

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

53 Winter Hill Road, Tuckahoe, New York 10707

Rectory: 961-3643 www.assumption-immaculate.org Fax: 961-0283
Immaculate Conception School: 961-3785 Parish School of Religion: 961-1076
Holy Mount Cemetery: 961-3643 Franciscan Convent: 961-3970



Year of St. Paul



February 22, 2009
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Assumption

Masses:

Saturday Evening Mass: 7:30pm
Sunday Masses: 8:30 and 10:30am
Italian Mass: 8:30am on the first Sunday of the month
Spanish Mass: 12:00pm *todos los Domingos*
Mondays - Fridays: 7:30am
Saturdays - 8:30am
Holy Days: 7:30pm in Vigil and 7:30am on Holy Day

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday: 7:00-7:30pm

Recitation of the Rosary:

Saturday: 8:00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

A Holy Hour begins after the 7:30am Mass on the first Friday of each month. Benediction and Reposition occur at 9:00am.

Immaculate Conception

Masses:

Saturday Evening: 5:30pm
Sunday: 7:45, 9:00, 10:30am, 12:00 Noon and 5:30pm
Monday - Friday: 8:30am & 12:00 Noon
Saturday: 8:30am
Holy Days: Anticipated Mass: 7:30pm
Solemnity: 8:30am, 12:00 noon and 7:30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession):

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00pm, 6:15 - 6:45pm

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Mondays after 12:00pm Mass and 7:30pm Benediction

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mondays and First Fridays after 12:00 noon Mass.
Reposition and Benediction is at 7:00pm

Pastor: Reverend Eric P. Raaser

Rev. Joseph Emmanuel • Rev. Kevin Malick • Deacon Anthony Viola

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Msgr. Francis Oliverio

Today is unofficially known as ‘Alleluia Sunday.’ It is the last time we will say, sing or even hear the word until Easter. It is an interesting word. It is a compound word; it comes to us from the Psalms in the Jewish Temple liturgies. *Hallelu-yah* is the plural command form of *hallel* meaning “to praise” and *yah*, a shortened form of *Yahweh*, the sacred name of God. It means “All of you Praise God.” Greek renders the word *allelouia*, and in Latin: *alleluja*, then finally in English: *Alleluia*. It is the most joyful word of praise to God. That is why it is not spoken or sung during the season of Lent, instead being replaced by a Lenten acclamation. The term is used about 24 times in the Old Testament, mainly in the book of Psalms, particularly the Psalms of Praise or the *Hallel Psalms* 113-118. These are the psalms that our Lord prayed at the end of the Last Supper as He went to the Garden of Gethsemane. The word is found four times in the Book of Revelation. So for the next 40 days, the “A” word will be silent until the Great Vigil of Easter, when with great fanfare, the triple Alleluia will be chanted.

This Wednesday we will begin the Holy Season of Lent. The origin of the word *Lent* is German: *lencten* originally meaning the season of Spring, referring to the lengthening of days as reflected in the Saxon word for March: *Lenctenmonat*. Lent is a distinct season of the Church’s year. It is concerned with preparation for the Sacred Triduum. The Sacred Triduum is a distinct season of the liturgical year: it is the *Three Holydays: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday*.

Lent is expected to be a time of genuine faith renewal. This renewal is based in the word of God, Sacred Scripture. Fasting, almsgiving and prayer are part of the spirituality of Lent, but they are all grounded in the Sacred Scriptures. We are called to an intent listening of the Scriptures during Lent. There is a significant importance given to the preaching of the word and the listening of the word.

On Shrove Tuesday, our grammar school students, as our tradition, will gather in Church for a brief prayer service in preparation for Ash Wednesday. Then we march up the hill, by the ball field in silence following behind the cross. The old palms from past years that were collected will be in a metal container. I will explain to the children this is how we get the ashes for Ash Wednesday. We then set fire to consume the old palms to make the fresh ashes.

The origin of the custom of using ashes is found in the Old Testament. As a form of humility and conversion, people would sit on a pile of ashes in sackcloth. Ashes, sackcloth and repentance go together. Yet despite the many references in Scripture, the use of ashes in the Church had a slow start. It wasn’t until the beginning of the 11th century, that it was customary for all the faithful to take part in a ceremony on the Wednesday before Lent that included the imposition of ashes. Near the end of that century, Pope Urban II called for the general use of ashes on that day. Only later did this day come to be called Ash Wednesday. When we receive ashes on our foreheads, we remember who we are. We remember that we are creatures of the earth (“Remember that you are dust”). We remember that we are mortal beings (“and to dust you will return”). We remember that we are baptized. We remember that we are people on a journey of conversion (“Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel”). We remember who it is we belong to.

So starting this Wednesday, once again, we are invited by the Church to begin the ascent to a holy mountain. Our preparation for Easter should be seen as a journey. It will be an uphill struggle for some; climbing is not easy. But the goal is to meet where God’s glory and love is revealed: the mountaintop of Easter, where we can sing forever: Alleluia, Christ is truly Risen! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!!

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE AND FAST

During days of abstinence, Catholics 14 and older do not eat the flesh of an animal. Ash Wednesday and every Friday in Lent are days of abstinence. During days of fast (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday), Catholics aged 18-59 restrict their food intake to one full meal, two smaller meals, and no eating between meals.

Father Raaser

SCHEDULE

<u>Sunday, February 22</u>			Centering Prayer	10:30 AM	Lower Rectory
RCIA	11:30 AM	Lower Rectory	Youth Choir	6:30-7:15 PM	Immaculate Conception
<u>Monday, February 23</u>			Bible Study	7:30 PM	Lower Rectory
Exposition & Benediction	12:30 - 7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception	<u>Thursday, February 26</u>		
Altar Rosary Society	7:00 PM	Fr. Fata Hall	Legion of Mary	7:30 PM	Meeting House
<u>Tuesday, February 24</u>			<u>Friday, February 27</u>		
Padre Pio Prayer Group	7:00 PM	Assumption	Stations of the Cross	7:30 PM	both Parishes
Rosary Society Board	7:00 PM	Off Site	<u>Sunday, March 1</u>		
Choir	7:30 PM	Immaculate Conception	Hospitality Sunday	after AM Masses	Fr. Fata Hall
<u>Wednesday, February 25</u>			RCIA	11:30 AM	Lower Rectory
Distribution of Ashes	all Masses	both Parishes	<u>Monday, March 2</u>		
			Exposition & Benediction	12:30 - 7:00 PM	Immaculate Conception

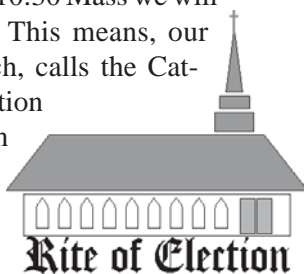
COLLECTING BLESSED PALMS

This weekend, receptacles will be placed by the church entrances for collecting blessed palms from last year's Palm Sunday. These will be used to make the ashes that will be distributed on Ash Wednesday, February 25. Anyone interested in joining the ICS students who will witness the burning of the palms can join us on Tuesday morning, **February 24** at 2:00 PM at Immaculate Conception as we process to the upper parking lot.

PRESENTATION OF THE CREED

This Sunday during the 10:30 Mass at Immaculate Conception, the Catechumens are receiving the Creed from us, as we Profess our Faith. It is not giving them a piece of paper, but our actual saying of the words. Makes you stop and think about your own Faith!

Next Sunday, March 1, during the 10:30 Mass we will celebrate the **Rite of Election**. This means, our pastor, in the name of the Church, calls the Catechumens to the time of purification and enlightenment during the Lenten season. This time is their immediate preparation for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.



ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 25

Ashes will be distributed at the regularly scheduled 7:30 AM Mass at Assumption. At Immaculate Conception, ashes will be distributed at the 8:30 AM Mass, 9:15 AM school Mass, noon Mass and an additional 7:30 PM Mass.

We will also distribute ashes at Immaculate Conception 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM and at Assumption 5:30 - 6:30 PM.

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During days of fast (**Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**), Catholics aged 18-59 restrict their food intake to one full meal and two smaller meals - no eating between meals.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

The next session of the Bereavement Support Group will be on Wednesday **March 4** at 7:00 - 8:30 PM in the Meeting House on Winter Hill Road. Meetings are confidential and involve prayer and dialogue as one journey's from grief to healing and hope. Anyone who has endured the loss of a loved one is welcome to attend.

Pregnant? Need Help? 914-235-0505 or 1-800-640-0767.
Absolutely Confidential - Total Services Free.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ANNUAL MEN'S COMMUNION BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus, Rev. John A. Keogh Council #2108, is holding its annual Sonny Dalton Memorial Mass and Men's Communion Breakfast on Sunday, **March 1**. Attendees will gather together for the 7:45 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, with full buffet breakfast immediately following at Fogarty's, 60 Kraft Avenue, Bronxville. The Council will use this occasion to present pins to 50 year members. Our guest speaker this year will be Fredy Patino, a third year Seminarian from St. Joseph's Seminary at Dunwoodie. Fredy is one of two Seminararians sponsored by the Keogh Council and he will discuss priestly vocations and his experiences as a seminarian.

Please make your breakfast reservations early. For more information or reservations, please contact Fred Salanitro at 793-4662 or Paul Reisman at 722-6381. Tickets for the breakfast are \$20.00 per person. All men of the parish are warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend this enjoyable annual gathering.

ICS OPEN HOUSES: MARCH 2 AND MARCH 3

Immaculate Conception School will hold an Open House on Monday, March 2 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM and Tuesday, March 3 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Join us for a tour of our beautiful school. Administrators, staff, and members of our Home School Association will be present to answer any questions. Applications will be accepted PreK-3 through 8 grade for the 2009-2010 school year. To download an application, go to our website at www.icschoolonline.org. For more information, please call 961-3785.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time for 2009 begins on Sunday, **March 8** at 2:00 AM and ends on Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 AM. Please remember to advance your clocks.



ICS News

Our 7th and 8th graders are wizards at desktop publishing. Under the guidance of computer teacher, Andrew Swift, they are launching a creative ad campaign to "Build the Gym - Brick by Brick."

The 4th graders have been learning about early Dutch settlements in the Hudson Valley. Their work coincides with the 400th Anniversary celebrating Henry Hudson's discovery of the beautiful river that bears his name.

Parish School of Religion

There are *no* PSR classes this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday. Although Ash Wednesday is not a Holy Day of Obligation, we ask families whose children normally come to class this day, to use their class time in church. Look for the Ash Wednesday schedule in this bulletin.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MUSIC MINISTRY

The Immaculate Conception Choir is open to those who like to sing and are willing to commit to the choir's schedule. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings and sing at the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday. All voice parts are needed! We are also looking for *instrumentalists* to accompany the choir. If you are interested in joining this important ministry of our parish, please come to the choir loft and speak to Robert Harvey.

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

The Spring Discernment Weekend for young men (ages 18-40), who are contemplating the diocesan priesthood or who would like more information about it, will be held at St. Joseph's Seminary from Friday evening, April 3 through Sunday mid-afternoon, April 5. Palm Sunday Mass will be at the Cathedral of St. Patrick.

LEGION OF MARY

Please consider membership in the Legion of Mary. Won't you join us in this special ministry in honor of our Blessed Mother? Our meetings are held on Thursdays at 7:30 PM and last approximately one and a half hours. Our work takes us to Lawrence Hospital, Sunrise Assisted Living and The Fountains at Rivervue.

The Legion promotes the recitation of the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplets, and the wearing of Scapulars. Legionnaires perform spiritual works of Mercy at the direction of the pastor. If this looks as if it might be of interest to you, please join us at one of our weekly meetings for a hands on introduction to the Legion. To learn more, please contact Elizabeth Lockhart at 632-1606. We look forward to your joining us.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEB SITE?

The parish web site is constantly being updated and expanded. It includes a bulletin archive, driving directions to both Assumption and Immaculate Conception Churches, and much more. You can even use resources on our site to plan your Nuptial Mass. Visit us at www.assumption-immaculate.org.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Please do not mail Bicentennial donations to the Archdiocese. Mail or bring them to the rectory or drop in the collection basket in an envelope marked *Building Fund*, so we can update our information.

DON'T BE OFFENDED!

Please don't be offended if someone is reluctant to shake your hand when we offer a sign of peace. There are a number of nasty germs going around right now. A smile, a nod, a wave, recognize that we are all children of God!

COMMUNITY NOTES

The Eastchester Police Department and members of the Frey family cordially invite members of the community to attend the 13th Anniversary Mass in honor of Eastchester Police Officer Michael R. Frey. Police Officer Frey was tragically slain in the line of duty on March 21, 1996. His memory will live on forever - he was a true hero and a friend to all.

The Mass will be held on Saturday evening, March 21 at 7:30 PM at Immaculate Conception.

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAMS

Many companies sponsor matching gift programs to encourage employees to support charitable institutions. If your gift is eligible, simply request a matching gift form from your employer and send it, completed and signed along with your gift to: Campaign Office, Immaculate Conception Rectory, 53 Winter Hill Rd, Tuckahoe, NY 10707. If you have any questions or need help completing the form, please call the rectory and ask for Chris. ***Please note: some companies will match the Gym Campaign and not the Church projects. Please read your company's policy carefully.***

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Through Faith We Grow



I/We would like to make a gift to my/our parish's *Bicentennial*

Campaign at _____
Immaculate Conception & Assumption Parishes

My total pledge will be: \$ _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Balance Due: \$ _____

My gift will be paid over 1 2 3 years
 4 5 years

My check is enclosed.

I wish to pay by credit card. My credit card information is on the back of this card.

I will make my gift in stock. Please send me stock transfer instructions.

I wish to use direct debit to pay my pledge. See my instructions on the back of this card.

My gift will be matched by my company. My company's name is _____

Other _____

Please send reminders:

Annually Semi-Annually

Quarterly Monthly

Please make checks payable to your parish's Bicentennial Campaign and return this card to your parish office.

Credit card options include MasterCard, VISA, and Discover.