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

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

Pentecost Sunday

## **Receive the Holy Spirit."**

John 14:15-16, 23b-26

PENTECOST SUNDAY June 8, 2025

STAFF	Celebration of the Eucharist
Rev. Kenneth Grooms, Pastor	Saturday5:00pmVigil Mass
Deacon Joseph Byrne Deacon Mark Herrmann	<u>Sunday</u> 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am 6:00pm (Spanish Mass)
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	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)
<u>Parish Office Hours:</u> Monday through Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm CLOSED Friday, Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays	First Saturday Mass         Due to an issue with scheduling availability, we are no longer able to offer the First Saturday Mass each month.
Parish Office 631-288-1423 Fax 631-288-5498 parishoffice@iccwhb.org	Eucharistic Adoration The FIRST FRIDAYS (Novena & silent adoration to Sacred Heart) of each month at 12:30pm and the
Religious Education 631-288-4188 Fax 631-288-8215 religioused@iccwhb.org	LAST MONDAYS of each month at 7:00pm in the Church.
Queen of Apostles, Regional School 631-878-1033	<u><b>Confessions</b></u> Every Saturday 4:00pm to 4:45pm
PARISH TRUSTEES Beth Hard & Linda O'Brien	PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE
PARISH COUNCIL Michael Berdinka, Tom Day, Lori Francescani, Lisa Guzman, Tara Hudson, Verna Merkel, & Amabilia Estrada Ruiz	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: Jas 3:13-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mk 9:14-29 Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10; Ps 55:7-11a, 23; Mk 9:30-37 Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17; Ps 49:2-3, 6-11; Mk 9:38-40 Thursday: Jas 5:1-6; Ps 49:14-20; Mk 9:41-50 Friday: Jas 5:9-12; Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12; Mk 10:1-12 Saturday: Jas 5:13-20; Ps 141:1-3, 8; Mk 10:13-16 Sunday: Prv 8:22-31; Ps 8:4-9; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15

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

Acts 2:1–11: As on Sinai, the Lord descends in fire and wind.

**Psalm 104:** "Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."

1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13: The Spirit calls the baptized to ministry for the common good; or Romans 8:8–17: Those who are led by the Spirit of

God are children of God.

John 20:19–23: On the first day of the week the risen Christ imparts the Holy Spirit; or John 14:15–16, 23b–26: The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.

Today's readings express the joy and wonder of the Holy Spirit, from the moment the Holy Spirit comes down upon the first disciples to all the wonderful gifts through which the Holy Spirit is made manifest. One can tell from listening to these writers how overwhelmed they were by the Spirit's presence. May God's word help us realize the workings of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and in our world.

MASS ATTENDANCE						
DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6pm	TOTAL
05/11/25	102	115	123	194	100	634
05/18/25	109	140	101	226	175	751
05/25/25	223	279	195	270	159	1126
06/01/25	152	160	135	172	100	719

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS		
DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT
05/25/2025	Weekly Collection	\$9,984.00
05/26/2024	Weekly Collection	\$8,640.00
06/01/2025	Weekly Collection	\$9,383.00
06/02/2024	Weekly Collection	\$9,266.00
Thank you for your continuous support!		

#### **MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

Saturday	June 7
5:00pm	Barbara Davis (Fr. Peter)
Sunday	June 8
8:00am	The People of the Parish (Fr. Ken)
9:30am	Joseph & Celia Maturando (Fr. Ken)
11:00am	Louis Noe (Fr. Peter)
6:00pm	Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Jose)
Monday	June 9
8:00am	Mick Fenton
Tuesday	June 10
8:00am	Nancy Bott
Wednesday	June 11
8:00am	(Guild Mass) Poor Souls in Purgatory
Thursday	June 12
8:00am	John T. O'Brien
Friday	June 13
12:00pm	Salvatore Golfo
Saturday	June 14
4:00pm	Confessions
5:00pm	John Ferguson Goldsmith &
	Dr. James D. Tormey, Jr. (Fr. Ken)
Sunday	June 15
8:00am	Michael Betjemann (Msgr. Mirro)
9:30am	William O. Dwyer (Fr. Peter)
11:00am	Billy Thorne (Fr. Ken)
6:00pm	The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)

#### **MARRIAGE BANNS**

III Jessica Haber to Evan GagneI Amanda Morici to Thomas Callaghan



#### **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.

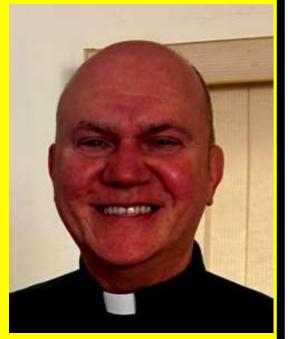
Goal	\$ 62,100.00
Total Pledged	\$ 21,100.00
Payments Received	\$ 17,819.00
Donors: 53	% of Goal: 33.98%

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.

## IT'S NOT GOODBYE ... IT'S GOOD LUCK with GOD'S BLESSINGS!

Please join us on Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00am for Fr. Ken's last Sunday Mass as our Pastor here at Immaculate Conception Church.

A luncheon in Our Lady's Hall will follow immediately.



We love you, Fr. Ken and wish you all of God's blessings on your new journey!

## **A PRAYER TO THE SPIRIT**

Spirit of Jesus, poured out in flames of fire upon your disciples on the day of Pentecost, we pray to you: Set afire the hearts of your faithful so that they will announce in all the languages of the world the wonders of the salvation of God.



#### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

#### Religious Education Office Hours are: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9am to 5pm

631-288-4188

## Registration for the 2025-26 Religious Education school year is now underway!

Registration forms to all families of current students have been mailed out and are due back by 7/31/2025.

**Do you know of a child entering first grade?** If you do, it's time for them to enter their two-year process of preparing to receive First Holy Communion. Religious Education at Immaculate Conception Church begins in first grade and continues every year through ninth grade. If you have an incoming first grader, please contact the religious education office at (631) 288-4188 or email to religioused@iccwhb.org.

#### Volunteers are Needed!

As another great school year in our religious education program has concluded, we are excitedly planning for next year. Our program relies on the commitment of our wonderful volunteers. **How Can You Help?** We have various roles available, including Catechists (Levels 1-9), Substitutes, Hall Monitors and Coordinators. Whether you're a seasoned volunteer or new to this, there's a place for you.

#### Why Volunteer with Us?

By volunteering, you directly impact the spiritual formation of the students. Your presence matters! Volunteering is an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. You'll learn, connect, and be part of something meaningful. We will provide everything you need. Interview & VIRTUS training is required of all volunteers. Contact the religious education office at (631) 288-4188 with any questions and/or to get started!

#### PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Toiletries (shampoo & soap), Juice Boxes, Cereal, Pasta, Tuna, Hearty Soups, & Condiments.

#### The Pantry is in <u>DIRE NEED</u> of:

Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Deodorant, & Size 6 Diapers.

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



How do I envision the Holy Spirit renewing the face of the earth? How can I, with the Holy Spirit working through me, be a part of that renewal?

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

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

#### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Pentecost Sunday
Monday: The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Wednesday: St. Barnabas
Friday: St. Anthony of Padua

#### REFLECTIONS

#### **Living Stewardship**

Pray to the Holy Spirit, and ask for guidance, wisdom and courage. Start every day this week with a prayer to the Holy Spirit.



#### **Bulletin Reflection**

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love."

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY	
	PRAYER REQUESTS
Ethan Bentley (Navy) Julia Blake (Navy) Joseph Ferraro III (Air Force) Thomas Hellman (USSF)	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.
Lt. Col. William Robesch RJ Ruggiero (Navy) Lt. Cameron Worden	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
Lt. Matthew Worden (Navy) Please contact the Rectory @631-288-1423 to add a loved one to the military list	Schmidt at 631-288-4243 and leave a message with your prayer request.

#### **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 Thank you for your continued support!

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day (at the Vigil Mass) Jesus told his disciples to preach in his name to the ends of the earth, but to wait until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. Though they did not know exactly what he meant, in a sense the world had been waiting expectantly for many years for a living spirit to animate their lives. This evening, we celebrate the animating power the Holy Spirit brought to our world.

#### 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: Sanctuary Lamp: June 16, 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28 Bread & Wine: June 23, 30, July 7, 14, 21, 28 Altar Flowers: June 15, 22, 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

On this most holy day we gather around the altar as did the people gathered on Mount Sinai, ready to see signs and wonders, ready to meet our God.

#### **PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Aurora Antunes, Deacon Joseph Byrne, Kevin Chisholm, Rev. Simplicio D'Sousa, Alexa Dalton, Brian Dalton, Joann Dalton, Lisa Falcone, Blythe Fickenwirth, Kevin Fitzgerald, Richard Hewes, Young Katie Kennedy, 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.

#### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



"Order" and "presbyter" are not everyday words in our vocabulary, since we think of order as a quality of life rather than a collective noun, and "priest" usually does just fine in everyday conversation. Yet each word has deep roots in our tradition. At an ordination we select men for service to the community. *Ordo* is a Latin word drawn not from pagan religious life but from Imperial Rome. It meant

a distinct body standing apart from the people, such as a body of people responsible for civil governance, senators for example. Think of the selectmen or board of governors in your civic home, and you will get the idea. The church borrowed the term to describe the place of certain people within the people of God, thus the "order of deacons," "the order of presbyters," and even "the order of virgins, catechumens, widows, neophytes, penitents," and so on, as distinct groups within the church.

Just as ancient Rome had various uniforms for the ranks and stations in civil life, so too did certain garments give clues to membership in an "order" in the church. So, our tradition favors the idea of an ordination liturgy not as receiving something so much as being received. This is clearly expressed in the liturgy. The "kiss of peace" is given only by the ordaining bishop and priests to the newly "ordained," not by the faithful, the deacons, or the concelebrating bishops who are present.



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



Here's a shot of our Teddy while playing. There are many in this Parish who will miss seeing this sweet boy. We love your playful way, Teddy!





Knights of Columbus, Fr. Jos. Slomski Council, No. 7423 21<sup>ST</sup> Annual Car Wash Fundraiser Mill Road, Front of the Westhampton Beach Middle School Sunday June 8 9 AM to 2 PM Rain or shine \$20 per Vehicle

Tickets on sale following the Masses: May 24 – 25, May 31 – June 1, and June 7 – 8. To help fund Middle & High School Scholarships. Call 631–338–0212 for additional information.

# 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.

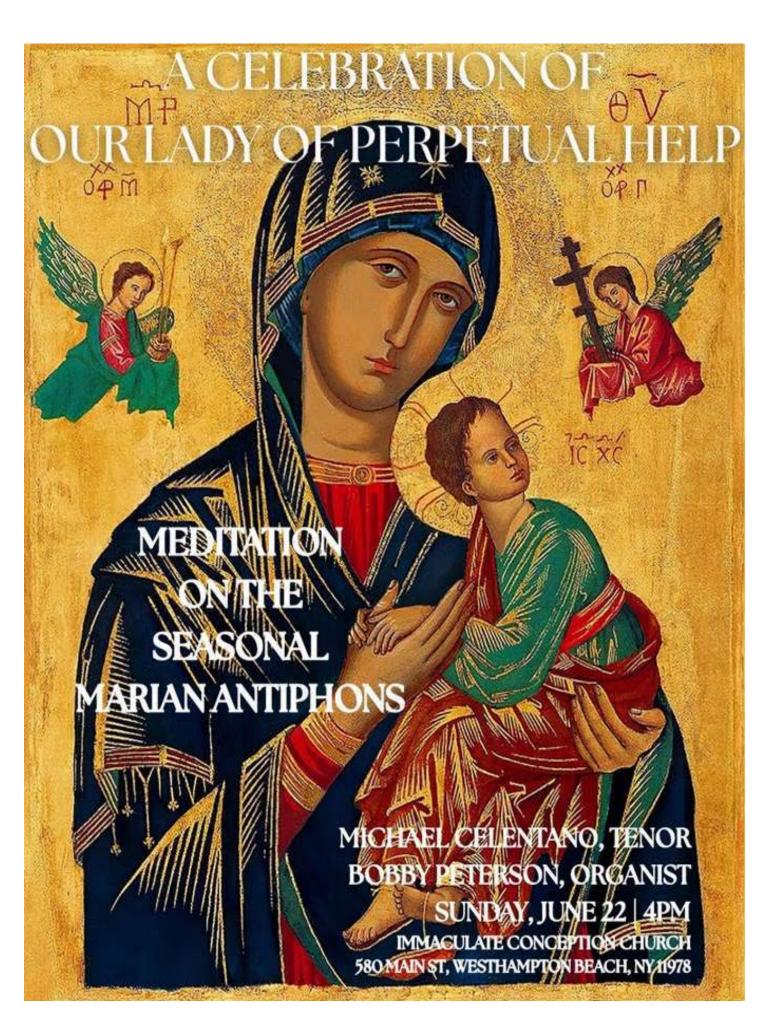


Fr. Ken was lucky enough recently to take some pics with Tessa Sweet and her family.

So Sweet!

Godis LOVE.







## **"De-Extincting"** Long-Vanished Animal Species?

Several private companies have set out to "resurrect" extinct species using DNA and cloning technologies, with ongoing efforts to revive the dire wolf, wooly mammoth, dodo bird and various other ancient species.

Today's "de-extinction technology" remains limited. It typically allows for the introduction of a small number of genetic changes into currently existing species, modifying individual animals to varying degrees so they resemble, and even behave like, animals that have long been out of existence.

Recent news reports declaring that Colossal Biosciences has managed to "resurrect" the dire wolf took this approach, introducing a couple dozen genetic changes into the genome of a modern-day gray wolf. The company produced a captivating animal that nevertheless retains most of the gray wolf genome. Although the animal looks and behaves differently from a gray wolf, it is not yet a dire wolf, but constitutes, at best, a kind of hybrid between the two species.

Are there any potential ethical concerns that arise concerning such animal de-extinction protocols?

There are a few.

One is that the use of CRISPR technology as a tool for revival and manipulating animal genetic codes involves very complex science. It is still the case, despite progress in the field, that unforeseen effects and troublesome traits, like heightened aggressiveness, strange growth patterns, or various birth defects could unexpectedly arise. Mistakes may come at a high cost if we can't put the genie back into the bottle when something goes awry.

Another ethical concern involves the so-called dire wolves being kept in very large enclosures in undisclosed locations, to protect them from the prying eyes of the public and from other potential predators. By restoring only a small number of animals, they end up existing without a large reference group of their peers, never being released into the wild, and growing up mostly isolated and in captivity. Is it a good idea to be bringing back extinct animals that cannot roam free and participate in a natural habitat?

"If this is always going to be a zoo animal, then stop," argues ecologist Ben Novak, a researcher interested in genetically rescuing endangered and extinct species in San Francisco. He says that the goals of de-extinction "have to be about ecological restoration and function."

Ecological niches, however, can be very complex and unpredictable, even if there have been some occasional "rewilding" success stories, such as when wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone National Park in 1995 in an attempt to cull the large number of elk.

Yet as David Blockstein, senior scientist at the National Council for Science and the Environment observes, "Bringing back extinct species sounds romantic, but it's a distraction. The ecosystems they lived in are gone or radically changed, and we're likely to create invasive species problems rather than restore balance." Or as synthetic biologist Lynn Rothschild notes, "We're gambling with ecosystems that are already fragile."

When novel species have been introduced to natural settings in the past, they have sometimes wreaked ecological havoc, proving to be more damaging than anticipated, and negatively affecting other animals within the same habitat.

#### Cont'd

For example, when cane toads were introduced in Australia in an attempt to control pests, they spread rapidly and caused a significant decline in native predator populations because they were toxic when consumed by many native species. The law of unintended consequences can raise its ugly head in unforeseen ways when attempting to introduce changes to complex systems.

When we consider that many millions of species have already gone extinct, an additional ethical issue arises: who should determine which ones deserve to be resurrected? How likely is it that such decisions will end up being driven, as appears to have been the case with Colossal Biosciences, by the "flashiness" or "cultural appeal" of the animal, perhaps as a way to generate buzz and drive corporate investment? The wooly mammoth certainly garners a great deal of interest as a "charismatic mega-vertebrate," and it's not a stretch to suppose that companies might be drawn to de-extincting certain animals based on their glitziness and potential for generating venture capital rather than strictly ecological grounds.

The massive funding and scientific efforts that are required for de-extinction projects are also likely to divert resources from less expensive efforts to protect currently endangered species. If we can just bring back extinct species, isn't that likely to sap the motivation out of conservation efforts trying to prevent extinction in the first place? It is always simpler to preserve what we already have than to go through the trouble of recreating it again.

While de-extinction efforts raise ethical concerns, they do not seem to cross fundamental ethical lines. While there is nothing in principle that should make us object to the use of genetic engineering to introduce major modifications to animals, it behooves us to try to be clear, open, and ecologically-rigorous about the purposes, motivations and goals that undergird these endeavors.

*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 <u>www.ncbcenter.org</u> and <u>www.fathertad.com</u>.* 



