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



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES June 29, 2025

STAFF	Celebration of the Eucharist
Rev. Thomas Pers, Pastor	Saturday5:00pmVigil Mass
Deacon Joseph Byrne Deacon Mark Herrmann	<u>Sundav</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	Day @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm <u>First Saturday Mass</u> 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 Religious Education 631-288-4188	Eucharistic Adoration The FIRST FRIDAYS (Novena & silent adoration to Sacred Heart) of each month at 12:30pm and the
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>Confessions</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 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: Gn 18:16-33; Mt 8:18-22 Tuesday: Gn 19:15-29; Mt 8:23-27 Wednesday: Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Mt 8:28-34 Thursday: Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29 Friday: Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Mt 9:9-13 Saturday: Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Mt 9:14-17 Sunday: Is 66:10-14c; Gal 6:14-18; Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 12:1–11: The angel of the Lord rescues Peter. Psalm 34: "The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him."

2 Timothy 4:6–8,17–18: "I have finished the race." Matthew 16:13–19: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Because today we celebrate two saints who lived during the time that the New Testament was written, our readings feature significant events from their lives. We hear how Peter is freed from prison by an angel the night before he is to be executed. Paul, knowing that he would soon give his life for his faith, writes a farewell to his close friend and fellow disciple, Timothy. In the Gospel, Peter proclaims Jesus as the Messiah, the Christ. May their strong faith in the Lord be a model for us.



If you wish to correspond with Fr. Ken

Rev. Kenneth Grooms Corpus Christi Church 155 Garfield Avenue Mineola, NY 11501

MASS ATTENDANCE

DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6pm	TOTAL
06/01/25	152	160	135	172	100	719
06/08/25	162	198	135	210	190	895
06/15/25	187	167	151	197	150	852
06/22/25	144	175	119	326	100	864

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Due to a late counting schedule, the weekly collection figures from last weekend will be reflected in next week's bulletin. Thank you.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

	I A 0
Saturday	June 28
5:00pm	Marco Oliveri (Fr. Tom)
Sunday	June 29
8:00am	Robert Duarte (Fr. Peter)
9:30am	Albert Conway (Msgr. Mirro)
11:00am	Daniel Reilly (Fr. Tom)
6:00pm	The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)
Monday	June 30
8:00am	Margarita & Epifanio Mercader
Tuesday	July 1
8:00am	Dec'd Members of the Franza Family
Wednesday	July 2
8:00am	(Guild Mass) Pauline DeBrita;
	Maryellen Giannino
Thursday	July 3
8:00am	Heather McElroy
Friday	July 4
12:00pm	Sarah Milner
Saturday	July 5
4:00pm	Confessions
5:00pm	Bob Delaney (Fr. Tom)
Sunday	July 6
8:00am	Kathleen & Patricia Tolan (Fr. Peter)
9:30am	Billy Thorne (Msgr. Mirro)
11:00am	Billy Thorne (Fr. Tom)
6:00pm	The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)
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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!

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	\$ 21,850.00
Payments Received	\$ 18,764.00
Donors: 57	% of Goal: 35.19%

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.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. TOM



WELCOME Rev. Thomas Pers Pastor, Immaculate Conception Church

Fr. Tom was born at Southside Hospital in Bay Shore & grew up in Brightwaters. His family are parishioners at St. Patrick's parish in Bay Shore. While he was growing up, he was very involved in Boy Scouts & became an Eagle Scout in 1994. He loved going camping. Fr. Tom also likes to read, especially biographies & American history.

He attended Bay Shore public schools & graduated HS in1994. Then he went to Gettysburg College, PA. & graduated with a BA in History in 1998. While in college, he became involved with Catholic Campus Ministry & started to discern if God was calling him to be a priest. He participated in Bible Study, was a server,

EM & Lector at Mass on campus. He talked with a priest at college & helped him to explore his vocation to the priesthood. He told him that if he felt God was calling him to be a priest or get married or do another type of work the only sure way to find out what he was supposed to do was to try it. Fr. Tom felt strong enough about it that he applied to the seminary and decided to take things one year at a time & see where God would lead him.

After college he spent a year (1998-9) in the Pre-theology program at Cathedral Seminary Residence in Douglaston, Queens. After that he went to Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington. During his 5 years there he studied Theology & did a pastoral/internship year (2001-2) at St. William the Abbott in Seaford. He also became a Brother Knight while in the seminary. He worked as a Deacon at St. Patrick's in Glen Cove on weekends from Dec 2003 to June 2004 & finished his classes at the seminary during the week. Fr. Tom was ordained a priest on June 12, 2004.

After ordination to the priesthood he was assigned to St. John the Evangelist parish in Center Moriches where he worked as an Associate Pastor from 2004-9. Then he moved to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lindenhurst. In both those parishes, in addition to the usual things an Associate Pastor does, he worked with the Youth Group & Pre Cana. In June of 2010 he was appointed pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish in Patchogue. It was a busy parish with a regional school on the property with English & Spanish communities. He learned enough Spanish to say Mass & hear Confessions. For part of that time he was there, he had a retired priest who lived with him & helped out until that priest moved & left Fr. Tom the only priest living in the parish. He was able to get some

help on the weekends from religious order priests as well as the deacons & parish staff he worked with did a lot to serve the parish. It was a great community, but it was a lot of work to do for one priest. After his 6 year term there he was offered to extend his term, be a pastor at another parish, or take an assignment as an Associate Pastor again. He loved what he was doing but it was a lot to do as the only priest in the community. Therefore, he chose to become an Associate Pastor again & was assigned to work at St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish in Sayville. He enjoyed being an associate pastor again because it gave him more time to pray & work with the people of the parish. Pastors do that too, but they have to spend a lot of time worrying about the business side of a parish: buildings, bills, policy,



fundraising, etc. He also had the opportunity to be the Chaplain for the St. Lawrence council of the K of C and had also been involved with the councils in the other parishes that he had worked in. He has always enjoyed working with the Knights.

During his time at St. Lawrence, he had the opportunity to go on a parish pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi. Fr. Tom felt it was a good decision to become an Associate Pastor again because he had some health issues that ended up being stage 3 colorectal cancer. He believes that had he still been a pastor, he might not have made the time to go to the doctor to get diagnosed and treated. He was diagnosed with cancer after his first colonoscopy in October 2019 at age 43. His family has had a history of other types of cancer, but no one had colon cancer before. His mom died from a rare type of lung cancer at age 50 about 4 months after his ordination in 2004, so he knew that he had to take his diagnosis and treatment seriously. He went to Sloan Kettering for chemotherapy, radiation & 2 surgeries (one to remove the tumor & another to reverse the ostomy that he needed while his colon healed from the first surgery). It was a very challenging time. He worked a little at St. Lawrence between his treatments but spent a lot of time home with his father, recovering. He had to be very careful because a large part of the time that he was dealing with cancer was the same time that the world was dealing with Covid. If he got Covid that would have delayed his treatment. Fr. Tom ended up recovering pretty well from all the cancer & treatment but says that being sick has given him a deeper appreciation for the simple things in life and a sense of gratitude for being alive. It has also helped him in his ministry to relate better to people who are facing serious illness. He also learned a lot from the experience of his mom's illness & death that has helped him relate to others who are experiencing loss. He recalls that one of his saddest times as a priest was presiding at the funeral mass for his Mom.

Fr. Tom feels that being a priest is definitely not easy, but it is definitely rewarding & is not boring. You never know what each day will bring. It is a unique opportunity to be part of people's lives and hopefully experience God's presence through ministry. He loves experiencing the difference it makes when you can help someone come to a better understanding of their faith. He's watched children grow, and couples marry & start families. He's tried to offer comfort to the sick & dying and their families. Fr. Tom has officiated weddings for people who had been his altar servers and baptized their children. It's a very rewarding and joyful thing to be a part of. There are also very difficult moments too. "I think some of the funerals that I've had where the deceased person had young children were some of the toughest moments I've had." He also remembers offering a funeral Mass for a young woman he knew in one of his parishes. She had the same type of colorectal cancer he had. They had similar treatments, medications & surgeries at the same hospital with the same

surgeon and doctors. Fr. Tom says, "experiences like that really make you look at life in a new and profound way." He also feels that "being a priest is a gift that enables you to see life's joys and challenges in a very deep way." He believes the key to living life as a priest is to try to always look for or try to bring Christ's presence into any situation.

One of Fr. Tom's favorite Bible passages to meditate on and to recommend to someone for encouragement in many different circumstances is **Romans 8: 31-39**. St. Paul says, "If God is for us, who can be against us." It's a passage that fits all situations. If we're celebrating a happy occasion such as a wedding or baptism or struggling with illness or death, we are reminded that Christ is our companion on the journey. God gave him strength & grace to deal with his challenges & if we trust in God we will be blessed with that grace too.



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!

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.

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 the examples of Saint Peter and Saint Paul help me respond to my call and give me hope despite my past actions?

MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

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

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Thursday: St. Thomas, Apostle Friday: Independence Day Saturday: St. Anthony Zaccaria; St. Elizabeth of Portugal; 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

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

Today we celebrate the two principal apostles of the early church. Saints Peter and Paul took two completely different routes to their vocation. Peter was called personally by Jesus, traveled with him during his entire ministry, and became the preeminent disciple among the Twelve. Paul, on the other hand, persecuted the early church until he was called and converted by the Risen Lord on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus. May these two saints remind us that God calls us all at different times in our lives and in different ways.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us join our voices with Saints Peter and Paul, offering this great prayer of thanksgiving, which recounts for us the death and resurrection of Christ.

SACRAMENTALS

BREAD & WINE, ALTAR FLOWERS and SANCTUARY LAMP

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: July 14, 21, 28, August 5, 12, 19, 26 Bread & Wine: July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 5, 12, 19, 26 Altar Flowers: July 6, 13, 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A LECTOR?

Do you like to read? Volunteer your time and talents to join the Lector group! You'll receive a Lector book that gives you a deeper dive into the day's readings as well as pronunciation guides. You will be scheduled for the Mass time you prefer, and you'll read on average 2 Masses a month, possibly more during holidays and holy days. You'll read the announcements, the readings, and the Prayers of the Faithful.

Please contact Beth at 631-495-5931 or <u>bethflanagan@optonline.net</u> if you'd like to participate in this ministry.

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

Like Sts. Peter and Paul, we too are called to spread the Good News to all we come across. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and give us wisdom and courage to be strong disciples.



Bulletin Reflection

When you read the Gospels and the Acts, you will notice the Primacy of Peter.



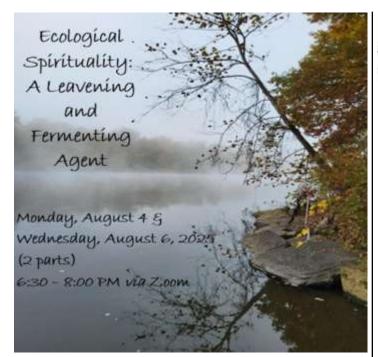
"Even if friends did always call you a saint, I still have to look it up."

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, 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.



A LEAVENING AND FERMENTING Monday, August 4th & Wednesday, August 6th (2 parts) 6:30pm - 8:00pm via Zoom

Come explore a world view which holds that, "The Universe unfolds in God who fills it completely; that there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a poor person's face." (Laudato Si # 233) We'll explore the field of ecological spirituality not only intellectually but also affectively through suggested activities which will open your heart to the reality, "that the Divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God's creation, in the last speck of the dust of our planet." Presented by: Sr. Margaret Galiardi, OP Registration Link: <u>https://bit.ly/442SATR</u>



ONGISLAND COALITION for LIFE, Inc.

P. C. BOX 243 RONKON KON A, N.Y. 11779 - (631) 243-1436 P.O. BOX 247 OLD BET NPAGE, N.Y. 1184 - - - - Fret Rolloga

DEFEND THE FREEDOM TO BE BORN FACE THE TRUTH Pro-Life Event SATURDAY, JULY 5th, 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Lake Grove - Route 347, public sidewalk near Staples (east of Smith Haven Mall)

America has turned its back on hundreds of millions of preborn babies for decades and continues to do so. Pro-lifers are encouraged to participate in this peaceful outreach to stand against abortion and for the unalienable RIGHT TO LIFE for preborn children. Signs provided (no political signs). Rain or shine. Sponsored by Long Island Coalition for Life (631-243-1435; <u>info@prolifeLI.org</u>).



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Check out and sign up for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. We'll be in Huntington the weekend of September 19-21. Worldwide Marriage Encounter

sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Kevin & Regina Hickson at 516-554-3835 or https://wwmenyli.org/.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

7:00pm The Last Monday of each month (Monday, June 30th)



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Subscribe today!



www.drvc.org/ newsletter

POWERED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Facing a difficult pregnancy?

Say "Yes" with FIAT Let it be done Pregnancy Support

> Catholic Health

We pledge to persevere in prayer, fasting and witnessing to the sacredness of every human life."

Bishop Barres' statement regarding the U.S. Supreme Court Decision in Dobbs v. Jackson, June 24, 2022

Rosary for Life

JOIN the OFFICE of HUMAN LIFE, FAMILY and BIOETHICS in PRAYER

Every Friday - 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Click here for link Meeting ID: 811 9648 1100

Passcode: 20EWp7 Call In 4: 1 (646) 876-9923



Email lhonkanen@drvc.org if you would like the link sent to you each month.

www.drvclife.org

Hope is here.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with an unexpected or difficult pregnancy, help is available:

Call 631-476-LOVE (5683) any day, any time (24/7).

All conversations are safe and confidential.



Join us at ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

this fall for online and in-person degree and certificate programs in **Catholic Theology!**



FALL 2025 COURSE OFFERINGS ANNOUNCED

Exciting and innovative course offerings for the fall include: St. Augustine: Life and Theology Pastoral Issues in Contemporary Moral Theology Introduction to Theology

See our fall courses at: dunwoodie.edu/fall2025schedule

50% TUITION DISCOUNT

for Parish, Catholic School, and Diocesan Employees!

St. Joseph's Seminary has a generous discount policy for eligible full-time employees of the Archdiocese of New York, the Diocese of Brooklyn, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre, including full-time employees at parishes and Catholic schools in these (arch)dioceses. These employees are eligible for a 50% tuition remission!

To learn more, go to dunwoodie.edu/tuition-and-fees

GRADUATE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS IN THEOLOGY

Registration for the fall begins June 1 | Classes begin September 3

- · Open to qualified lay men and women, clergy, and consecrated religious
- · Zoom in from any location to join a class
- Tuition: \$1,500 for three credits, \$500 to audit
- · 50% off for new students and alumni auditors

Now is the perfect time to grow in your Catholic faith by taking courses at St. Joseph's Seminary. To learn more about our course offerings:



- Go to dunwoodie.edu
- Email Joan Brisson at joan.brisson@archny.org
 - Scan the QR code at left
- Call us at 914-367-8145





THERE'S A SPOT FOR <u>YOU</u> AT OUR HUGE SELECTION OF SUMMER CAMPS!



Come check out all the amazing things that Kellenberg has to offerfrom our air-conditioned classrooms to our beautiful new facilities.



WWW.KELLENBERG.ORG/CAMPS

