

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) 235-3340 ~ (585) 235-8315 Fax

Emergency Line: (585) 723-6531

www.immaculateconceptionrochester.org

rillacul@dor.org

Office located at: 34 Monica Street, Rochester, NY 14619

Office Hours: 9:00 am — 3:00 pm (Monday-Friday)

Parish Staff

Rev. Raymond Fleming, Pastor

fr.ray.fleming@dor.org

Richard Rall, Deacon

richard.rall@dor.org

**Myrtle Fontenette, Religious Education Coordinator
& RCIA Coordinator**

myrtle.fontenette@dor.org

Emanuel Colon, Multi Parish Finance Director

emanuel.colon@dor.org

Jeanne Engelbrecht, Finance Manager

jeanne.engelbrecht@dor.org

Tracy Jordan, Administrative Assistant

tracy.jordan@dor.org

Joanie Fraver, Finance Council Chair

Ramona Moore, Pastoral Council Chair

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.



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

By proclaiming the beatitudes, Jesus turns the world's values and expectations upside down. He tells us that the poor, the meek, and the hungry are at the center of God's kingdom, not the wealthy or powerful. God's ways are not our ways, and Jesus' words invite us to live by a different set of standards than the world offers. Those who hunger for God's ways will be satisfied.

Sunday Mass ~ 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days: Consult bulletin or call the office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: By Appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: Pre-Cana is a Diocesan Requirement. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

Baptism: Please call the office to make arrangements.

Catechumenate: Adults interested in joining the Roman Catholic Church, please call the office.

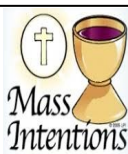


New members are welcome at Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church. For more information on how to join the parish, please call the parish office at 235-3340 ext. 116.

Sunday, February 1, 2026

John Fontenette

Requested by the Fontenette Family



Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl Barnes, Fr. Robert Bradler, Clara Bray, Jocelyn Bucchan, Fr. Giles Conwill, Tom Degan, Jacquelyn Dobson, Tom Fugate, LaVaughans Holcomb, Denise McGowan, Harold Moore, David Powe, Bing Reaves, Carolyn Walker, Kathy Wheeler

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 1, 2026

Reader I & II—Makeeda Tatum/Violet Booker

Sunday, February 8, 2026

Reader I & II—Marcia Fugate/Teyana Pappin

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Reader I & II—Don Toyer

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Reader I & II—Lynn Fulmore

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Reader I & II—Joanie Fraver/Nadege Bukuru

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Reader I & II—Andre Fontenette

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Reader I & II—Keith Parris

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Reader I & II—Makeeda Tatum/Violet Booker

Sunday, March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday)

Reader I & II—Marcia Fugate/Teyana Pappin



Offerings for January 25, 2026

Offerings: \$1,774

Attendance: 35

Online Giving: \$80

Online Givers: 2

Thank you for your generous support.

FEBRUARY

Sun. Feb. 1	Blood Pressure Screening—following Mass in the Sacristy
Sat. Feb. 7	Pastoral Council Meeting—9:30 am
Sat. Feb. 14	Happy Valentine's Day
Mon. Feb. 16	President's Day—Office Closed
Wed. Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday—Mass & Ashes—5:30 pm
Fri. Feb. 27	St. Joseph's House of Hospitality

February Christian Action

Be Christ's



Pay a sincere compliment.

Surprise someone with a love note.

Treat someone to a coffee/lunch/dinner.

Leave a generous tip.

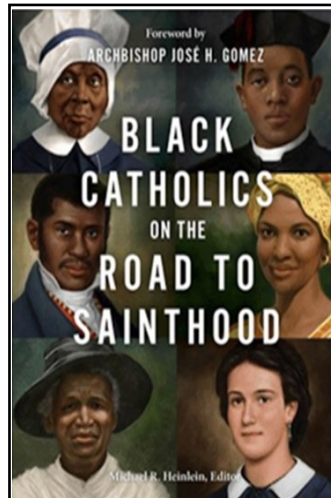
Send a valentine to someone who may not receive one.

Pray for someone.



Parish—Goal \$11,000
\$11,559 Pledged
105.08 % of Goal

Blood Pressure Screening will be offered today in the sacristy following Mass. Please have your blood pressure taken before leaving church.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
BOOK DISCUSSION

Mondays,
February 2, 9, 23 2026

7:00—8:30 pm

Zoom Book Discussion

Sponsored by
Black Catholic Coalition
of Rochester
(BCCR)

The Origins of Black History Month

Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that the truth about the contributions of African Americans to civilization could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise this awareness was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February, 1926, that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort. By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of Black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all colors on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

(Excerpt from an essay by Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University, for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)

Did You Know That....??

Gladys Mae West (née **Brown**; October 27, 1930 – January 17, 2026) was an American mathematician. She was known for her contributions to mathematical modeling of the shape of the Earth, and her work on the development of satellite geodesy models, which were later incorporated into the Global Positioning System (GPS).



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Offerings for St. Monica Church, Emmanuel Church of the Deaf, and Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church

Mass + Ashes 8:00 am St. Monica Church

Drive-through Ashes + Confession 11-11:15 am St. Monica parking lot
12-12:15 pm 831 Genesee St. 14619

Drive-through Ashes 5:15-5:30 pm St. Monica parking lot

Mass + Ashes 5:30 pm Immaculate Conception /St. Bridget's Church
445 Frederick Douglass St. 14608



St. Monica CHURCH

Did You know That....??

Every day for the month of February- Black History Month- a short article titled **Did You Know That...?** will appear on Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Facebook page featuring a person of color or an event that has impacted American history but may not have gotten its rightful place in our history books. Also, we will feature one of the articles in each Sunday bulletin for the month of February.

While each article on Facebook and in our bulletin will be brief, we encourage you to do your own research into these courageous pioneers and leaders. Let us not forget the principles of Kwanzaa as we remember and familiarize ourselves with the roles that people of color have played in this AMERICAN history. These principles are not to be confined to seven days in December, but should be a part of every day and in everything we do:

First Principle: Umoja (Unity)-to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Second Principle: Kujichagulia (Self-determination) to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Third Principle: Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)- to build and maintain our community together and to make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Fourth Principle: Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) - to build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit together from them.

Fifth Principle: Nia (Purpose)- to make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Sixth Principle: Kuumba (Creativity)- to do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.

Seventh Principle: Imani (Faith)- to believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

28 Days of Black History

Visit <https://www.28daysofblackhistory.com/> and subscribe to receive Black history information daily during Black History Month. The theme for 2026 is "A Century of Black History Commemorations." We'll trace the moments throughout history we've honored the Black American experience, from cultural moments of boundary breaking to major individual and group achievements.

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality A Rochester, NY Catholic Worker Community 402 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 585-232-3262	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>WHATEVER IS TRUE, WHATEVER IS NOBLE, WHATEVER IS RIGHT, WHATEVER IS LOVELY, WHATEVER IS ADMIRABLE— IF ANYTHING IS EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY—THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PHILIPPIANS 4:8</i></p>	
Corn Hill Neighborhood Association 133 S. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornill.org	Skips on the Ridge 640 West Ridge Road Rochester, NY 14615 585-865-3896	<i>Jack & Elvira Powell</i> <i>Always Loved Never Forgotten Forever Missed</i>
In Loving Memory of the QUAMINA & HARPER FAMILIES <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i>	In Loving Memory of RAPHAEL NGUTI <i>Love Mom, Michael, Camille</i>	Alzheimers Association Our free 24/7 Helpline provides support and information. Call 800.272.3900 today.
In Loving Memory of RACHAEL ALICEA & THEODORE ALICEA-SMITH <i>Rick & Colleen Brade</i>	In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the CANEPA, CULLEN, MILEY FAMILIES <i>Love Ralph & Maureen</i>	In Loving Memory of JOE HAUSER <i>The Wingo Family</i>
In Loving Memory of DR. NATHANIEL HURST <i>The Wingo Family</i>	In Loving Memory of My Guess Family, CHARLES, MERCEDES, ERIC & MARVA <i>Out of sight but never out of mind!</i> <i>Marcia Fugate</i>	In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the CORRAL, DESTEPHANO FAMILIES <i>Love Ralph & Maureen</i>
In Loving Memory of JAMES STOKES <i>The Stokes Family</i>	In Loving Memory of TOM & NELLIE BOSTICK & ALICE WALTERS	<i>Linda Nash</i> <i>Two Years, Too Long</i> <i>Missing You Still</i> <i>Always</i>
In Loving Memory of BILL CASTLE <i>The Castle Family</i>	In Loving Memory of DAVID & LOUISE MILES <i>Gone, but Never Forgotten</i> <i>Bill Sr., Bill Jr., Shannon, Shannel & Brandon</i>	<i>"In Memory of the great bass player</i> Tim Sullivan <i>Doug and Victoria Parker on behalf of the GateSwingers Big Band "</i>
In Loving Memory of JOANNE LESSLEY <i>Joanne Gordon</i>	In Loving Memory of JOSEPH RONALD WEBER <i>Roxana C. Weber</i>	In Loving Memory of SARAH & DONALD GORDON & HENRY BELL SR. <i>The Gordon/Bell Families</i>
In Loving Memory of ALL THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE McGEE FAMILY <i>James & Melissa McGee</i>	In Loving Memory of TALLAM NGUTI <i>Love your Wife & Children</i>	In Loving Memory of MICHAEL & JULIANA NWOKELO SR. <i>The Nwokelo Family</i>
SPACE AVAILABLE	SPACE AVAILABLE	SPACE AVAILABLE