

# *Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget's Church*

*A Roman Catholic Community of African American Tradition*

*"We've Come This Far By Faith"*



445 Frederick Douglass Street, Rochester, NY 14608  
(585) 325-3893 ~ (585) 325-2082 Fax  
[www.immaculateconceptionrochester.org](http://www.immaculateconceptionrochester.org)  
[rillacul@dor.org](mailto:rillacul@dor.org)

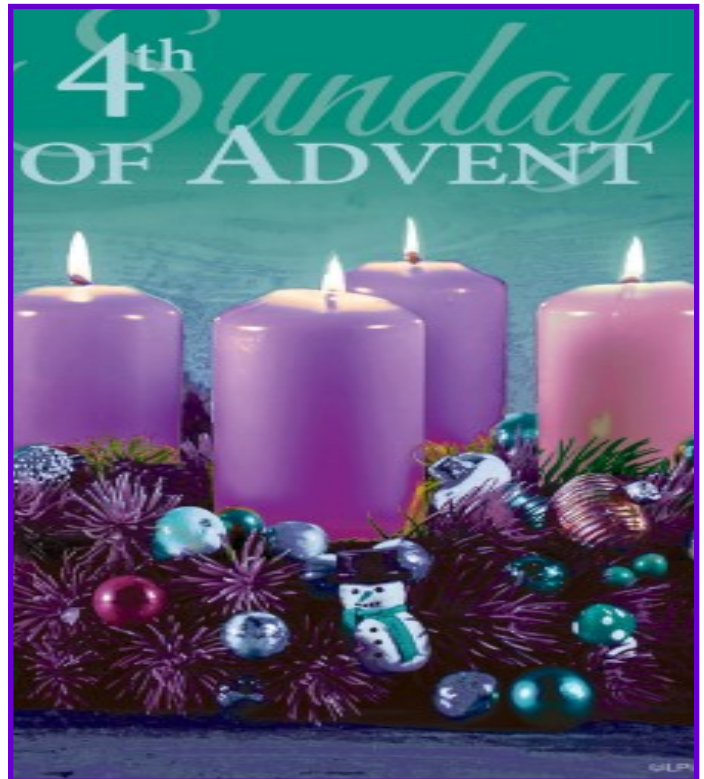
**Church Office Days & Hours**  
**Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday**  
**8:30 am — 4:00 pm**

## Parish Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Raymond Fleming <a href="mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org">fr.ray.fleming@dor.org</a>
<b>Assisting Priest</b>	Rev. Robert Bradler
<b>Deacon</b>	Richard Rall
<b>Religious Education Coordinators</b>	Myrtle Fontenette <a href="mailto:myrtle.fontenette@dor.org">myrtle.fontenette@dor.org</a> Harry Pierre-Philippe <a href="mailto:harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org">harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org</a>
<b>Director of Finance &amp; Administration</b>	Carol Wynne <a href="mailto:carol.wynne@dor.org">carol.wynne@dor.org</a>
<b>Regional Business Manager</b>	Mark Shevlin <a href="mailto:mark.shevlin@dor.org">mark.shevlin@dor.org</a>
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Tracy Jordan <a href="mailto:tracy.jordan@dor.org">tracy.jordan@dor.org</a>
<b>Pastoral Council Chair</b>	Chibueze Onwunaka
<b>Finance Council Chair</b>	William Castle

**Mission Statement:** The Parish of Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's is a Roman Catholic faith community whose worship reflects and celebrates the cultural gifts and diversity of its members. We welcome all believers to worship God, love one another, evangelize the good news of Jesus Christ and serve those in need.

December 20, 2020



The Lord dwells among us.

David worries that the ark of God dwells in a tent. Mary doesn't hesitate to allow the ark of God to dwell within her. God is not bound by human constraints, and yet he asks us to participate with him, and cooperate with his grace, that the ark of the covenant—and the arc of salvation history—may be made available to all.

Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl & Phyllis Barnes, Thomas Bostick, Fr. Giles Conwill, Sybil Doucette, Sarah Gordon, Mary Ann Hartman, Denise McGowan, Alice Walters



## Offerings for December 13, 2020

Offerings: \$785

Online Giving: \$630

Thank you for your continued and generous support.

*“Whether it be cross or consolation,  
whether it be joy or sorrow. Trust Him.”*

## Bible Readings for Sunday, December 20, 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

## Bible Readings for Sunday, December 27, 2020

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Luke 2:22-40



Catholic Ministries Appeal  
Parish Goal: \$9,910  
Pledged as of December 15, 2020  
\$6,410 (64.68%)

## CMA Update: How the CMA helps our Parish

As of this date, we have raised \$6,410 and 20 families from our parish have contributed to the CMA. We thank those who have given generously and ask all who have not yet given to prayerfully consider doing so. The CMA helps our Church and our parish in so many ways. Did you know that the CMA funds the education and formation of seminarians and deacons, education and professional development of our parish leaders and, and promotion of religious vocations? One example that has greatly benefitted our parish is the ministry of Deacon Rick Rall. Although he does not receive payment for his service to Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church, his education to become a deacon was funded by the CMA. Please join our appeal and give what you can so that we remain strong and continue to encourage vocations to continue God's great work! Go to [www.dor.org/cma](http://www.dor.org/cma) for more information or to make your gift.

## BIBLE STUDY CORNER



*“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’”*

Matthew 1:23

**Reflection:** The secular world wants to convince us that we can get along in life without God. There are schools of thought promoting the idea that there is no need to believe in God and that to believe in God is utter foolishness. There are some scholars who believe that they are the masters of their own worlds and that they can find their way to happiness and peace without God. The arrogant and the powerful refute the claim that “God is with us.” They are self-autonomous, self-sufficient, and the center of their own world.

Those who recognize their own powerlessness and sense their incompleteness come to believe and trust that “God is with us.” They believe in their hearts that there is someone greater to depend on for our existence. They believe that life has a deeper meaning and purpose with God.

God is with us in a variety of ways. God is with us in all of creation. God is with us in sacred Scripture, in the Eucharist, in the Church and sacraments, and in all the acts of charity we offer to the poor and needy everywhere.

We can take a valuable lesson from the poor and powerless. In their humble living, they know that “God is with us.” They know that they can find the God of joy and peace in their hearts.

**Ponder:** What makes me doubt the truth that God is with us?

**Prayer:** Lord, you are Emmanuel, “God with us.” Open the eyes and ears of my heart that I may see your presence in every person I meet, and hear your voice in the cry of the poor.

**Practice:** Today I will be with God by reading and reflecting on Psalm 24.



Beginning in January 2021 you will be receiving offertory envelopes from Our Sunday Visitor. The envelopes will be mailed directly to you to be used for your weekly contributions as well as second collections and holy days.

If you have any questions please call the church office. Thank you

### *December Birthdays*

*Modupe Agunbiade, Thomas Bostick, Robert Burgess,  
Musette Castle, Iala Cropper, Natalie Cropper,  
Thomas Degnan, George Fontenette, Caroline Seide,  
Judy Toyer, Roxana Weber*

Happy Birthday

### LIVE THE LITURGY

#### **Inspiration for the week**

Does the world realize that it is waiting? As we go about all the busyness of our lives and entertain our distractions, there are many holes and gaps in our lives that need to be filled. We are always wanting more, but not really sure what that “more” needs to be. Fulfillment, happiness, contentment, and true satisfactions are fleeting occurrences and often come to us in illusive ways. What we think is the ultimate fix to our anxious emptiness really is only a fancy trend that we entertain. The world does not realize any more today than it did over two thousand years ago that it is waiting for a Savior. We need a Savior. We need to see and embrace the God who has broken into history and become one with us. It is this union of God and man that sets us on a straight path, orders our relationships, establishes proper focus and goals, and tells us whose kingdom we really are meant to serve. The world does not know how truly lost it is. Do you realize how lost you are and that the One you need most is here among us and within our grasp?

### **Holiday Masses and Events for Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church and St. Monica Church**

This year, Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church and St. Monica Church join together in a virtual celebration of the holidays! We are grateful to have the opportunity to celebrate in the face of much hardship and are blessed to be a part of a loving faith community. Both Masses will be recorded at St. Monica's and will be available for viewing on the St. Monica YouTube channel:

<https://bit.ly/stmonicachurch>.

**Christmas Mass:** Live-stream only, 3:00 pm on Christmas Eve with Fr. Ray. Catch the video at a later time on the St. Monica YouTube channel.

**New Year's Mass:** Watch the video on the St. Monica YouTube channel starting at 3:00 pm on New Year's Eve with Fr. Ray.

Another opportunity to celebrate: a Christmas Parade in the St. Monica parking lot! Please join us for some Christmas blessings.



CELEBRATE TOGETHER

## CHRISTMAS PARADE



**Sunday, December 20 • 11:00 am-12:00pm**

**St. Monica parking lot • Enter from Genesee St. southbound**

Join us for a COVID-safe Christmas celebration with our community! Drive through the St. Monica's parking lot any time between 11:00 am and Noon to participate in the fun, receive a Christmas blessing and gift, and see some special guests. Bring your jingle bells to make a joyful noise! Bikers and bus riders welcome!



Merry  
Christmas

***If you are interested in advertising or including a Memorial  
Please call the Parish Office – 325-3893***

<b>St. Joseph's House of Hospitality</b> A Rochester, NY Catholic Worker Community 402 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 585-232-3262	<b>BUCKMAN'S PLAZA</b> 2590 W. Ridge Road, Rochester  Visit our many stores including City Mattress, Visionworks, Pino's Deli, Megan Nail Spa, Red Cross, Hair Finale Morgan School of Driving, Orville's Appliances and many more.	
<b>CORN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION</b> 133 S. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornill.org	<b>Mileage Master Center of Rochester</b> 2488 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 585-586-1870 <i>The perfect place for all of your grilling needs</i>	<b>TOM ZUBERT, REALTOR</b> RE/MAX REALTY GROUP 585-721-1313 zubert.tom@gmail.com (ICS Graduate)
In Loving Memory of the <b>QUAMINA &amp; HARPER FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i>	In Loving Memory of My Wife <b>ILONA WHITE</b> <i>Alphonse White</i>	<b>Skips on the Ridge</b> 640 West Ridge Road Rochester, NY 14615 585-865-3896
In Loving Memory of <b>HENRY FAISON JR.</b> <i>Love your Mom, George, Adrian, Andre</i>	Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons <b>ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY</b> <i>Blessings Bill &amp; Family</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>JOE HAUSER</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i>
In Loving Memory of <b>DR. NATHANIEL HURST</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>DAVID MILES</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i>	In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the <b>CULLEN &amp; CORRAL FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Ralph &amp; Maureen</i>
In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES STOKES</b> <i>The Stokes Family</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>JEFFREY WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i>
In Loving Memory of <b>DOUGLAS SIMMONS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>ADA FULLWOOD</b> <i>The Augustine/Fullwood Families</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>RITA VIOLET AUGUSTINE</b> <i>The Augustine Family</i>
In Loving Memory of <b>CREÓLE MON'AE FONTENETTE</b> <i>Love your Grandparents</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>JOSEPH RONALD WEBER</b> <i>Roxana C. Weber</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>HENRY BELL SR. &amp; DONALD GORDON</b> <i>The Bell/Gordon Families</i>
<b>SPACE AVAILABLE</b>	<b>SPACE AVAILABLE</b>	In Loving Memory of <b>MARY JACKSON</b> <i>Thomas &amp; Nellie Bostick</i>

***Welcome Visitors to Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget's Church  
We are blessed by your presence. Please come again!***