

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

rinnacul@dor.org

Sunday Mass ~ 9:00 a.m.

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

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jeanne.engelbrecht@dor.org

Tracy Jordan, Administrative Assistant

tracy.jordan@dor.org

William Castle, **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 25, 2022

The Nativity of the Lord



For there is
born to you this day
in the city of David a
Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
And this will be the sign to you:
You will find a Babe wrapped in
swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.
Luce 2:11

Let us rejoice!

As we come together in celebration of the birth of Christ, we are filled with joy. Our Scriptures today tell us of the great promise of the Messiah. It is a glorious time for the people of God. Even if we have felt pain or anxiety in the past, our joy endures, for Christ is present with us. Let us rejoice!

Holy Days: Consult bulletin or call the office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: By Appointment.

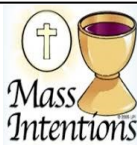
Sacrament of Marriage: Pre-Cana is a Diocesan Requirement. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

Baptism: Please call the office to make arrangements.

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

Christmas Eve

All Our Deceased Parishioners



Offerings for December 18, 2022

Offerings: \$1,821

Attendance: 72

Online Giving: \$205

Online Givers: 5

Thank you for your generous support.



Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl & Phyllis Barnes, Fr. Robert Bradler, William Castle, Bishop Fernand Cheri, Fr. Giles Conwill, Tom Degan, Morris Doucette, Tom Fugate, Denise McGowan, Tim Sullivan, Carolyn Walker, Alice Walters



Sun. Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass—St. Monica-10 am

Mon. Dec. 26 Office Closed

Sat. Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

Bible Readings for Sunday, December 25, 2022

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-6

John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



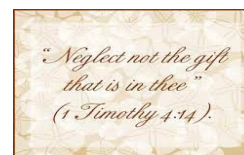
Bible Readings for Sunday, January 1, 2023

Numbers 6:22-27

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:16-21

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 someone a Christmas card who is not expecting one from you.



Modupe Agunbiade, Thomas Bostick, Robert Burgess
Musette Castle, Natalie Cropper, Iala Cropper, Thomas Degan
George Fontenette, Caroline Seide, Roxana Weber

Happy Birthday

Do Something Beautiful for God

The Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa

It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.

At Christmas, we see Jesus as a little babe—helpless and poor. And he came to love and be loved. How can we love Jesus in the world today?



MASS INTENTIONS

For the coming year of 2023, we have many openings for Mass intentions. You can celebrate loved ones and friends with a Mass for an anniversary, birthday, etc. and remember those who have passed away. Please call or stop by the office to schedule a Mass. The offering is \$10.

I Am With You Always
Matthew 28:20

Parish Goal ~ \$9,000

To date, we have reached 84.60% of our goal (\$7,614). 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.

Merry Christmas

to our Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's family, friends and neighbors!



The Christmas Manger

The manger or stable itself carries with it two significant images. One is the carpenter's

skill which is reflected in the early life of Jesus, a trade in which many people identified Him. The other image is the brown wood of the manger which points to the cross; that which once held the infant Savior of the world was also used to hold Him up before the world for all to see. God the Master carpenter has fashioned for us a masterpiece of salvation. Do we see the crosses on our life as a sign of hope and an opportunity to trust in God? The straw and the animals—beasts of burden serve to remind us of the role of Jesus' mission: The task to support and carrying the burdens of our sins from the cross. The shepherds and sheep speak to us of the simple and poor to whom Jesus came to give the good news. Their position like ours is one of humble adoration and acceptance to the activity of God in their lives. Then there is the star which glows over the manger. A beacon of light to direct us straight to Jesus so we, too, can worship Him. In the Christian tradition, the symbolism of the star is seen in scripture and the Church. The question for us is, "Do we take the time to read and listen?" Finally, there's Mary and Joseph, our parents in faith, who allow themselves to be the instruments of God's incarnation. They speak so eloquently of us who are called to be, as St. Francis proclaims in the very first Christmas manger, the instruments of God's peace.

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Mass
St. Monica Church ~ 10:00 am

Sunday, December 26

Beginning of Kwanzaa

Sunday, January 1

Regular 9:00 am Mass ~ New Year's Day
Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
World Day of Peace



Living Faith Are We Amazed?

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds.
Luke 2:18

From the birth of Jesus onward, a response of astonishment, wonder and sometimes bewilderment accompanied those associated with his presence. All through the Gospels, we continually read about this response. People are "amazed" when the shepherds tell them about the angels' message and having seen the newborn Child. Mary and Joseph are "amazed at what was said about him" (Luke 2:33) when Simeon foretells the future of Jesus. When this twelve-year old sits among the knowledgeable rabbis in the Temple, they are "astounded at his understanding and his answers" (Luke 2:47). And so it continues throughout his life. Wherever Jesus goes, whatever he does, it results in people's awe and surprise.

What about us on this feast day commemorating his birth? What is our response to this person of great love who came and dwelt among us? Are we amazed?

Sr. Joyce Rupp, O.S.M.



**The office will be closed on
Monday, December 26 for Christmas.**

<p>St. Joseph's House of Hospitality</p> <p>A Rochester, NY Catholic Worker Community 402 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 585-232-3262</p>	<p align="center">BUCKMAN'S PLAZA 2590 W. Ridge Road, Rochester 14626</p> <p>Please visit our many stores, including City Mattress, Visionworks, Pino's Deli, Megan Nail Spa, Red Cross, Sign Impressions, Greece Chiropractic, Heart & Home Health Twisted Dolls Hair Braiding Salon and Orville's Appliances.</p>	
<p>Corn Hill Neighborhood Association 133 S. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornhill.org</p>	<p>Mileage Master Center of Rochester 2488 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 585-586-1870</p> <p><i>The perfect place for all of your grilling needs</i></p>	<p>Tom Zubert, Realtor RE/MAX REALTY GROUP 585-721-1313 zubert.tom@gmail.com (ICS Graduate)</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of the QUAMINA & HARPER FAMILIES <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of My Wife ILONA WHITE <i>Alphonse White</i></p>	<p>Skips on the Ridge 640 West Ridge Road Rochester, NY 14615 585-865-3896</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of HENRY FAISON JR. <i>Love Mom, George, Adrian, Andre</i></p>	<p>Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY <i>Blessings Bill & Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of JOE HAUSER <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of DR. NATHANIEL HURST <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of DAVID MILES <i>Love your Wife & Children</i></p>	<p>In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the CULLEN & CORRAL FAMILIES <i>Love Ralph & Maureen</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of JAMES STOKES <i>The Stokes Family</i></p>	<p align="center">EPIC TRAININGS LYNN FULMORE, MASTER INSTRUCTOR</p> <p>CPR First Aid Classes for Lay/Professional Responders, Safety Classes for Children, Coaches, Scouts and Seniors Certified Just Yell Fire Training Center Phone: 585-615-4379 Email: mail@epictrainings.com WEB: www.epictrainings.com Facebook: EPIC Trainings</p>	
<p>AVAILABLE SPACE</p>	<p>In Loving Memory of GILBERT & CHARITY ADIELE <i>The Nwokelo Family</i></p>	<p>All About Toastmasters...Your Path to Leadership Where Leaders are Made For more information contact Jean Pryor Meeting: 1st & 3rd Mondays except holidays E-mail-lyceumclub93@gmail.com</p>
<p>In Loving Memory of CREÓLE MON'AE FONTENETTE <i>Love your Grandparents</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of JOSEPH RONALD WEBER <i>Roxana C. Weber</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of SARAH & DONALD GORDON & HENRY BELL SR. <i>The Gordon/Bell Families</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of JOANNE LESSLEY <i>Joanne Gordon</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of TALLAM NGUTI <i>Love your Wife & Children</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of MICHAEL NWOKELO SR. <i>The Nwokelo Family</i></p>
<p>In Loving Memory of ALL THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE McGEE FAMILY <i>James & Melissa McGee</i></p>	<p>In Loving Memory of SARAH ANN GORDON <i>Louise & Shannon</i></p>	<p>MATH TUTORING MATH COACHING 585-247-4941</p>