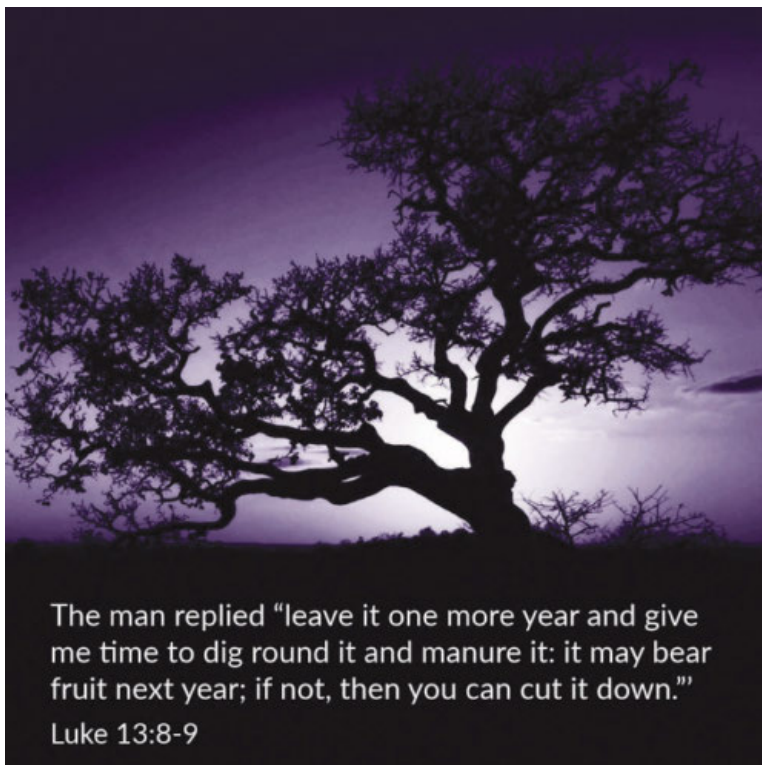


Immaculate Conception Church - March 22 & 23, 2025



The man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Luke 13:8-9

Parish Office:

67 Main Street

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Phone: 518-686-5064

E-mail: immconcept@roadrunner.com

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Website: www.icchoosickfalls.com

Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

The Responsorial Psalm for The Third Sunday of Lent:

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Battenkill Network of Parishes

St. Patrick's Church, Cambridge, 518-677-2757

Mass - Sun. 11:30 am; Wed. 9:00 am

Holy Cross, Salem, 518-854-7626

Mass - Sun. 8:15 am; Tues. 9:00 am

Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule:

Saturday, 4:00 pm

Sunday, 10:00 am

Monday, 9:00 am (Chapel)

Other Prayer Opportunities:

Eucharistic Adoration: immediately after Mass on the first Monday of the month.

Rosary for World Peace and Unity: Thursdays, 10 am (Mercy Chapel)

The Divine Mercy Prayers: Fridays, 3 pm (Mercy Chapel)

Sacraments:

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:00-3:45 pm; Other times by appointment. Communal celebration seasonally.

Sacrament of Baptism: Baptisms are normally celebrated at the 4 pm vigil mass. Baptismal Preparation for parents is held in the rectory on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. Please call the office at least eight weeks before the desired date to make arrangements and to begin sacramental preparation.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please contact the Parish at least six months prior to the anticipated date and before any other arrangements have been finalized to begin sacramental preparation.

Anointing of the Sick: There is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. If you are seriously ill or planning to enter the hospital, please notify the parish so that we might celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing. A communal celebration of the Sacrament takes place seasonally.

Parish Staff:

Parish Life Coordinator: Mary K. Rosmus
maryrosmus@battenkillcatholic.org, 518-409-5226

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Peter Tkocz

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Beth Ferrannini
ICCoutreach@outlook.com

Office Manager: Sue Hyde

Trustees: Christina Angell and Christian Bradley

Finance Council:

Krissy Fauler and Mike Sanders

Pastoral Council Members:

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman, Ellen Scott, Tim Hayes, Nancy Laurin, Jim Shaw and Linda Billert

Music Ministry: Richard Cherry

Immaculate Conception Member Enrollment - Parish Member Update of Contact Information

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday, March 22

4:00 pm Mass

Bob Benkoski

(Requested by Gary & Beth Keegan)

Sunday, March 23

10:00 am Mass

Mary Diane Harrington

(Requested by Lori Mertz)

Monday, March 24

9:00 am Mass

Immaculate Conception, Hoosick Falls

Tuesday, March 25

9:00 am Mass

Holy Cross, Salem

Wednesday, March 26

9:00 am Mass

St. Patrick's, Cambridge

Saturday, March 29

4:00 pm Mass

Anthony & Adele Rubino, Adele Rubino

(Requested by Jeannette Rubino)

Sunday, March 30

10:00 am

Lenten Reconciliation Service - 2:00 pm



Immaculate Conception Church

Mission Statement:

As a parish, which is united with the Catholic Church throughout the world, we the people of Immaculate Conception Parish proclaim our belief in the message and mission of Jesus Christ. We seek to live as a welcoming community of faith, worshipping with generations of believers and serving God in all people.

Third Sunday of Lent

Jesus tells his followers a parable that applies to us as well: "The owner of the vineyard goes to the fig tree to gather its fruit and finds none." God comes to us this Lent, looking for something he expects to find in us. Are we happy that Jesus is asking an account of us? Are we surprised? Are we afraid when we see our lives like a tree full of leaves, but without any fruit?

This episode starts off on a worrying note, but it has a happy ending. God will make a final attempt to help his tree recover: he will take away the soil, put manure around it, and will wait for one more year, being patient with what he has planted with such hopeful expectation. We can't come to the end of our lives with empty hands. Lent invites us to conversion. Is conversion a "church word?" Something we hear but don't take the time to wrestle with it? Here are some thoughts that might help make conversion less impersonal and which may allow us to accept the invitation.

1. Conversion means not being barren, dry and dead. God made us to be happy. Don't let your happiness be taken away by your difficulties at work, by nostalgia for what was. Let no adversity wipe the smile off your face. Don't allow the poison of hatred to run through your veins; always forgive. Remember that the best response to hurt will always be forgiveness.

Cardinal Newman used to say that "to live is to change, and to be perfect means to have changed often." It's not a sign of instability, but of openness to continuous novelty. We won't achieve it overnight; it is a process that lasts our whole life long.

2. Conversion means letting the Gospel penetrate our very way of being until, little by little, to allow it to fill our whole existence. Lent is a time to live as Christ taught us. Saint Paul wrote that faith without works is dead. Let's not be afraid to do what he asks of us. Rather, let us ask ourselves: what would Jesus do in my place?

3. Conversion means seeking God, walking with God, following the teachings of Jesus with humility. We need to change from within, in our heart. Then we need to change the world by bringing it the light of his Word. Lent is the springtime of the spirit; it is the fitting season to open our hearts, to see if God is already inside. Christ is waiting for us in the confessional to forgive us and forget our past offenses.

We will soon celebrate the resurrection of Christ. His victory over death and sin is also our birth to the new life of grace. Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Lent is an opportunity to become Christians again, through a constant process of interior conversion and of growth in our knowledge and love of Christ." This is exactly what Christ wanted to teach us in the lesson of the fig tree.

Winter Weather Policy: If school in Hoosick Falls is cancelled, the parish office will be closed and all in person activities for the day and evening will be cancelled. In case of a delay, all daytime activities are cancelled and a decision about evening activities will be made by noon.



Hoosick Helpers: A ministry of care for the elderly and homebound. Some of the needs involve socialization or companionship, light housekeeping or transportation. If you are in need of assistance or have an hour to give, please call the parish office. **Volunteer helpers are needed.**

Pastoral Care: Please contact the parish office if you know of anyone who is hospitalized or homebound. We can arrange for them to receive Holy Communion and/or to be anointed.

Contacting Fr. Peter

Please call the parish office at Immaculate Conception. If it is outside of office hours, please leave a message including your name and telephone number.

Please visit the Parish Website to sign up for Flocknote notifications, prepare for Sunday Liturgy, access Adult and Family Faith Formation materials and more.

Would you like a piece of history?

If you would like a beautiful piece of history from our church, there are church pews available. Several people have inquired on obtaining one of the pews that were removed, now is your chance. A suggested donation is \$75. Please call the rectory to reserve your pew and arrange pick-up.

Cemetery Clean Up

Spring Cemetery Clean-up will take place in April. All damaged, weathered, and unseasonable items left on graves will be removed. Please remove any items you wish to keep by April 1. Thank you for your cooperation.

Family Faith Formation Program

Growing Up Catholic Faith Stories

Families meet as a group on the first Sunday of the month, October - May, 8:45 - 9:45 am in the St. Joseph Room.

Families meet as a group on the first Sunday of the month, October - May, **8:45 - 9:45 am in the St. Joseph Room.**

Between these intergenerational meetings, they read stories and complete activities at home. (A Home Study program is also available.)

April 6 - The Promised Messiah

May 4 - Retreat day or service project

First Eucharist Prep

Following the 10 am mass:

Lesson 5 March 23

Lesson 6 March 30

Rehearsal April 27

First Eucharist celebrated on May 4, 2025

OCIA Program for Children ages 7-13

March 23 – Celebrating the Sacraments of Christian Initiation

March 30 and April 13– The Sunday Celebration

Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist will be celebrated at the Easter Vigil, April 19, 8 pm.

High School Faith Formation

First Sunday of the Month

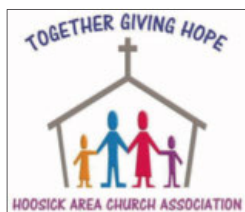
8:45-9:45 am in the Rectory

We are reading *A Well-Built Faith*

April 6 - Chapters 16-18

May 4 - Retreat day or service project

There will be a fundraiser committee meeting on Monday, March 24th at 6 pm at the rectory. All are welcome.



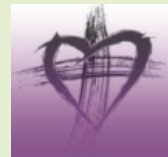
You are invited to our **Hoosick Area Church Association (HACA) Annual Meeting**, Sunday, March 23rd at 3:00 pm in the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church, Hoosick Falls. Open to anyone interested in what we are doing at the Food Pantry and other HACA ministries.

We do hope you will join us.



We have many dear parishioners on our prayer list. If you would like to send them a card to show your care and support, you are welcome to drop a note or card directly to them. If you don't have their address, feel free to leave the card at the church, and we will happily forward it for you.

Take Heart !



The greatest hope of Lent is the discovery that it's not only about penance, deprivation, spiritual struggles, and rooting out sin in our lives. Those are often the things we do during Lent. But the hope of Lent lies in what God does...God's mercy and grace surround us not just in special times and places but always and everywhere. Lent is a time to discover the extraordinary in the ordinary, to be surprised by God's mercy when we least expect it. **Find many Lenten prayers and resources on our website!**

NUTRITIOUS MEALS HELP CHILDREN GROW HEALTHY IN GUATEMALA

In Santa Maria Chiquimula, Guatemala, over half the community is affected by malnutrition. Amid rising food prices and job loss, Ana Belén and her husband were struggling to provide for their growing family. But they saw a ray of hope through their participation in a Catholic Relief Services' program that helps them ensure their children are healthy and have the nutrition they need to thrive and play. Visit crsricebowl.org/week-3 to read this week's Story of Hope.

Lenten Fish Fry

Every Friday, 4:30-6:30, through April 11th in the church hall. Price: \$15 for Fried Haddock, French Fries, Cole Slaw, and Dessert. Eat-in or Take-out.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS:

- 1.) To work at the Fish Fries
- 2.) Desserts for the Fish Fry



There are sign-up sheets at the entrance to church.
Thank you.

Friday Free Lunches

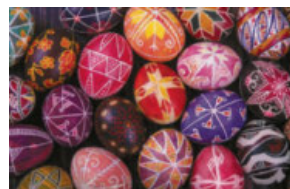
During lent there will be lunch every Friday. This week, Friday, March 28th the menu is Meatless Ziti. Volunteers are needed, aluminum pans will be available at the entrance to church to bring the meal of the week.

Come to lunch and bring a friend!
Every Friday from 11:30AM-1:00PM.



Pysanki Egg Decorating

March 23, 1-4 pm – St. Patrick's Church, Cambridge



Want to learn how to make Ukrainian Easter eggs? This workshop will include everything you need to decorate beautiful Ukrainian Pysanki eggs using a traditional wax-resist method. Ukrainian decorated eggs make a lovely addition to your Easter table décor.

Registration required - (Please sign up online or call the parish office)

Reconciliation –The sacrament of reconciliation (sometimes also called Penance or Confession) is a time to reflect on the state of your relationship with God, with other people, and with yourself, to invite God’s healing mercy and to be reconciled to the community. In our current Rite of Penance, we have three forms of the sacrament. Rite One (individual confession and absolution) is offered at Immaculate Conception each Saturday from 3- 3:45 pm. Rite Two, often used during Advent or Lent, consists of a communal celebration with readings, reflections and an examination of conscience, followed by individual confession and absolution. **A Lenten Reconciliation Service will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception at 2 pm on Sunday, March 30.**

What is Eucharistic Adoration / Exposition?

Eucharistic Adoration is a Catholic devotion dating back to the early days of the Church. It involves exposing a consecrated host, the Blessed Sacrament, allowing people to sit and pray in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Adoration specifically refers to any prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament whether in front of a closed Tabernacle or in front of the exposed host in a monstrance. Exposition refers specifically to prayer in front of the exposed host in a monstrance. You may hear these terms used interchangeably.

During Eucharistic Adoration, it's important to enter the church or chapel in silence and reverence, genuflecting before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Chatting with friends should be avoided during adoration, this is to take place outside.

During Eucharistic Adoration, it is appropriate to do any of the following...

Read and reflect on readings from the Bible or other spiritual writings

Pray the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet or any other favorite devotions

Converse with God through spontaneous prayer or Journaling

Sit quietly and listen or just enjoy being in the presence of Christ

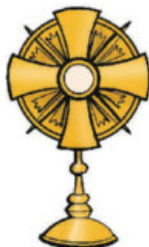
When is Eucharistic Adoration offered?

Eucharistic Adoration is available whenever the Church building is open. Anyone is welcome to come and pray in front of the closed Tabernacle.

Eucharistic Exposition is offered at Immaculate Conception after the 9 am mass on the first Monday of the month and a **Special Lenten 12 hour Adoration (Exposition)** will be offered at St. Patrick's Church on Wednesday, April 2, 9 am - 9 pm. Please sign up for a time slot as the church must never be empty during Exposition.

12 Hour Adoration, April 2

St. Patrick's, Cambridge
9 am mass - followed by Exposition until 9 pm
Sign up on the website or call the parish office



Successful Lenten Fish Fry Begins A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community

The Lenten Fish Fry is off to a fantastic start, bringing together our community in a celebration of food, fellowship, and music. We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the success of this event—our dedicated volunteers, talented bakers, and loyal patrons. Your unwavering support and enthusiasm have made the Fish Fry a cherished tradition.

A New Musical Addition

This year, we are thrilled to introduce a delightful new feature to the Fish Fry: live music to accompany your dining experience. Whether you are enjoying your meal or waiting for your order, the soothing sounds of background music will enhance the atmosphere and make your time at the Fish Fry even more enjoyable.

Week One: Hoosac School Students

In the first week, we were fortunate to have students from Hoosac School volunteer their time and talents to provide beautiful background music. Their performances added a touch of elegance and tranquility to the event, and we are grateful for their contribution. The students' musical skills impressed all who attended, and their presence brought a sense of pride and joy to the community.

Week Two: Nancy Laurin's Irish Music

As we moved into the second week of the Fish Fry, enjoyed the lively and festive tunes of Nancy Laurin. Her Irish music undoubtedly got us in the mood for St. Patrick’s Day and added a unique and celebratory flair to the event. Nancy's talent and enthusiasm for Irish music made week two an unforgettable experience.

Patron Support

Your attendance at the Fish Fry is what makes it all possible. By joining us for a meal, you are showing your support for the community and the volunteers who work tirelessly to make the event a success. We appreciate your patronage and look forward to serving you.

The Lenten Fish Fry is more than just a meal—it is a celebration of community, tradition and shared experiences. We are grateful to everyone who plays a part in making the Fish Fry a success and we look forward to many more years of this cherished event. Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see you at the Fish Fry!

The Lenten Fish Fry is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together in the spirit of cooperation and celebration. We are proud of the success we have achieved and excited for what the future holds. Thank you for being a part of this wonderful tradition.



Lenten Reconciliation Services

Immaculate Conception - Sunday, March 30, 2 pm
Holy Cross, Salem - Sunday, April 6, 2 pm
St. Patrick's, Cambridge - Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 pm

March 22 & 23, 2025

Lectors:*

This Week: Team #4 - Sat. Lisa Adrion/Linda Hutchins

Team #4 - Sun. Marie Slattery/Lynne Mango

Next Week: Team #2- Sat. Mary Suite/Paul Reveal

Team #2- Sun. Gloria Shufon/Bob Shay

*Anyone interested in being a lector, please contact the parish office.

Eucharist Ministers:

This Week: Sat - Beth Ferrannini, Sun - Gloria Shufon

Next Week: Sat - Maggie Kinney, Sun - Mike Broomm

Counters:

This Week: Ellen McMartin & Jerry McAuliffe

Next Week: Ellen McMartin & Carol Ryan

~ **Sacrificial Offerings & Attendance for March 15 & 16** ~

Regular Offertory.....\$2,750.00

Candle Sales.....9.00

Total.....\$2,759.00

Attendance:

Saturday, March 15 (4:00 pm).....108

Sunday, March 16 (10:00 am)84

Total192

Thank you for your contributions!

Revenue for February: \$15,611.00 *

Budgeted \$21,888.92

Average Attendance for February: 95*

Average Attendance for Sat. in February 63.5

Average Attendance for Sun. in February 31.25*

*Two Sunday masses were cancelled due to weather.

The next special collection is **March 30** for **Catholic Relief Services**.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:



Mary Ann Anderson, Sandi Baker, Tony Baratto,
Rev. Joseph Busch, Cody Colegrove, Josh Colegrove,
Lisa Davendonis, George Driscoll, Teresa Driscoll,
Bill Huffman, Leona Kinney, Patty LaBombard, Artie Lane,
Greg Laurin, Stephanie March, Denise Martin,
Lois Milliman, Chrissy Osbourne, Cathy Peabody, Jeff Peck,

Danny Peer, Beverly Perry, Linda R., Paul Reveal, Pope Francis,
Joe Rizzo, Patti Ryan, Phyllis Sargood, Pat Sinacore, Kelley Sommer,
Skyler Stone, Muriel Waytkus, Joyce Whalen, Kay Wright,
Mary Jane Wysocki, Marty Yarborough and all those who are ill or hurt-
ing. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still
be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of
prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at
518-686-7835.

HACA Food Pantry is open regular hours, Mondays and Fridays
10:00 am to noon, and Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm. Families
may select the items they need or they can take a prepackaged
order. Frozen meat, dairy products, produce and bread will be
added at the time of pickup. Anyone who is unable to get to the
pantry or needs assistance can email HACA at hacaine12090@gmail.com or call
518-686-5163 and leave a message.



Items needed this month: Stuffing mix, chicken noodle soup, dried kidney beans,
dried pinto beans, dried lentils, bar soap, shampoo.

Food Pantry Volunteers: We are looking for volunteers to help. For information
and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 518-686-5310.

- You may leave your donations to the Food Pantry on the shelves near the en-
trance of church and we will transport for you. Thank you for your support.

Volunteer! Call the parish office at 518-686-5064

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