

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



"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier
than I
is coming.

He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit
and fire."

Luke 3:10-18

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 15, 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: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9;
Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23;
Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14;
Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17;
Mt 1:1-17
Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19;
Mt 1:18-25
Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a;
Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19;
Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).
Psalms: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).
Second Reading: Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).
Gospel: John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

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
11/17/24	128	195	186	180	210	899
11/24/24	112	131	100	149	187	679
12/01/24	148	134	138	189	100	709
12/08/24	79	158	205	149	215	806

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

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

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday **December 14**
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)
The People of the Parish (Fr. Jorge)
Monday **December 16**
8:00am Rosemarie Intrieri
Tuesday **December 17**
8:00am Intentions of Carson Montemarano
Wednesday **December 18**
8:00am (Guild Mass) Edward Miezianka
Thursday **December 19**
8:00am Intentions of CJ Fenton
Friday **December 20**
12:00pm Mayan Wallert
Saturday **December 21**
4:00pm Confessions
5:00pm Anthony Mirro (Msgr. Mirro)
Sunday **December 22**
8:00am Michael Betjemann (Fr. Peter)
9:30am Kathleen Tolan (Fr. Ken)
11:00am Gregory Christ (Msgr. Mirro)
6:00pm The People of the Parish (Fr. Mike)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Saturday: St. Peter Canisius

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	\$ 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.

PENANCE SERVICE

with Individual Confessions

Monday, December 16, 7:00pm

Day of Reconciliation

Saturday, December 21

12:00pm - 1:00pm

4:00pm - 4:45pm

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 24

4:00pm - Church

4:00pm - Parish Center

6:00pm - Church

12:00 Midnight - Church

Wednesday, December 25

9:30am

11:00am

12:30pm

6:00pm - Spanish
in the Church



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!

What do parents need to do?

Parents will need to provide the costume for their child.

Return the permission slip. Please contact Religious Ed @ 631-288-4188 if you need the form.

Bring your child to the rehearsal in the Parish Center (date to be determined).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Dates to Remember for December:

December 18th

Level 9 & 10 Retreat Forms due back

December 23rd – January 8th

Christmas Break – NO CLASSES

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

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.

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.

We are so happy to announce that Immaculate Conception Church Food Pantry has been selected again as a nonprofit partner in the **Stop & Shop Bloomin' 4 Good Program**. We will receive \$1 for each specially marked \$10.99 Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold during the month of January 2025 at 194 West Montauk Highway, Hampton Bays. Please shop Stop & Shop in January when shopping for flowers and support our Food Pantry at the same time. Thank you!

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

As we offer our prayer of thanksgiving around this holy table, let our hearts be filled with gladness and exultation.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

We will hear it at least a few times over the next two weeks: "It's better to give than to receive." We recognize this when we see the expressions of joy in a child's face or tears of appreciation from a parent or spouse when they open a gift we've given them. Jesus himself said the same words to his disciples, though in a context more like the one we hear today with John the Baptist preaching to the crowds to share what they have with those who have less. As we prepare for the Lord's coming, let us share from the bounty the Lord has blessed us with and give to those in need. In our hearts, may we continually relearn the blessings of giving.

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.

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

We are again called, in today's readings, to care for our brothers and sisters. As the different groups of people ask St. John the Baptist, "what should we do", let us ask the Lord the same question. How can we serve our neighbors this week?



Bulletin Reflection

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!"

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 23, 30

Altar Flowers: January 2025

Sanctuary Lamp: December 23, 30

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



What will help remind me to try to see the Lord in those in need?

MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

TEDDY'S CORNER



Seriously ... does Teddy know just how cute he is? Somebody should tell him!



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



This week, our celebration of Advent makes a transition in ritual and texts. Beginning December 18, the countdown of nine days (a novena) to Christmas sees a

heightened sense of expectation, and also a turning from the call of the Baptist in the wilderness to the events leading up to Jesus' birth. In ancient Spain, December 18 was once celebrated as the "Feast of the Expectancy," and customs grew up to heighten readiness in the homes.

Some customs arise from monastic life and practice and spill over into our parish life. Beginning tonight, those who pray Vespers will sing in the opening phrase a beautiful title of Christ. These titles belong to a collection of opening phrases called the "O Antiphons" after the awe-inspired "O" sung on the first note. There's a playful code in the titles: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Flower of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dawn, O Ruler, O Emmanuel. When you take their Latin names—*Sapientia, Adonai, Radix*, and so on—the titles form an acrostic when you read them backwards: "ERO CRAS." In Latin, that is translated as "I will be there tomorrow!" It's as if Christ were answering the prayers of the waiting people in the words of the prayers themselves.



AN ADVENT PRAYER

May the God of peace
make us completely holy.
May God keep us blameless in spirit,
soul and body
for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Forever faithful is the One who calls us -
God our Father!
Expectant, let us live in joyful hope
for the revelation of the glory
of our God and Savior, Christ Jesus!
To him be glory forever!
Come, Lord Jesus! Your grace be with us all.
Amen!



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!



We are delighted to announce that **Michael Strebel** has been honored with the **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AWARD** for his exceptional dedication and service to our parish. His unwavering commitment and generous contributions have profoundly enriched our community. Please join us in congratulating Michael on this well-deserved recognition.



27th ANNUAL FOOD PANTRY DINNER

The 27th Annual Food Pantry Dinner was held on October 26th in the Parish Center of Immaculate Conception RC Church in order to raise funds to support the Pantry's outreach to the greater Westhampton Community.

Thank you to everyone who supported the event by their attendance at the dinner or by making a donation of food and/or financial support. Over 300 people attended the dinner and enjoyed a fantastic meal prepared by Sydney's of Westhampton Beach as well as Hampton Coffee and Shock Ice Cream. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed, the Food Pantry will be able to continue its mission of helping people in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. The Food Pantry Fundraiser was jointly organized and conducted by the Rotary Club of Westhampton, The Kiwanis Club of Westhampton and the Father Slomski Knights of Columbus Council of Westhampton Beach.

Thank you again for your generosity in helping to support your local food pantry.

Women's Bible Study

Siena: The Rise of Painting, 1300-1350 The Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Women's bible study visits the MET to view a once in a lifetime exhibit followed by a delicious lunch overlooking Central Park. The exhibit is a rare collection of extraordinary art known as the dawn of the Italian Renaissance and the pivotal role of Sienese artists – including Duccio, Pietro, Ambrogio Lorenzetti and Simone Martini in defining Western painting. The NY Times called the exhibit “a visual event of pure 24 -karat beauty”. The Women's Bible Study called the exhibit “a gift from God”. The exhibition runs through January 26th, 2025.





THE DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, New York, 11571-9023
Tel: 516-678-5800 • www.drvc.org

STATEMENT

DATE: December 4, 2024
RE: Bankruptcy Confirmation
FROM: Spokesperson for the Diocese of Rockville Centre

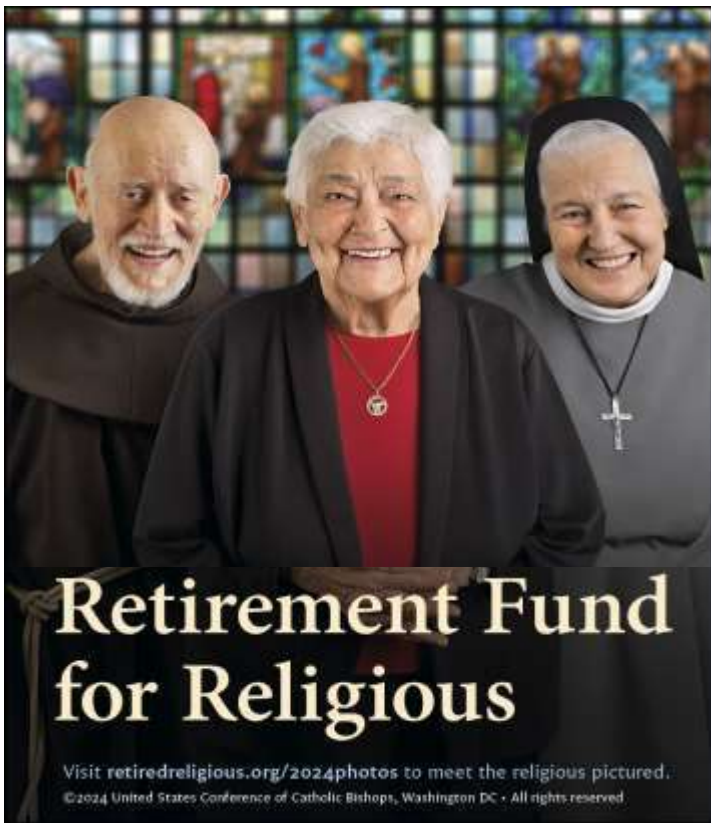
We are grateful to God that on December 4th, the court confirmed the Plan that resolves and ends the Bankruptcy Case for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, all our parishes, and related ministries. For the sake of abuse survivors and the Church's mission on Long Island, we pray that the Plan brings some measure of healing to survivors and allows the Church to carry on the saving mission of Jesus Christ. Victim survivors of child abuse deserve our respect, our prayers, and our pastoral support. The Church is grateful for their courage and perseverance.

The total settlement amount was just over \$323 million, which included insurance contributions, Diocesan assets and sale proceeds from Diocesan property, and contributions from parishes and other related entities. The Diocese, parishes and other related entities contributed a total of \$234.8 million. Insurance companies contributed a total of just over \$85 million. Counsel for the Creditor's Committee contributed \$3 million. All participated in order to offer equitable compensation to survivors and move this difficult ordeal towards its conclusion.

Parishes also completed an abbreviated Chapter 11 to secure a release from any past liabilities for the parishes. No parishes are closing as a result of this process. No Catholic Ministries Appeal donations were used for this settlement. Parishes will now continue their ministry, free from historical lawsuits and free from bankruptcy. We are grateful for the expert counsel of Jones Day, Alvarez & Marsal, and Reed Smith, as well as for the Westerman Ball Firm of Long Island that shepherded our parishes through Chapter 11.

The Diocese's goal has always been the equitable compensation of survivors of abuse while allowing the Church to continue her essential mission. We believe this plan has achieved those goals.

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Women and men religious offer gratitude. “Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next,” says Sister Teresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters, Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org. Thank you for your kindness & generosity to this collection.

Marriage Struggling?

REGISTER NOW!

HelpOurMarriage.org
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JANUARY 24-26TH • HUNTINGTON, NY
 Register by: January 10th • www.HelpOurMarriage.org

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?

No Marriage is Beyond Hope.

STRENGTH AND COURAGE

Prayer infuses the weak with strength and the fainthearted with courage.

~ Anonymous



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To learn more about our schedule of classes for spring 2025, go to www.dunwoodie.edu or email: sjsacademics@dunwoodie.edu

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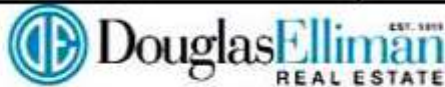
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MEANS TO BE
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