

# *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  
rimmacul@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

Carol Wynne, Director of Finance & Administration  
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Tracy Jordan, Administrative Assistant  
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Joanie Fraver, **Finance Council Chair**

Vincent Stroud, **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.

*February 23, 2025*

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*Jesus teaches us to see others as God sees them.*

*Though our enemies may mistreat us, Jesus teaches us not to respond in judgment. Rather, we are to be loving and forgiving, just as our Father is kind and merciful. We must see others as God sees them, in the same way that David is able to see his enemy Saul as God's anointed, and Jesus is able to see sinners as worthy of goodness and love.*



*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.*

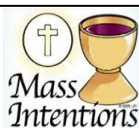
*Baptism: Please call the office to make arrangements.*

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

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Michael & Juliana Nwokelo Sr.

Requested by Michael Nwokelo Jr. & Family



Offerings for February 16, 2025

Offerings: \$1,234

Attendance: 66

Online Giving: \$275

Online Givers: 4

Thank you for your generous support.



Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl Barnes, Fr. Robert Bradler, Jocelyn Buchan, Fr. Giles Conwill, Tom Degnan, Jacquelyn Dobson, Morris Doucette, Tom Fugate, Fr. John Judie, Denise McGowan, Rose McKnight, Louise Miles, Harold Moore, Carolyn Walker, Kathy Wheeler

February

Fri. Feb. 28 St. Joseph's House of Hospitality

LECTOR SCHEDULE



Sunday, February 23, 2025

Reader I & II—Keith Parris

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Reader I & II—Makeeda Tatum & Violet Booker

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Reader I & II—Joanie Fraver—Teyana Pappin

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Reader I & II—Don Toyer

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Reader I & II—Erin McBride

Sunday, March 30, 2025

Reader I & II—Marcia Fugate



MASS INTENTIONS

The following dates are available for Mass Intentions, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 30 and Dec. 14, 28. Please call or stop by the

office if you would like to schedule Mass Intentions for any of those dates. The cost is \$10.



2024-2025 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Extending Christ's Mission through the Catholic Ministries Appeal

Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Parish—Goal \$12,000

As of this date, 28 families have contributed to the CMA. We have reached 93.58% of our goal (\$11,230). Thank you to all who have made their pledge and for supporting our mission. Please pray for the success of reaching our goal. Thank you.

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.



"Ours is not the struggle of one day, one week, or one year. Ours is not the struggle of one judicial appointment or presidential term. Ours is the struggle of a lifetime, or maybe even many lifetimes, and each one of us in every generation must do our part."



~ John Lewis

Blood Pressure Screening will be offered next Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> in the sacristy. Please have your blood pressure taken before leaving church.



### Watch Out for Scam Texts

There have been some scam texts and emails going around again claiming to be from Fr. Ray.

PLEASE REMEMBER that Fr. Ray will NEVER contact you by personal email to ask for money. HE WILL NOT:

1. Send you a text "asking for assistance"
2. Send you a text or an email asking for money
3. Sign texts of emails with "Rev" or "Reverend"
4. Send email from any other address than his DOR email (@dor.org).

If you get a suspicious text or email, DO NOT RESPOND and DO NOT CLICK ANY LINKS. Block the sender and report it to the office. If you are unsure, you can always call the office at (585)235-3340.



## ✝ Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 5, 2025

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 11-11:15 am St. Monica parking lot

Ashes + Confession 12-12:15 pm  
1-1:15 pm

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

Ashes 6:00 pm Immaculate Conception /St. Bridget's Church  
445 Frederick Douglass St. 14608



## Black Heritage and Culture

Explore the **WXXI Black Heritage and Culture site**: Your resource and guide to the films, stories, and voices centered around Black history and culture, current events, and issues. And be sure to visit [WXXINews.org](http://WXXINews.org) for coverage of community events and issues that are important to Rochester and beyond. Explore. Watch. Connect!

### 8 Ways to Honor Black History Month

1. Educate Yourself on the Black History in Your Community.
2. Visit a Black or African-American History Museum.
3. Learn about Black Music History.
4. Read Books Written by Black Authors.
5. Watch Films or Videos by Black Creators.
6. Support Black-owned Businesses.
7. Support Influential Black-led Nonprofits
8. Organize a Diversity & Inclusion Event

### St. Monica Neighborhood Businesses

*Jesus, who is my neighbor?*

Black History has special meaning in St. Monica's southwest Rochester neighborhood. In 1960, Fr. Charles Hall, who grew up in Immaculate Conception Parish, was ordained Upstate NY's first Black priest.

Charles Anthony Hall was born in 1931, the first of twelve Hall family children raised on Clarissa Street. He graduated from Aquinas Institute and Epiphany College, a Josephite seminary founded to meet the needs of African Americans. In June 1960 he was ordained at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, And said his first Mass at Immaculate Conception Church in Rochester that same month.



Fr. Hall was assigned to teach chemistry at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans. In 1965, he was diagnosed with cancer. He died on Holy Saturday in 1967 at age 36, only 7 years after ordination. He is buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Fr. Hall's sisters Roxana Weber and Isabelle Walters continue to attend Immaculate Conception Church. Brother Marty Hall, a florist, once belonged to St. Monica Gospel Choir, and passed in 2022.

Corn Hill neighbors wrote a great story about Fr. Hall that we can read at Corn Hill news:



<p><b>St. Joseph's House of Hospitality</b></p> <p>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 14626</p> <p align="center">Please visit our many stores, including City Mattress, Visionworks, Pino's Deli, Megan Nail Spa, Red Cross, Sign Impressions and Orville's Appliances.</p>	
<p><b>Corn Hill Neighborhood Association</b> 133 S. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornhill.org</p>	<p><b>Mileage Master Center of Rochester</b> 2488 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 585-586-1870</p> <p><i>The perfect place for all of your grilling needs</i></p>	<p><i>Together on Earth ~ Together in Eternity Together Missed, Evermore</i></p> <p align="center"><b>Jack &amp; Elvira Powell</b> Lynn Fulmore</p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of the <b>QUAMINA &amp; HARPER FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of My Wife <b>ILONA WHITE</b> <i>Alphonse White</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>Skips on the Ridge</b> 640 West Ridge Road Rochester, NY 14615 585-865-3896</p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>RACHAEL ALICEA &amp; THEODORE ALICEA-SMITH</b> <i>Rick &amp; Colleen Brade</i></p>	<p align="center">Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons <b>ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY</b> <i>Blessings Bill &amp; Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOE HAUSER</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>DR. NATHANIEL HURST</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>DAVID MILES</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i></p>	<p align="center">In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the <b>CULLEN, CORRAL, DESTEPHANO FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Ralph &amp; Maureen</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES STOKES</b> <i>The Stokes Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Prayerful tribute for Deceased Members of the <b>Gordon, Moore &amp; Stroud Families</b> Lynn Fulmore</p>	<p align="center"><b>Linda Nash</b> Like Dust, Dreams, Air, the Sun &amp; Hopes Eternal She Rose  Your Daughters, Lynn &amp; Shlonda</p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>BILL CASTLE</b> <i>The Castle Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>GILBERT &amp; CHARITY ADIELE</b> <i>The Nwokelo Family</i></p>	<p align="center">"In Memory of the great bass player <b>Tim Sullivan</b> <i>Doug and Victoria Parker on behalf of the GateSwingers Big Band "</i></p>
<p align="center">Words cannot say how much you are missed. You are so very loved. <b>MOMMY</b> <i>Love Jacquie, Kimberly, Gina &amp; Jean</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOSEPH RONALD WEBER</b> <i>Roxana C. Weber</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>SARAH &amp; DONALD GORDON &amp; HENRY BELL SR.</b> <i>The Gordon/Bell Families</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOANNE LESSLEY</b> <i>Joanne Gordon</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>TALLAM NGUTI</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>MICHAEL &amp; JULIANA NWOKELO SR.</b> <i>The Nwokelo Family</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>ALL THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE McGEE FAMILY</b> <i>James &amp; Melissa McGee</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>RAPHAEL NGUTI</b> <i>Love Mom, Michael, Camille</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>MATH TUTORING MATH COACHING</b>  585-247-4941</p>