

# *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](http://www.immaculateconceptionrochester.org)  
[rimmun@dor.org](mailto:rimmun@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](mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org)

Richard Rall, Deacon  
[richard.rall@dor.org](mailto:richard.rall@dor.org)

Myrtle Fontenette, Religious Education Coordinator  
& RCIA Coordinator  
[myrtle.fontenette@dor.org](mailto:myrtle.fontenette@dor.org)

Carol Wynne, Director of Finance & Administration  
[carol.wynne@dor.org](mailto:carol.wynne@dor.org)

Jeanne Engelbrecht, Finance Manager  
[jeanne.engelbrecht@dor.org](mailto:jeanne.engelbrecht@dor.org)

Tracy Jordan, Administrative Assistant  
[tracy.jordan@dor.org](mailto:tracy.jordan@dor.org)

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.

*December 1, 2024*

*First Sunday of Advent*



*Prepare for the coming of the Lord.*

*As we begin Advent, our readings today offer wisdom in discerning what it means to prepare our hearts for the Lord. They are beckoning us to wake up and be attentive to what is around us, for God's time is at hand. We have the blessing of this season to prepare for the coming of the Lord, and to allow our hearts to be transformed.*

***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.*

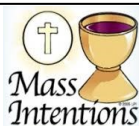
*Baptism: Please call the office to make arrangements.*

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

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Thomas Bostick

Requested by the Fontenette Family



Offerings for November 24, 2024

Offerings: \$1,691

Attendance: 91

Online Giving: \$180

Online Givers: 3

Thank you for your generous support.



Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl Barnes, Nellie Bostick, Fr. Robert Bradler, Jocelyn Bucchan, Fr. Giles Conwill, Maureen Corral, Tom Degnan, Morris Doucette, George Fontenette, Tom Fugate, Fr. John Judie, Denise McGowan, Louise Miles, Harold Moore, Carolyn Walker, Alice Walters, Kathy Wheeler

**LECTOR SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, December 1, 2024**

Reader I & II—Makeeda Tatum & Violet Booker

**Sunday, December 8, 2024**

Reader I & II—Norma Thom

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**

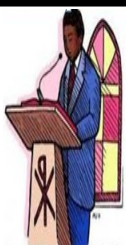
Reader I & II—Don Toyer

**Sunday, December 22, 2024**

Reader I & II—Andre Fontenette

**Sunday, December 29, 2024**

Reader I & II—Keith Parris



**December Christian Action**

**BE THE GIFT!**

- Visit someone who is lonely
- Wish someone a Merry Christmas instead of Happy Holidays
- Help someone with a task
- Make a donation to a food/clothing shelter
- Surprise someone with a kind note
- Call someone you haven't spoken to in a long time
- Give someone a hug
- Tell someone you love/appreciate them
- Tell someone you're sorry
- Send a Christmas card to someone who is not expecting one from you.

Second Collection Today

Catholic University & Other American Catholic Higher Education Institutions



**MASS INTENTIONS**

The 2025 Mass Intention book has arrived. You will now be able to schedule Mass intentions for 2025. Please call or stop by the office to schedule Mass Intentions. The cost is \$10.

**REMINDER:** If you attend another local Catholic church on the weekend, you can place your Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's donation envelope in their collection basket and your donation will be returned to us.

**Offering Envelopes**



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Victims of sexual abuse should always report to the civil authorities.

To receive help and guidance from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, contact our

Victim Assistance Coordinator:

**Deborah A. Housel**  
585-328-3228, ext. 1555

Toll-free:  
1-800-388-7177, ext. 1555

or by e-mail to [victimassistance@dor.org](mailto:victimassistance@dor.org)

Blood Pressure Screening will be offered today in the sacristy. Please have your blood pressure taken before leaving church.



## Living Faith

### God Beckons

*Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life.* Luke 21:34

Those times when the ground feels less certain under our feet are spiritually interesting. Not taking things for granted seems to be a condition for a genuine spiritual life. On the large scale, one thinks of 9/11 or the COVID-19 pandemic; on a more personal scale, and experience of this kind affects most of us at one time or another in our lives.

But it tells us something about ourselves that there is a strong tendency to return to business as usual. The lessons learned during unsettling times appear not to have a great deal of staying power.

The Church's call to vigilance on this First Sunday of Advent is aimed not only at beginning the preparation for Christmas. It is intended to stir up our souls with the recognition that God is always breaking into the taken-for-grantedness of our lives, beckoning us to open wide our hearts to receive him in every sign of his love.

Fr. Dennis Gallagher, A.A.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

– Psalm 25

### Are you interested in becoming Catholic? RCIA is now called OCIA.

During their November '21 U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops meetings, the U.S. Bishops changed the name of the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) to Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Are you or is someone you know:

- interested in becoming Catholic and receiving the sacraments of baptism, communion, and confirmation?
- baptized in a Christian faith and interested in receiving the sacraments of communion and confirmation?

#### To learn more contact:

Fr. Ray Fleming at [fr.ray.fleming@dor.org](mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org) or Myrtle Fontenette at [myrtle.fontenette@dor.org](mailto:myrtle.fontenette@dor.org), or call the office at 235-3340.

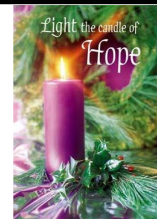
# ADVENT

HOPE = PEACE = JOY = LOVE



### Today is the first Sunday of Advent:

We light the candle of HOPE. We can hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises he made to us. Hope is a light shining in a dark place.



### Advent Response:

**Our Prayer:** God help us to worship you, hear your word, and do your will by sharing your hope with others.



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, 12 families have contributed to the CMA. We have reached 26.46% of our goal (\$3,175). 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.

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US & THE LORD HOLIDAY MASSES

ST. MONICA CHURCH · EMMANUEL CHURCH OF THE DEAF  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION/ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH

All Masses ASL interpreted.

Christmas Eve Mass Tuesday, December 24:  
4:00 pm with pageant @ St. Monica Church

Christmas Day Mass Wednesday, December 25:  
10:00 am @ Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church

New Year's Day Mass Wednesday, January 1:  
10:00 am @ St. Monica Church



ST. MONICA CHURCH  
EMMANUEL CHURCH OF THE DEAF  
34 GENESEE ST.  
ROCHESTER, NY 14609



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION/  
ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH  
445 FREDERICK DOUGLASS ST.  
ROCHESTER, NY 14608

ALL ARE WELCOME... ESPECIALLY YOU!

<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.cornill.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></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of the <b>QUAMINA &amp; HARPER FAMILIES</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of My Wife <b>ILONA WHITE</b></p> <p align="center"><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></p> <p align="center"><i>Rick &amp; Colleen Brade</i></p>	<p align="center">Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons <b>ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Blessings Bill &amp; Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOE HAUSER</b></p> <p align="center"><i>The Wingo Family</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>DR. NATHANIEL HURST</b></p> <p align="center"><i>The Wingo Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>DAVID MILES</b></p> <p align="center"><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></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES STOKES</b></p> <p align="center"><i>The Stokes Family</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>CPR and First Aid Classes</b> For lay and Professional Responders <b>EPIC TRAININGS</b> (585) 615-4379</p>	<p align="center">In this Season &amp; Always For Your Life &amp; Love, We Give Thanks <b>Linda Nash</b> Your Daughters, Lynn &amp; Shlonda</p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>BILL CASTLE</b></p> <p align="center"><i>The Castle Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>GILBERT &amp; CHARITY ADIELE</b></p> <p align="center"><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></p> <p align="center"><i>Love Jacquie, Kimberly, Gina &amp; Jean</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOSEPH RONALD WEBER</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Roxana C. Weber</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>SARAH &amp; DONALD GORDON &amp; HENRY BELL SR.</b></p> <p align="center"><i>The Gordon/Bell Families</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOANNE LESSLEY</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Joanne Gordon</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>TALLAM NGUTI</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>MICHAEL &amp; JULIANA NWOKELO SR.</b></p> <p align="center"><i>The Nwokelo Family</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>ALL THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE McGEE FAMILY</b></p> <p align="center"><i>James &amp; Melissa McGee</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>RAPHAEL NGUTI</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Love Mom, Michael, Camille</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>MATH TUTORING MATH COACHING</b></p> <p align="center"><b>585-247-4941</b></p>