

# 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)

[rillacul@dor.org](mailto:rillacul@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)

Harry Pierre-Philippe, Religious Education Coordinator

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Carol Wynne, Director of Finance & Administration

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Tracy Jordan, Administrative Assistant

[tracy.jordan@dor.org](mailto:tracy.jordan@dor.org)

Neffee Pinnock Smith, Music Director

[nefetari.pinnock-smith@dor.org](mailto:nefetari.pinnock-smith@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.

*July 16, 2023*

*15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

*The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower.*

*The image of the seed that Jesus offers in today's parable can call us to see more clearly and to listen more carefully. This seeing and hearing requires a posture of wonder, a posture of careful attentiveness. Can we slow down and marvel, watching with anticipation to see what God will do?.*

**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.

*We warmly welcome you to Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's Church! We are happy that you have joined us to worship the Lord this Sunday. New members are welcome to join our parish community.*

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

**Ralph & Mary Destephano**

**Requested by Ralph Destephano & Maureen Corral**



Please pray for the sick of the parish and for family and friends of parishioners: Earl & Phyllis Barnes, Fr. Robert Bradler, Fr. Giles Conwill, Tom Degnan, Morris Doucette, Tom Fugate, Denise McGowan, Carolyn Walker, Alice Walters, Kathy Wheeler

**Bible Readings for Sunday, July 16, 2023**

Isaiah 55:10-11

Romans 8:18-23

Matthew 13:1-23 or 13:1-9



**Bible Readings for Sunday, July 23, 2023**

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Romans 8:26-27

Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

**LECTOR SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

Reader I & II—Makeeda Tatum & Violet Booker

**Sunday, July 23, 2023**

Reader I & II—Joanie Fraver

**Sunday, July 30, 2023**

Reader I & II—Marcia Fugate

**Sunday, August 6, 2023**

Reader I & II—André Fontenette

**Sunday, August 13, 2023**

Reader I & II—Don Toyer

**Sunday, August 20, 2023**

Reader I & II—Keith Parris

**Sunday, August 27, 2023**

Reader I & II—Maureen Corral

**Sunday, September 3, 2023**

Reader I & II—Joanie Fraver

**Sunday, September 10, 2023**

Reader I & II—Don Toyer

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**

Reader I & II—Makeeda Tatum & Violet Booker

**Offerings for July 9, 2023**

**Offerings: \$1,300**

**Attendance: 66**

**Online Giving: \$290**

**Online Givers: 4**

**Thank you for your generous support.**

**Church in Central & Eastern Europe Collection**

Thank you for your generous contributions last week to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe! As a parish, we collected **\$281** to restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit [www.usccb.org/ccee](http://www.usccb.org/ccee).

**July Christian Action**

**Be proud to be an American!**



- *Pray for our leaders and for peace in our country and our world.*
- *Thank a veteran/military person for their service and our freedom.*
- *Care for our earth: pick up litter, recycle, conserve water, and turn lights off when not in use.*



**MASS INTENTIONS**

You can celebrate loved ones and friends with a Mass for an anniversary, birthday, etc. or remember those who have passed away. Call the office to schedule a Mass.



**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 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).

# Thank You

Thank you to everyone who volunteered with the church's annual Corn Hill fundraiser. Your dedication and continued support was greatly appreciated. Also, thank you to Don Toyer for all his continued hard work in organizing this fundraiser. The Castle Family were a great asset in helping with Corn Hill. They really stepped in and made Bill's presence felt. We couldn't make it work without everyone's participation. Great team work!

## National Black Catholic Congress to Begin

On July 20-23, several Black Catholics from the Diocese of Rochester are participating in the 13th National Black Catholic Congress in National Harbor, MD. There are a total of 27 participants representing our Diocese. Their participation contributes toward the creation of the new National Pastoral Plan for Black Ministry.

Let us entrust those who are journeying to the National Black Catholic Congress to the hands of Jesus. Let us pray that they may hear God's voice and become a prophetic people who move towards a vision to thrive, working together to make a positive impact in our communities.

NBCC Congress XIII: <https://www.nbccgathering2023.org/>

Black Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Rochester:

<https://ps.dor.org/pastoral-services-offices/cultural-ministries/cultural-families/black-ministry/>

## Volunteers needed for Summer CYO Basketball Clinic for food prep!

Contact [Jessica.tette@dor.org](mailto:Jessica.tette@dor.org) or [tamidivers@icloud.com](mailto:tamidivers@icloud.com)

and help build our parish through youth sports!



Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's, St. Monica & ECD  
@ Redwings Game  
Friday, August 11 @ 6:45 pm



## Mother Mary Lange, founder of first African American religious congregation, declared venerable

Pope Francis has advanced the sainthood cause of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, a Black religious sister who founded the country's first African American religious congregation in Baltimore in 1829.

The recognition of Lange's heroic virtue and the advancement of her cause from servant of God to venerable was announced by the Vatican in a decree signed on June 22. The Church will now need to approve a miracle attributed to her intercession before she can be beatified.

Elizabeth Lange, as she was named, immigrated to the United States from Cuba in the early 1800s. Recognizing the lack of education for the children of her fellow Black immigrants, with a friend she established St. Frances Academy in her own home and with her own money to offer free schooling to Baltimore's African American children.

With the support of Baltimore Archbishop James Whitfield, she founded a school for "girls of color" and then the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious community for women of African descent.

The congregation's purpose was to provide religious and general education to African Americans. Lange and the other sisters also responded to other needs they encountered over time, including taking in orphans and widows, educating freed slaves, nursing people dying during the cholera epidemic, and cleaning at St. Mary's Seminary.

The Oblate Sisters of Providence was founded two centuries ago as a religious community for women of African descent. Their founder, Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, also founded a school for "girls of color." Credit: Oblate Sisters of Providence Archives Lange took the religious name of Mary and served as the congregation's superior general for two terms.

Lange founded the Oblate Sisters more than three decades before the Civil War and its resulting abolition of slavery within the United States. Although Maryland supported the Union, it was a slave state when Lange arrived there.

"Mother Mary Lange practiced faith to an extraordinary degree. In fact, it was her deep faith which enabled her to persevere against all odds," the Mother Mary Lange Guild notes in an [online biography](#). "To her Black brothers and sisters, she gave of herself and her material possessions until she was empty of all but Jesus, whom she shared generously with all by being a living witness to his teaching."

Lange died on Feb. 3, 1882, at the age of 92 or 93, and her cause for beatification was opened over a century later, in 1991, by Baltimore Cardinal William Keeler.

By Hannah Brockhaus

<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, Greece Chiropractic, Heart &amp; Home Health Twisted Dolls Hair Braiding Salon and Orville's Appliances.</p>	
<p><b>Corn Hill Neighborhood Association</b> 133 S. Fitzhugh Street Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornhill.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><b>Tom Zubert, Realtor</b> <b>RE/MAX REALTY GROUP</b> 585-721-1313 zubert.tom@gmail.com (ICS Graduate)</p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of the <b>QUAMINA &amp; HARPER FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of My Wife <b>ILONA WHITE</b> <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><b>For all Deceased Families, Friends &amp; Parishioners of Immaculate Conception /St. Bridget's Church</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Rose Stokes</i></p>	<p align="center">Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons <b>ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY</b> <i>Blessings Bill &amp; Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOE HAUSER</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>DR. NATHANIEL HURST</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>DAVID MILES</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i></p>	<p align="center">In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the <b>CULLEN &amp; CORRAL FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Ralph &amp; Maureen</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES STOKES</b> <i>The Stokes Family</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>CPR and First Aid Classes</b> For lay and Professional Responders</p> <p align="center"><b>EPIC TRAININGS</b> (585) 615-4379</p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of My Beloved Mother <b>Linda Nash</b> <i>Lynn Fulmore</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>BILL CASTLE</b> <i>The Castle Family</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>GILBERT &amp; CHARITY ADIELE</b> <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">In Loving Memory of <b>CREÓLE MON'AE FONTENETTE</b> <i>Love your Grandparents</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOSEPH RONALD WEBER</b> <i>Roxana C. Weber</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>SARAH &amp; DONALD GORDON &amp; HENRY BELL SR.</b> <i>The Gordon/Bell Families</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>JOANNE LESSLEY</b> <i>Joanne Gordon</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>TALLAM NGUTI</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>MICHAEL NWOKELO SR.</b> <i>The Nwokelo Family</i></p>
<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>ALL THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE McGEE FAMILY</b> <i>James &amp; Melissa McGee</i></p>	<p align="center">In Loving Memory of <b>RAPHAEL NGUTI</b> <i>Love Mom, Michael, Camille</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>MATH TUTORING</b> <b>MATH COACHING</b> 585-247-4941</p>