

P.O. Box 1227  
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Westhampton Beach, NY 11978

**Church of the  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION**

Website: [iccwhb.org](http://iccwhb.org)  
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*"You shall not put  
the Lord, your God,  
to the test."*

LUKE 4:1-13

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
March 9, 2025



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Monday:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15;  
Mt 25:31-46  
**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15  
**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;  
Lk 11:29-32  
**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8;  
Mt 7:7-12  
**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26  
**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8;  
Mt 5:43-48  
**Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14;  
Phil 3:17-4:1 [3:20-4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading:** The Israelites show their faith by offering the LORD first fruits of the products of their new land (Deuteronomy 26:4-10).

**Psalms:** Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble (Psalm 91).

**Second Reading:** All who express faith in the risen Christ and confess that he is Lord will be saved (Romans 10:8-13).

**Gospel:** Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and was tempted (Luke 4:1-13).

## 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
02/09/25	120	38	49	119	50	<b>376</b>
02/16/25	130	123	79	165	100	<b>597</b>
02/23/25	118	112	108	135	100	<b>573</b>
03/02/25	110	156	184	188	215	<b>853</b>

## WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT
03/02/2025	Weekly Collection	\$7,149.00
03/03/2024	Weekly Collection	\$6,392.00

**Thank you for your continuous support!**

## MASSES FOR THE WEEK

**Saturday** **March 8**  
5:00pm Nellie & David Fenton (Fr. Peter)  
**Sunday** **March 9**  
8:00am Maureen Remitz (Msgr. Mirro)  
9:30am Joseph & Celia Maturando (Fr. Ken)  
11:00am Antonetta & Francisco Morrone (Fr. Ken)  
6:00pm The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)  
**Monday** **March 10**  
9:00am Poor Souls in Purgatory  
**Tuesday** **March 11**  
9:00am Rosemary Scammell  
**Wednesday** **March 12**  
9:00am (Guild Mass) Chris Schwartz  
**Thursday** **March 13**  
9:00am Poor Souls in Purgatory  
**Friday** **March 14**  
12:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory  
**Saturday** **March 15**  
**4:00pm Confessions**  
5:00pm Jolly Five Crew (Fr. Peter)  
**Sunday** **March 16**  
8:00am Connie DeVito (Msgr. Mirro)  
9:30am Roland Palmedo (Fr. Ken)  
11:00am Patrick Fenton (Birthday in Heaven) (Fr. Ken)  
6:00pm The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)

## PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Florence F. Flood

There are quite a few Mass Intentions available now and in the coming months. Intentions are \$20 for a single Mass and \$10 for a Guild (multi) Mass. Stop by the Parish Office and set-up a Mass for a loved one, living or deceased.

## 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.

Goal	\$ 62,100.00
Total Pledged	\$ 11,955.00
Payments Received	\$ 8,521.00

Donors: 29 % of Goal: 19.25%

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.

## LENTEN ACTIVITES

# LENTEN PARISH MISSION BEGINNING THIS WEEKEND!!!

Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>  
7:00pm to 8:00pm  
in the Church

This year's Lenten Parish Mission will be given by Michael Grogan. Michael is a legally blind lay missionary working with gang members and at risk youth in the toughest city in America, Kensington Philadelphia. Michael's preaching is dynamic, down to earth and filled with exciting stories. Please come with your entire family and invite neighbors and friends. **YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!!!**

To learn more about our speaker go to [Ithirstministry.com](http://Ithirstministry.com)

### THEMES OF THE MISSION:

Sunday: God's passionate love for you.

Monday: How to pray like a prophet.

Tuesday: How to love like Jesus.

Don't miss this parish mission.... Better than the super bowl.... Buckle up and prepare for a Holy Ghost touchdown!!!!

### LENTEN SUGGESTED PENANCE

**Sunday:** Spend 10 minutes reading the Bible.

**Monday:** Do something concrete to help the poor.

**Tuesday:** Spend 10 minutes slowly meditating on the Our Father.

**Wednesday:** Sacrifice some ordinary comfort or convenience.

**Thursday:** Pray with special insistence for the most pressing petitions in your life.

**Friday:** Make a gesture of reconciliation with someone from whom you are alienated.

**Saturday:** Do something kind for someone who may not like you.

### EASTER DUTY OBLIGATION

After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenton/Easter Season.

### LENTEN REGULATIONS FAST AND ABSTINENCE

There is a limit of one full meal on Good Friday for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive. All who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain totally from meat on that day and ALL Fridays in Lent.



### STATIONS of the CROSS

Every Friday at 11:45am during Lent  
beginning Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

### MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER:

#### March 10<sup>th</sup>

Level 9 Confirmation Teen & Sponsor and/or Parent Meeting @ 7:30pm in the Parish Center.

#### March 16<sup>th</sup>

Level 10 Blessing of the Confirmation Candidates & their Sponsors @ 9:30am Mass in the Church.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** First Sunday of Lent; Orthodox Sunday

**Friday:** Abstinence; Purim



## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Aurora Antunes, Deacon Joseph Byrne,  
Kevin Chisholm, Alexa Dalton, Brian Dalton,  
Lisa Falcone, Blythe Fickenwirth,  
Catherine Heffernan, Richard Hewes,  
Young Katie Kennedy, Morgan Leary, Rosanna,  
& Daniel Standing.

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

## 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!

## 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:

Peanut Butter, Jelly, Juice, & Vegetables (all varieties), Rice, & Beans.



A new beautiful vestment was donated by Joe and Audrey Sala in honor of her father, Henry Arnold. Thank you Joe & Audrey!

## TEDDY'S CORNER



Wanna play ball?

Anyone?



## 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:** March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28

**Bread & Wine:** March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21, 28

**Altar Flowers:** May 11, 18, 25

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

To strengthen us during this season of fasting, the Lord spreads the eucharistic feast before us. Let us give thanks with joy this day that we are privileged to begin another Lent.

## INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Each year on the first Sunday of Lent we hear how Jesus was tempted by the devil three times during his forty days in the desert. Each time, Jesus resisted the devil, finding strength in God's word. As we embark on these forty days of Lent, we will encounter temptation as well. Our temptations will vary, but each will sound attractive in its own way. This Lent, let us keep in mind Jesus' responses to the devil in the desert and pray for the strength we need to resist temptation and to repent of the times we fail to do so.

## 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.

## MAKE A WISH

When you love someone  
all your saved-up wishes start coming out.

~ Elizabeth Bowen

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK



During this Jubilee Year of Hope, what or who sustains me in hope through periods of trial?

## REFLECTIONS

### Living Stewardship

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." This Lent foster a deeper prayer life. Check your parish bulletin for opportunities to spend more time with the Lord in prayer.



### Bulletin Reflection

As we begin Lent, we hear of Jesus' time in the desert.

**Due to an issue with scheduling availability, we are no longer able to offer the First Saturday Mass each month.**

Our neighboring Parishes of St. John's in Center Moriches and St. Rosalie's in Hampton Bays both hold First Saturday Masses. We are sorry for your inconvenience but are very happy that our neighbors can provide you with the Mass.

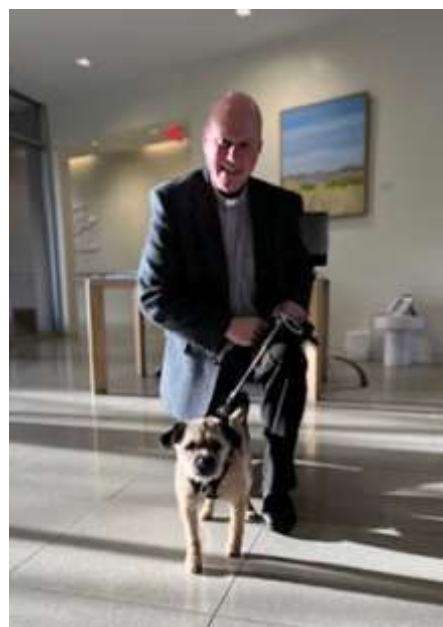
## LITURGICAL MINISTER TRAINING

here at Immaculate Conception Church

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

9:00am to 4:00pm

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training Part A (Basic) & B (Homebound) and Lector Training. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to attend the training here. A written request from the Pastor to the Bishop is required in order to attend.



Fr. Ken ...  
and Teddy ...  
recently visited  
Kanas Center  
for Hospice  
Care with  
spiritual  
guidance,  
compassion,  
and comfort.  
Good job,  
Teddy!

# LECTIO DIVINA

- Lectio
- Meditatio
- Oratio
- Contemplatio



**Join Bishop Andrzej**  
For Scripture Reflection Series  
**on JOHN the BAPTIST**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2025**  
**Wednesday, April 2, 2025**  
at 7:30 pm - ZOOM webinar.

Study of Bible Texts

**JOHN the BAPTIST**  
**The Friend of the Bridegroom**  
**Preparing the Way for New Life**

Registration is required  
in order to receive the ZOOM link to each session.  
Please contact the Western Vicariate office  
with your name, parish, email and phone number.

Send your email to:  
[westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org)  
or call Suzanne at 516-744-6850.





# COFFEE with JESUS

Lenten Reflections on the Meaning of Season in Christian Life



**Join Bishop Andrzej**

**All Fridays of Lent**

**March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11 at 3 pm**

**for Webinar Lenten Reflections**

**Registration Required**

**Call Suzanne at 516.744.6850**

**or email - [westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org)  
to receive Zoom Webinar Link**







# Great Easter



# EGG HUNT

Bunny  
Photo Op



DJ Dance  
Party



Face  
Painting



Food  
Truck

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH**  
**10:30 AM – 12:30 PM**  
**GOOD GROUND PARK**  
**9A SQUIRETOWN RD.**

**PARKING IS LIMITED.**  
**PARK ON MAIN STREET**  
**AND ACCESS THROUGH**  
**CANNUSCIO TRAIL.**

**EGG HUNT STARTS PROMPTLY AT 11:00 AM**



# The Trump Executive Order on IVF

On February 18, President Trump issued an executive order entitled, “Expanding Access to *In Vitro* Fertilization” (IVF), in which he stated, “My Administration recognizes the importance of family formation, and as a Nation, our public policy must make it easier for loving and longing mothers and fathers to have children.”

The order sets in motion a review process to obtain policy recommendations for “protecting IVF access and aggressively reducing out-of-pocket and health plan costs for IVF treatment.”

Although it seeks the good end of fostering family building, it embraces a reckless and unethical means of pursuing that goal. By doing so, it champions wrongdoing and cooperates in evil.

The use of IVF to bring new human life into the world always involves a disordered choice on the part of a couple or an individual. By allowing various third parties and employees from the infertility industry to build their children for them, parents commodify, objectify and instrumentalize both their own sexuality and the vulnerable bodies of their embryonic children.

Because of IVF, an industry has arisen that, at its core, produces and markets human beings, and treats persons as products. This has had the effect of establishing a subclass and dehumanizing an entire segment of humanity: those who can now be sold, exploited, manipulated or handed over to stem cell researchers for destruction.

Every human being has the right to be conceived under his or her mother’s heart, in the safety of her body, and under the loving embrace of his or her parents. Instead of receiving their offspring as “gift” through their own marital embrace, those who seek IVF pursue a false “right” to manufacture their sons and daughters in laboratory glassware.

This results in collateral damage on multiple levels, including the freezing and destruction of embryonic children, eugenic screening of those children for specific traits or sex selection, heightened rates of birth defects, the taking advantage of surrogate mothers, and the “selective reduction” of multiple pregnancies.

Given the moral objectionability of IVF, what should the administration do when it comes to IVF?

Simply put, the *opposite* of what it has done thus far.

It should seek to forbid the practice through statutory mechanisms, or, if that is not yet politically possible, limit and circumscribe the practice by bringing it under tight regulation and oversight.

Rather than cooperating with the multi-billion dollar infertility industry and playing into its agenda by expanding IVF funding and availability, the Trump administration ought to clamp down on this largely unregulated behemoth.

The golden rule in the IVF industry has long been that if it makes gold, it’s got to be good and ethical. Its unique and much-touted “self-regulation” has made it into something of a laughingstock, so much so that the industry is often branded by the epithet, “the wild west of infertility.”

Strict regulation of IVF has a strong precedent even in some of the more progressive countries in Europe. If Germany and Italy have been able to regulate IVF by passing laws that restrict the production of embryos to a maximum of three at a time, with the requirement that all three be implanted, why couldn’t the administration, at a minimum, establish similar regulations to limit the collateral damage of IVF in the US?

In our country, hundreds of thousands of cryopreserved human embryos have been abandoned and condemned to perpetual stasis in liquid nitrogen. The practical effect of the Italian and German laws has been to preclude the production of supernumerary embryos during IVF, and to eliminate the humanitarian tragedy of freezing and storage of the youngest human beings by clinics.

For couples facing infertility, the administration could take the ethically upright approach of promoting, and assuring coverage for, restorative reproductive medicine in place of IVF. This medical approach pursues a thorough evaluation of the underlying causes of a couple's infertility, and provides tailored therapies so they can bring new life into the world through the marital embrace. It seeks to address the causal mechanisms of infertility such as an inability to ovulate, low sperm count, endometriosis, blocked fallopian tubes, and/or early miscarriages during pregnancy. Among the better-known examples of this approach are NaPro Technology, FEMM and NeoFertility.

The laudable goal of making it easier for "loving and longing mothers and fathers to have children" could also be promoted through other creative strategies, including changing tax structures to incentivize stay-at-home spouses, subsidies for childbirth expenses, the expansion of healthcare access and coverage, educational vouchers and other steps to increase the likelihood that more children will be welcomed into a family.

Rather than governmental intrusions promoting exploitative technologies like IVF, Americans are entitled to upright approaches that beckon life into society through loving acts of marital intimacy and nurture and support it within the sanctuary of the family.

*Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See [www.ncbcenter.org](http://www.ncbcenter.org) and [www.fathertad.com](http://www.fathertad.com).*



SAINT JOSEPH'S  
— SEMINARY AND COLLEGE —

## CATHOLIC THEOLOGY COURSES

You can take classes this summer at St. Joseph's Seminary!

May 28<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>

Courses are:

- Open to qualified lay men and women, clergy, and consecrated religious
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To learn more about our schedule of classes for summer, go to [www.dunwoodie.edu/summercourses](http://www.dunwoodie.edu/summercourses) or email: [sjs.academics@dunwoodie.edu](mailto:sjs.academics@dunwoodie.edu)

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

**Saturday, March 29th**  
**6:00 PM**  
**Doors open at 5:30**  
**Tickets \$40 each**  
(Ticket price includes food to try from various restaurants)  
**CALL TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!**  
Tickets available till March 7th  
or  
we are sold out  
**(631) 878-1033**  
[www.olqany.org](http://www.olqany.org)

**NUMEROUS BASKETS TO CHOOSE FROM!**  
(Basket raffle tickets purchased separately at the event)

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