



Immaculate Conception

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

900 Darlington Ave.
Mahwah, NJ 07430
www.iccmahwah.org
201-327-1276

January 2, 2022 - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



Office hours: Sunday: 8:30am - Noon; Mon-Thurs: 9am - Noon; Friday and Saturday: Closed

Come Celebrate With Us!

HOLY MASS

Saturday
5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday
7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 AM
(9:30 Mass is also Livestreamed online at
www.ICCMahwah.org)

Weekday
12:00 NOON

Holy Day & Holiday
As announced in the Parish Bulletin

RECONCILIATION

at the Oasis of Mercy Room

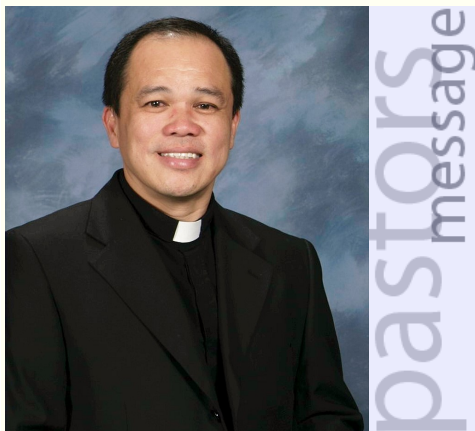
1st and 3rd Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 PM - Adorno Father / Confessor
2nd and 4th Saturday 4:30 - 4:50 P.M. - Fr. Manolo / Confessor

HOLY ROSARY

Daily at 11:30 am

CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Daily after Mass



My dear parishioners,

We've all just been handed something very special: a "brand, spanking-new" New Year with which to do some very special things. OR not. It's really up to us.

Newness is something that is very popular in our American culture. Who doesn't enjoy that "new car" smell, that fresh-out-of-the box aroma of a new pair of leather shoes, or the feel of that nice Christmas sweater you just opened? Even now, New Year's resolutions have that new car smell at the moment. Our resolve is high to make this year different than other years. But if the truth be told, the average time between the moment we make our resolutions and their demise is a sad three weeks. By that time all the newness has been aired out of them – and they become mere chores. It's one of the reasons I don't make resolutions.

Instead, I'd like to offer us a different focus for our New Year's enthusiasm.

Let's focus on provisions for the journey. We're also a culture that, when faced by the unknown, like to stock up on what we need. I remember during the early part of the pandemic, there was panic buying from food to paper products.

When there is forecast of heavy snow, try to go anywhere and you'll see people "stocking up" for the possibility that they'll be sheltering in place against a blizzard.

I've often been fascinated why a snowstorm requires bread milk and eggs, any more than any other day in the year. But apparently, it makes our anxious egos less riled up.

So my question for you is this. Focus on the year ahead. What are the most important "provisions" that you will need for the journey? When you think about the most challenging times in your life, what are the most important things that have tided you over?

Personally, I can think of some precious things that have gotten me through. The majority of these things take up little or no physical space, which make sense because Jesus always encouraged his disciples to travel light. In Mark 6:8-9, Jesus "charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics." His point was not to be impoverished but to clear their vision of material things so that they can clearly see the most precious provisions of all: other people, and the

presence of God in those people.

Of the most precious things on my journey, I count the kind presence of friends in dark hours. I stockpile in my mind the sound of their voices. I also hoard up within my soul those moments when I have been transported by beauty far beyond the ordinary; the ring of truth in scripture; a perfect poem, or word of wisdom from a spiritual master and those transcendent moments when I hear the voice of God through music or song. You know these moments when you experience this soul-stirring moment.

These are my provisions for the times the wind blows. So at the beginning of this new journey of 2022, as you put away your milk, eggs and bread, I ask you to contemplate this: who and what are the real provisions of your life? Think of them, and tuck them away in that special part of your heart that you reserve for precious things.

To all of you and your families, I extend the greetings of each of us here at Immaculate Conception Church. Be assured that each of you is in my prayers and thoughts. May the Christ child, Blessed Virgin Mary and St Joseph fill your hearts, lives and homes with the many blessings throughout the New Year 2022.

Fr. Manolo

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place every First Friday of each month from 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome to spend time with the Lord.

In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering." Pope Benedict XVI

The more time you spend with Jesus, the more you will come away feeling renewed and healed. Miracles of conversion, peace, discovery of vocations, answers to prayers, physical healings, and many other wonderful things happen where and when the Lord Jesus is adored in the Blessed Sacrament. They are the "gifts" that point to the Almighty Giver and testify to His Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

Let us love being with the Lord! There we can speak with Him about everything. We can offer Him our petitions, our concerns, our troubles, our joys, our gratitude, our disappointments, our needs and our aspirations. Above all we can remember to pray: 'Lord send laborers into Your harvest! Help me to be a good worker in Your vineyard!'





Dear parishioners,

During the pandemic, among many of the phrases which have frequently been employed, the fact that we are all in it together, stands out. On May 21, 2021, our Holy Father, Pope Francis surprised the Church by announcing the Synod of Bishops in 2023. The title is “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation, and mission.” And he asks us all to prepare for it. So, what on earth is a Synod? Well, we are all in it together, or at least, we are all journeying together, we are all on the road together.

Synodality is about journeying together and becoming who God calls us to be as a Church, all of us together, amidst the reality of today’s world. It is an invitation to the Catholic Church across the world to begin a journey of listening attentively to the Lord and to each other. We want to deepen our understanding of what it means to live together, in union with Christ, as fellow disciples called to announce His Gospel. This experience of encounter is called a Synod and follows a Synodal process. The word Synod comes from two Greek words which mean ‘journeying forward on the way together,’ the Way who is the Lord

Jesus, our Truth and our Life.

The Archdiocese of Newark joined dioceses throughout the world in celebrating a special Opening Mass on Oct. 17 to launch “Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church,” a two-year re-examination of the way the Catholic Church is listening to and walking with its parishioners. Sr. Juanita Arnister, our Shepherding Minister will be the ICC Synod Coordinator.

There are three key words for this Synodal process: communion, participation, and mission. Put simply: What does it mean for us to belong to Christ and be in relationship with His Church? What does it mean for us to be engaged and involved with Christ in His Church? What does it mean for us to be sent out, in proclamation and service, by Christ and His Church? We are being asked to rediscover together – laity, clergy, and religious – what it means to be a servant-Church, rooted in Christ who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. The Synod is an opportunity for everyone baptized into Christ to consider what it means to be a missionary disciple. It begins at the grassroots and leads, through a national and continental phase, to a

gathering in Rome in 2023.

We might ask what is the purpose of the Synod? Pope Francis is quite clear. It is an event in the life of the Church where the primary agent is the Holy Spirit. We are to be a listening Church, characterized by closeness, compassion and tender love. This is the foundation and pathway for sharing all we hold to be true and good and beautiful in our Catholic faith.

At the end of the Second Vatican Council, Pope St Paul VI in December 1965 spoke words worth hearing again as we consider afresh our Christian calling:

‘The Church has gathered herself together in deep spiritual awareness, not to produce a learned analysis of religious psychology, or an account of her own experiences, not even to devote herself to reaffirming her rights and explaining her laws. Rather, it was to find in herself, active and alive, the Holy Spirit, the word of Christ; and to probe more deeply still the mystery, the plan and the presence of God above and within herself; to revitalize in herself that faith which is the secret of her confidence and of her wisdom, and that love which impels her to sing without ceasing the praises of God.’

We have been allotted a timeline for the diocesan Synodal process. It will, however, hopefully begin a more extended discernment. This will be carried forward to shape our pastoral vision and planning into the future. It will help us understand what it means to be the Church at this time in our place. It will serve our renewal, personally and communally. As Pope Francis reminds us, we journey together as the one People of God in order to experience a Church that receives and lives the gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit.

Pope Francis has several questions for you to be thinking about. Here he introduces the questions:

Enlightened by the Word and grounded in Tradition, the synodal path is rooted in the concrete life of the People of God. In fact, it presents a peculiarity that is also an extraordinary

resource: its object - Synodality - is also its method. In other words, it constitutes a sort of construction site or pilot experience that makes it possible to immediately begin reaping the fruits of the dynamic that progressive synodal conversion introduces into the Christian community. On the other hand, it can only refer to the experiences of synodality lived, at different levels and with different degrees of intensity: valuable elements for discernment on the direction in which to continue to move are offered by their strengths and achievements, and also by their limitations and difficulties. Of course, here, reference is made to the experiences activated by the present synodal journey, but also to all those in which forms of "journeying together" are already being experienced in ordinary life, even if the term synodality is not known or used.

I encourage everyone in our parish to take part in the Synod by participating in this process. Let us listen and reflect as widely as possible, including people of all ages and backgrounds, and groups and organizations within the local community.

In April, the Archdiocese will gather, analyze, and synthesize information from all parish listening sessions into one report that will be submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Similarly, dioceses across the U.S. and globally will submit their local findings, which will ultimately be consolidated into reports

for discussion among the world's bishops and the Vatican to help guide Pope Francis on decisions about how the Church should proceed in the future.

We have a hope in the Lord Jesus. These are the most important words I could ever say to you. In the Lord Jesus we have a hope for our world, a world which God created, a world which God loves. In Him we have a hope for our common humanity which God shared by taking flesh and dwelling among us. In the Lord Jesus we have a hope for the Church, Christ's Body, called to announce the Gospel with confidence and joy. In Him we have a hope for each other, that our lives have a purpose, a dignity and a destiny, that we can live in love, with justice, for peace. We have a hope in the Lord Jesus, crucified and risen from the dead, alive in His Church, alive in His Word, alive in His Sacraments. Dear friends we have a hope in the Lord Jesus, alive in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for Our Holy Father and the Synodal process in our Archdiocese and worldwide, that the Holy Spirit will draw us more closely together in the truth and send us out as a light to the nations. May God bless you as we begin this journey together, confident that the Lord always works for good through those who love Him.

I ask all of you to pray for the Church as it prepares for this important spiritual endeavor. It is my hope, as

your pastor, that we will all fruitfully participate in and benefit from the Synod at the archdiocesan level, listening to one another as we share our different "stories," experiences, challenges and hopes for the Church at this exciting time in its history.

In conclusion, I invite the entire Immaculate Conception Church to join in this "Prayer for the Success of the Synod":

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Manolo



GOING AWAY THIS WINTER?

We know many of our parishioners like to vacation in warmer climates during the winter and we rejoice with you, but we still count on your faithful commitment to our parish in remembering us in your prayers and financial support. So while you are away please keep connected to your home parish:

- By updating us with your mailing address
- Information on when you are leaving and returning
- Please consider setting up an ONLINE GIVING account before you go (call the Parish Office for more information 201-327-1276).
- Read the Parish Bulletins online www.ICCMahwah.org.
- If you or a family member needs prayers, let us know so we can pray for them. Enjoy your time away and we look forward to your return.

PLAN AHEAD FOR YOUR YEAR END GIVING TO ICC NON TAXABLE IRA DIRECT DONATIONS

If you are 70 1/2 and you have a traditional (taxable) IRA (not a Roth), then you can donate up to \$100,000 a year to Immaculate Conception Church and **avoid any tax if the donation is made as a direct donation to ICC**. These tax exempt direct distributions are known as "Qualified Charitable Distributions" (QCDs) since that is the term used for them in the Internal Revenue Code. IRC § 408 (d) 8 (A) – (B). Although this is not a tax deduction, it is just as good---you are using pre-tax income and avoiding taxes on that income. Furthermore, the QCD also counts towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). This is particularly beneficial if you are not fully utilizing your Required Minimum Distribution and if you don't normally itemize deductions. But, to get this tax benefit you have to meticulously follow the rules. Please call the office or email Robert Herpst for assistance: rherpst@bortecklaw.com

At this time of year, our hearts are moved even more to generosity. We buy gifts for those we love, we spend more on special foods to celebrate Christmas and we splurge to express our joy for all the blessings we have in our lives. Hopefully we also remember the poor and those in need who don't have the means to celebrate as some of us can. We ask everyone also to remember our Immaculate Conception Church at Christmas. We work hard year round to worship God as Christ commanded us, and to bring the Good News of salvation to all through the celebration of the sacraments and the many ministries we have here at ICC. We can only do this because of the generosity of our members and visitors who support our parish. The Christmas collection and Christmas donations make up an important part of our annual budget.

If you haven't done so already, please remember to offer a gift to the Church this year at Christmas. Help us to continue to bring the good news of the coming of the Lord Jesus to all.

Please Remember ICC at Christmas

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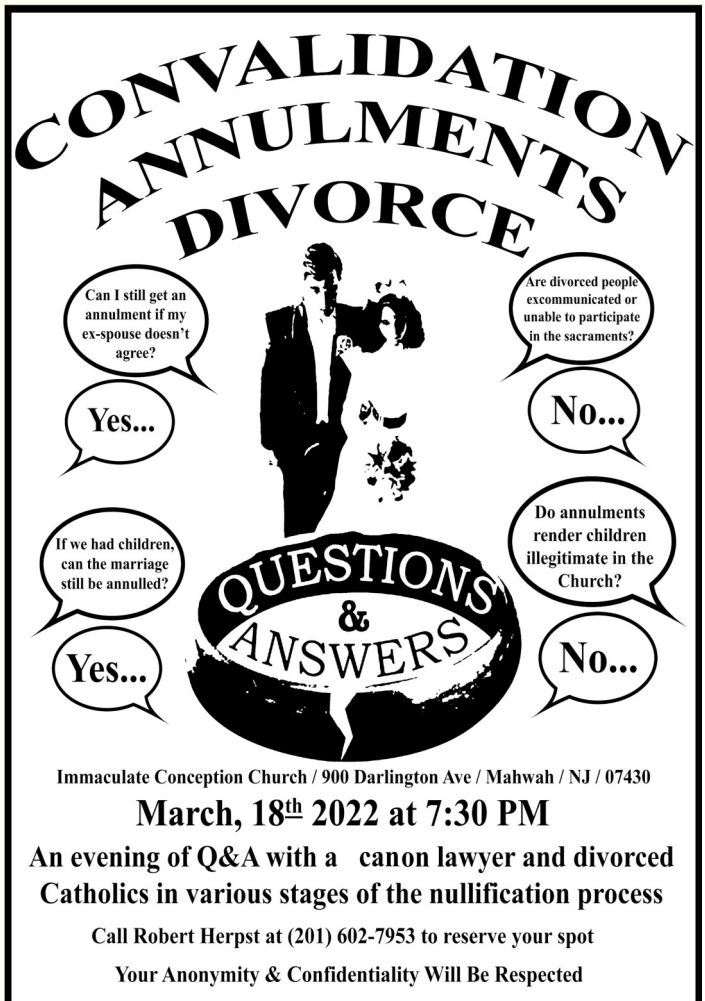
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**CONVALIDATION
ANNULMENTS
DIVORCE**

Can I still get an annulment if my ex-spouse doesn't agree?

Yes...

Are divorced people excommunicated or unable to participate in the sacraments?

No...

If we had children, can the marriage still be annulled?

Yes...

Do annulments render children illegitimate in the Church?

No...

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Immaculate Conception Church / 900 Darlington Ave / Mahwah / NJ / 07430

March, 18th 2022 at 7:30 PM

An evening of Q&A with a canon lawyer and divorced Catholics in various stages of the nullification process

Call Robert Herpst at (201) 602-7953 to reserve your spot

Your Anonymity & Confidentiality Will Be Respected

FR. JM MANOLO A. PUNZALAN, STL-MA

Pastor, phone extension # 12
Fr.Manolo@ICCMahwah.org

DEACON JOSEPH YANDOLI

Permanent Deacon

ADORNO FATHERS

Confessors

PASTORAL MINISTRY COUNCIL**SR. JUANITA ARNISTER, CSSF**

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JAKE MURKEN

Altar Servers Ministry Coordinator

ANN MARIE KELLY

Lazarus Ministry Coordinator
Baptismal Preparation Coordinator
9:30 & 11:30 Liturgical Ministers' Coordinator
amrak@optonline.net

PEG THORNTON

5:00 & 7:30 Liturgical Ministers' Coordinator
pegthornton7@verizon.net

CATHY ILARDI

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NESTOR & AVELINA HERNANDEZ

Liturgical Linens and Vestment Care

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Parish Trustees

RICHARD WOLF

Chairman, Parish Finance Council

ROBERT HERPST

Parish Legal Assistant & RCIA Coordinator
rherpst@optonline.net

JOE KEYS

Chairman, Buildings and Grounds Committee

GARY BARBEAU and JOHN EGAN

Property Maintenance Supervisors

**Saturday, January 1**

5:00 p.m. **VIGIL MASS OF EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**
Reynero & Fabiola Punzalan by Family

Sunday, January 2 EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Zack Family
9:30 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of the Parish
11:30 a.m. Thomas Sprofera by Sprofera and Infante Families

Monday, January 3 Holy Name of Jesus

9:00 a.m. Lydia Ticzon by Efren & Rosario Fiesta

Tuesday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

12:00 p.m. Anita Herpst by Terri, Rob and Sarah Herpst
William Herschel Johnson by Kaitlyn O'Donohue

Wednesday, January 5 St. John Neumann, Bishop

12:00 p.m. James Walsh by Walsh Family

Thursday, January 6 St. Andre Bessett, Religious

12:00 p.m. Cerilo Penosa by Nestor & Avelina Hernandez

Friday, January 7 St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest

12:00 p.m. Magdalena Lometillo by Nestor & Avelina Hernandez

Saturday, January 8

9:00 a.m. Living and Deceased Members of I.C.A.P.s
5:00 p.m. Monica Schweisguth by Bridget Schweisguth

Sunday, January 9 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30 a.m. Intentions of Babuin Family
9:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the Parish
11:30 a.m. Salvatore & Mary Ruffino by Angela Ruffino

PRAYER REQUEST

Gabriel Scura, Adeline Grace Shelhorse, Lucille Conte, Russ Kamp, Lena Piccione, John Balsamo, Donna Wolf, Alfred Paloscio, Rita Nichols, Rado Petric, Elaine Lewandoski, Cole Mckee, David Gutierrez, Jeanne Paolillo, Christopher Zullo, Mercedes Tabije, Vincent Brosnan, John Chmielowiec, Belisario Machado, Sandra Machado, Ann Gallina, Helen Gallina DeLucca, Katrina Consunto, Eva Jungay, Era Ocampo, Homer Pabustan, Ma. Neny Pabustan, Nemina Consunto, Staci Alfano, Frank Arcaroli, Suzann Baker, Gene Boylan, John Burgio, Loretta Carroll, Jorge Castellanos, Kevin Corcoran, Sean Crosby, Matthew Donohue, Cristin Famularo, Allison Florio, Terry Gill, Lynn Goodman, Leighton Heisey, Frank Howard, Rose Ifebigh, Ryan Ilardi, Sue Karlewicz, Ruth Kavanagh, John LaBruna, Roger Leon, Vi Ludovici, Kristen Mansfield, Joshua McGrath, Cassidy McPartland, Robert Miotto, McKenna Morey, Fe Murphy, Kim Naucodie, Kunbi Olagbaju, Patricia Scura, Andrew Orotelli, Catherine Pannenbacker, Francis Paolillo, Joan Parkin, Dolores Picken, Andrew Pisani, Louis Roselli, Jake Santoriella, Laura Sardone, Michael Sargent, Jeff Steele, Marlene Terhune, Paul Traina, Estella Vercollone, Cesar Mamayson, Tara Hannan-Karlbon, Nicholas Androulidakis, Eleni Lambrinides

SAINT PATRICK

Dinner Dance

Saturday, March 12, 2022

6:00 - 10:30 PM,

School Gym

Save the Date

UPDATING OF SICK LIST IN THE BULLETIN

We pray for each other out of love for one another. In our parish bulletin, we maintain a list of those who are sick. Each week, the parish family prays for all those listed. Beginning January 2022, current names will remain on the prayer list for a month. You need to contact the office to renew the individual's name. Request Forms are available at the Parish Office.

Each renewal is good for a month. In addition, parishioners are invited to add their prayer intentions to the book located at the altar of Our lady of Our lady of Guadalupe and the saints by the church entrance. Thank you very much.

WE BEGIN WITH NEW LIST IN FEBRUARY 2022

PRAYER REQUEST FOR PARISH BULLETIN

Name the sick Person _____ Age: _____

Address _____

Phone Number: Home _____ Cellphone: _____

Email Address: _____ OK to be contacted? Yes _____ No _____

Remarks: _____

Requested by: _____ Cellphone # _____

Address _____ Email _____