



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
– Catholic Church –

4030 Jackson Street NE | Columbia Heights, MN 55421 | 763-788-9062 | ICCSonline.org

“John the Baptist appeared,
preaching in the desert of Judea
and saying, ‘Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is at hand!’”

- MT 3:1-2

December 8, 2019

2nd Sunday of
ADVENT

Mass Schedule

Tuesday	7:30 am
Wednesday	7:30 am
Thursday	8:30 am
Friday	7:30 am
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am (Spanish) 11:30 am

Reconciliation

Saturday	3:30 - 4:30 pm
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San Damiano Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration - weekdays



Second Sunday of
ADVENT

Our Mission

The Mission of The Church of the Immaculate Conception is to proclaim and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ. We fulfill our mission as Christian disciples by intentionally responding to God's call to grow in holiness.

From the Pastor's Desk

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

On December 8th, 1854 Pope Pius IX made a dogmatic declaration about the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Mother Mary. He stated in the papal bull- that is to say an official decree—*Ineffabilis Deus* that, “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”



This significant moment in the history of the Universal Church had a long-lasting and far-reaching impact. There were Catholic churches and basilicas and schools throughout the world that would soon bear the name of the Immaculate Conception. Interestingly enough, here in the United States in the year 1847—a full eight years before the dogmatic declaration about the Blessed Mother—the patroness of our country was named to be “Virgin Mary conceived without sin.” Going back even further, the first bishop in the U.S. entrusted its care and protection to Mary as the Immaculate Conception.

Closer to home here in the Twin Cities the original name for the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis was the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception. It was dedicated back in the year 1868. As it turns out that was not even the oldest Catholic Church in the territory of the Archdiocese to have such a special name. That distinction goes to Immaculate Conception of Watertown in the western metro which was established in 1863. Moving along in time a church in the southern part of the state in the town of Lonsdale was founded in 1903 as the Immaculate Conception. Our beloved parish community of Immaculate Conception was the final church in the Archdiocese to honor Our Blessed Mother with that name back in 1923.

While the liturgical celebration of the Solemnity is moved from December 8th to the 9th this year (because the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence) we still ask for the maternal intercession of our parish patroness. O Mary of the Immaculate Conception—pray for us!

Peace in Christ
Fr. James



This Week's Readings and Observances

Sunday, December 8, *Second Sunday of Advent*

Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday, December 9, *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 10

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 11, *St. Damasus I, Pope*

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 12, *Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Friday, December 13, *St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

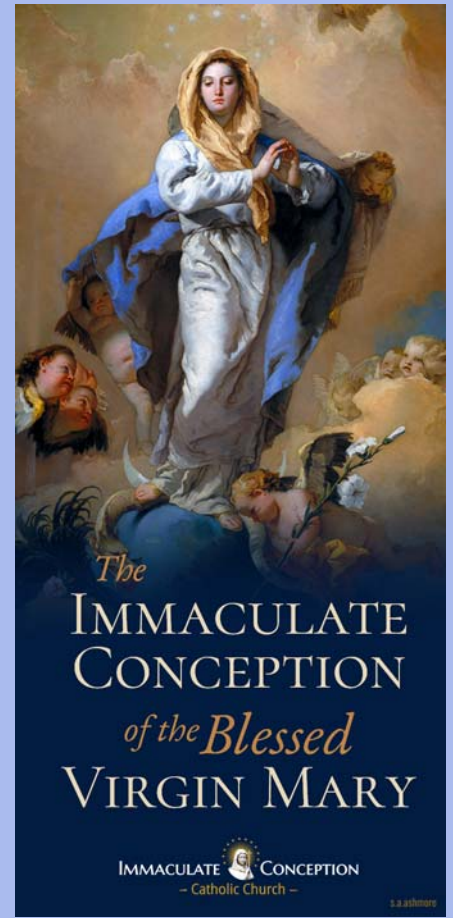
Saturday, December 14, *St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 15, *Third Sunday of Advent*

Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

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The IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the Blessed VIRGIN MARY

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
— Catholic Church —

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School News

Join Us for Our Christmas Concerts

Enjoy an evening of both sacred and secular Christmas classics performed by Immaculate Conception students.

4th - 8th Grade and Band & Chorus Christmas Concert
Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm
School Auditorium

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Christmas Concert
Thursday, December 19, 7:00 pm
School Auditorium

Admission is free—all are welcome!



“God loves a Cheerful Giver!” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Immaculate Conception students, families and staff joined together to help in packing 93 boxes of food to help feed 55 kids for one year. We are so blessed to have this experience as a school community.

Council of Catholic Women

The Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale Is Here!

The CCW annual Christmas Boutique & Bake Sale is *this weekend!* Please stop down to Fellowship Hall after all Masses to pick up some homemade baked goods, freshly packaged nuts, and browse the boutique and craft tables. *Freshly baked caramel rolls are available for purchase on Sunday morning only.*

The Nut Sale

We have nuts for your holiday baking and gifting! Our on-hand selections may be limited because we are not able to return items at the end of our sale. We encourage you to place orders using the yellow or white order form to be sure you'll have your favorites for Christmas. Questions? Contact Kathy at 651-633-6577

Knights of Columbus

KC Christmas Card Sale

The Knights of Columbus will sell Christmas cards after all Sunday Masses through the month of December. The cards are available in both English and Spanish.

Parish News

Dear Visitor

We are glad to see you today! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Know that we are here for you and we welcome new members! For more information about ICC or to become a member contact Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 9 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Masses at Immaculate Conception will be at 8:30 am, and at 7:00 pm—followed by refreshments in the church narthex.

Prayer

Monthly Prayer Intention

Please join the Intercessory Prayer Ministry in praying for this month's prayer intention: *Inspiration for parishioners to attend Archdiocesan Synod Prayer and Listening Events.*

Will You Pray for a Priest Each Day?

Prayer Suggestion: *Dear Jesus, hear my prayer on behalf of your priest, Father [N]. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life. Be his comfort, his joy, and his strength. Amen.*

December 8 - Rev. Michael Ince

December 9 - Rev. Michael Izen

December 10 - Rev. Paul Jaroszeski

December 11 - Rev. Paul Jarvis

December 12 - Rev. Andrew Jaspers

December 13 - Very Rev. Bradley Jenniges, OSB

December 14 - Rev. Glen Jenson

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

Una manifestación
del amor
de Dios



Our Lady of Guadalupe

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego as Our Lady of Guadalupe, she had encouraging words for him. "Am I not here, I who am your mother?" In the image on Juan Diego's tilma (tunic), Mary identifies herself with the Aztec people. She has their hair and features, their symbolic maternity dress. She incorporated their important symbols of the sun, moon, and stars. Today's Mass includes two Gospel options. Both are familiar passages from the Gospel of Luke - the Annunciation and the Visitation. Both are equally relevant to today's feast because Mary's yes to Christ isn't only to care for him but to come to us. Our Lady of Guadalupe is pregnant. The image bears witness to Mary's yes to conceive the Savior of the World. But even in her pregnancy, she goes to care for Elizabeth. Now Mother to all the world, Mary comes to the aid of her children, reminding them of her presence among them.

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“
Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.”
(Lk 1:38a)
”

Eucharistic Adoration

Adorers—Happy 10th Anniversary!

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20)

December 8th marks the ten-year anniversary of the beginning of Eucharistic Adoration in our San Damiano Adoration Chapel. The ministry started with a small group of people praying and planning, and has now grown to include 121 adorers. The commitment and dedication is truly remarkable of the adorers who faithfully attend their adoration hour each week (many of whom have the same hour they signed up for 10 years ago), those who open or close the chapel daily and those who are substitute adorers.

We, as a parish, are so blessed to have an adoration chapel right on our campus and to have so many adorers praying for all of us every day.

Thank you adorers for your dedication and may Jesus continue to bless us, guide us and be with us in this ministry.

If you would like information about Eucharistic Adoration or are interested in signing up for an hour, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246.

We are looking to fill the following vacant hours:

- Tuesdays at 10:00 am
- Wednesdays at noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- Thursdays at 11:00 am, 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm
- Fridays at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.

We also are in need of additional partner and substitute adorers.

Beyond Our Parish

Archdiocesan Synod

Upcoming Prayer and Listening Events—What’s working and what’s not in the Archdiocese? Archbishop Hebda wants to hear from you! Please prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Prayer and Listening Event, as part of the Pre-Synod Process and make your voice heard. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5-10 years. There are 20 Prayer and Listening Events. The next three are: *Sunday, January 5, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Holy Cross, Minneapolis; Saturday, January 25, 9:00 am - noon at St. Peter Claver, St. Paul; Tuesday, January 28, 6:00 - 9:00 pm at Pax Christi, Eden Prairie.* Learn more about the Synod and see a full listing of Prayer and Listening Events at archspm.org/synod.

Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship Sunday

Join us this Sunday, December 8 after the 8:00 and 10:00 am Masses for fellowship, donuts, oatmeal, beverages—and while you’re there do some shopping for crafts and homemade baked goods at the *CCW Bake Sale and Boutique* in Fellowship Hall, (located in the lower level of the church). Hosted by the Council of Catholic Women.

Anointing Mass at New Perspectives

Join us on Thursday, January 1, 2020 at 3:15 pm for an Anointing Mass at New Perspectives Senior Living, 3801 Hart Boulevard NE (Rev. James Peterson will preside). All are welcome.

Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request—call the Parish Office at 763-788-9062 x 212.

Pastoral Ministry Visitors Christmas Pot Luck

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All who volunteer or have volunteered are welcome. Our retirees need not bring anything but themselves. Please call Vicki if you need transportation at 763-788-9062 x 212.



In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the weekend Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212. For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray For Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially and all who have died from war. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

Pray For All the Sick

Especially: Mary Boatwright • Paul Bona

Michelle Cadieux • Nichole Castonguay • Lauvan Cramble
Robin Crisp • Mary Fredenburg • Justine Grow
Barbara Kaminski • Gerald Krawiecki • Steven Lauinger
Roger Mack • Johnnie Meyering • Janet Mihalik
Shawn Moulzolf • Danille Remarke • Steven Murphy Rogers
Greg Sery • Tammy Swedzinski • Sandra Tabor
Elaine Thunstrom • Lois Weyers • Germaine Wolsfeld
and all those on our prayer chain

If your name was removed and you would like to continue to be on the prayer list please call 763-788-9062 x 212.

Social Justice

The Giving Tree

Thank you to all who participated in The Giving Tree. This is our final weekend to return gifts. Containers are available in the church narthex for the return of your unwrapped gifts. If you purchased gift cards please attach the ornament and give them to the ushers or place them in the collection basket at the time of the Offering.



Coins for Social Justice

The next collection is the weekend of December 21-22.

The weekend of November 23-24 we collected \$227.72. Thank you to all who contribute to “Coins”!

Catholic Life Every Day with the Immaculate Conception App

Parish App Feature of the Week: **Real Life Catholic**



- Video commentary from Chris Stefanick
- Inspirational and practical
- Updated monthly

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com



Search for myParish on the App Store or Google Play to download our app today!

Reflections

Word of Life

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother.” (Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her).

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”

Why Do We Do That? — Catholic Life Explained

Question: *What do we know about St. John the Baptist?*

Answer: We know quite a lot about John the Baptist from the Gospels and other historical sources. John was the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth through a graced post-menopausal conception (Luke 1). John would have been raised with an intimate knowledge of Jewish doctrine and religious practice, due to his father being a Levite priest. Elizabeth is a “kinswoman” of Mary. While not in the same nuclear family, the two were close enough that Mary would journey to spend several months with Elizabeth during her pregnancy. We don’t know how close John and Jesus were as children, but they certainly knew of one another as cousins.

Luke 3 tells us he began his ministry in “the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberias Caesar,” roughly 29 A.D. He lived as a hermit with clear ascetic practices, such as rough clothing and a simple vegetarian diet. Despite his remoteness, John’s ministry was prophetic. People came from across the region to be baptized in water as a sign of repentance. John, however, continually pointed beyond himself to the one who was to come: Jesus Christ. John the Baptist’s call to repentance extended to the rules of his day. John critiqued the local rulers, Herod Antipas and his wife Herodias. Previously, Herodias had been married to Antipas’ brother, Herod Philip, but had betrayed him, left him, and married his more powerful brother. John was arrested for the slight and was eventually executed (Mark 6). This martyrdom prophetically anticipates the trials that awaited Christ and his followers. In life and death, John the Baptist served as the herald of the Messiah.

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

World, church, and local events continue to challenge our faith. This is all the more reason to continue to come together and find encouragement and hope in God’s word, sacraments, and our faith community. We are people of hope who are called to persevere, even in the midst of confusion and darkness, as we wait for what is to come. We are asked to repent, especially from our tendency to fall into doubt and despair. We are asked to repent and place our trust in Isaiah’s words that God’s world of innocence will be restored. We need to hear John the Baptist’s words today more than ever: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is a hand!” Rather than being disappointed by what human beings and world cannot give, let us commit anew to what God can and will provide.

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“
**Justice shall flourish in his time,
and fullness of peace for ever.**
(Ps 72)
”

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 8

CCW Nut/Bake Sale and Boutique _____ 7:30 am - 1:00 pm
Fellowship _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Monday, December 9

CSCOE Meeting _____ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Boy Scouts Troop 119 _____ 6:45 pm - 8:15 pm

Tuesday, December 10

Pastoral Ministry Visitors Meeting _____ 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Charismatic Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, December 11

Faith Formation, Gr. 7 - 8 _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Intramurals _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Confirmation I, Gr. 9 _____ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Parish Choir _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Gr. 4-8/Band/Chorus Concert _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 12

Funeral Schola _____ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
Bell Choir _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration _____ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Friday, December 13

Reconciliation (School) _____ 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Intercessory Prayer Ministry _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 14

Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
CCW Nut Sale _____ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 15

CCW Nut Sale _____ 7:30 am - 1:00 pm
Parish Pancake Breakfast _____ 8:30 am - 11:45 am

Masses and Intentions

Sunday, December 8

Mass, (+John Sichak) _____ 8:00 am
Mass, (+John Maniak) _____ 10:00 am
- *Liturgy of the Word for Children* -
Mass in Spanish (Rafael Del Toro) _____ 11:30 am

Monday, December 9

Mass, *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception* _____ 8:30 am
Mass, *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception* _____ 7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 10

Mass _____ 7:30 am
(+John Godava +Jay Dowdle, +Jim Remarke)

Wednesday, December 11

Mass, (+John, Hedwig & Raymond Krokus) _____ 7:30 am

Thursday, December 12

Mass, *School*, (+Walter Latawiec) _____ 8:30 am
Communion Service, *Crest View on 42nd* _____ 3:15 pm
Mass, *Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe* _____ 7:00 pm

Friday, December 13

Mass _____ 7:30 am
(+Bonnie Crema, +Mary Ann Taylor, +Chuck Bernhagen)

Saturday, December 14

Mass, (+Robert & Rosemary Soukup) _____ 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 15

Mass, (IC Parishioners) _____ 8:00 am
Mass, (+Randal & Betty Lou Wilcox) _____ 10:00 am
- *Liturgy of the Word for Children* -
Mass in Spanish _____ 11:30 am

+Deceased

Church Directory

Emergency (Death or Anointing) 763-788-9062 (#9)

PARISH

Parish Office.....	763-788-9062
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)	
Parish Fax.....	763-788-0202
Pastor, Fr. James Peterson.....	x 215
Accounting Specialist, Julie Mack.....	x 204
Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashmore.....	x 205
Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon.....	x 214
Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson.....	x 218
Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille.....	x 212
Parish Business Manager, Michael Wilde.....	x 202
Reception Desk.....	x 201
Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser.....	x 227
Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridgeman.....	x 221
Wedding Coordinator, Barb Hartwick.....	x 204

FAITH FORMATION

Director of Faith Formation, Mary Nawrocki.....	x 210
Administrative Assistant, Mary Scott.....	x 208

SCHOOL

School Office.....	763-788-9065
School Fax.....	763-788-9066
Principal, Jane Bona (jbona@immac-church.org).....	x 220
Director of Advancement/School Business Manager,	
<i>Mary Beth Pfeifer.....</i>	x 203
Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko.....	x 219

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dave Kellner Kathy Johnson Charles Karanja
Stacy McVary Marcus Paulson

Jane Bona (School Principal)
Steve Smith (Parish Trustee)

Copies of the Parish Council meeting minutes are available in the pamphlet racks at the entrance to the church.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available. Come to the Sacristy before Mass to request one.

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Village Orthodontics

850 County Road D West • New Brighton
612-788-9666 • Discoverbraces.com

This advertiser, and the others on the back of the bulletin, make this bulletin possible, please support them when you can.

Gospel Meditation

Second Sunday of Advent

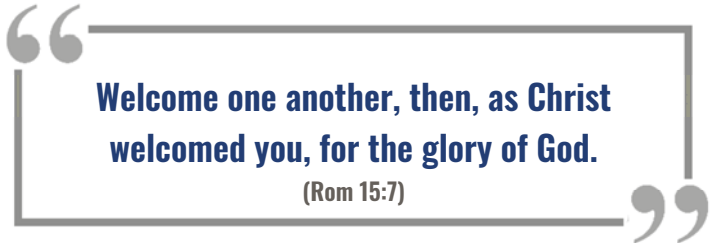


What does it mean to be worthy? There are a few different ways to approach this question. Today's Gospel highlights two: the way of the Pharisees and the way of John the Baptist. Our faith values good works and discipleship. Perhaps, then, we "earn" our worth by adhering to the right doctrines and following the right pious practice.

The Pharisees thought they were worthy. Due to their religious pedigree and proper procedures, they were self-satisfied. John the Baptist's words to them are strong. "Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.'" Of course, Jesus (and John) don't omit the responsibility for moral behavior. John gives the Pharisees quite a strong warning in that regard. "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance ... every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

It's a question of attitude. Of disposition. It's a matter of the heart. If anyone would be worthy in this scenario, it's John the Baptist. Jesus himself will name him the greatest of prophets and a great man. John, however, recognizes his own lowly place in the grand scheme of things. "The one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals." The Pharisees take pride in being "better" than others. John embraces humility in Christ being "better" than him. We don't self-generate our own worthiness. We receive it as a gift from God.

In a few short weeks, we'll celebrate the birth of Christ. Bishop Ven. Fulton Sheen wrote about the Nativity in his "Life of Christ": "Because [Jesus] was born in a cave, all who wish to see Him must stoop. To stoop is the mark of humility. The proud refuse to stoop and, therefore, they miss divinity." God invites us to prepare our hearts this Advent. When you consider your own life, where are you looking for your worth? This Christmas, are you prepared to stoop?



Collections

Weekend of November 23/24

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$ 4,146.30
Plate Collection.....	1,302.00
WeShare Online Giving.....	592.50
Total Weekly Collection.....	\$ 6,040.80

Weekend of November 30/December 1

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$ 3,740.00
Plate Collection.....	1,389.43
WeShare Online Giving.....	1,207.50
Automatic Withdrawal.....	5,792.00
Total Weekly Collection.....	\$ 12,128.93



The Immaculate Conception Church
Our Lady of Guadalupe Council invites you to the

Feast of
**Our Lady
of Guadalupe**
Celebration

Fiesta de
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
Celebración

Thursday, December 12, 2019

Join us for
Mass at 6:00 pm (Bilingual)

Followed by a
Traditional Latino Dinner
in Fellowship Hall

All Are Welcome!



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