

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

**Church of the
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

Website: iccwmb.org
Parish email: parishoffice@iccwmb.org
FB: www.facebook.com/iccwmb
YouTube: www.youtube.com/@iccwmb

*At once
they left their
nets and
followed him.*

MATTHEW 4:12-23



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
January 25, 2026

STAFF

Rev. Thomas Pers, Pastor

Deacon Joseph Byrne
Deacon Mark Herrmann

Shawn Pinson, Sacristan
Bobby Peterson, Music Director
Donna Cosme, Director of Religious Education
Mary Lou Giacobbe, Asst 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

Spanish Apostolate
Rev. José Luis Tenas 631-914-1538

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 Friday
The Rosary is recited immediately after daily Mass

Holy Days

Vigil @ 7:00pm (Spanish Mass)
Day @ 8:00am, 12:00pm, & 7:00pm

Eucharistic Adoration

The FIRST FRIDAYS (Novena & silent adoration to Sacred Heart) of each month at 8:30am 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 1st Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November. Baptisms take place the 1st Sunday of each month. 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: 2 Tim 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10;

1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 8:23-9:3 "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."

Psalms 27 "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17 Let there be no divisions among you.

Matthew 4:12-23 Andrew and Peter abandon their nets to follow the Lord.

As we begin this final week of January, it does our hearts good to hear that a great light has shone through darkness and gloom. We realize, though, that Isaiah is speaking of the Lord, especially after Matthew writes in the Gospel that Jesus fulfills this passage. He is the light of the world, shining throughout Galilee, preaching repentance, calling disciples, proclaiming the gospel, and healing the sick. We also hear Paul urge the Corinthians to unity. In Christ, we have enlightenment, unity, and salvation. On this Sunday of the Word of God, may God's word light our way.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend, January 25th, our second collection is for the Church In Need. Thank you for your generosity!

MASS ATTENDANCE

DATE	5pm	8am	9:30am	11am	6pm	TOTAL
12/28/25	90	103	97	225	180	695
01/04/26	146	125	135	180	187	773
01/11/26	129	90	208	195	196	818
01/18/26	144	82	120	176	185	707

WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

DATE	COLLECTION	AMOUNT
01/18/2026	Weekly Collection	\$6,490.00
01/19/2025	Weekly Collection	\$3,998.00

Thank you for your continuous support!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday

5:00pm

Sunday

8:00am

9:30am

11:00am

6:00pm

Monday

8:00am

Tuesday

8:00am

Wednesday

8:00am

Thursday

8:00am

Friday

8:00am

Saturday

4:00pm

5:00pm

Sunday

8:00am

9:30am

11:00am

6:00pm

January 24

James Meere (Fr. Peter)

January 25

Mary E. Kobel (Fr. Tom)

Kenneth G. Merkel (Fr. Tom)

The People of the Parish (Msgr. Mirro)

Poor Souls in Purgatory (Fr. Jose)

January 26

Theresa Flanagan

January 27

John Vaughan

January 28

(Guild Mass) Intentions of Kyle Stevens

January 29

John Brown

January 30

Noel Ciolino

January 31

Confessions

Lita DeMotica (Fr. Tom)

February 1

Michael Betjemann (Fr. Peter)

Henry Arnold (Fr. Tom)

Anthony Terrasi (Fr. Tom)

The People of the Parish (Fr. Jose)



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	\$ 29,425.00
Payments Received	\$ 29,200.00

Donors: 85

% of Goal: 47.38%

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

Congratulations to the following freshmen students who achieved an **HONOR ROLL AVERAGE** during the first trimester at Chaminade High School:

Declan P. Byrne
Ryder J. Kirchner
Keep up the good work!

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Jeffrey Davis, Millie Ferrin, Eve McNeil, Fay Mack,
& Nancy Ruffell

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

NAVY: Ethan Bentley, Julia Blake, Michael J. DiLeo,
William Robesch, RJ Ruggiero, Matthew Worden, &
Cameron Worden

MARINES: Christopher Fencel

AIR FORCE: Joseph Ferraro III

USSF: Thomas Hellman

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!

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!

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

Jesus begins His mission by calling others to repentance. Jesus says that to us right now as well. What areas in your life need improvement? What sins in your life do you need to be forgiven and freed from? How can you be at service to others?



Bulletin Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus' mission begins.

SACRAMENTALS

BREAD & WINE, ALTAR FLOWERS, & SANCTUARY LAMP

There are many opportunities to have the Sanctuary Lamp burn a week in memory of ... or perhaps having the Bread & Wine in someone's honor for a week. We also have Altar Flowers that can be in your loved ones name for the week. Visit the Parish Office to arrange yours today!

Available Dates:

Sanctuary Lamp: February 9, 16, 23

Bread & Wine: February 9, 16

Altar Flowers: February 8, 15

Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

EFFORTLESS

The only thing that comes to a person
without effort is old age.

~ Anonymous

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Ss. Timothy and Titus

Tuesday: St. Angela Merici

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas

Saturday: St. John Bosco

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus call his first disciples. "Come after me," he calls out to the first two. "Follow me," he says to two more. We are the ones Jesus calls out to now. Today is the Sunday of the Word of God, the day Pope Francis chose to dedicate to the proclamation, the study, and the celebration of the scriptures. The call of the first disciples also reminds us of Jesus' own words. His words invite us to a deeper commitment, to one like Peter and Andrew and James and John made with him. May the word of God inspire us to enter our discipleship more deeply.

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us pray that through the miracle of the Eucharist, the light of Christ will shine through us.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



The first disciples left their old lives behind to follow Jesus. What is Jesus calling me to leave behind?

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



FOOD PANTRY

Some items our Food Pantry needs are: TOILETRIES, HEARTY-TYPE SOUPS & #6 DIAPERS. But ANY food/toiletry is welcomed!



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



It's still months away, but parish ministers, especially if they are involved in the catechumenate, have their eyes on Lent and the Easter Triduum. Until fairly recent times, the last few days before Easter were shaped by an awareness of the Passion, but the faithful were left to their own devices about how to engage with these mysteries. A thousand years ago, the Easter Vigil as a solemn and central moment of initiation had vanished. By the early 1950s it was a minor moment in parish life, celebrated on Holy Saturday morning, usually with only the priests and a handful of invited guests. Most people understood it as necessary only for blessing the paschal candle and preparing the Easter water. People who were children during World War II sometimes remember that the weekly noontime test of the air-raid sirens on Holy Saturday signaled the end of Lent.

Today, of course, we see Holy Saturday as entirely within the paschal fast, and hardly the time for children to be tearing through the plastic grass looking for jelly beans and chocolate eggs. These memories point to a total collapse of the once-central liturgies of the Christian year. This impoverishment of the liturgy was mostly an accident of history. The root cause was the loss of Lent as a time focused on the final formation of catechumens for the Easter sacraments. By 1880, scholars began to piece together a vision of what once had been, and slowly, at first in a handful of monasteries in Europe, pieces of the tradition were rediscovered and celebrated.



WELCOME TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH!

If you're new to the Parish and would like to register, please contact the Parish Office at 631-288-1423. We would love the opportunity to tell you about our great Parish and to give you a welcome packet.

Perhaps you've been here a while but never had the opportunity to register. We can do that easily over the phone, so give the Parish Office a call!

**The BraveHearts of
St. Francis Hospital are
excited to introduce**



YoungHearts

OF ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL

YoungHearts is a new program within the BraveHearts organization that provides community, support and friendship to pediatric cardiology patients and their families.



**Want to get involved or become a
member?**

To learn more, please call the
BraveHearts office at (516) 562-6785
or email the YoungHearts chair at
Christina.dunleavy@aol.com

chsli.org/st-francis-hospital

The Impact of Alzheimer's in the Community



Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us as we provide an opportunity for individuals to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.



Sunday, March 22, 2026
12:30-1:15 p.m.



Immaculate Conception
Roman Catholic Church
Our Ladies Hall

Refreshments provided.



How to register:
Call 800.272.3900

ALZHEIMER'S  **ASSOCIATION**

alz.org/longisland | 800.272.3900

The Little Sisters of the Poor

INVITE YOU TO JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Our Second Annual

Dinner Dance in honor of Saint Joseph Feast Day

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.



FULL COCKTAIL HOUR

DELICIOUS DINNER

Cash Bar – Raffles

**Music by the fabulous
“THE SECOND STREET BAND”**

Antun’s of Queens Village

96-43 Springfield Boulevard

Queens Village, NY 1429

\$75 per person - No Tickets Sold at Door - No Refunds

Business Attire

RSVP by Monday, March 2, 2026

Questions? Please contact the Development Department at 718-464-1800

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Regional Catholic School

Spring Basket and Food Extravaganza



Saturday, March 21st
6:00 PM

Doors open at 5:30
at

Our Lady Queen of
Apostles Auditorium

(Ticket price includes food to try from various restaurants)

Tickets \$50 each

*CALL TO PURCHASE YOUR
TICKETS!*

 **(631) 878-1033**

www.olqany.org

Tickets available till February 25th
or we are sold out



Is It Ethical to Clone Animals?



The global market for cloning cats, dogs, and other pets reached \$300 million in 2024, and has been projected to reach \$1.5 billion by 2035.

When it comes to the ethics of cloning animals, whether cattle, racehorses, dogs or cats, it is important to inquire if a “proportionately serious reason” exists for doing the procedure, since the process can cause physical and genetic defects of varying severity in cloned animals.

Cloned mice, for example, have aberrant patterns of gene expression in multiple genes, and cloned animals have elevated rates of unexplained gestational or postnatal deaths, as well as anomalies like enlarged hearts or abnormal lungs.

Because cloning involves the bringing together of two remnants of heavily damaged cells — an extracted nucleus from a body cell, plus an egg that has been deprived of its nucleus — it should come as no surprise that these two conjoined elements may have difficulty cooperating and communicating with each other to produce a presentable member of the species.

It is also conceivable that a cloned animal could give rise to a dangerous genetic variation, by making the individual animal, for example, more violent. Even in the absence of such outcomes, regularly described in science fiction, it is still noteworthy that genetic variability and the long-term viability of animal populations, particularly small populations of endangered species, could be affected by extensive animal cloning. Decreasing diversity through cloning could make populations more susceptible to disease and environmental changes, impacting sensitive ecosystems and conservation efforts.

Even with the risks of cloning, we can envision situations where a “proportionately serious reason” would exist for attempting to clone animals. A German shepherd, for example, that is exceptionally skilled at sniffing out illegal drugs or other contraband, might be cloned to expand the availability of “super-olfactory canines” for police departments around the country.

If a famous Hollywood celebrity loses his or her beloved Fido to cancer, however, we can validly debate whether a strong attachment to the departed canine constitutes a sufficiently serious reason for embarking on a cloning project with a price tag of fifty or sixty thousand dollars. A generated dog clone will always be an imperfect copy of Fido, and will often have a very different personality from the original animal.

When actress Barbra Streisand lost her beloved 14-year-old Samantha, she cloned two replicas. She commented that they had “different personalities... I’m waiting for them to get older so I can see if they have her brown eyes and her seriousness.” Later, a somewhat disappointed Streisand remarked, “You can clone the look of a dog, but you can’t clone the soul.”

Given that canines hold a primary position in the animal world as “man’s best friend,” it should not be difficult to find another furry friend, perhaps one waiting to be rescued from a local shelter, who can serve as a new member of the family and once again pull at their owner’s heartstrings.

Cont'd ...

While animal cloning can sometimes be a reasonable choice, and ethically justifiable, the Catholic Church teaches definitively that the cloning of human beings is morally unacceptable. This conclusion arises from the recognition that human persons, unlike non-human animals, are created in God's image and likeness, which implies an essential obligation that human procreation and the transmission of human life happen exclusively within marriage through the marital act of spouses.

As we consider animal cloning and other novel biomedical developments of recent years, we face important ethical questions about how best to exercise our limited dominion over the earth, including the animal kingdom. Our dominion is not an absolute right of domination over God's creation. Instead, we are called to use reasonably, and avoid abusing, the powers we have received.

Exercising proper stewardship over animals ought to be a balanced part of a broader concern of avoiding exploitation of the vulnerable, as we try to be respectful of the given order of creation.

Cloning technology can have useful applications in animal husbandry, helping to generate stock animals that are more resistant to disease or that have a higher productivity rate. Researchers can engineer and clone dairy cows, for example, to produce an improved quantity of milk or better quality meat.

But if animal cloning becomes widespread, as seems likely, it may have the subtle effect of shifting our attitudes and perceptions towards the animal kingdom.

By routinely cloning animals, they may come to be seen as little more than "manipulable quantities" or "raw material" for our domination — less as animals, and more as artifacts or objects. We need to be attentive to the prospect of reducing animals, including cloned animals, to market-driven technological commodities, cobbled together under the impetus of unrestrained profit-seeking.

So while the cloning of non-human animals is generally permissible when proportionately serious reasons exist, we must also remain attentive to the broader social and environmental implications. The responsible use of the technology requires us to weigh carefully its scientific potential against the duty to avoid causing unnecessary suffering to animals or risks to their populations.

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 and www.fathertad.com.

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 bethflanagan@optonline.net if you'd like to participate in this ministry.



Kelly & Hulme, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Real Estate - Land Use

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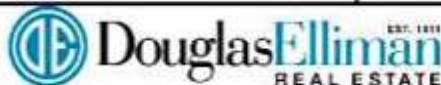
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