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

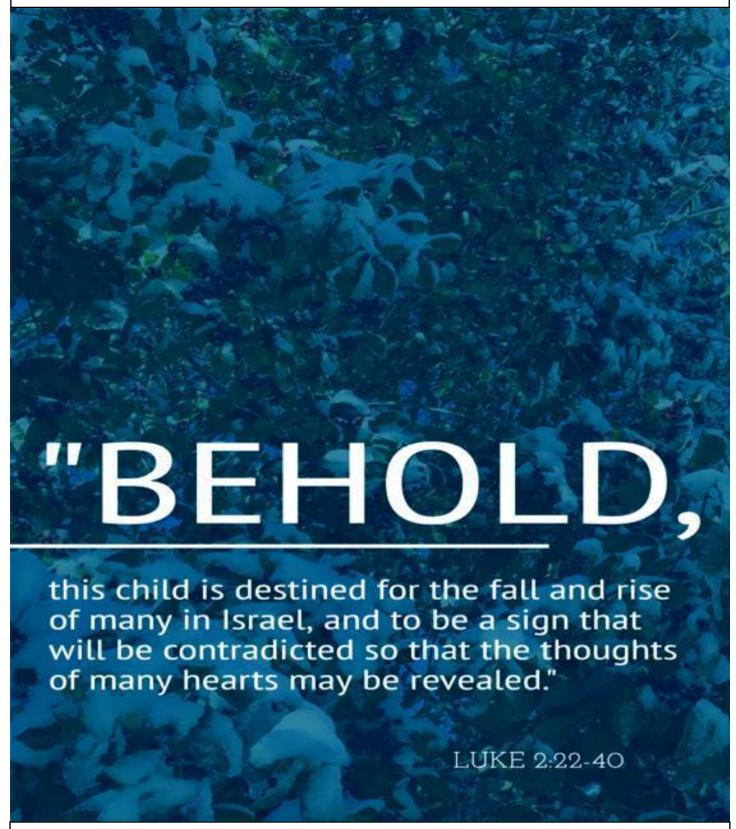
# Church of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Website: iccwhb.org

Parish email: parishoffice@iccwhb.org

**FB:** www.facebook.com/iccwhb

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@iccwhb



THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD February 2, 2025

#### **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**

9:00am Monday through Thursday (January-March) 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, 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:** Heb 11:32-40; Mk 5:1-20 Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4; Mk 5:21-43 **Wednesday:** Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Mk 6:1-6 **Thursday:** Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Mk 6:7-13 Friday: Heb 13:1-8; Mk 6: 14-29 **Saturday:** Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Mk 6:30-34 **Sunday:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11 [3-8, 11]; Lk 5:1-11

#### **TODAY'S READINGS**

First Reading: Malachi focuses on the purification that the Lord's messenger will bring. (Malachi 3:1-4). **Psalm**: Who is this king of glory? (Psalm 24).

Second Reading: Jesus is also fully human. (Hebrews 2:14-18).

**Gospel**: Jesus is presented in the Temple.

(Luke 2:22-40).

#### **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
01/05/25	190	98	100	136	100	624
01/12/25	159	110	82	189	175	715
01/19/25	93	142	152	111	205	703
01/26/25	102	106	235	139	100	682

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS					
DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT			
01/19/2025	Weekly Collection	\$3,998.00			
01/19/2025	CA Wildfires	\$2,095.00			
01/21/2024	Weekly Collection	\$3,742.00			
01/26/2025	Weekly Collection	\$4,303.00			
01/28/2024	Weekly Collection	\$4,489.00			
Thank you for your continuous support!					

#### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

February 1 Saturday

5:00pm Gregory Christ (Fr. Ken)

Sunday February 2

8:00am Michael Betiemann (Fr. Ken) 9:30am Ray Darowski (Fr. Ken) 11:00am Marie Cotignola (Fr. Ken)

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

February 3 Monday Valerie J. Gannon 9:00am **Tuesday** February 4 9:00am Dr. Eugene Parker

Wednesday February 5

9:00am (Guild Mass) Poor Souls in Purgatory

**Thursday** February 6 9:00am Jerry Lapp **Friday** February 7 12:00pm Kathleen DeBrita Saturday February 8 4:00pm **Confessions** 

5:00pm Josephine Nobisso (Fr. Ken)

Sunday February 9

8:00am Marilou Graham (Msgr. Mirro) 9:30am Alixandra M. Merkel (Fr. Ken) 11:00am Living/Deceased Members of the Fr. Slomski Council Knights of

Columbus (Fr. Ken)

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

#### PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Kevin Chisholm, Alexa Dalton, Lisa Falcone, Blythe Fickenwirth, Catherine Heffernan, Richard Hewes, Michael Hubbard, Young Katie Kennedy, Rosanna, Daniel Standing, & Robbie Urban.

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

#### **CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL**

#### The 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal is happening 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.

\$ 62,100.00 Goal Total Pledged \$ 0 \$0 Payments Received

Donors: 0 % of Goal: 0%

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

#### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR FEBRUARY

### Wednesday-February 5<sup>th</sup>

All Confirmation paperwork & Homework for Level 9 & 10 is due

First Holy Communion Banners, Praying Hands & Wallet Size Pictures are due

#### Sunday - February 9th

Levels 7 & 10 Mass @ 9:30am – Church

#### **PUZZLE BOOK DRIVE**

Our Level 4 catechists have started a great service project for their Level 4 students to donate Puzzle Books for our Veterans. Our Level 4 catechists will deliver these puzzle books to the Veterans Home in Stony Brook for St. Valentine's Day. This is a nice way to let our Veteran's know they are loved and not forgotten.

We would like to open up this puzzle book drive to all families to participate in. There is a free puzzle book that comes once a month in the Sunday Newsday and the local discount store has puzzle books for sale. LARGE PRINT are especially encouraged.

We will have a collection box for the puzzle books in the hall by our classrooms. You can also drop them off in the Parish Center Office. THANK YOU SO MUCH! These will surely bring a smile to the Vets!

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.

#### **A FORETASTE**

Faith is the foretaste of that knowledge which hereafter will make us happy.

∼ St. Thomas Aquinas

#### **MEDITATION** with Deacon Joe

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

#### PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



#### FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

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

#### The Pantry is in NEED of:

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

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

For more information about remembering Immaculate Conception Parish in your Will or Living Trust, or to request a brochure, please contact Barbara Kilarjian at 516-678-5800 x257 or email bkilarjian@drvc.org.

#### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord; Groundhog

Day

Monday: St. Blaise; St. Ansgar

Wednesday: St. Agatha

**Thursday:** St. Paul Miki and Companions

Friday: First Friday

Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine

Bakhita; BVM

#### 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

#### **TEDDY'S CORNER**



This wintry picture has our little Teddy freezing! No worries ... it's from last winter ... Teddy is surely keeping warm these days!



#### **SACRAMENTALS**

#### The SANCTUARY LAMP, BREAD & WINE, 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:

**Sanctuary Lamp:** February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24 **Bread & Wine:** February 10, 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 **Altar Flowers:** February 9, 16, 23, March 2

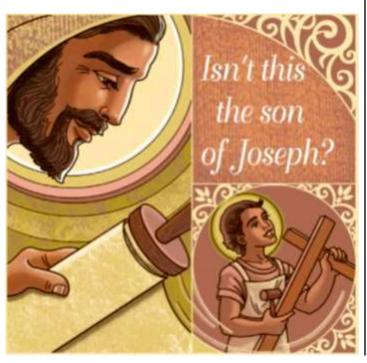
Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The prophetess Anna never left the temple, and when she saw the child Jesus she offered a prayer of thanksgiving. Like Anna, we stand around this holy table to offer our great prayer of thanks and praise.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

When forty days had passed since Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple to consecrate him to the Lord, as was required by the Law. While they were there, the Holy Spirit guided the elderly Simeon and Anna to the baby, whom they recognized as Messiah and Savior. Exultantly they testified to his destiny. Gathered here today by the Holy Spirit, may we too encounter Christ in this place of worship, recognizing him in the breaking of the bread.



#### REFLECTIONS

#### **Living Stewardship**

Like Mary and Joseph, may we do our part in helping bring the youth to God. The Catholic Ministries Appeal (which will begin next week) helps fund programs, such as Camp Quo Vadis, that bring the youth to Christ.

#### **Bulletin Reflection**

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple.



Immaculate
Conception welcomes
Dany Suzanne Smith
as one of our new
volunteer lectors. She
presented @ the
9:30am mass on
January 19<sup>th</sup> where she
also received a special
blessing during the
mass.

Welcome Dany!

#### 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.

#### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**



How do I see myself as Simeon or Anna, encountering Christ in my place of worship?

#### FROM THE SACRISTAN

If you would like to be part of the Eucharistic procession for a specific Mass (date & time) there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church. Then just prior to the Mass starting, please see an Usher and confirm your arrival. You will then proceed to the rear of the Church at the offertory to bring up the gifts.



#### All are Welcome!

Women's Bible Study Thursday mornings in Our Lady's Hall.

To register and reserve a copy of the Bible Study Books, or have any questions, please email one of the following: <a href="mailto:mtpilo.esq@gmail.com">mtpilo.esq@gmail.com</a>; <a href="mailto:frankiernan@gmail.com">frankiernan@gmail.com</a>; or <a href="mailto:Kris0330@optonline.net">Kris0330@optonline.net</a>

This year, both Spring and the Fall, we'll study
"THE BIBLE and the VIRGIN MARY"

Join us on this journey, which will involve us in learning about Mary's life through scripture, through Marian Art of the Catholic Church through music and prayers honoring Mary, the Rosary Mysteries, and the Blessed Mother's role in salvation history, all designed to inspire, to meditate, and to enhance our understanding and devotion to the Mother of God!

Share your faith and fellowship with other ladies from the Parish while we learn about Mary, her life, her devotion to God and to Christ, what her life was like in Jerusalem before the Annunciation, her role in Christ's Ministry and His first Miracle at Cana. It has been stated, "To know the Blessed Virgin Mary, is to know Christ."

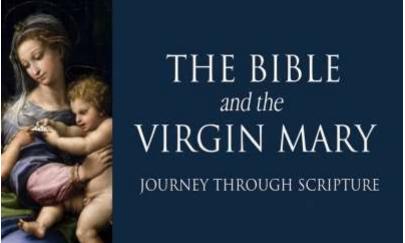
We hope you will decide to join us on Thursdays for our ICC Women's Bible Study. It is a wonderful way to engage with amazing women who want to learn about Mary, discuss scripture,

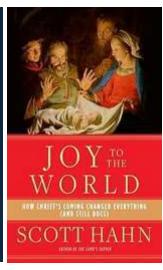
share ideas, laugh, find comfort in shared life stories, and enhance your knowledge of the Blessed Virgin Mary while nurturing your spirituality.

BIBLE Study Guides and accompanying books, "Rethinking Mary" and "Joy to the World" in addition to the Bible Study Guide, are available at the first meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup>.

All are Welcome! Invite a Friend! We'd love to meet you!







As Catholics, we are *sent on mission* to spread the Gospel to everyone we encounter. A common phrase you may have heard is, "*preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words.*" The idea behind the phrase is that our actions should speak louder than our words, and our actions should exemplify us as disciples of Christ. One way for us to do this is by making a sacrificial gift to the benefit of another person. The Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) gives us an opportunity to do just that.

Support of the CMA is crucial for the survival of numerous ministries and programs throughout the Diocese. Ministries that include Faith formation of our seminarians, deacons, and lay leaders; Faith formation for our young adult and youth ministry and our children in religious education classes; Respect Life initiatives; Catholic Charities affordable housing for seniors and people with disabilities, substance abuse programs, food programs and parish social ministry support.

The work that the CMA funds is so important, as it reaches across Long Island and all generations. Think about the impact your gift today will have for years to come. A gift today can fund the education of a seminarian who will become a priest and bring others to Christ throughout his life. Your gift can help someone start their life over again as they break the chains of addiction and live their life with dignity and faith. A gift may be used to help a young single mother raise her baby with confidence and security. Our gifts touch so many lives in our community.

I ask you to please join me and all your brothers and sisters within our diocese to prayerfully consider making a gift to the 2025 Catholic Ministries Appeal. Please do so to the best of your ability as all gifts matter, regardless of the size. Please also remember, 100% of every dollar raised is restricted to fund the objectives, programs, and mission supported by the Catholic Ministries Appeal. No donations are used to fund the bankruptcy settlement.

Finally, if you are unable to make a gift at this time due to circumstances in your life, please reach out to the parish at any time, so that we may help you in any way that we can. You are never alone, and your church community is always here to support you.

May God bless you, your loved ones, and our parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Ken

**JANUARY 2025** 

## Catholic Elements of Immigration Reform

"What is clearly true, and what the Church and many others have called for, is the urgent need for a comprehensive reform of our country's immigration system. The U.S. immigration system is overly complex and unjust, often keeping family members apart; it must be fixed."

-Statement of the USCCB Administrative Committee (March 17, 2022)

For decades, the Catholic bishops of the United States have been consistent and steadfast in their calls for a just reform of the nation's immigration system. The elements of reform articulated below are grounded in <u>Catholic social teaching generally</u> and the <u>Church's teaching on migration specifically</u>, including the joint pastoral letter released by the American and Mexican bishops, Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope (2003).

#### Element 1: Enforcement efforts should be targeted, proportional, and humane

Safeguarding American communities and upholding the rule of law are laudable goals. At the same time, a country's rights to regulate its borders and enforce its immigration laws must be balanced with its responsibilities to uphold the sanctity of human life, respect the God-given dignity of all persons, and enact policies that further the common good. Whether along an international border or in the interior of the country, enforcement measures should focus on those who present genuine risks and dangers to society, particularly efforts to reduce gang activity, stem the flow of drugs, and end human trafficking. Just enforcement also requires limiting the use of detention, especially for families, children, pregnant women, the sick, elderly, and disabled, given its proven harms and the pervasive lack of appropriate care in detention settings. Military personnel, resources, and tactics should not be used in immigration enforcement. Deportations and other enforcement actions should always be carried out with due regard for families, community ties, and religious liberty interests.

#### Element 2: Humanitarian protections and due process should be ensured

From refugee resettlement, asylum, and temporary protected status, to visas for victims of trafficking and abused youth, humanitarian protections are essential components of an immigration system that furthers the common good. Reforms to the U.S. asylum system in particular should not raise what is already a high bar for relief, given the potential threats to human life if refoulement were to occur. Meanwhile, third-country resettlement is a durable and mutually beneficial solution for refugees who cannot safely return to their country of origin. Immigration processes, whether affirmative or defensive, must also be subject to due process. The dehumanization or vilification of noncitizens as a means to deprive them of protection under the law is not only contrary to the rule of law but an affront to God himself, who has created them in his own image. Further restricting access to humanitarian protections will only endanger those who are most vulnerable and deserving of relief.

#### Element 3: Long-time residents should have an earned pathway to citizenship

History does not support the belief that opportunities for long-time undocumented residents to regularize their status significantly increases illegal immigration. Today, nearly 12 million people are estimated to be living in the United States without legal status. This number has remained between 10 and 12 million since 2005. Almost one-third of the undocumented population consists of those brought to the United States as children, commonly known as "Dreamers". It also includes approximately 300,000 farmworkers, about half of the U.S. agricultural workforce. A significant majority of the undocumented population has lived in the United States for over a decade (some estimates place this percentage at upwards of 80%). Meanwhile, the population already contributes an estimated \$100 billion in federal, state, and local taxes each year. Providing legal processes for long-time residents and other undocumented immigrants to regularize their status would strengthen the American economy, provide stability to communities, and keep families together.

#### Element 4: Family unity should remain a cornerstone of the U.S. system

Catholic teaching maintains that families are the foundation of society, and the success of any civilization hinges on the well-being of its families. For generations, families living in the United States have included combinations of citizens and noncitizens. Immigration reform measures should be evaluated according to whether they strengthen families and promote family unity. U.S. citizen members of mixed-status families should not be penalized with restrictive policies that require eligibility for programs or services to hinge on an entire family being comprised of citizens.

#### Element 5: Legal pathways should be expanded, reliable, and efficient

An enforcement-only approach to immigration disregards the benefits of immigration and the contributions of immigrants, as well as the many legitimate motivations people have for migrating, including family reunification, educational opportunities, employment, and humanitarian needs. Meanwhile, limits on legal immigration pathways established several decades ago are no longer responsive to the social, economic, and geopolitical realities of today. Unreliable processes and inadequate legal pathways have merely contributed to an increase in irregular migration, even as enforcement efforts have been steadily intensified. Improving and increasing opportunities for people to lawfully enter the United States, on both a temporary and permanent basis, are necessary steps to address several pressing issues, from family separation to regional labor shortages. New legal pathways should be created, and backlogs resulting in decades-long wait times should be eliminated.

#### Element 6: The root causes of forced migration should be addressed

Migration has been a consistent phenomenon throughout human history. The Bible itself depicts a series of migrations, including that of the Holy Family fleeing persecution. An effective and sustainable response to increased migration must include efforts to address its root causes, especially in the case of forced migration. The preeminent right to life provides that people should be able to flourish in their homeland, with migration being a free choice (known in Catholic teaching as the right not to migrate). However, when the conditions for a dignified life are absent, people have the natural right to migrate, and countries have a duty to accommodate that right to the extent possible. There are a multitude of factors causing people around the world to migrate in large numbers today, often as the only way to sustain or protect human life. This cannot be addressed unilaterally (i.e., a domestic overemphasis on deterrence) or by shifting responsibility (i.e., externalization of borders) but requires meaningful cooperation between the United States and other countries.



In Joseph Slomski Council

7423

Westhampton Beach
Annual Council & District
Free Throw Championship



Who: Boys/Girls ages 9 thru 14. Copy of Proof of Age

Required

When: 5:30 pm Tuesday February 4, 2025

Where: WHB Middle School Gym
340 Mill Road Westhampton Beach

Participation T-Shirts, Champion prizes

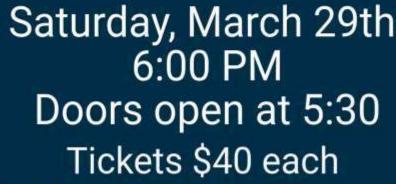
Questions: Contact Robert Montpetit, 631-871-6209

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## Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School Spring Basket Auction and Food Extravaganza









CALL TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!

Tickets available till March 7th or we are sold out

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(Basket raffle tickets purchased separately at the event) (631) 878-1033 www.olgany.org

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#### Deborah Pirro, ABR

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Daniel P. Cronin Jr

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

ROSENBERG & GLUCK LLP

631-993-0102 dcronin@lilawyer.com



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