pm **Confessions** 

5:00pm Michael Carnevale (Fr. Ken)

Sunday **December 15** 

8:00am Gregory Christ (Fr. Msgr. Mirro) 9:30am Margaret Hughes (Fr. Ken) 11:00am Antonetta & Francisco Morrone

(Fr. Peter)

6:00pm The People of the Parish (Fr. Jorge)

# **SECOND COLLECTION**

Support those who have given a lifetime. This weekend we take up a second collection for **RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT.** Women and men religious 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 provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Thank you for your generosity!

# **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 \$ 39,840.00 Payments Received \$ 39,323.00

Donors: 88 % of Goal: 64.15%

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

# **Dates to Remember for December:**

# December 9th, 10th or 11th

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

# December 11<sup>th</sup>

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

# December 15<sup>th</sup>

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

# December 18th

Level 9 & 10 Retreat Forms due back

# December 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 8<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Break – NO CLASSES

# 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.

# 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.

# **TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading**: Stand on the heights, Jerusalem; see your children rejoicing that they are remembered by God. A merciful and just God leads Israel in joy (Baruch 5:1-9).

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

Second Reading: May your love increase in knowledge to discern what is valuable that you may

11).

**Gospel**: John proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All flesh shall see the salvation of God (Luke 3:1-6).

be blameless for the day of Christ (Philippians 1:4-6, 8-

# SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent

Monday: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Tuesday: Our Lady of Loreto Wednesday: St. Damasus I

Thursday: Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday: St. Lucy

Saturday: St. John of the Cross

# SECOND COLLECTION

Support those who have given a lifetime. This weekend we take up a second collection for RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT. Women and men religious 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 provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Thank you for your generosity!

# **FORGIVENESS**

God forgives like a mother who kisses the offense into everlasting forgiveness.

~ Henry Ward Beecher

# 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

# 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

Each time the Israelites experienced the great power of God, they turned to God and offered prayers of thanksgiving. We offer God this eucharistic prayer of thanksgiving, ever grateful for the gift of the Lord Jesus, who comes to us this day.

# 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 \16, 23, 30 Altar Flowers: January 2025 Sanctuary Lamp: December 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.

# **MEDITATION** with Deacon Joe

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

# **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**



What do I need to repent of in order to cross the main chasm that separates me from God?

# REFLECTIONS

# **Living Stewardship**

One way we can give thanks to God, is by serving others. During this time of year, there are many opportunities for us to serve others. Including making a gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal.



# **Bulletin Reflection**

God has done great things for us! We should always rejoice and give thanks for His love.

# INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

"Make straight his paths," we hear John the Baptist proclaim today. How do we do so? John's primary message throughout the whole region answers that question: We must repent of our sins. Our sins are the obstacles that block the path of the Lord, that make it more difficult for him to enter our hearts. True repentance allows for God's forgiveness to clear those obstacles, to make straight the Lord's path into our heart. Let us resolve today to repent of our failings and seek God's forgiveness.

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.

# **TEDDY'S CORNER**







# 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!





# **BLESSING OF BABY JESUS**

Bring Baby Jesus from your Nativity
to the 9:30am Mass next weekend,
December 15th,
and receive a special blessing.

(We also hear there will be a special guest at this Mass - Santa will make an appearance!!!)





# Children's Living Nativity CHRISTIMAS 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!



Fr. Joseph Slomski Council

# **Knights of Columbus**

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



# 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.

THE PARTY OF THE P

Please join us this Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.



Over the summer our parish participated in the **Baby Bottle Campaign** to benefit the Life Center. We are pleased to announce that our parish raised \$1,637 to bring hope, healing, and new life to those mothers and fathers in the midst of an unexpected pregnancy. Thank you for participating & caring!

# A BUSY MOTHER

Only after the Last Judgment will Mary get any rest; from now until then, she is much too busy with her children.

~ St. John Vianney

# TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



By now, trees are beginning to appear in living rooms throughout the parish. To a complete outsider to our culture, it must seem an odd thing indeed. The "roots" of this custom are in liturgical drama: religious plays performed in the churches and town squares of medieval Europe. The favorite theme for this time of year was the "Paradise Play," a dramatic history of the human race from the Garden of Eden to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The language and music

varied from place to place, but one feature was always in place: a great tree decorated with apples. As a prop, it provided lots of material for the actors: the temptation, shelter for the manger, and a reminder of the wood of the cross. Soon people began to bring "paradise trees" into their homes, decorating them with gifts and lighted candles.

Many Germans give credit to Martin Luther for transforming the "Paradise Tree" into the evergreen Christmas tree. Walking home on a starry Advent night, he was so awed by the beauty of the night that he hauled a pine tree inside and decorated it with lighted candles. Americans were holdouts. It took until 1856 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to decriminalize Christmas decorations, the old Puritan dislikes falling before the waves of Irish and German immigrants with traditions firmly in hand!



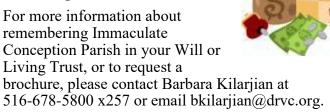
# BETWEEN THE LIGHTS

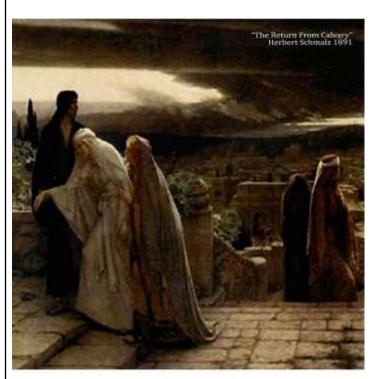
A Celebration of Chanukah and Christmas Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm

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

Please consider continuing your lifelong stewardship by leaving a bequest to our Parish.





# Prayer for Healing

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



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 needusually, for little to no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have gap, providing critical support for their essential care, medicine, and daily needs. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

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

# enough retirement savings. Your donation is crucial and can help bridge this

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to	To donate by mail: Make your check payable to	Data Preference (Please check Yes or No.)	
your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)	Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.	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 Cathol Bishops' Retirement Fund for Religious.	
Amount: 🗆 \$1,000 🗆 \$500 🗆 \$250 🗆 \$100	□\$50 □\$25 □ Other \$		
Name		☐ Yes, I agree.	
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Email address (for e-newsletters)	about matching gifts.		
(Arch)diocese			

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
in this important NEW ministry
here at
Immaculate Conception Church.



Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School Contact Us!

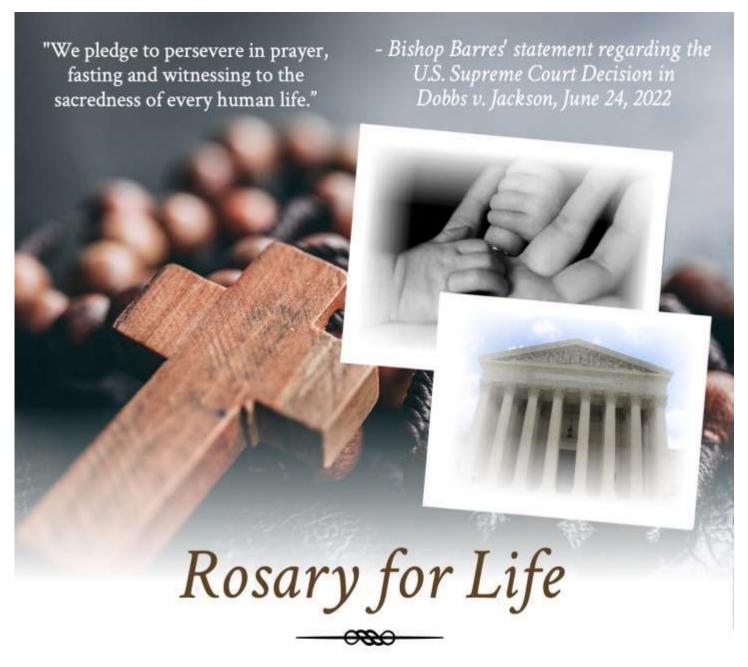
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# Thanksgiving Feast 2024!





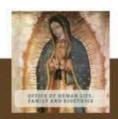
JOIN the OFFICE of HUMAN LIFE, FAMILY and BIOETHICS in PRAYER

# Every Friday - 3:00 PM

Via Zoom Click here for link

Meeting ID: 811 9648 1100 Passcode: 20EWp7 Call In #: 1 (646) 876-9923 Email Ihonkanen@drvc.org

if you would like the link sent to you each month.





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# Deborah Pirro, ABR

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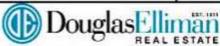
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