

# *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 Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
8:30 am — 4:00 pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor	Rev. Raymond Fleming <a href="mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org">fr.ray.fleming@dor.org</a>
Assisting Priest	Rev. Robert Bradler
Deacon	Richard Rall
Religious Education Coordinators	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>
Director of Finance & Administration	Carol Wynne <a href="mailto:carol.wynne@dor.org">carol.wynne@dor.org</a>
Regional Business Manager	Mark Shevlin <a href="mailto:mark.shevlin@dor.org">mark.shevlin@dor.org</a>
Parish Secretary	Tracy Jordan <a href="mailto:tracy.jordan@dor.org">tracy.jordan@dor.org</a>

**Pastoral Council Chair** Chib Onwunaka

**Finance Council Chair** 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.

*February 28, 2021*



*On the Mount of the Transfiguration, Jesus is revealed to his disciples as God's beloved Son.*

*In our Scriptures today, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, and Paul writes that the risen Jesus will indeed intercede for us. What gifts we are given! Let us, then, act in the world as God's children and be his instruments for building the Kingdom on earth.*

*We worship every Sunday at 10 am*

**Holy Days:** Consult bulletin or call church 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 church office to make arrangements.

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

**Sunday, February 28, 2021**

**Minnie Boutte**

**Requested by Rose Stokes**



**Offerings for February 21, 2021**

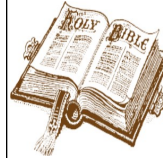
**Offerings: \$1,633      Online Giving: \$555**

**Attendance: 39**

**Thank you for your generous support.**



*Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl & Phyllis Barnes, Julie Coe, Fr. Giles Conwill, Sarah Gordon, Denise McGowan, Alice Walters*



### **BIBLE STUDY CORNER**

*“Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”*

*Genesis 22:12*

**Reflection:** The child is often a symbol of human weakness and helplessness. Many children worldwide are left homeless, poor, and vulnerable because of natural disasters, poverty, genocide, violence, and war. In this passage we hear and feel the heart of God through the voice of a messenger, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him.” God showed great love and concern for Abraham’s only son. The heart of God still speaks to us today and calls us to show great love and concern for the weakest members of the human family. The heart of God demands that we take care of our children and do nothing to harm their mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being. The heart of God challenges us anew to do whatever we can to put an end to the exploitation of innocent children. The heart of God illuminates our obligation to do more to protect all children regardless of their race, culture, religious tradition, and social condition. All children are signs of God’s presence among us. We are the heart of God empowered by the Spirit to advocate for the weak and powerless and to show great love and concern for children everywhere.

**Ponder:** How do I reveal the heart of God in the world?

**Prayer:** Lord, you watch over me and love me as your child. Help me to see all people as your children and treat them with gentleness, love, and support.

**Practice:** Today I will pray for gentleness of heart; I will fast from hurtful thoughts and behavior; I will be a good role model for children and youth.

**“Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another’s uniqueness.” — Ola Joseph**

### **Bible Readings for Sunday, February 28, 2021**

*Genesis 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18*

*Romans 8:31b-34*

*Mark 9:2-10*

### **Bible Readings for Sunday, March 7, 2021**

*Exodus 20:1-27*

*1 Corinthians 1:22-25*

*John 2:13-25*



**Parish Goal: \$9,910  
We've Surpassed our CMA Goal!**

Congratulations and thank you! As of this date, we have raised \$10,655 (107.52% of our goal) with 33 families contributing to the CMA. We thank everyone who responded to Father Ray's rally and our year-end appeal. It is not too late to join the effort - 50¢ of every dollar raised over our goal will come back to our parish in a check. Please contact George Fontenette or Colleen Brade ([Colleen.Brade@dor.org](mailto:Colleen.Brade@dor.org)) if you would like to make your pledge today.

### **March Birthdays**

**Ralph Destephano, Patrick Flaherty,  
Marcia Fugate, Kaila Knight,  
Ramona Moore**



### **Shirley Chisholm**

Shirley Chisholm became the first African-American woman to be elected into Congress in 1968. She was also the first black candidate for Democratic nomination for U.S. President in 1972, and throughout her career in politics and education, fought for child welfare, black women's reproductive rights, and more. Inspiring feels like an understatement here.

## YOUTH INVITED TO APPLY FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Mayor Lovely A. Warren, Monroe County and RochesterWorks! invite youth ages of 14—20 to apply for the City's Summer of Opportunity Program (SOOP) and RochesterWorks! Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

"The Summer of Opportunity and Summer Youth Employment programs provide our youth with essential, real world experience," said Mayor Warren. "Through this experience, they can gain the skills they need to advance to successful careers in a competitive job market. Helping to build up our future generation of leaders is key to our mission of creating more jobs, which leads to safer, more vibrant neighborhoods, better educational opportunities and greater equity in the city of Rochester."

Both programs provide 6-8 weeks of paid employment for youth currently enrolled in middle school, high school or actively pursuing their high school equivalency diploma. Youth who participate in SOOP/SYEP learn skills to prepare them for the workforce and promote school success. Selection for these programs is competitive and not every applicant is guaranteed placement in a job.

Registration for both programs takes place March 1–26 at [rocsummeryouth.com](http://rocsummeryouth.com). Applicants must then upload their Social Security card, work permit, a recent report card, photo ID and a signed Application Signature report to [doccollect.rochesterworks.org](http://doccollect.rochesterworks.org).

After successful completion of program requirements, applicants will have the opportunity to interview for paid summer jobs. Past participating employers include the City of Rochester, community-based organizations, colleges and local businesses. For more information, call (585) 428-6366.

ROCHESTER  
SUNY UCAWD



### Volunteer Remote Tutorial Instructors Needed @ Rochester Educational Opportunity Center (REOC)

The REOC Learning Center is looking for volunteers to help tutor students remotely. We need support for basic math and reading, but if you have a specialty in a medical career field, your help would be very much appreciated as well. Hours are flexible and you will be matched with students who can meet on your schedule. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to our Learning Resource Center Coordinator, Ms. Millie Sefranek at [msefrane@brockport.edu](mailto:msefrane@brockport.edu).

Thank you for your interest!

## New COVID-19 Strains, Herd Immunity & Our Return to "Normal"

New variants of the COVID-19 virus have emerged. Are these new strains more contagious? Are two masks better than one? We asked these questions and more to Dr. Lisa Harris, Vice President of Medical Affairs at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. There's a lot we know, but there's also a lot we don't know as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve. Dr. Harris shares the latest below.



Dr. Lisa Y. Harris is Vice President of Medical Affairs at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield. She is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a Certified Physician Executive through the American Association of Physician Leaders. Board certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, Dr. Harris has been in clinical practice since 1995.

**Q: Dr. Harris, it's been reported that there are new strains of the COVID-19 virus—now within the United States. What is the latest information on this?**

The CDC has reported three new strains globally. These were first found in the UK, South Africa, and Brazil, and all three new strains have been seen in the U.S. as of the end of January 2021. Based on case counts, these new strains seem to spread more easily and faster than the original virus. Though they may be more contagious, there is no evidence to prove that these strains are deadlier.

**Q: The vaccine gives hope to many people right now. If a person receives the COVID-19 vaccine, will it protect them against these new strains? Will the vaccine still be 95% effective?**

So far, the data suggests that the current vaccines will also protect against the virus variants (new strains). A 95% effective rate has not been proven against the new variants yet, but it is being studied closely.

**Q: We know the importance of washing our hands, social distancing, and wearing a mask. But, what about double masking? Should we be wearing two masks instead of one?**

There is data that supports double masking, especially if you do not have a medical grade mask. A way to think about it is that wearing one mask protects you from me, but the additional mask protects me from you. Another option would be wearing a mask that has two layers, or an insert for additional protection. Gaiters when folded to create 2-3 layers are considered effective.

**Q: If someone has already had COVID-19 and recovered or received the COVID-19 vaccine, is it safe to start doing "normal" activities like travel?**

It depends on your definition of safe. It's important to remember that the pandemic still exists, and the threat of the virus remains. Neither the vaccine nor prior COVID-19 exposure grants you 100% immunity from the virus. While receiving the vaccine may make you highly unlikely to get a serious case of COVID-19, the evidence suggests that you may still be able to transfer COVID-19 to someone else. Based on those risks, [the CDC](https://www.cdc.gov) recommends delaying travel and staying home to protect yourself and others. If emergency travel is necessary, different states have different travel requirements and a negative COVID-19 test is required for all airlines.

*If you are interested in advertising or including a Memorial*

*Please call the Parish Office – 325-3893*

<p><b>St. Joseph's House of Hospitality</b> A Rochester, NY Catholic Worker Community 402 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 585-232-3262</p>	<p align="center"><b>BUCKMAN'S PLAZA</b> 2590 W. Ridge Road, Rochester</p> <p align="center">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.</p>	
<p><b>CORN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION</b> 133 S. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornill.org</p>	<p><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></p>	<p><b>TOM ZUBERT, REALTOR</b> RE/MAX REALTY GROUP 585-721-1313 zubert.tom@gmail.com (ICS Graduate)</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of the <b>QUAMINA &amp; HARPER FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of My Wife <b>ILONA WHITE</b> <i>Alphonse White</i></p>	<p><b>Skips on the Ridge</b> 640 West Ridge Road Rochester, NY 14615 585-865-3896</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>HENRY FAISON JR.</b> <i>Love your Mom, George, Adrian, Andre</i></p>	<p>Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons <b>ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY</b> <i>Blessings Bill &amp; Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JOE HAUSER</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>DR. NATHANIEL HURST</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>DAVID MILES</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i></p>	<p>In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the <b>CULLEN &amp; CORRAL FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Ralph &amp; Maureen</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES STOKES</b> <i>The Stokes Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JEFFREY WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>DOUGLAS SIMMONS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>ADA FULLWOOD</b> <i>The Augustine/Fullwood Families</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>RITA VIOLET AUGUSTINE</b> <i>The Augustine Family</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of <b>CREÓLE MON'AE FONTENETTE</b> <i>Love your Grandparents</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>JOSEPH RONALD WEBER</b> <i>Roxana C. Weber</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>HENRY BELL SR. &amp; DONALD GORDON</b> <i>The Bell/Gordon Families</i></p>
<p>For all the Deceased Families, Friends &amp; Parishioners of Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church <i>Love Rose Stokes</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>SPACE AVAILABLE</b></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of <b>MARY JACKSON</b> <i>Thomas &amp; Nellie Bostick</i></p>