

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
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rinnacul@dor.org

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

Parish Staff

Pastor	Rev. Raymond Fleming fr.ray.fleming@dor.org
Assisting Priest	Rev. Robert Bradler
Deacon	Richard Rall
Religious Education Coordinators	Myrtle Fontenette myrtle.fontenette@dor.org Harry Pierre-Philippe harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org
Director of Finance & Administration	Carol Wynne carol.wynne@dor.org
Regional Business Manager	Mark Shevlin mark.shevlin@dor.org
Parish Secretary	Tracy Jordan tracy.jordan@dor.org
Pastoral Council Chair	Chibueze 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.

December 27, 2020



Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, we celebrate God's incarnation into a human family who loved, protected and taught him. They were holy because they were perfect in obedience and virtue; blessed because they feared the Lord and walked in his ways. We, too, may strive to attain this holiness, in our imitation of the Holy Family's example and through the grace of Christ.

WE WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

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



Offerings for December 20, 2020

Offerings: \$710

Online Giving: \$280

Thank you for your continued and generous support.

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

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

Bible Readings for Sunday, January 3, 2021

Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:2—3a, 5-6

Matthew 2:1-12



Catholic Ministries Appeal
Parish Goal: \$9,910
Pledged as of December 22, 2020
\$8,310 (83.85%)

CMA Update: How the CMA helps our Parish

As of this date, we have raised \$6,410 and 21 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 for more information or to make your gift.

BIBLE STUDY CORNER



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

John 20:1

Reflection: We are still in the dark if we try to understand Christmas outside the event of the Resurrection. The fact that Jesus rose from the tomb helps us to see more clearly the significance of the Christmas event. If Jesus did not die and rise from the dead, Christmas would have no meaning for us.

Our Christian tradition is rooted in the truth that Jesus is the Son of God who was born, suffered death, was buried, and rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. The Christmas event and the Easter event illuminate the core of our faith: Jesus is human and divine. Jesus came to share in our humanity so that we could become divine and live in communion with the triune God.

The feast of Saint John the Evangelist is celebrated in the Christmas season to remind all Christians of their call and responsibility to give witness to Jesus, who is, as our Creed proclaims: "God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God." We give witness to Jesus, the light to all people, who overcame the darkness of death and reigns forever as the light of the world.

Ponder: How can I be a witness to Jesus, the light of all people, to others?

Prayer: Lord, your birth and resurrection reveal the power of God in the world. Illuminate my mind to understand more deeply the purpose and meaning of your life.

Practice: Today I will be Christ-like: a positive and hopeful presence to others.

Holiday Mass 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>.

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.

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



LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

While families come in all shapes and sizes and no two are the same, they all need a common focus and grounding. Families are intended to be pivotal in providing us with a proper social structure and understanding, a support system, lessons about relationships and communication and the unconditional acceptance and love we so desperately crave. In addition to all of these things, the axis of every family has to be centered on faith. It is here that we can learn about the virtues and discover the windows to God Himself in His gifts of faith, hope, and love. We can learn, modeling our experience after the Holy Family, how to use these as anchors in our lives so that we can live out the other virtues with greater integrity. Because our human families struggle with weakness and sin, we have to come back to the Holy Family often for inspiration and guidance. In the bond of love that they shared, they clung to the anchor of God Himself and endured challenges far greater than many we will ever face.

Keep in Prayer

Please pray for Victor Doucette and his family. Victor's wife Sybil Doucette passed away on December 17. Sybil is also the first cousin of the Harper Family (Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard.) Please keep the Doucette & Harper families in your prayers.



Prayer for Blessings in the Year Ahead

Father, Thank you for your great love and blessing over our lives. Thank you that your favor has no end, but it lasts for our entire lifetime. Forgive us for sometimes forgetting that you are intimately acquainted with all of our ways, that you know what concerns us, and you cover us as with a shield. We ask that we would walk in your blessing and goodness today. That your face would shine on us. That you would open the right doors for our lives and for our loved ones, that you would close the wrong doors and protect us from those we need to walk away from. Establish the work of our hands and bring to fulfillment all that you have given us to do in these days. We pray that you would make our way purposeful and our footsteps firm out of your goodness and love. Give us a heart of wisdom to hear your voice, and make us strong by your huge favor and grace.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Just in time for the New Year! The 2021 Josephite Calendars have arrived.

Plans to distribute calendars while the church is closed are being organized. If you are interested or have questions, please contact the church office. Thank you.

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

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

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