

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write to you, there are no further updates from the Archdiocese. If that happened after our bulletin was sent to the printer, those updates will be posted on [immaculatesp.org](http://immaculatesp.org), emailed to all our Flocknote registered parishioners and posted on our parish Facebook page.

Again, along with Deacon Marino and Deacon Sadowski, you are all in our daily prayers. So many of you, like last week sent loving messages and calls to the Parish Office concerning my well-being. I feel greatly loved by all of you. Thank you for that.

With today being Palm Sunday, we begin the holiest of all weeks. Unfortunately, late Monday evening, the Archdiocese made the difficult decision to NOT ALLOW PARISHES TO LEAVE OUT BLESSED PALM. Palm will be given out to the faithful once we begin public mass again. If you do come to church for private prayer, you will notice the main exterior and inside doors open so that you may enter or at least see the sanctuary adorned with palms. You are welcome to enter or simply pause outside and offer a prayer.

Today's live stream mass on Facebook and next week's Easter Sunday mass will be celebrated at 9:00 am and not 9:30. This is to allow many of us to also take part in the celebration of Cardinal Dolan saying mass at the Cathedral at 10:00am, which on both Sundays will be televised on channel 11. I am sure his words will strengthen and inspire us all.

Because of the holiness of this week, each daily mass will indeed be livestreamed on our Facebook channel. Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 am. Holy Thursday at 8:00, on Friday, the Good Friday Passion Celebration at 3:00 pm. Holy Saturday evening, at 8:00pm, we will live stream a shortened version of the Easter Vigil Service. This service will include the lighting of the new fire, the reading of the beautiful Exultet (Easter Proclamation), the blessing of the Easter Holy Water and Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Easter Sunday, mass will stream live at 9:00am.

Again, on Easter Sunday, the doors to the church will be open so that those of you who would like, may drive over and view the beautifully decorated church.

Last Monday, our property received its annual Spring Cleaning by our landscaping company. You will notice that the statue of Mary on East Main Street has been completely cleared of all overgrown trees and shrubs. More than half of the statue and base has been hidden for years. To my delight, a bronze plaque can now be seen for the first time in many years that reads; *'Given by the Parishioners, in Memory of Rev. Thomas A. Flatley, 1929-1960'* In the coming weeks, the statue and pedestal will be cleaned, and new greenery will be planted. It's nice to share this good news with you after my last two letters listing restrictions and such.

Last Sunday I truly enjoyed streaming live after mass with the young parishioners of the parish. Many 'older' parishioners joined in as well. Because last Sunday was Family Mass Sunday, I thought it would be nice to spend time talking to the kids as is done at each monthly mass. I will continue that each week. Today and next Sunday, Easter Sunday, I will spend time again with the young parishioners after the Cardinal's mass from the Cathedral is concluded.

God bless the many responses received regarding the continuing financial support of our parish. \$3,885.00 was received last weekend by mail or dropping off your envelopes to the Parish Office. WeShare for the month of March was \$6,185.00. Thank you all for the continuing generosity.

May this Holy Week we begin today, allow us to truly unite with Christ in his final days journey. During this time of closures and isolation, may these holy days ahead of us strengthen us in Faith, Hope and Love.

-Rev. Herbert T. DeGaris

**FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH  
THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

**Holy week is a privileged time when we are called near to Jesus; friendship with him is shown in times of difficulty.**

**Pope Francis**

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION**

**"My Time With Jesus" Religious Education**

While we cannot attend Holy Mass and Holy Communion, in some ways similar to the early Christians in the catacombs, we now have the prayerful hope that this deprivation will bring new spiritual faith and holiness to all our families here at Immaculate Conception.

Our message to Parents: please offer your children, Jesus, who is Our Savior, by viewing the Holy Mass with Father Herb on Sundays at the Immaculate Conception Facebook page.

Please continue to pray always especially the Rosary with all our trust to Our Blessed Mother - (and other prayers such as: Act of Spiritual Communion, Stations of the Cross, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Act of Contrition, Prayer to Guardian Angel to mention a few).

While the Holy Mass, Holy Communion and Praying are most important in our lives as Catholics, please remember to continue "Faith at Home" Series through Formed.org. May God bless you always.

*We are one family caring for each other.*

**FOOD PANTRY NEWS**

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,**

**THE FOOD PANTRY WILL BE CLOSED.**

We are asking at this present time that No perishable items be donated. At this immediate time, there will not be the annual collection of hams for Easter.

**CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Winner</u>
3/30	\$ 25	1315	Lisa Butler
3/31	\$ 25	787	Wendi McGovern
4/1	\$100	521	Brigid McCann
4/2	\$ 25	385	Linda Ely
4/3	\$ 50	1272	Karen McCombs
4/4	\$ 75	1382	Vanessa Pagano
4/5	\$ 25	2017	Bridget Bloete

**Congratulations to all the winners. Once the Parish Office reopens, your prizes will be mailed to you.**

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

All those who are ill at home, in the hospital and in nursing homes, especially: John Capria, Billy Keenan, Michael Fay, Ruth Ann Melia , and Nora Malloy.

**Our recently deceased:**

We will announce at the Mass on Sunday for a period of one month the intentions of those who are sick and then we will print them for one month. After that we ask that you please contact us to make sure that they are placed on the list again for another cycle. It is the only way we know if someone has recovered. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>**

5:30 Vigil Al Matera (req. by family)

**SUNDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> PALM SUNDAY**

7:30 For All Souls In Purgatory  
(req. by Ughette & Religious Education Family)

9:30 *For the People of the Parish*

11:30 Joseph Hagen (req. by family)

**HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>**

9:30 Patricia & Peter Quinn (req. by family)

**HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

9:30 Ida Hannigan (req. by family)

**HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

9:30 Anna Sutherland (req. by Husband)

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>**

8:00 Mass of the Lord's Supper

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>**

3:00 Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>**

8:00 Albert J. Kaiser, Sr. - Easter Vigil Service

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>**

7:30 Virginia Schindele (req. by family)

9:30 Vincent Lyons (req. by family)

11:30 *For the People of the Parish*

---

---

**NEWS OF INTEREST**

---

---

Please keep informed of the latest information from the Archdiocese by joining our Parish Facebook page at *Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church*, our website at *immaculatesp.org* or through our text message system known as *Flocknote*. Simple instructions to join *Flocknote* is available on the Home Page of our website.

As we continue to struggle through this time of COVID-19, as a people of faith we know God is indeed watching over us. Please make an act of Spiritual Communion reception to keep that faith strong and on the forefront of our minds and hearts. That prayer, a prayer in time of need and a beautiful prayer by our Holy Father to the Virgin Mary of Protection are listed below.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**A Prayer in Time of Need**

Loving Father, our life and our hope, come to our aid in this difficult and uncertain time. Look with mercy on all who suffer from the coronavirus. Bless them and their families with Your healing, consolation and peace. Guide and be with all who care for them. Give wisdom and insight to those working to stop the spread of this disease, and help them find a way to cure it. Console our anxious hearts, strengthen our faith, and give us the grace to trust in Your goodness. Restore communities affected by the virus to wholeness and health, and in Your loving mercy, give Your help and protection to all.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer to the Virgin Mary for Protection  
(from Pope Francis and adjusted for our use)**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

+++++

**Holy Week 2020 Schedule**

all Masses and Services will be broadcasted on Facebook Livestream parish page.

**Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday**  
9:30 am

**Holy Thursday**  
Mass of the Lord's Supper  
8:00 pm

**Good Friday**  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
3:00 pm

**Holy Saturday**  
Blessing of Fire, Paschal Candle, Easter Proclamation, Blessing of Easter Holy Water, Renewal of Baptismal Promises  
8:00 pm

**Easter Sunday**  
9:00 am

10:00am – Mass from the Cathedral Cardinal Dolan, Celebrant  
Will be broadcasted on channel 11 PIX 11 Television Station