

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)

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*

CONFESSIONS

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

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

<u>SATURDAY</u>	March 22— Sunday Vigil
5:00PM	Cleto & Lillian Carullo
<u>SUNDAY</u>	March 23
7:00AM	The People of the Parish (<i>Pro Populo</i>)
8:00AM	<i>Italian:</i> Liza Mataj & Xhovalin Vuksanaj, Vincenza Tabone, Elizabeth De Pace, For the Intentions of Fr. James Hughes & Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese
9:00AM	Margaret Rocco (1st Anniv.)
10:30AM	Jose Formoso
12:00PM	<i>Spanish:</i> 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.)
<u>MONDAY</u>	March 24
7:00AM	Ida Benson
9:00AM	All Souls in Purgatory
<u>TUESDAY</u>	March 25
	<i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</i>
7:00AM	Diana (Liv.)
9:00AM	Raul Perez and Fernandez Family
<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	March 26
7:00AM	Czeslaw & Teresa (Liv.)
9:00AM	Regina Grimes
<u>THURSDAY</u>	March 27
7:00AM	Olga Garcia
9:00AM	Nancy and Antonio DePace
<u>FRIDAY</u>	March 28
7:00AM	Alvaro Perez Estrada (Liv.)
9:00AM	Robert Rodriguez
<u>SATURDAY</u>	March 29
7:00AM	Vincenza Tabone
9:00AM	Coronato Sultana

THE FOURTH WEEK OF LENT

<u>SATURDAY</u>	March 29— Sunday Vigil
5:00PM	Carmen and Sam Mifsud
<u>SUNDAY</u>	March 30
7:00AM	The People of the Parish (<i>Pro Populo</i>)
8:00AM	<i>Italian:</i> Giuseppe Dimilta, Elizabeth De Pace, Frasa Giuseppina
9:00AM	Deceased of Mirto, Marconi & Pasquale Families
10:30AM	Jane & Henry Regazzi
12:00PM	<i>Spanish:</i> 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 Rocco requested by Fran Rocco.



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 requested by Fran Rocco..



THE SECOND SANCTUARY LAMP is donated this week in loving memory of Margaret Rocco requested by Fran Rocco.




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.*




THANK YOU!
For Your Generosity

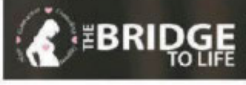
Diaper Drive

sponsored by the
Knights of Columbus #11449
to benefit
The Bridge to Life
You Donated
144 Packs of Diapers



The Bridge to Life supports moms, dads, and families throughout pregnancy and parenting. All services provided at no cost.
Do you know someone who might need their support?
Go to www.thebridgetolife.org
or Call (718) 463-1810 or Text (516) 387-2055

 **Strictly Confidential**   kofc_11449



 **Knights of Columbus**  kofc_11449

JOIN US!

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, March 23
Lyons Hall, 9am - 2pm

We are Catholic men who
**LEAD, SERVE,
PROTECT, AND DEFEND**

We share a desire to be better
**HUSBANDS, FATHERS, SONS,
NEIGHBORS, AND ROLE MODELS**
and to put charity and community first

Interested?
Speak to a Knight
Or Email KofC.org/JoinUs
Or Scan the QR Code

Preferred Local Council: 11449
Church Parish Name, City, State:
Immaculate Conception, Astoria, NY
Promo Code: BLESSEDMCGIVNEY



The
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us
Every Friday in Lent
After the 9AM Mass

Las
ESTACIONES DE LA CRUZ

Unete a nosotros
todos los viernes en cuaresma
a las 7PM

*Excepto el 4 de Abril que tendra lugar
despues de la hora santa*


Immaculate Conception Church | Astoria, NY | 718-728-1613

Fireside Chat

Lenten Reflection Series
Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese

STAY TUNED

Immaculate Conception Church Astoria

<https://immacastoria.net>   

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

Catering by **Bon Soir**



Immaculate Conception Church | Ditmars Blvd and 29th St.
www.immacastoria.org | 718-728-1613



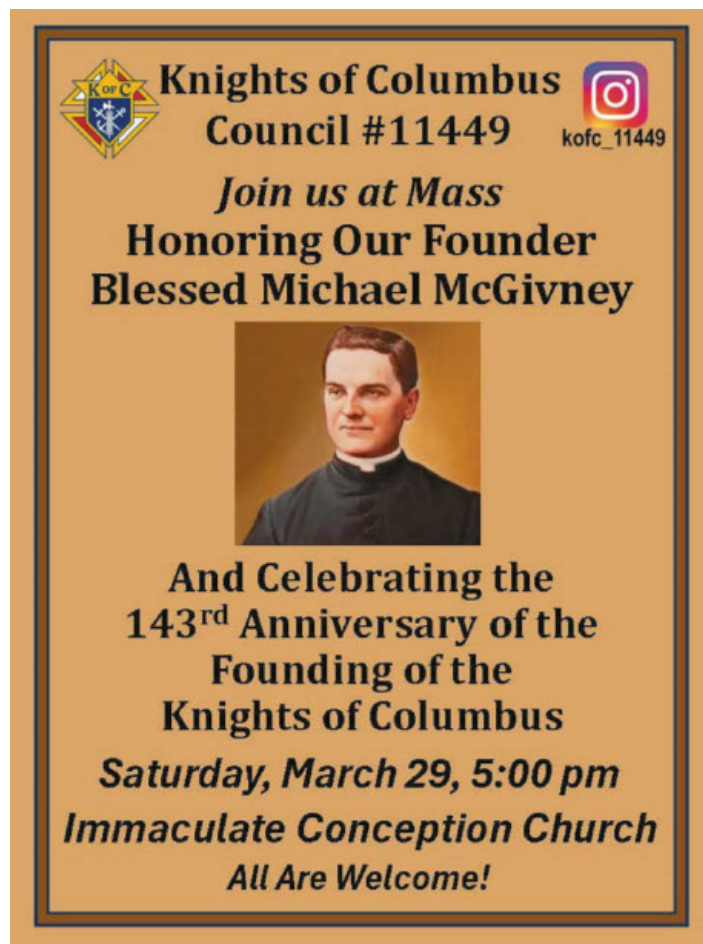
Knights of Columbus
Council #11449

**CEREAL
DRIVE**

MARCH 29/30
APRIL 5/6


PLEASE
BE
GENEROUS!

To Benefit the
Immaculate Conception
Food Pantry



Knights of Columbus
Council #11449

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



OFFERING DIGNIFIED PERSONAL SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

718-728-3131

O'SHEA-HOEY FUNERAL HOME, INC.

JOHN PAUL HOEY, MANAGER

29-13 DITMARS BLVD., ASTORIA, NY 11105

BARTUNEK, INC. HARDWARE

Locksmiths • Glass • Paints • Tools
Plumbing and Electrical Supplies

718-278-1723 • Fax 718-278-2679

28-07 23RD AVENUE • ASTORIA, N.Y. 11105



TRIBORO

PHYSICAL THERAPY

Orthopaedic & Neurological Disorders

Home Visits Available

-Most Insurances Accepted-

718-606-9513

29-23 24th Avenue • Astoria NY 11102

LINDA'S HAIR DESIGN

Full Service Salon
Open Tues. to Sat

Call 718-726-0674

Specializing
in Weddings

28-10 Ditmars Blvd., Astoria

Einstein Electrical

718-274-7600



Licensed Master Electrician # 12170

Lighting • Panels • Power

Credit Cards Accepted



2813 23rd Ave, Astoria • 718-728-9056 • tellystaverna.com

Orthopaedic & Neurological Disorders

Home Visits Available

-Most Insurances Accepted-

718-606-9513

29-23 24th Avenue • Astoria NY 11102

O'Sullivan & Zachea, PLLC Attorneys at Law

Contact: **Kevin O'Sullivan, Esq.**

(917) 992-7049

kosullivan@ozatlaw.com

21-83 Steinway St., 1st Flr. | Astoria, NY 11105



NEW HEIGHTS CONSTRUCTION LLC

WINTER SPECIALS: SIDING, ROOFING, & WINDOWS



SIDING, ROOFING & WINDOWS

Waterproofing, Gutters, Soffit &

Fascia Repair & more

FENCES, DECKS & AWNINGS

Wrought Iron Fences, Wood Cedar, PVC, Stainless Steel,
Chain Link, Pressure Treated & Composite Decking

KITCHEN & BATH

Complete Renovation & Remodeling,

Expert Tile, Granite & Quartz

MASONRY WORK

Concrete Sidewalk Violations, Porches,

Brick & Granite Steps, Paver Stones,

Brick Pointing, Stucco, etc.

INTERIOR FLOORING & PAINTING

CALL NOW
FOR FREE
ESTIMATES

CREDIT
CARDS
ACCEPTED!



**SOPHIE SAYS GIVE US A CALL
AND ASK FOR BIG JOHN FOR
PERSONALIZED SERVICE AND
BEST PRICES**

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED (VISA, AMEX,
DISCOVER, MASTERCARD)

917-642-0195 • 718-767-0044

NewHeightsConstructionLLC.com

NYC Lic# 1191201

DOES YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION NEED A NEWSLETTER?

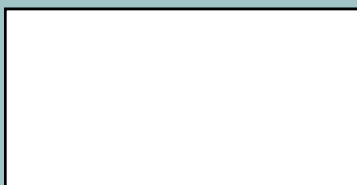
Engaging, ad-supported
print and digital newsletters
to reach your community.

Visit lpicomunities.com



NEW YORK
PODIATRY GROUP
World Class Podiatric Care.
Don't Live in Pain!
Dr. Spyros Tsoumparidis • Dr. Peter Betzios • Dr. Joseph Cione
Astoria Office - 718-721-0441 • 28-06 Ditmars Blvd. Astoria
Glendale Office - 718-381-2300 • 79-01 Myrtle Avenue Glendale
newyorkpodiatrygroup.com

**BRETONE-STIVAN
PLUMBING-HEATING**
Licensed Master Plumber #527
• Plumbing • Heating • Violation Removals
• Boilers & Hot Water Heaters Serviced & Installed
718-545-7750



CRESCENT APOTHECARY
your local family pharmacy
718.777.1110 Fax: 718.777.1140
crescentapothecary@gmail.com

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Robert Ferjanic

rferjanic@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x1885



Ad info. 1-800-477-4574 • Publication Support 1-800-888-4574 • www.4lpi.com

Immaculate Conception Church, Astoria NY 03-4057