



Immaculate Conception

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

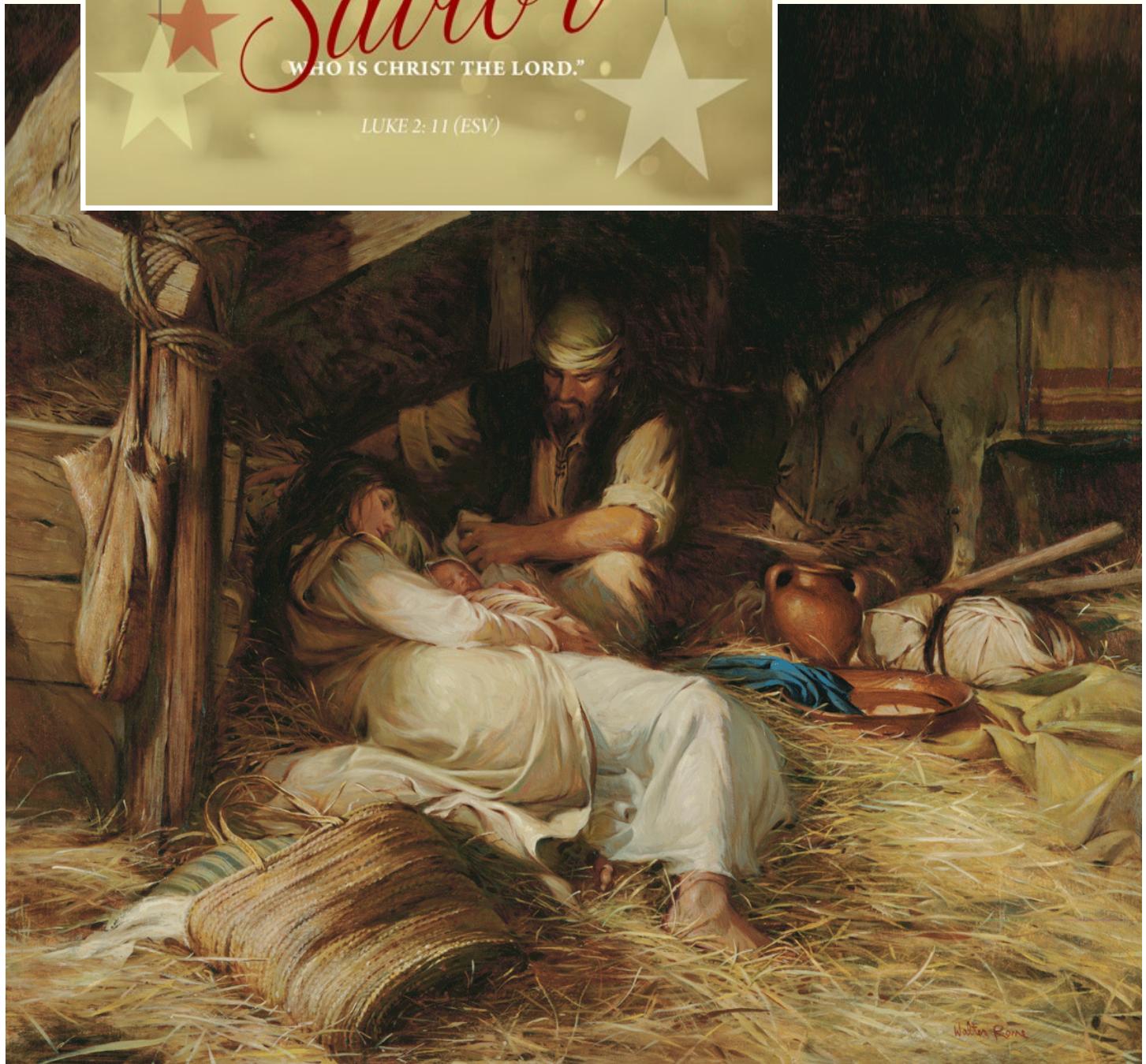
900 Darlington Ave.
Mahwah, NJ 07430
www.iccmahwah.org
201-327-1276

MERRY
christmas

"FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS
DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A

Savior
WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD."

LUKE 2: 11 (ESV)



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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, NEW YEAR'S EVE
VIGIL MASS OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
5:00 PM

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
SATURDAY, JANUARY 1 - 5:00 PM - EPIPHANY VIGIL MASS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 - 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM

EUCARISTIC 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!'





pastor's message

My dear parishioners,

My dear parishioners,

Do you enjoy presents? Most people do. This is one reason why Christmas is so popular. Our Advent Season of waiting and watching gives way to the joy and holiness of Christmas Day and all it brings: the tearing of wrapping paper, the precious time with friends and family, Christmas Mass, and an extra good meal!

I know this year has been months of difficulty on so many levels for so many people. We are sensitive to the grief and loss that many of you are experiencing. Most of us have never seen anything like this. The pandemic has interrupted our lives. This has been hard for all of us.

I understand it is sometimes difficult to see the good when we feel so overwhelmed by despair; but Christmas reminds us of something critical to keep in our minds, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5). My friends,

there are many more reasons to be grateful and filled with hope because of our faith. God has and will continue to help us to see all of this through.

Reflecting upon this past year, we have received many blessings as a parish: a newly renovated and beautiful church, plenty of much needed repairs, upgrades and improvements in our buildings, and new friendships and relationships across the parish.

Our parish transformation process has given birth to spiritual growth opportunities. We can look forward to this continuing in 2022 and onwards with more events and resources. I thank the members of our Pastoral Ministry Council and the Financial and Management Staff for their hard work in assisting me with our parish programs and initiatives.

The positive movement of the Spirit in our parish will continue to encourage the best from each of us as we increase our awareness of and responsibility to share the mission of Jesus Christ. Truly, the Lord provides through the dedication, prayers, and generosity of our parishioners. That positive spirit is so often manifested in the many parishioners who volunteer their time, talent and treasures in parish functions and we are all so very grateful for the life-giving presence they offer to our parish community.

I would like to personally thank you for your generosity and financial support to our church. Although weekend collections and direct donations have been down by around 10%, and after a little less than a 2 million dollar

renovation project, we are blessed to remain financially stable. We carefully managed our operation expenses as I am a believer that we cannot spend beyond our means.

You have responded so well when I encouraged you to contribute to the Annual Appeal of the Archdiocese of Newark. We have exceeded our goal and therefore we will get a rebate and a 2% reduction in our Archdiocesan Assessment. Your generous response to our Renovation Catch-Up collection enables us to acquire more items to complete the renovation as planned. The three main things that await funding are the Outside Niches of Mary and Joseph with customized ceramic tile background, the specially customized narthex stair lights and the security camera system.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners, for all you do even through the tough times. It is with humble joy that I give thanks for the honor of serving as your Pastor. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

The heart of Christmas is the gift of Jesus Christ who saves us. He is the gift who overwhelms us with his love and peace, and guides our hearts. This Christmas, may we be overwhelmed again by the sheer enormity of God's gifts to us. May your heart be full of praise and gratitude and may 2022 be full of the Lord's graces and blessings upon you and your family.

Merry Christmas!

Fr. Manolo

*thank
you*

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and appreciation to our **Pastoral Ministry Council**, the **Financial and Management Staff** and the many volunteers in our various ministries and parish events. Thank you so much for your labor of love to our church. Your willingness to use your gifts and abilities has strengthened the mission and ministry of this church. You have

also been an example of servant-leadership and giving. For all your time, effort, hard work, and prayers, please accept our thanks and appreciation. You have truly been a blessing to ICC.

I also would like to thank our ICC parish family. You are such an amazing congregation and it has been such a blessing to be your pastor. I am continually blown away by your compassion, generosity and willingness to serve. I can only hope

that I have inspired all of you as much as you have inspired me.

To each and everyone, I greatly appreciate your efforts and your generous contribution to our church. With your constant financial support, we have been able to make everything happen. Thank you once again for your valuable contribution along with your time and faith in us and our Church.



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

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

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

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 Guadalupe and the saints by the church entrance. Thank you very much.

GOING AWAY THIS WINTER?

We know many of our parishioner 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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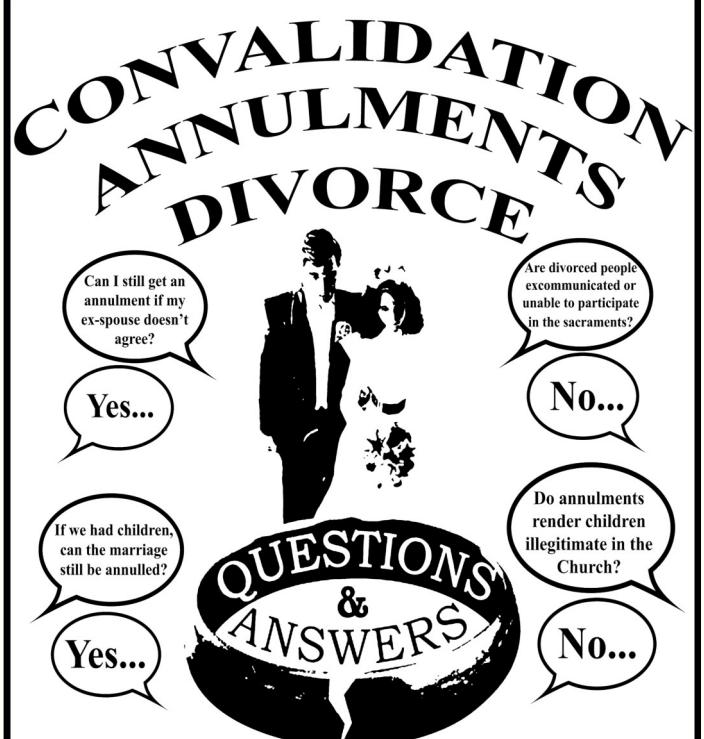
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Immaculate Conception Church / 900 Darlington Ave / Mahwah / NJ / 07430

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**

Shepherding Ministry Coordinator, phone extension # 21
 ICC-cares@iccmahwah.org

SUSAN MURKEN

Religious Education Coordinator, phone extension # 10
 reled@iccmahwah.org

THOMAS JOHN MARDEN

Music Director, phone extension # 16
 music@iccmahwah.org

THERESA HERPST

Spiritual Life Ministry Coordinator
 therpst@optonline.net

EILEEN MOYNAHAN

Respect Life Ministry Coordinator
 emoynahhan@hotmail.com

KATHY DEVINE

Social Events Ministry Coordinator
 kathydevine@optonline.net

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

Ministry for Senior Parishioners, ICAPS President
 cathyilardi@gmail.com

NESTOR & AVELINA HERNANDEZ

Liturgical Linens and Vestment Care

BRIAN DEYSHER

Media Ministry Coordinator
 MediaMinistry@ICCMahwah.org

JOHN TURANO

Parish Vocation Committee Coordinator
 jmmf31@gmail.com

LAURA ZACK

Chairman, Gardens and Landscape Committee
 lauraannbabuin@gmail.com

FINANCIAL & MANAGEMENT STAFF**SR. JOSEPHINE BALSAMO**

Office Manager, phone extension # 15
 info@ICCMahwah.org

DEACON JORGE OCHOA

Bookkeeper, phone extension # 14
 finance@ICCMahwah.org

FRED HAITZ and LINDA POWLEY

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

**Mass Intentions****Friday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE**

All Masses: Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

Saturday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

All masses: Living & Deceased Members of the Parish

Sunday, December 26**HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

7:30 a.m. Fulvio Zingaro by Lia Chagaris

9:30 a.m. David Polino by Polino Family

11:30 a.m. Rosemary Carton by Marina, Bruce and Family

Monday, December 27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

9:00 a.m. Bernard and Bonnie Wysocki by the Children
 Andrew and Johanna Seman

Tuesday, December 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12:00 p.m. Kelly Ann Kamp (30 year death anniv.) by Kamp Family

Wednesday, December 29 St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

12:00 p.m. Maria Jacobini by Zack Family

Thursday, December 30

12:00 p.m. Sr. Loretta Breare by her Son

Friday, December 31 VIGIL OF THE**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

5:00 p.m. Christina Rossi by Priscilla and Jerry Schwartz

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 Sprofira by Sprofira and Infante Families

**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 McKeon, 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, Nemia 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 Ifeibigh, 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 Pieken, 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