

# ICSB NEWSLETTER SPECIAL ISSUE

THANKSGIVING EDITION



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

We are thankful for the gift of life and the gift of love exemplified by Jesus Christ. In this season, we are grateful that the Lord has blessed us with the opportunity to show our thanks to those around us and to Him. We encourage you to take this time as a time of reflection for all things that God has blessed you and your loved ones with and continue to express that on a daily basis.

AND WHATEVER  
YOU DO,  
WHETHER IN  
WORD OR DEED,  
DO IT ALL IN THE  
NAME OF THE  
LORD JESUS,  
GIVING THANKS  
TO GOD THE  
FATHER  
THROUGH HIM.

*Colossians 3:17*

# I AM THANKFUL FOR...



## Louise Miles

Health, long life and the good Lord taking care of me.

## Lee Wingo

Life, Mercy and Grace! I didn't think I'd be here today. I am living my dream: I have the big family and love that I saw my friends have ,but never thought I would ever have it!

## Mary Wingo

God, with His unconditional love for all. I am grateful for my family, friends, and a peace which surpasses all understanding! Glory be to God!

## Harry Pierre-Philippe

My family and friends and that I am healthy and happy and my family and friends are doing well. My mom is now 94 and doing well, and I was blessed to have my mother- in- law to the age of 102 at her recent death. I am also thankful to be retired and enjoying this season of my life.

## Marcia Fugate

My faith in God, companionship with Tom; family and friends throughout this pandemic and the financial ability to retire.

## Tom Fugate

For waking up each morning.

“

LET THEM PRAISE HIS NAME WITH DANCING;  
LET THEM SING PRAISES TO HIM WITH  
TIMBREL AND LYRE.

*Psalm: 149:3*

”

# I AM THANKFUL FOR...



## Myrtle Fontenette

There are so many things I am thankful for, it is hard to put into words. I am thankful for my health, home, family, and friends. Through all the losses and heartache that I have experienced, I am thankful that I serve a Mighty God who has never left me. I am just THANKFUL!

## George Fontenette

A wonderful family and dear friends. I'm also very thankful and blessed that my prostate cancer has been in remission for ten years.

## Ramona Moore

"I've got so much to thank God for; so many wonderful blessings and so many open doors and brand new mercies along with each new day.... " Truly God has "done so much for me, I can not tell it all!" The thing on which I boast the most, however, is that God has "looked beyond my faults and saw my needs" and gave His life for such a "wretch like me!"

## Alphonse White

As we are approaching Thanksgiving I'm very thankful for the health and safety of my immediate family along with health and safety of my Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's family. I pray that all of this turmoil ends soon and things will hopefully get back to normal with our lives.

“ THEREFORE, SINCE WE RECEIVE A KINGDOM WHICH  
CANNOT BE SHAKEN, LET US SHOW GRATITUDE, BY  
WHICH WE MAY OFFER TO GOD AN ACCEPTABLE  
SERVICE WITH REVERENCE AND AWE; ”

*Hebrews 12:28*

# I AM THANKFUL FOR...



THANK  
YOU  
DOCTORS

## Tim Sullivan

After church, I was feeling grateful indeed for the community here, at Immaculate. I rarely sit in a front pew, but today as I sat there, in a front pew, and as folks came forward for communion, a spontaneous sense of gratitude for each person came to me, like a visit of angels.

## Fr. Bradler

I am thankful for 55 years of priesthood. I am so thankful for the many, many new friends I've gained since coming to Immaculate Conception/ St. Bridget's.

## Deacon Rick

I am thankful for family and good friends and to God for the opportunity to serve the wonderful community of ICSB.

## Ruth Miller

I am thankful for my family and friends who love me very much. I am blessed to be a part of a beautiful church family. I'm thankful for my health and my many blessings.

## Tracy Jordan

People I've met and loved and so many beautiful people. I'm thankful for life and my ability to talk to folks and have so many wonderful interactions and for my health after my period of illness.

“

DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER, KEEPING  
ALERT IN IT WITH AN ATTITUDE OF  
THANKSGIVING

*Colossians 4:2*

”



# I AM THANKFUL FOR...



## Norma Thom

1st. I am thankful for life. The Lord has blessed me to see four generations of my family.  
2nd. He has brought me through breast cancer. I am almost ten years cancer free.  
3rd. I am very grateful for the many friends I have made in my new homeland USA after residing here for almost 50 years. I am thankful to the Lord everyday for waking me up and giving me that strength and courage to pursue another day. I put God in front and let Him guide me. I have so many things to be thankful for, I can write a book.

## Rose Stokes

I am thankful for my life, health and strength because I do understand that God gives us Grace to live this day, Today. I am so thankful for my friends, family and church family, shelter and food. I don't take it for granted. God has been good to me and I'm thankful for that!

## Maria Degan

I'm thankful for the Lord's LOVE, and Support EVERYDAY! For the love and Support of My Rock Tom.

## Tom Degan

Thankful for my family, health, my beautiful friends and thankful for the Beautiful, Wonderful Country we live in. God Bless America.

## Don Toyer

I find myself being especially thankful for and reflective on the importance of family. 2020 has been chaotic and devastating for the many families that have suffered due to this COVID crisis.

“ FIRST, I THANK MY GOD THROUGH JESUS  
CHRIST FOR YOU ALL, BECAUSE YOUR FAITH  
IS BEING PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE  
WHOLE WORLD.

*Romans 1:8*

”

# I AM THANKFUL FOR...



## Bing Sr. and Yvette Reaves

We are thankful for our family, our safety, our health and strength in the Lord our God. We are thankful for our church family and thankful that we are getting to know God which means so much to us.

## Gail Whitecraft

I am thankful for the health of myself and family members. The peace and safety for myself and family member and circle of friends. I'm also thankful that the COVID vaccine has been deemed safe and can be distributed soon.

## Elise Clinkscales

I am thankful for my health and family. I am thankful that Joe Biden won the Presidency. I am thankful that our church opened up during the pandemic and that no one in my circle was diagnosed with COVID 19.

## Natalie Rogers Cropper

I thank God for lending me this life and for the people whose light and beauty nourished me, helped me grow, and still wash over me whenever I need them most.

## Clara Bray

The many blessings I have received; my family, my son, grand and great-grandchildren and church family. I hope everybody will be together and giving from the heart. I am thankful for the 89 years I have been on this planet.

“

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!

”

*2 Corinthians 9:15*

# I AM THANKFUL FOR...



## Vincent Stroud

For having several “grown-folks conversations” with my mother’s two remaining brothers and my father’s remaining sister.

## Denise McGowen

Each new day is a blessing. I woke up today and that's enough reason to be thankful.

## Joanne Gordon

For life! I thank God each day for the blessing of my family and friends. Given only six months to live in September of 2019, Mom is “yet holding on.” I am forever blessed and thankful for our Church family. Blessings to all!

## Tatum Family

We are thankful that we are able to return to Rochester and be blessed by a familiar church and home and friends as we embrace new challenges and seasons of life.

## James Walker

I am so thankful to have family and friends to help me thru these Pandemic times.

## Chib Onwunaka

I am thankful for family, friends, and a loving community. I am also thankful for God's love, grace, and mercy.

“

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS; FOR THIS IS  
GOD’S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.

*Thesolonians 5:18*

”

# THANK YOU



## Black Catholic Cultural Heritage Committee

Thank you for your devotion and service in carrying out an excellent program with Father John Judie. It was wonderful to see the support from our church family and surrounding community members. To Jean Pryor and Jacqueline Dobson, we thank you for your efforts and execution of a wonderful program. We pray that the blessing of your service, encourages those who were present and those who will hear of your work to carry a torch themselves in service of our Lord.

## Building and Grounds Committee

Thank you for your tireless commitment to ensuring that the church grounds and interior are clean, sanitized, and beautiful. Your efforts keep us all safe and provides us the freedom to worship the Lord joyfully.

## Arts and Environment

We thank those that ensure that the altar is clean, vibrant, and beautiful. This sacred space is always reflective of the times and spirit of the people in the parish.

## Hospitality Committee

Thank you to the hospitality committee for your continuous efforts in greeting our guests and for the food prepared and served through out the year.

## Liturgy Committee

Thank you to the liturgy committee and especially our musicians who have continued to uplift the beautiful spirit of the people of the church and encouraged her soul.

## Finance Committee

Thank you to the finance committee for your priceless work in ensuring that the finances of the parish are intact and healthy. The work that you do brings comfort and ease to the parishioners and our trust in you is grounded in your continued excellence.



# A Warm Welcome Back

A warm welcome back Makeeda Tatum and family. As you may recall, Makeeda and family relocated to the south for several years. They have since returned and we are so happy that you've returned to our church family.

Welcome Makeeda, Melvin, TJ, Rosie, Violet, and Lily!



## Congratulations

We also welcome Ethan Mateo Charles, son of Felix Charles and Renata Joseph (Parents) who was baptized at Immaculate Conception on Sunday, October 25, 2020. Congratulations to the proud parents, and we look forward to all of you being members of our church family



“

BUT THOSE WHO HOPE IN THE LORD WILL RENEW THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES; THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY, THEY WILL WALK AND NOT BE FAINT.

*Isaiah 40:31*

”

# Words from our Shepherd

Dear Friends,

As the COVID-19 pandemic moves stealthily through our community, we find our beloved Church in the “Orange Zone,” meaning further precautions are going into place beginning Wednesday, 25 November. For us this will mean no more than 25 persons are to be in the church at any given moment. We find ourselves in a position like what we experienced last March. Our Church will be closed for Sunday worship for two weeks pending NYS determination that the growth rate of the virus has slowed down enough to return us to a safer zone.

You, better than I, are aware that this pandemic is affecting people of color in ways that highlight the work still needing to be done to address the injustice of racism in our country. The goal of closing IC/SB now is to protect the lives of our vibrant community. May God’s Wisdom guide us into the future.

Please know that I will try to communicate with you in a timely way. You can find more information on the Diocese of Rochester website. Finally: Happy Thanksgiving. May all our families be safe and in God’s loving protection.

Fr. Ray Fleming November 23, 2020

# Thankful For Our New Faith Members



## FAITH EXISTS IN THE ABSENCE OF SIGHT

This past summer, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to socially distance, once our church was able to open with limited attendance, Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's church was blessed to welcome three new members to our congregation. Though originally scheduled to be welcomed during the Easter vigil earlier this year, their ceremony was delayed until the church was reopened to celebrate Mass once again. Sharing their journeys with us, our newest members have blessed all of us and our parish with their love of Christ, and walking among us to remind us of blessings that we receive when we gather as a community.

The three adults- Tracy Bell, Carrie Fontenette and Christopher (CJ) Spencer-all expressed their reasons for starting their journey home to the Catholic Church. Citing a desire to have a deeper, more personal relationship with God, they each related knowing that God was with them throughout their lives. However, all three emphasized their longing to just have a "closer walk" with Him.

Tracy shared that besides a closer relationship with God, she really enjoys the Immaculate Conception Church community. Carrie said she was very impressed by the long family tradition that her husband's (Andre) family has here at ICSB and looks forward to continuing that tradition with her family. CJ Spencer has spoken of being able to continue building a strong faith base within himself at Immaculate.

We are grateful for the sharing of their interests with us, and the blessings they bring to our faith community. WELCOME!

AND WITHOUT  
FAITH IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE TO  
PLEASE GOD,  
BECAUSE  
ANYONE WHO  
COMES TO HIM  
MUST BELIEVE  
THAT HE  
EXISTS AND  
THAT HE  
REWARDS  
THOSE WHO  
EARNESTLY  
SEEK HIM.

*Hebrews 11:16*