

APRIL 2021

# HE HAS RISEN

ICSB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.

John 11:25-26

## LETTER FROM CHIB

**BY CHIB  
ONWUNAKA**

I will be completing my doctorate this semester and will be moving on to my next venture. My spirit was called to Immaculate Conception St. Bridget's. I didn't know why but I followed without hesitation and found a great gift. Thank you to the people of Immaculate Conception for welcoming me into your family, encouraging me, supporting me, and showing me love unconditionally. As my time at ICSB comes to a close, I will be forever grateful for the home that I found. I pray that the people of ICSB will work to share the beauty that I witnessed with one another and the surrounding community. At times, we don't realize the light that we are in the lives of other people. The light that you all shared with me, made me a better person and gave me much needed encouragement.

Thank you for the vibrant expression of culture. Thank you for the lessons of history. Thank you for the example of life that was set by the multitude of people that I had the pleasure of conversing with. Everywhere I go, I will never forget ICSB. Thank you everyone and may God continue to bless you in tremendous ways and may the spirit of ICSB be ever present in the lives of parishioners and those all around.



Give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ  
Jesus for you

1 Thessalonians 5:18





## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1150 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, New York 14624  
(585) 328-3210

Easter 2021

My dear brothers and sisters of Immaculate Conception Parish:

I deeply appreciate the invitation of your Parish Council to address an Easter Message to you as we celebrate the glorious solemnity of Easter Sunday. Allow me to recall the events of that first Easter Sunday. On the evening of that first day of the week, Jesus raised from the dead, appeared to His disciples. He greeted them with the words: "Peace be with you." The first blessing of Jesus alive and free from the tomb is the benediction of peace. Why is this? Perhaps it is because we all long so very much for peace and tranquility in our lives. From the young child beginning that new school venture to the elderly reviewing his or her life, we want to be at peace.

But especially at this time, since now for over one year we have dealt with the coronavirus pandemic, which has claimed the lives of loved ones, created fear and anxiety among young and old alike, resulted in lost jobs and our dear children adapting to such uncommon schedules, even the closing of schools. Our world seems now to constantly be in turmoil. Even with the struggles brought about by COVID 19, we must still contend with so many overwhelming challenges: warring nations destroying peace; violence and terrorism even in our own communities attacking peace; the refugee, fleeing persecution and the threat of death, risking everything to arrive at peace; families divided among themselves struggling to feel at peace; the challenging health issues confronting the elderly and the impression given by some that they are a burden, so sadly depressing the elderly and disrupting their peace of mind.

How much we need the peace of Easter! But peace is preceded by first acknowledging, welcoming and making Jesus not just a part of our lives, but the center of our lives. Our hearts need to be open to Him. Remember, those first disciples were terribly frightened on that first Easter Sunday. The One to Whom they had devoted their lives was crucified. They feared that they, too, would face death. They were huddled together in fear behind locked doors. But how that picture changed when Jesus appeared to them: they believed and peace filled their hearts. The Acts of the Apostles describes the courage of those first disciples once they encountered the Risen Lord; they leave that upper room, no longer afraid, and they begin their mission of preaching, testifying and forgiving sins in the name of Jesus.

My dear sisters and brothers, you come from a noble tradition of deep faith, a people who know hardship and struggles, yet you have remained faithful to Jesus Christ and His Church. You are an Easter people, a people who have not stopped believing in Jesus regardless of the crosses you have carried, always seeing even in the darkest hours the face of Jesus and the hope of eternity. Inscribed in your hearts are the words of Jesus, "Know that I am with you always!" You also have a deep love for the family and care so beautifully for the young and old alike; you embrace the family according to God's will. You are a true blessing to our Diocese.

I wish you the joy and peace of the Risen Christ. May Our Savior, Jesus Christ, bless you and your families.

With an assurance of my prayers and begging a remembrance in your good prayers, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ *Salvatore R. Matano*  
The Most Reverend Salvatore R. Matano  
Bishop of Rochester

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE APRIL BABIES!!!**

**James Brooks – April 3**

**Chibueze Onwunaka – April 4**

**Thelma Uter – April 4**

**Mary Wingo – April 5**

**Paterne Hicu – April 6**

**Donald Toyer – April 7**

**Sarah Gordon – April 13**

**Al White – April 13**

**JoAnne Gordon – April 11**

**Julian Bell – April 16**

**Chanty Nsabinama – April 19**

**Franklyn Horman – April 24**

**Joycelyn Bucchan – April 25**







## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME TO THE FAMILY, MICHAEL MCKEIVER

Michael McKeiver was baptized and received First Communion at the Easter Vigil, and received First Penance prior to the Easter Vigil.

We welcome him to the family of Christ and continue to pray that he feels the love of God and hears clearly from God throughout his blessed journey. The hands and hearts of the people of Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's will always be open to you Michael.

### BECOME A VOLUNTEER

We are looking for volunteers for two committees:

Parish Council

Communications Committee

Please email

[riconception.parishcouncil@dor.org](mailto:riconception.parishcouncil@dor.org) if

interested.