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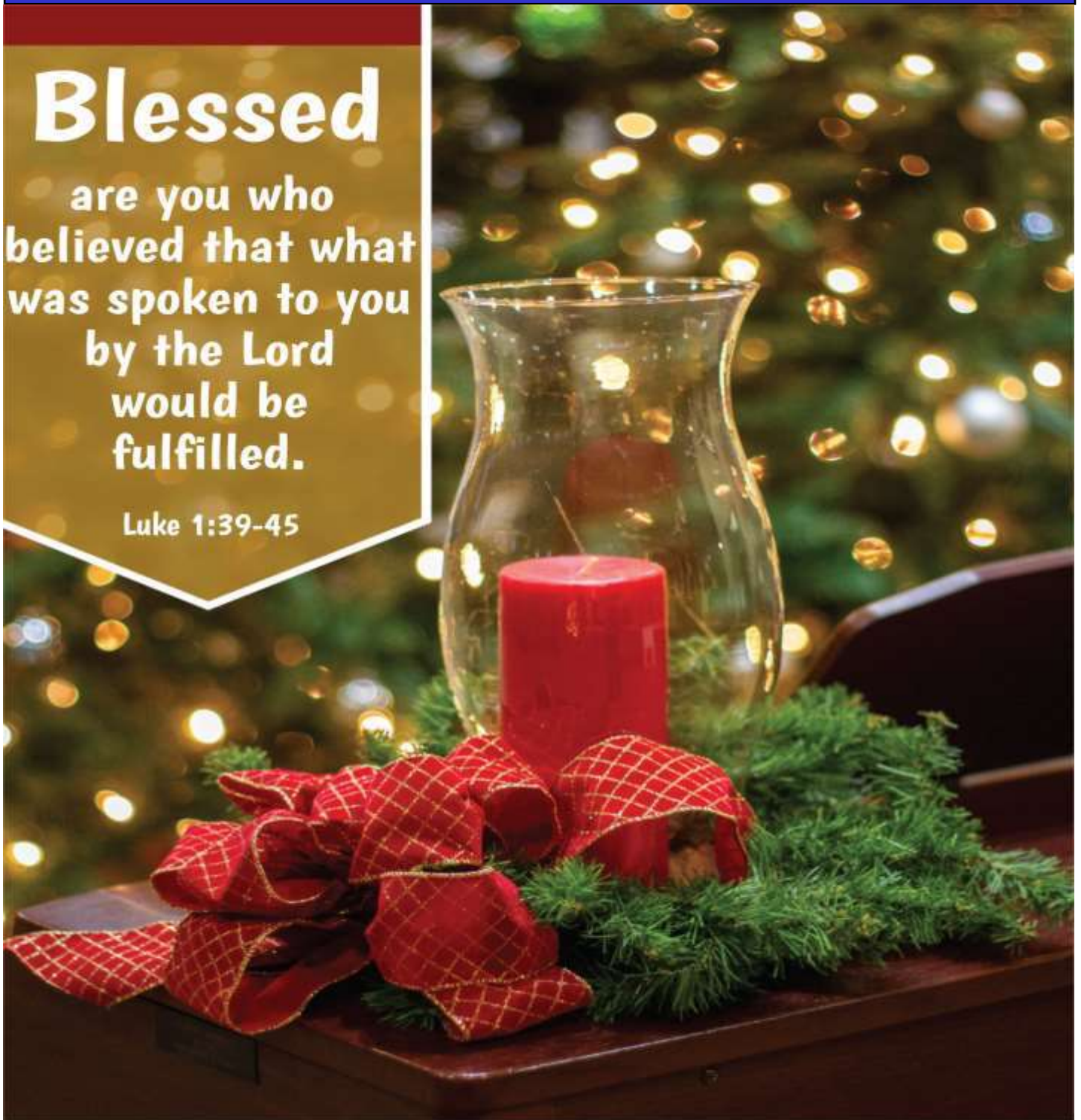
**Church of the  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**

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

**Blessed**

are you who  
believed that what  
was spoken to you  
by the Lord  
would be  
fulfilled.

Luke 1:39-45



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 22, 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



## 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:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66  
**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79  
**Wednesday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]  
**Thursday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22  
**Friday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18  
**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday** **December 21**  
 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)  
**Monday** **December 23**  
 8:00am (Guild Mass) Poor Souls in Purgatory  
**Tuesday** **December 24**  
 8:00am Richard LaVista  
 4:00pm (C) Salvatore Golfo  
 4:00pm (PC) Leah Alvizo  
 6:00pm Robert Melbourne  
 8:00pm (Spanish) Poor Souls in Purgatory  
 12:00am Peter Gambino  
**Wednesday** **December 25**  
 9:30am Kenneth & Alixandra Merkel  
 11:00am Rev. Pat Fitzgerald  
 12:30pm The People of the Parish  
**Thursday** **December 26**  
 8:00am Maria C. Nobisso  
**Friday** **December 27**  
 12:00pm Naudlee Valcin Reese  
**Saturday** **December 28**  
**4:00pm Confessions**  
 5:00pm Gregory Christ (Fr. Peter)  
**Sunday** **December 29**  
 8:00am Leigh Farrell (Msgr. Mirro)  
 9:30am The People of the Parish (Fr. Ken)  
 11:00am Kathleen Tolan (Fr. Ken)  
 6:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Jorge)

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Fourth Sunday of Advent  
**Monday:** St. John of Kanty  
**Wednesday:** The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)  
**Thursday:** St. Stephen  
**Friday:** St. John Evangelist  
**Saturday:** The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

## 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      |
|----------|-----|-----|--------|------|-----|------------|
| 11/24/24 | 112 | 131 | 100    | 149  | 187 | <b>679</b> |
| 12/01/24 | 148 | 134 | 138    | 189  | 100 | <b>709</b> |
| 12/08/24 | 79  | 158 | 205    | 149  | 215 | <b>806</b> |
| 12/15/24 | 105 | 134 | 345    | 139  | 100 | <b>823</b> |

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

| DATE       | COLLECTION        | AMOUNT     |
|------------|-------------------|------------|
| 12/08/2024 | Weekly Collection | \$7,562.50 |
| 12/10/2023 | Weekly Collection | \$6,043.00 |

**Thank you for your continuous support!**



## 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.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

December 25, 2024

Christmas Greetings to Our Dear Parishioners,

As we gather to celebrate the joy and wonder of Christmas, I am filled with gratitude for each and every one of you who make our parish community so special. This season of Advent has been a time of reflection, preparation, and anticipation, leading us to the miraculous birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Christmas is a time to rejoice in the boundless love and grace that God has bestowed upon us. It is a time to remember the humble beginnings of our Lord, born in a manger, and to embrace the message of hope, peace, and goodwill that His birth brings to the world.

As we celebrate this joyous occasion, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your dedication, generosity, and unwavering support throughout the year. Your involvement in our parish ministries, your commitment to our community, and your steadfast faith are truly inspiring.

Let us take this opportunity to gather with our loved ones, share in the warmth of fellowship, and spread the light of Christ to those around us. May this Christmas season bring you and your families an abundance of joy, peace, and blessings.

On behalf of our entire parish, I wish you a blessed and merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the love of Christ fill your hearts and homes, now and always.

God bless us all!

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Ken



## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Many of our most treasured traditions link the liturgy of the church with the hearth of the home. The food on the table at certain feasts and fasts helps to extend the mystery into everyday life. Tonight, for example, many families of Italian heritage, especially those with links to the south of Italy, will settle down to the "Feast of the Seven Fishes," or *La Vigilia*. It is a command performance for the whole family, as the saying goes: *Natale con I tuoi, Pasqua conchi vuoi*, or "Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you wish." Seven different fish, some say one for each day of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem, others say one for each sacrament, or one for each day of creation, are served.

Eel and shrimp, lobster and crab, calamari, pasta with clam sauce, flounder and hake all abound, but most especially baccala, dried salted cod. Why? Many say that it is a way to pay homage to the beasts of the stable who witnessed the holy birth and relinquished their manger to make way for God. Tonight, if someone asks you to "pass the shrimp," you'll be able to shed a little light on a menu that is a delicious treasure in our tradition!



## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday, December 24**

4:00pm - Church  
4:00pm - Parish Center  
6:00pm - Church  
8:00pm (Spanish) - Church  
12:00 Midnight - Church

**Wednesday, December 25**

9:30am  
11:00am  
12:30pm  
in the Church



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## New Year's Mass Schedule

**Tuesday, December 31**

8:00am  
7:00pm (Spanish)

**Wednesday, January 1**

9:00am  
12:00 noon

**Our weekday  
Mass Schedule  
will change  
slightly for the  
months of  
January,  
February, and  
March.**

**Morning Mass,  
Monday  
through  
Thursday,  
will be held at  
9:00am  
beginning  
Wednesday,  
January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Happy  
New Year!**



## Merry Christmas To All !

We've had a busy month here in Religious Education. Enjoy these highlights!



### Eucharistic Adoration

The children/teens and their parents from our classes took part in our guided Christmas Adoration in the Church. It was wonderful to see the families who joined us as we took time to be with Jesus.



### Blessing of the Baby Jesus' and Santa's Visit

Families brought their Baby Jesus Nativity pieces for Father Ken to bless, and Santa joined us for Mass on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our Level 2 children brought up their little people and our Level 9 teens served in their roles during Mass – they did such a wonderful job!!

Afterward, the children decorated the tree in front of the Church with ornaments friendly to our woodland creature friends.





## Service Projects

The Parish Center was filled with lots of helpers this month!



Mrs. Rybak's Level 7 class created Yarn Angels which were donated to East End Hospice. Such a special gift to give a family to remember their loved one.



Our Level 9 & 10 teens, and monitors assembled candy canes & ornaments for our tree in front of the Church



Our Level 1-10 children donated toiletry items to support the families we serve in the community.

*Joyful*  
**MERRY & BLESSED**

**Thank you to all for your generosity.  
What a blessing has been given.**

*As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

*1 Peter 4:10*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

### Dates to Remember for December:

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

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

## MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

## 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](http://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!

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK



What do I need to do in order to discern Jesus' presence in someone I've just met? in a friend? in someone I disagree with?

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Christmas is so close now that we can nearly taste it! Children can hardly contain their excitement while adults panic about all they still need to do. But for now, let us consider Mary and Joseph, just days before she would give birth, struggling to make their way up an unfamiliar and dangerous road, hoping to make it to a warm, comfortable place to stay in the city of David. As we well know, nice warm places were no longer available, but it all worked out, even if not exactly as they had hoped. May we keep that in mind during these final days of preparing our hearts and our homes for Jesus' birth.

## 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

Let this Christmas be a time of peace for you and your loved ones. Bury any hatchets and end any grudges within your family- let Christ's love shine.



### Bulletin Reflection

The unborn John leaped in his mother's womb at the sound of Mary's voice.

## 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 30

**Altar Flowers:** January 2025

**Sanctuary Lamp:** December 30

## NATURE RESTORED

Christ is born,  
that by his birth he might restore your nature.  
~ St. Peter Chrysologus

All Parish Offices will be

**CLOSED**

Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
through

Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

We will re-open on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

The Parish Staff wish you all a  
Very Merry Christmas!

## TEDDY'S CORNER



Teddy says,  
"Merry  
Christmas  
to my dear  
friends!"



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** From you, Bethlehem, shall come forth one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Micah 5:1-4a).

**Psalm:** Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading:** By Christ doing the will of God, we have been consecrated (Hebrews 10:5-10).

**Gospel:** "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Luke 1:39-45).

**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.**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Christ's ultimate sacrifice was to do the will of the One who sent him. Pray, brothers and sisters, that this, our sacrifice, may be acceptable to God, our almighty Father.

## From the DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

For anyone who believes they have a Sexual Abuse Claim against an Additional Debtor (parish) arising prior to December 3, 2024, the claim form to submit and related information can be found at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/drvc/info> under the "Proof of Claim Form" heading. The deadline for filing claims is January 13, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. prevailing Eastern time.

## 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!

## WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

The Women's Bible Study shared an afternoon together celebrating the wonders of this holiday season with their annual Holiday luncheon. On behalf of all its members we wish everyone a blessed holiday season.





*Our Lady Queen of Apostles  
Regional Catholic School*

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**  
**| 11AM-1PM |**

FOR MORE INFO CALL 631-878-1033 OR SCAN THE QR CODE

**OLQANY.ORG**





# Christmas Flowers



for the intentions of our living and our deceased ....

Andres Alvarez

Ramona Michalowski

David Bregy

Claire Neppell

Susanne Neppell

Thomas Neppell

Intentions of Jessica Chiti

Gregory Christ

Charles Crayne

Curcio Grandparents

Intentions of M/M Andrew

Czaplick

Marco Oliveri

Catherine Pavlak

Edmund Pavlak

Intentions of M/M Joseph Pittelli

Ray Plakstis

Deceased Members of the DelDuca

& Franza Families

Mario S. Delgado

Intentions of M/M Robert

Dieckmann

Intentions of Elizabeth Romney

Dave Francescani

Alice (Sandy) Strebel

Bertha Strebel

Leo Strebel

Melly Garcia

Raquel Gonzalez

Harry Viola

Intentions of Michael La'forge



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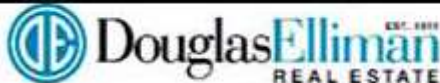


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