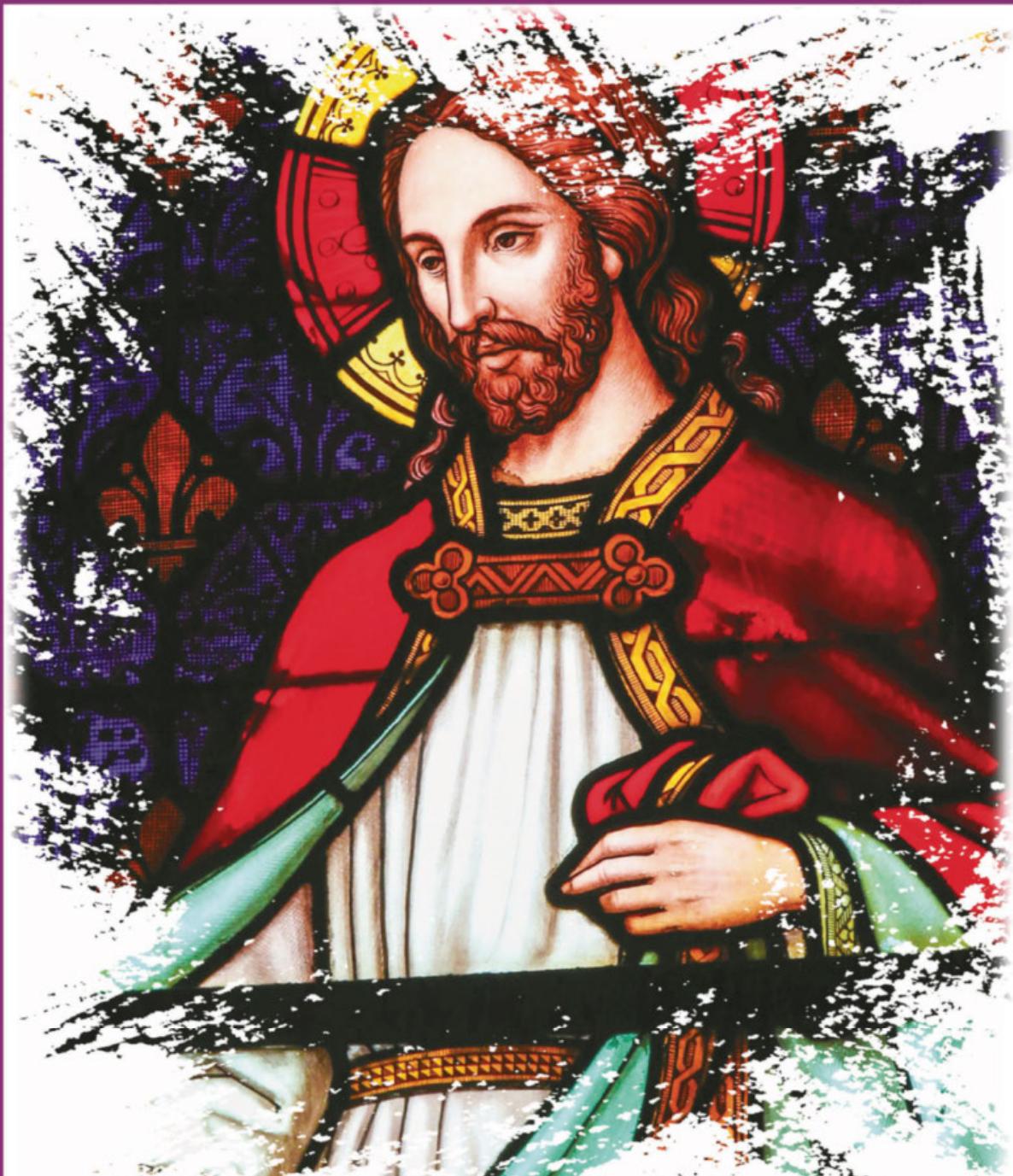


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

21-47 29th Street ~ Astoria, New York 11105

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 23rd, 2025



“But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!” -Lk 13:3

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

www.immacastoria.net ~ 718-728-1613 ~ info@immacastoria.net ~ 718-956-9229
(Parish Website) (Main Telephone Number) (Main Email) (Fax Number)



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH DIRECTORY



WEEKLY MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

7:00AM — Mass (No Music)
8:00AM — Italian Mass/Italiano *
9:00AM — Family Mass (CCD Children) *
10:30AM — Solemn Mass (Music and Choir)
12:00PM — Spanish Mass/Español *
1:30PM — Mass (Contemporary Music)

CONFESIONS

Saturdays from **4:00PM** to **4:45PM** generally available in **English, Spanish and Italian** languages. Appointments outside this time can be made by contacting the Rectory Office.

PARISH DEVOTIONS

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA

This Novena is celebrated on Mondays after the 9:00AM Mass with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, and at 5:00PM with the Rosary and Evening Prayer.

WEEKDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

The Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration from the end of the 7:00AM Mass to before the start of the 9:00AM Mass every weekday and Saturdays, except holidays. The Holy Rosary is recited beginning at 8:20AM, and Morning Prayer celebrated at 8:45AM.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION

Every first Friday of the month, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed from after the 9:00AM Mass through the Parish Holy Hour from 7:00PM to 8:00PM.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

This devotion includes the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 8:15AM, the celebration of Morning Prayer at 8:45AM, and the celebration of Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 9:00AM with the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick every First Saturday of the month.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy

Br. Joseph Rocco, sc, Ed.D., Principal
718-728-1969 - www.iccaastoria.org

Religious Education (CCD) Office

Mrs. Marylyn Crum, Director
718-956-4494 - mcrum@immacastoria.net

Youth Ministry of Immac. (YMI)

Rev. Samuel Mwiwawi, Moderator
Ms. Angelica Flores, Coordinator
718-728-1613 ext. 218 -
YMI.ICAstoria@gmail.com

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

7:00AM & 9:00AM

SATURDAY

7:00AM — Weekday Mass
9:00AM — Weekday Mass
5:00PM — Sunday Vigil Mass *

* Also Streamed on Facebook & Website

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY

9:00AM — 12:30PM / 1:30PM — 8:00PM

SATURDAY

9:00AM — 4:00PM

SUNDAY

Office is Closed

OTHER SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

For Baptisms of infants and children, please contact the Rectory Office to make an appointment to meet with a Priest.

CCD (Religious Education) & RCIA

Please contact the Religious Education Office for more information regarding children receiving the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Adults interested in receiving the Sacraments of Initiation should contact the Rectory Office.

SICK CALLS & SACRAMENT VISITS

Please contact the Rectory Office at any time. Only use the Emergency Number for cases of Extreme Unction (Last Rites).

HOLY MATRIMONY (Marriages)

Please make an appointment to meet with a Priest at least six (6) months before the desired wedding date. Please check with the Church before contacting the Catering Hall.

CLERGY

Rev. Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese.....Pastor

Rev. James Hughes.....Parochial Vicar

Rev. Samuel Mwiwawi.....Parochial Vicar

Rev. Dayon Thomas.....Parochial Vicar

Dcn. Francisco Hernandez

Dcn. Elkin Tamayo

In Residence:

Rev. Msgr. Vincent Fullam

Rev. Michael McGee

CHURCH HOURS OF OPERATION

DAILY

6:00AM — 6:00PM



Self-Emptying

This reflection is going to be a contradiction to an accepted truth in our culture. It is a meditation on a concept that is counter-cultural not only in our culture but in all cultures. It is at the very heart of what makes Christianity unique.

In our political, social and cultural world, in the modern age as a whole, it is an accepted fact that the self is primary. Who I am is what I am called to discover, to enhance, to protect etc. In a word: self-preservation. And not only that. We are meant, in our common way of seeing, to enhance and to discover and to strengthen who we call 'Me'. This 'selfism' is present throughout our culture today. Both liberals and conservatives dwell within the confines of this philosophical and moral world view. We are the children of the selfie and the internet where everyone has an equal chance for self-expression.

But, the way of Christ is different. The 'self' of Christ was His divinity. He emptied Himself of this (St. Paul uses the Greek word: Kenosis: emptying) and chose our humanity to be his mode to reach us in our earthly life. Look at the facts: conceived of a virgin without a human father in a patriarchal society; born in a stable, a refugee from infancy, a common laborer for 30 years; unmarried in a religion of family; itinerant preacher in a world where everyone had a home base; betrayed by a friend; executed in front of His mother and His friends. Can anyone be poorer? Can anyone be emptier?

Yet, it was in this self-abnegation that He saved us and within which He has caused all of humanity to be drawn to Him (since who does not know pain and loss?)

This is an exceptionally radical concept today given that the 'self' is now king. Selfies etc. make the self to be super important and an accepted center of consciousness for each person. Defending the rights of the self and promoting the development of the self bespeaks of an upward mobility expected and cherished which is at odds with the Gospel mandate to be downwardly mobile. Suddenly the words of Christ that many of us choose to ignore because they seem so mysterious gain power and meaning: unless you hate your very self you cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Wow! Now it makes sense. The Son of God emptied Himself of His Divine Self to reach down to becoming a human person, and Jesus made the emptying of the human self of each of us to be not just commended but required in His Kingdom. All this coheres and explains all the hard sayings of Jesus that we tend to ascribe to Semitic exaggeration.

As a modern person, when one hears of this doctrine of Kenosis or self-emptying, one thinks this is a real 'downer'. Of course, it is according to direction (down) but in terms of the inner state of the person, self-emptying is really a joy: to put down the burden of the need for attention and achievement for internal personal validation makes a person feel light again and free.

As the great poet Emily Dickinson put it: "I'm nobody. Are you nobody too? How dreadful to be somebody!" Only when we move toward selflessness and experience the peace of it, do these words of the poet make sense. This world teaches the exact opposite: you've got to be somebody. Name recognition counts. Don't be a loser. Don't you feel the burden of this way of thinking?

The positive side of this process of self-emptying is that, since nature abhors a vacuum, this state invites that we be filled with the presence of God. When we are full of ourselves, we have no room for God. When we are empty, God fills us with His Holy Spirit. Then we experience the fullness of Divine Presence, for this is the purpose of self-emptying: Making room for God.

Rev. Monsignor Fernando Ferrarese



THE THIRD WEEK OF LENT

SATURDAY **March 22—Sunday Vigil**
5:00PM Cleto & Lillian Carullo

SUNDAY **March 23**
7:00AM The People of the Parish (*Pro Populo*)
8:00AM Italian: Liza Mataj & Xhovalin
Vuksanaj, Vincenza Tabone, Elizabeth
De Pace, For the Intentions of Fr. James
Hughes & Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese
Margaret Rocco (1st Anniv.)
10:30AM Jose Formoso
Spanish: Daniel Salvador Matute (12th
Anniv.), Daniel Delgado (Birth. Rem.),
Reyna Gonzalez, Balbino Gil Baez (Birth.
Rem.), Anibal y Alicia Velasco, Jose y
Maria Reascos, Vanessa Natalia Luna (1er
Anniv.), Maria S. Howard, Emerito
Benigno Cabreja, Herminia Cabreja
Zolino, Luz Sandoval (5to Mes)
1:30PM Karen Weinhofer (Liv.) (Birth.)

MONDAY **March 24**
7:00AM Ida Benson
9:00AM All Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY **March 25**
THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
7:00AM Diana (Liv.)
9:00AM Raul Perez and Fernandez Family

WEDNESDAY **March 26**
7:00AM Czeslaw & Teresa (Liv.)
9:00AM Regina Grimes

THURSDAY **March 27**
7:00AM Olga Garcia
9:00AM Nancy and Antonio DePace

FRIDAY **March 28**
7:00AM Alvaro Perez Estrada (Liv.)
9:00AM Robert Rodriguez

SATURDAY **March 29**
7:00AM Vincenza Tabone
9:00AM Coronato Sultana

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

SATURDAY **March 29—Sunday Vigil**
5:00PM Carmen and Sam Mifsud

SUNDAY **March 30**
7:00AM The People of the Parish (*Pro Populo*)
8:00AM Italian: Giuseppe Dimilta, Elizabeth De
Pace, Frasa Giuseppina
9:00AM Deceased of Mirto, Marconi & Pasquale
Families
10:30AM Jane & Henry Regazzi
12:00PM Spanish: Hector Rene Cruz, Camille
Carnevale, Natalie Falcone, Reyna
Gonzalez, Hector Alvarez, Patricia Ann
Brown
1:30PM Jim Anderson

MEMORIALS

 **THE GIFTS OF BREAD & WINE** are
donated this week in loving memory of Margaret
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THE ALTAR CANDLES are donated this
week in loving memory of Margaret Rocco
requested by Fran Rocco..



THE FIRST SANCTUARY LAMP is donated
this week in loving memory of Margaret Rocco
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THE SECOND SANCTUARY LAMP is
donated this week in loving memory of Margaret
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Please pray for all the faithful departed.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual
light shine upon them. May they rest in Peace. *Amen.*

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Fireside Chat
Lenten Reflection Series
Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese

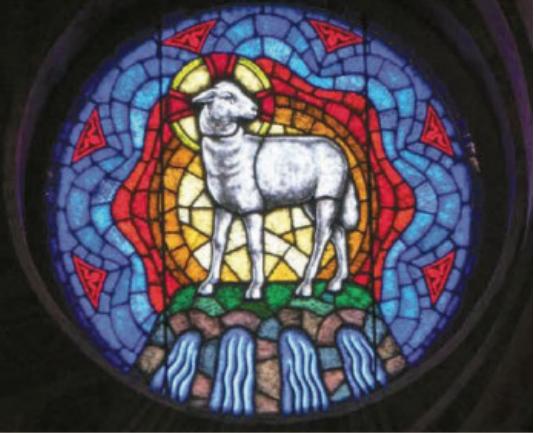
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Trinity

The Heart of the Mystery
of Christianity



March 29, 2025
Immaculate Conception Astoria
Lower Church



Speaker: Margaret Turek
Academic Dean and Dogmatic Professor
St. Patrick's Seminary and University
Menlo Park, California

10:30 AM First Talk: Appreciation of the Trinity: What Difference does the Trinity make?

12 Noon Lunch

1:30 PM Second Talk: Made to Share in the Life of the Trinity: God so loved the world...

2:30 PM Break

3:00 PM Third Talk: At the Heart of Christian Prayer and Mission.

\$50.00 (includes Lunch)

\$40.00 Early Registration by March 15

Scholarships available for those with financial need

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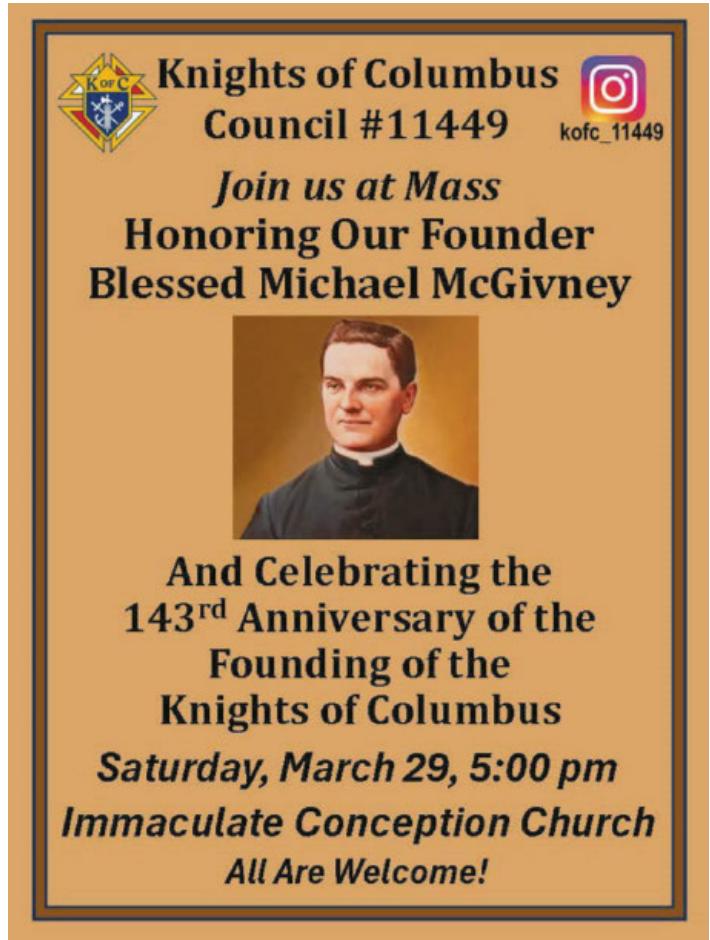
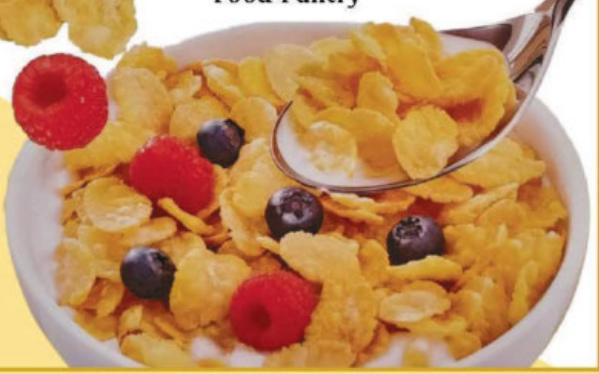
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CEREAL DRIVE

MARCH 29/30
APRIL 5/6

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Join us at Mass
Honoring Our Founder
Blessed Michael McGivney



And Celebrating the
143rd Anniversary of the
Founding of the
Knights of Columbus
Saturday, March 29, 5:00 pm
Immaculate Conception Church
All Are Welcome!

Listening to the Lord

**Third Part of the Catechism:
Living A Moral Life in Christ**

**The Catholic Teaching on many of the hot button
issues of the day.**

March 4, 11, 18

April 1 & 8

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: Lower Church



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