

FEBRUARY 18, 2018
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018

8:30 AM BRIDGET FARRAGHER
5:00 PM BETH STENFTENNAGEL

Priest of the Day: Rev. Edmund J. Shallow

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018

7:00 AM PARISHIONERS
9:00 AM MATTHEW GERMANSKI
11:00 AM GIOVANNI TULIPANO

Priest of the Day: Rev. John C. Siceloff

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2018

9:00 AM FELIX & DAVID RAMOS
Priest of the Day: Rev. Nalaka Silva

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018

7:00 AM ESPERANZA CASAMBRE
9:30 AM ARTHUR KOWALESKI
Priest of the Day: Rev. Anthony M. /sirianni

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

7:00 AM CHRISTOPHER GALLO
9:30 AM PIERCE SMITH
Priest of the Day: Rev. David A. Skoblow

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

7:00 AM CHRISTOPHER GALLO
9:30 AM WILLIAM BIRDSALL
Priest of the Day: Rev. Stanislaw Slaby, CSsR

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2018

7:00 AM HARRIET BURGHARDT
9:30 AM FRANCESCA, MICHELLE & MARIA GAMBINO
Priest of the Day: Rev. Daniel Sloan

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018

8:30 AM MARY ZIMMERMAN
5:00 PM MAUREEN LYNCH
Priest of the Day: Rev. William J. Smith

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

7:00 AM PARISHIONERS
9:00 AM CIOMBRA & SURA FAMILIES
11:00 AM DECEASED & LIVING MEMBERS
OF THE COLUMBIETTES

Priest of the Day: Rev. Jacek Stanislawski, CSsR

Please pray for our Priest of the Day and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

In the charity of your prayers please pray for Patricia Dudik, Dorothy Laudien, mother of a parishioner, and all the faithfully departed of our parish.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate altar flowers, please contact Joanne Petrow in the Parish Office at 732-251-3110.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The Liturgy Committee extends an invitation to anyone interested in the Presentation of the Gifts to the Altar. If you are willing, upon arrival at Mass, please inform an usher/greeter that you wish to participate in this important church practice. Thank you.



Dear Immaculate Conception Family:

I can hardly believe that we have begun Lent! The time has passed very quickly. As we enter this Holy season I wanted to take a moment to go over the things, we as a parish, are offering you for the journey:

- Once again, we have the Black Books. They are a great way to take a few minutes each day for the Lord.
- Operation Rice Bowl. As a parish, we are once again participating in this worthwhile program that helps us all to become a little more conscious of the many good things we have and how, through even a simple sacrifice, we can help someone else.
- On our website (chicspotswood.com), there are links to sites with other daily reflections that you can access from your phone, during the day.
- Deacon John will offer us a Lenten Reflection as a flier in the bulletin during Lent
- Monday, February 26, at 7:00pm in the cafeteria, Fr. Mhonchan will offer a presentation on St. Francis De Sales as a guide to prayer. More information will be in the bulletin.
- Tuesday, March 6, at 7:00pm in the cafeteria, Msgr. Joe will offer a presentation on "Living Happily in the Mess of Life". More information will follow in the bulletin.
- The GIFT Program, during the month of March will focus on the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and there will be opportunities for all members of the family to go to confession.
- Tuesday, March 20 at 7:00pm in Church, there will be a Penance Service during which there will be priests available for individual confessions.
- We will also have our regularly scheduled confessions on Saturdays from 3:30 -4:30pm. If that time is not convenient, you may call the parish office and make an appointment for confession at a time that is convenient for you and one of the priests.

These are just some ways that we can all prepare ourselves for the great celebration of Easter! May this season be a fruitful one for us all!

Servus,

Msgr. Joe



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of Immaculate Conception Church, are a Roman Catholic faith community with the celebration of the Eucharist as the center of our lives.

We create a vibrant parish life through prayer, discernment, education and active involvement of all. We celebrate our evolving diversity, as well as, our oneness in faith as a family in Christ.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

<u>February 3 & 4</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<u>Weekly</u>	\$11,648.00	\$12,683.00
<u>Debt Reduction</u>	\$ 2,872.00	\$ 3,001.00

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Readings For The Week of February 18, 2018

Sunday – First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

Monday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday – St. Peter Damian

Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thursday – The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

1Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 16:13-19

Friday, - St. Polycarp

Ez18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:2-2, 4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

Sunday – Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 Ps 116:10, 15-19 Rom 8:31b-34 Mk 9:2-10

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Week 1: Jean Birardi

Week 2: Joey DePalma, Ann Lipovsky, Patrick Madden, Charlie Ruegger, Jonathan Volpe

Week 3: Patricia Bendorf, Timothy Burns, Marilyn Crandall, Carol Doell, Tara Green, Peter Heckler, Sonja & Marty Kerins, Deacon John McGuire, Diane Rademacher, Sandy Russell, Jayna Stracensky, James Wheeler

Week 4: Virginia Gorman, Julie Hildebrand, Stephen Magee, Ben O'Dowd, Pat Orzo, Janice Peterson, Brayden Pratt

healing, 1 special intention and all the sick and recovering of our parish. *If you would like to have a name placed on the "Pray for the Sick" list, please call the parish office during business hours. Names on the Sick List will be included for four weeks. If you would like a name to be listed beyond four weeks, please call the Parish Office at that time.*

If you or someone you know is sick or in the hospital, please let us know so that we can pray for them.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE February 24 & 25

Mass	Reader	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5 pm	C. Buffalino	M. Hunter M. Kussavage N. Steen C. Tosado	C. Menezes J. Menezes
7 am	J. Decker	C. Gush C. Maines A. Menezes V. Phillips	E. Petrow G. Petrow
9 am	T. Konopacki	A. Griffoul M. Griffoul L. Konopacki	C. Buffalino K. Buffalino
11 am	R. Davitt	M. Israel A. Kagwe R. Nolan D. Raschdorf	H. Obando B. Perdoni

HOSPITAL AND HOMEBOUND VISITATION

Visits are made to St. Peter's and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital by request. If you have a family member in either of these two hospitals or any of the area hospitals, please call the parish office and let us know. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist bring Communion to the sick and homebound on a regular basis. If you are sick or confined at home and would like a visit from a Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office.



ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, February 28 at 7 PM in the cafeteria. Committee Chairpersons are encouraged to attend. All members are welcome to attend.

GENERAL MEETING & ROSARIAN MASS: Sunday, March 4 with recitation of the Rosary at 8:30 AM followed by 9 AM Mass. Meeting in cafeteria after Mass. **HOSPITALITY:** Bonnie, Vi, Rosemary and RoseMarie N.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER: The Rosarians will be selling Palm Crosses before and after all Masses the weekend of **March 17 & 18. COST: \$8.00.** Crosses will be on site. We will not be taking orders. Also available will be rosary beads made by a parishioner with all proceeds donated to Immaculate Conception Church. **COST: \$10.00.**

SAN ALFONSO RETREAT: ALL LADIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND A WEEKEND RETREAT AT SAN ALFONSO RETREAT HOUSE, LONG BRANCH conducted by the Redemptorist priests and brothers and sponsored by Immaculate Conception Altar-Rosary Society. Peaceful reflection, reconciliation, Holy Mass, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross.

DATE: Friday, March 16 (check in by 5 PM) - Sunday, March 18. **COST:** \$220.00 (includes 6 meals)

Ridesharing from ICC at 3 PM Friday and return at 3 PM on Sunday. A non-refundable \$50.00 deposit payable to San Alfonso Retreat House is due by February 20. Please mail \$50.00 deposit to Eileen Farragher, 484B Fairton Drive, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831. **PLEASE NOTE! MUCH WALKING INVOLVED.**

Please fill out the form below and mail your \$50.00 non-refundable deposit to Eileen Farragher, 484B Fairton Drive, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831

NAME: _____

PHONE # _____

ADDRESS: _____

\$50 DEPOSIT TO San Alfonso Retreat House –

Check # _____

To join the Rosary-Altar Society, please call Elvi (Membership Chairperson) at 732-251-2739.

PRESIDENT'S DAY

On **Monday, February 19, 2018** the only daily mass will be at 9:00 AM. The parish office will be closed for this holiday.

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Msgr. Joe Curry	jcurry@icspotswood.com
Rev. Mhonchan Ezung	mezung@icspotswood.com
Deacon Thomas Griffoul	deacontomgriffoul@gmail.com
Deacon John McGuire	deacjmcg@aol.com
Deacon Danny San Jose	deacondannysj89@yahoo.com
Mark Sahli, PCL	msahli@icspotswood.com
Susan Sahli, GIFT Admin.	ccd@icspotswood.com
Phillip Steffani, Director of Music	phillipsteffani@gmail.com
Parish Office	office@icspotswood.com

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Please welcome to our parish family Morgan Elizabeth Lavelle, who was recently baptized.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 12:15 pm (exception March 2018).

February 11 and 25	July 8 and 22
March 11	August 12 and 26
April 8 and 22	September 9 and 23
May 13 and 27	October 14 and 28
June 10 and 24	November 11 and 25
	December 9 and 23

BAPTISM CLASS

First time parents are required to attend Baptism Class. Our next Baptism Class will be held on **Thursday, February 15, 2018** at 7:30 PM in the rectory basement meeting room, 18 South St. To register contact the parish office at 732-251-3110.

HAVE YOU LOST A LOVED ONE?

When a loved one dies, our world is forever changed. For the heart-broken, daily life is overwhelmed with sadness. The simplest of tasks becomes a monumental challenge as our minds and hearts are clouded with sadness, loneliness, fear and possibly anger. If you are suffering over the death of a loved one, **The Immaculate Conception Bereavement Support Group** may help you during this painful time. Our trained and caring facilitators will guide you on your journey through grief beginning on **Monday, March 5** at 7:30 PM in the Rectory basement meeting room and will continue for the next six Mondays. The rectory is located at 18 South Street, Spotswood. Each session focuses on a stage of grief and offers a safe haven during a difficult time. For information or to register, please call the parish office at 732-251-3110 during office hours or email office@icspotswood.com.

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

The next monthly food collection will be held the weekend of **March 10th and 11th**. Non-perishable food items, baby food and disposable diapers (sizes 3, 4 and 6) are always needed! Please leave your donations in the church foyer before 12:00 PM on **Sunday, March 11th**.



"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...." - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.



COMEDY NIGHT

Immaculate Conception School is sponsoring a Comedy Night to be held on **Saturday, March 3, 2018**. The night will include: Dinner/Beer & Wine at beginning at 6:30 pm with the Comedy Showtime at 8 pm. Immaculate Conception School Auditorium the show features: Kevin O'Connor, Missy Gryniewicz, Geno Bisconte and Charles Abouzied. No one under 21 will be permitted. Tickets are \$40 each and are available at: <http://www.icspotswood.org/events/comedy-night>.



BLAST!

Believing, Living and Sharing Together
YOUTH GROUP NEWS

February Events

Beach Outing

Sunday, February 18th 1 PM-7 PM

Ever wonder what the beach is like in the winter? Here's your chance to see one of God's creations from a different perspective. Join us for a wavy good time. A fun filled day, walking around with friends and fellow youth group members seeing the sights, reciting the rosary, and trying your luck at Lucky Leo's arcade.

Youth Group Meeting

Friday, February 23rd, 7 PM - 9 PM

The fun continues this month with another exciting Youth Group meeting. Join us for some engaging conversation, sharing of our faith and laughs! There will be plenty of laughs.

Calendar of Future Events:

- March 9th - Youth Group Meeting
- March 23rd - Lock In (details to follow)
- March 29th - Visitation of the Seven Churches
- March 30th - Live Stations of the Cross Experience
- April 13th - Youth Group Meeting
- April 27th - YG Meeting - International Nite
- May 11th - Youth Group Meeting
- May 20th - Catholic Youth Rally Six Flags
- June 3rd - Youth Group Mass & Picnic

The Youth Group is open to all students in grades 6 through 12. Come see for yourself how fun and exciting living our faith can be! You don't want to miss it.

Check us out on Instagram: **Blast_2k17**

Do you want to get text reminders for meetings and special events? Text **@askura to 81010**.

Know anyone else that might benefit from Youth Group? Invite them along. Bring a friend and share your faith!

HEALING MASS

All are invited to the February Flame of Love Healing Mass at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at Immaculate Conception Church, Spotswood, NJ. The evening will begin with recitation of the Flame of Love Rosary. Father Ignatius Mary Okoroji SDV will celebrate Mass followed by Adoration, and the Laying on of

Hands for Healing.



REMEMBER THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Heavenly Father, keep safe the women and men serving our country in the Armed Forces around the world, especially those who work to bring order to Iraq and Afghanistan, and give eternal rest to those who have died in the struggle for peace and freedom.





Show your support - Dine to Donate
Antonio's II Pizza in Monroe, NJ
 (400 Spotswood-Englishtown Road).
 Antonio's II will be donating back 10% of each
 sale to Immaculate Conception Church &
 School

February 14th through April 1st
Buy 10 and earn 1 FREE large plain pie!
Dine in or Take out.

2018 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World

By now you have received a letter from Bishop Checchio inviting your participation in the 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal. The diocesan ministries supported by the Appeal directly impact many of the parishioners here in **Immaculate Conception**. Your gift provides formation opportunities for our catechists, youth and young adults. Among other important ministries, your sacrificial gift supports our renewed efforts in Evangelization & Communication.

If you have yet to make your pledge to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so next weekend, February 24/25, which has been designated as **Bishop's Annual Appeal In-Pew Weekend**. Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal to help our parish reach its goal. If we can exceed our goal, 50% of the amount collected over goal will be returned to us in the form of a parish rebate. Just as important as our financial goal is our goal of reaching **100% participation**. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated. Thank you.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL STATUS

To date, the Development Office has received pledges totaling \$19,696.00 and payments totaling \$16,282.25 from 95 parishioners. This represents 23.2% of our \$85,000.00 goal.

MASS CHANGES DURING LENT

We are beginning our journey into Lent. It is a 40-day period before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a solemn season of soul-searching, repentance, almsgiving and reflection. This tradition originated in the early Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when Christ's followers sought to rededicate themselves to obedience, self-denial and acts of service.

During Lent, just as the vestments change to violet, the structure of the liturgy will change, too, as the Gloria and Alleluia are no longer sung. Also, the mood of the music will become more stark and somber. With that being said, in lieu of the concluding hymn, we will be having a silent recessional. The power of silence can be a tremendous opportunity to open one's mind and soul to hear the voice of God, and to tune in to his presence. All this reinforces the theme of renewal and conversion, which sets the season of Lent apart.

To foster our solemn reverence, we ask that you stand in complete silence as our Celebrant and other ministers recess at the conclusion of the celebration. Use this time for silent prayers of thanksgiving and reflection, and remain silent until after you have left the church.

LENTEN SCHEDULE - YOU ARE INVITED!

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
 Sunday 7:30 am, 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 Monday – Friday 7:00 am & 9:30 am
 Saturday 8:30 am

Confessions:

Saturday 3:30 – 4:30 pm & by appointment
 March 20th 7:00 pm Penance Service

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Saturday 8:15 am

Stations of the Cross

Friday 7:00 pm

Lenten Guide to Prayer – Fr. Mhonchan Ezung

Monday, February 26th 7:00 pm – School Cafeteria

“Living Happily in the Mess of Life” – Msgr. Joseph Curry

Tuesday, March 6th 7:00 pm – School Cafeteria

LITTLE BLACK BOOKS

As a gift for our observance of Lent, the parish has purchased copies of the “Little Black Book”. The little book has a short reflection for each day of Lent. Copies are available at the church side exits and on the table in the foyer.

LENTEN GUIDE TO PRAYER

On Monday, February 26th at 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria, Fr. Mhonchan Ezung will guide us through a Reflection of Prayer Life taken from spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. The presentation will be based on the book *Introduction to Devout Life*. All are invited to attend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Beginning on Friday, February 16th and continuing during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross each Friday evening at 7:00 PM in Church.

ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY FRIDAYS

The Knights of Columbus Annual Lenten Fish Fries will be served every Friday thru March 23rd at 30 Crescent Ave., Spotswood. The menu has a variety of fish dinners and weekly specials that include the famous Chowder and Salad Bar, Dessert, Coffee and Tea. Additional side items and a cash bar are offered as well. Doors are open from 5:00pm to 7:30pm. Great place for family and friends to meet and share some time and good food. Take-out orders are welcome by calling 732-251-9878.



**OPERATION RICE BOWL
 CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

Our parish will be participating in CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, as a way to encounter Jesus through others, especially through the most vulnerable in our world. **Rice Bowls will be available this weekend in the church foyer.** Please be sure to take one home and



use the easy and fun resources to deepen your family's Lenten experience and make a difference in the lives of the poor. CRS works on our behalf to care for the poorest in our world and to end global poverty. Visit crsricebowl.org for more information. **Looking for a new way to bring Lent to life? There's an app for that! Free for iPhone and Android. Get daily reflections, meatless recipes, and track your Lenten sacrifices. Visit crsricebowl.org/app.**

2017 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

If you would like a contribution statement for 2017, please complete this form and return in it the collection basket or mail it to the rectory office: Church of the Immaculate Conception, Attn: Rose Saracino, 18 South Street, Spotswood, NJ 08884.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Telephone #: _____

**CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2018-2019 TUITION ASSISTANCE
ONLINE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN**

Families interested in applying for tuition assistance to attend an eligible Diocese of Metuchen Catholic elementary or high school may do so now. The application process is online through FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment. Online applications must be completed (including supporting documentation) by no later than **Saturday, March 31, 2018**. Applications are available in English and Spanish.

Families that need assistance completing the online application, or need access to the technology to apply, may register for one of two Application Workshops, which will be held in two locations in January and February going to www.diometuchen.org/tuition-assistance and following the Workshops link.

TEENS FOR JEANS

For the ninth consecutive year, Immaculate Conception is participating in the 'TEENS FOR JEANS' drive sponsored by 'Do Something.org'. Please clean out your closets and drawers, and bring in new or gently used CLEAN denim jeans. A collection box is in the church foyer now through February 18. Questions? Please call 732-605-1971. Thank you!!



2019 MASS BOOK OPENING

The 2019 Mass Book opened on February 7, 2018. For the initial opening of the Mass Book, requests are taken in person only and there is a limit of 6 masses per family. Please visit the parish office, 18 South Street, during office hours.

Effective February 21, 2018, we will begin to take requests for these 6 masses by telephone. You can schedule masses by calling the parish office during office hours.

Also on February 21 2018, we will begin to handle requests for additional masses above the previous limit of 6 masses per requestor. Please note that the limits of 3 masses per intention and one weekend mass (Saturday 5 pm or Sunday mass) per family still apply. If you would like additional masses, please come to the parish office or call during office hours. The donation for an Announced Mass card is \$10.00. Also available are Unannounced Masses (\$5.00), enrollment in the I.C. Memorial Society (\$25.00) and Sanctuary Candle (\$25.00).

Unannounced Masses: An "Unannounced" mass is offered for a deceased loved one or intention privately by a priest in the missions or within the Diocese of Metuchen at a mass at which there is no other scheduled intention. Unannounced masses are said at the earliest convenience of the priest saying the mass; the date and time is not known beforehand. The donation for an Unannounced Mass card is \$5.00.

Immaculate Conception Memorial Society: Those enrolled in the I.C. Memorial Society will be remembered at the 9:00 AM Mass on the Second Sunday of each month for one year from the date of enrollment. A list of those enrolled is placed in the sanctuary when the Mass is offered. The donation for the Memorial Society is \$25.00 and includes a memorial leatherette folder. You may enroll someone in the Memorial Society at any time during the year - the enrollment will begin on the next Second Sunday of the month and continue for one year from that date.

Sanctuary Candle: A "Sanctuary Candle" is offered for a deceased loved one or intention. The Sanctuary Candle will burn in the Sanctuary for a period of 1 week, from Friday evening to Friday evening. The donation for a Sanctuary Candle is \$25.00 and includes a card and the name of the intention being mentioned in the bulletin.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BULLETIN SPONSORS

Our advertisers have been generous with their support of our parish bulletin. **Let us say thanks by supporting their businesses and please mention you saw their ad in our bulletin.** Some ads feature a money saving coupon.

GIFT SCHEDULE

	Session	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"	Mandatory Mass
	Time	9a-12p	10:15a-1:15p	6p-9p	5p-8p	5PM Assigned Date and Grade
	Day	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
TOPICS	Dates					
The Lord/Slaves and Laborers	February	02/17/18	02/18/18	02/19/18	02/20/18	2/4/18 – 4 th
The road to freedom Through forgiveness	March	03/10/18	03/11/18	03/12/18	03/13/18	3/4/18 – 5 th & 6 th
Quality of Desperation Depression/Hope	April	04/21/18	04/22/18	04/23/18	04/24/18	