## 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 rimmacul@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

Richard Rall Deacon

**Religious Education** Myrtle Fontenette

Coordinators myrtle.fontenette@dor.org

Harry Pierre-Philippe

harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org

Director of Finance Carol Wynne

& Administration carol.wynne@dor.org

**Regional Business** Mark Shevlin

mark.shevlin@dor.org Manager

**Parish Secretary** Tracy Jordan tracy.jordan@dor.org

Chibueze Onwunaka Pastoral Council Chair

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



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! www.dor.org/cma for more information or to make your gift.

### 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 STUDY CORNER**

On the first day of the week, mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the maorning, 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: <a href="https://bit.ly/stmonicachurch">https://bit.ly/stmonicachurch</a>.

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



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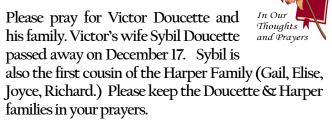
contributions as well as second collections and holy days. If you have any questions please call the church office. Thank you

### 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 additional 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**



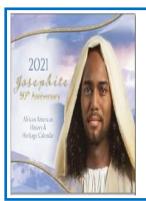
### Prayer for Blessings in the Year Ahead

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