

DECEMBER 24, 2017
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2017

8:30 AM ROBERT CLEARY

5:00 PM MARY SCOPELLITI

Priest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. Gregory E. S. Malovetz

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2017

7:00 AM PARISHIONERS

9:00 AM MARIE T. & ANTHONY J. BILOTTA

11:00 AM ROY JONES

4:00 PM SARACINO & MOREJON FAMILIES

4:15 PM TOMASULO & VELE FAMILIES

6:00 PM KYLE FUREY

12:00 AM CACCAMO, CARUANA & GAGNON FAMILY

Priest of the Day: Rev. Sebastian Mathew, V.C.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2017

7:00 AM STEVE & CONNIE LUCZKOW

9:00 AM KATHLEEN & WILLIAM HUNT &

FREDERICK GEIGER

11:00 AM NICOLE MARZANO

Priest of the Day: Rev. Louis A. Mattina

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2017

7:00 AM GERTRUDE SZYMANSKI

9:30 AM GATETANO SPATAFORA

Priest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. William McCarthy

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017

7:00 AM SALVATORE GUZZARDI

9:30 AM MICHAEL GAVIGAN

Priest of the Day: Rev. Lancelot McGrath

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017

7:00 AM NICHOLAS GIAQUINTO

9:30 AM ELLEN LAPINSKI

Priest of the Day: Rev. James W. McGuffey

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2017

7:00 AM GIRARD & ASSID FAMILY

9:30 AM JOSE LAMAS

Priest of the Day: Rev. James W. McLaughlin

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2017

8:30 AM THOMAS LaREGINA

5:00 PM IRENE CASTORIA

Priest of the Day: Rev. Msgr. Robert W. Medley

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

7:00 AM PARISHIONERS

9:00 AM DOMINICK J. BARBAROTTA

11:00 AM ARLENE SCATURRO

Priest of the Day: Rev. J. Maciej Melaniuk

Please pray for our Priest of the Day and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is regularly held in our church every Friday from 7:00 PM until 8:15 PM. Any changes to this Friday schedule will be noted in the bulletin and announced at mass.

The Last Friday of the month, all are invited to join the Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy reciting the Chaplet for the Sick and Dying during Eucharistic Adoration.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to donate altar flowers, please contact Bonnie Kelly at 732-251-2468.

Dear Immaculate Conception Family:

"I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly"
John 10:10

When we think of Christmas, we can call many things to mind, both religious and secular. We can have many feelings about Christmas. We may be looking forward to it or maybe even dreading it. No matter what we think of or how we feel about Christmas, a good question to always ask, "Why did Jesus come?" I think the quote above, sums it up for me.

Jesus came in a very difficult time in history, to a very simple people and He gave them a reason to sing! A reason to rejoice! To have hope! He came to Angels, Shepherds and Kings and they came to greet Him. Can I believe that the celebration of Christmas this year might mean a new full life for me? That His light might shine in my darkness? That my life might have new joy in it?

As we stand in front of any nativity, may we be renewed in the hope that this simple little child has the power to do amazing things in my life, if I just let Him. Let us then offer Him our greatest joys or our toughest sorrows, trusting that He can make any of them better. May Christmas be all this and more for you and your family.

On behalf of myself and all of us here at Immaculate Conception, I wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Servus,

Msgr. Joe



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of Immaculate Conception Church, are a Roman Catholic faith community with the celebration of the Eucharist as the center of our lives.

We create a vibrant parish life through prayer, discernment, education and active involvement of all. We celebrate our evolving diversity, as well as, our oneness in faith as a family in Christ.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

	<u>December 9 & 10</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>Weekly</u>		\$ 9,872.00	\$12,268.00
<u>Debt Reduction</u>		\$ 2,754.00	\$ 3,881.00



Thank you for your continued support of the parish.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

This week the Sanctuary Candle will burn
In Memory of Frank Adamiec.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The Liturgy Committee extends an invitation to anyone interested in the Presentation of the Gifts to the Altar. If you are willing, upon arrival at Mass, please inform an usher/greeter that you wish to participate in this important church practice. Thank you.



Readings For The Week of December 24, 2017

Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Advent

2Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 26-38

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Is 62:1-5 Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 Acts 13:16-17, 22-25 Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Monday – The Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7-10 Ps 98:1-6 Heb 1:1-6 Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Tuesday – St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17 Mt 10:17-22

Wednesday – St. John

1Jn 1:1-4 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Thursday – The Holy Innocents

1Jn 1:5—2:2 Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8 Mt 2:13-18

Friday – The Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord; St. Thomas Becket

1Jn 2:3-11 Ps 96:1-3, 5-6 Lk 2:22-35

Saturday – The Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

1Jn 2:12-17 Ps 96:7-10 Lk 2:36-40

Sunday – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Ps 105:1-6, 89 Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

HOSPITAL AND HOMEBOUND VISITATION

Visits are made to St. Peter's and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital by request. If you have a family member in either of these two hospitals or any of the area hospitals, please call the parish office and let us know. Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist bring Communion to the sick and homebound on a regular basis. If you are sick or confined at home and would like a visit from a Eucharistic Minister, please call the parish office.

REQUIESCANT IN PACE

In the charity of your prayers please pray for June E. Hall and all the faithfully departed of our parish.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Week 1: Maureen Benner, Roger Decibus, Alfred Gleason, Robert Hesse

Week 2: Jamie Cullen, Joey DePalma, Virginia Gorman, Ann Lipovsky, Ben O'Dowd, Jonathan Volpe

Week 3: Timothy Burns, Carol Doell, Tara Green, Peter Heckler, Deacon John McGuire, Anthony Muldowney, Susan Oliver, Sandy Russell, James Wheeler

Week 4: Sonja & Marty Kerins, Harriet Kunzman
15 healing, 8 special intentions and all the sick and recovering of our parish. *If you would like to have a name placed on the "Pray for the Sick" list, please call the parish office during business hours. Names on the Sick List will be included for four weeks. If you would like a name to be listed beyond four weeks, please call the Parish Office at that time.*

If you or someone you know is sick or in the hospital, please let us know so that we can pray for them.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

The *Labels For Education* program is ending this year. Participating products are Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, SpaghettiOs, V8, Pace and Swanson. Please submit only the UPC with the Label For Education (LFE) logo on it by December 25th. A bin is located in the church lobby. Labels without the LFE logo will not count towards submissions. Immaculate Conception School has benefitted from this program over the years and is award sports equipment and/or art supplies based on the number of labels submitted. Thank you for all those who have supported this program.



ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

BOARD MEETING – Wednesday, December 27 at 7 pm in the cafeteria.

CHELSEA – Recitation of the Rosary with the ladies at Chelsea on Tuesday, January 2 at 2 pm. For further info, please contact RoseMarie T. at 732-521-3006.

ROSARIAN MASS & GENERAL MEETING – Sunday, January 7. Recitation of the Rosary at 8:30 am; Mass at 9 am followed by our meeting in the cafeteria. **EVENT:** Silly Scramble.

Hospitality Geri, Grace & Betty.

To join the Rosary-Altar Society, please call Elvi (Membership Chairperson) at 732-251-2739.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

For 2018, baptisms will be schedule on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 12:15 pm (exception March 2018).

January 14 and 28	July 8 and 22
February 11 and 25	August 12 and 26
March 11	September 9 and 23
April 8 and 22	October 14 and 28
May 13 and 27	November 11 and 25
June 10 and 24	December 9 and 23

BAPTISM CLASS

+ *Our next Baptism Class will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 7:30 PM in the rectory basement meeting room, 18 South St. To register contact the parish office at 732-251-3110.*

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" - LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.



REMEMBER THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Heavenly Father, keep safe the women and men serving our country in the Armed Forces around the world, especially those who work to bring order to Iraq and Afghanistan, and give eternal rest to those who have died in the struggle for peace and freedom.

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Msgr. Joe Curry	jcurry@icspotswood.com
Rev. Mhonchan Ezung	mezung@icspotswood.com
Deacon Thomas Griffoul	deacontomgriffoul@gmail.com
Deacon John McGuire	deacjmcg@aol.com
Deacon Danny San Jose	deacondannysj89@yahoo.com
Mark Sahli, PCL	msahli@icspotswood.com
Susan Sahli, GIFT Admin.	ccd@icspotswood.com
Phillip Steffani, Director of Music	phillipsteffani@gmail.com
Parish Office	office@icspotswood.com

MINISTRY SCHEDULE
December 30 & 31

Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5 pm	C. Buffalino	D. Kornacki M. Kussavage R. Nolan D. Raschdorf	C. Buffalino K. Buffalino
7 am	L. Miller	C. Gush C. Maines A. Menezes V. Phillips	A. Suarez A. Suarez
9 am	N. Hilyard	A. Griffoul M. Griffoul P. Kowalski	C. Menezes J. Menezes
11 am	R. Davitt	D. Blanchett M. Israel A. Kagwe	K. Hunter T. Kowalski

A SAFE PLACE

A Safe Place is a group that welcomes those who have experienced the tragic death of a loved one through drugs, suicide and other hard to face things.

It offers, as its name states, a safe place to:

- Speak about what happened, without having to dress it up or explain.
- Where judgement will be suspended, so we can talk freely
- Speak about what you are feeling, without having to explain
- To ask questions, some of which cannot be answered, but need at least to be spoken.
- To know that the discussions, although difficult, will be safe and others will make sure they have my back.
- To speak with at least the hope that God is present, even if I do not feel Him, or am angry with Him.

The purpose of this group is NOT to:

- Offer an answer
- Fix you.

This group will be facilitated by:

- Msgr. Joseph Curry, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Spotswood
- Mrs. Marianne Majewski, LCSW, Executive Director, Catholic Charities.

Meeting dates are the 1st Thursday of every month

Next Meeting – January 4th at 7 pm

Immaculate Conception Rectory
18 South St
Spotswood, NJ 08884

GUATEMALA DONATIONS NEEDED

Msgr. Joe, along with some people from our parish, will once again be visiting our sister parish in Guatemala the week of January 8-12, 2018. He will not only be visiting our sister parish but a clinic for children and a home for abandon adults.

If you would like to help here are some ways:

- Prayer is always most welcome!
- The children are looking for backpacks for school. If you have a gently used back pack or would like to purchase one, they will be taken to those children
- Basic over the counter medicines like Benadryl, Imodium, Tylenol, both children's and adult.
- Any financial donations will also be most appreciated.

These donations can be brought to church or dropped off at the parish office.

BLAST!

Believing, Living and Sharing Together

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Youth Group – Join Us before year-end!
December schedule:**

Friday, December 29th – *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at the State Theater, New Brunswick, NJ 7 PM showing (*Show is approximately 2 hours*)

For 23 seasons Plays-in-the-Park's production of JOSEPH at State Theatre New Jersey has delighted audiences of all ages with its bright array of song and dance, based on the timeless Biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Lyrics by Tim Rice.

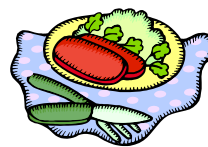
We have secured 30 tickets to the show – attendance is on a first come first serve basis. Tickets are \$7. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to youthgroup@icspotswood.com. Please include name, grade, phone number. Permission slips and transportation details will be provided upon confirmation of RSVP.

Upcoming dates in the New Year –

Friday January 12th – Youth Group Meeting
Friday, January 26th – Youth Group Meeting

Watch for more information to follow! Follow us on Instagram: **Blast_2k17** and/or sign up for text reminders - Text **@askura to 81010**.

ANNUAL BEEFSTEAK DINNER



The Immaculate Conception Social Activities Committee will be once again hosting its Annual Beefsteak Dinner on **Saturday, January 20th, 2018!** Cost of the dinner is \$37.50 per person which includes all the salad, French fries and of course all the Filet Mignon and Italian

bread you can eat! Also included is all the beer, wine, soda or water you can drink! Dessert includes ice cream and coffee/tea. There will be raffles for wonderful baskets and a cash 50/50 raffle. Music to dance to and trophies for the champs will include the coveted team trophy "The Curry"! Please plan on spending a great night with the parish family and help support this Parish "Fun"draiser! For additional information and reservations please email twobeachbums@verizon.net.

Help us make the Beefsteak Dinner all it can be!

The Social Activities Committee is looking for prizes for our Trick Tray raffle on January 20th. Any gifts that can be used to make baskets to help raise money for the parish would be appreciated. Tickets to sporting/entertainment events, rounds of golf at your club, electronic devices, gifts of fine wine/spirits, time-share at vacation spots/homes are just a few items that would help us! If you are able to help us, email twobeachbums@verizon.net and we will arrange to pick-up the items. If you are unsure if you have something to help, please email. Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH MINISTRY CONTACTS

Prayer and Worship

Altar Servers	Deacon Danny	deacondannysj89@yahoo.com
Divine Mercy	Sandra Cunningham	smc4jmj@gmail.com
Eucharistic Ministry	Catherine Sauer	kitty144@verizon.net
	Carol Maines	marblesm@verizon.net
Lectors		office@icsspotswood.com
Liturgy	Deacon Tom	deacontomgriffoul@gmail.com
Music Ministry	Phillip Steffani	phillipsteffani@gmail.com
Prayer Group	Phyllis Marks	phyllis225@verizon.net
Ushers/Greeters	Parish Office	office@icsspotswood.com

Christian Formation

Adult Initiation/RCIA	Edward Spinella	rcia@icsspotswood.com
Religious Education	Mark & Sue Sahl	ccd@icsspotswood.com
IC School K-8	Mary Erath	merath@icsspotswood.com
IC Pre K	Gloria Martin	gmartin@icsspotswood.com

Community Building

Athletic Assoc. (ICS)	Adam Perdoni	aperdoni@icsspotswood.com
Boy Scouts Troup 35	Matthew Riti	matt.riti@comcast.net
Columbiettes	Eileen Cella	emcc1227@msn.com
Cub Scouts Pack 35	Mark Lesniak	spotswoodpack35@gmail.com
Father's Club	Steve Rogala	srogala1@hotmail.com
Girl Scouts		info@gscsnj.org
Home School Assoc.	Karalyn Herban	kherbanot@gmail.com
Immaculate Conception Univ		office@icsspotswood.com
Knights of Columbus	Jason Consorti	wgk4907ic@gmail.com
Marriage Encounter		office@icsspotswood.com
Ministry to the Deaf	Tevis Thompson	deaf1@comcast.net
Retrouvaille	Pat and Tom Gallo	patntomg@msn.com
Rosary Altar Society	Maria Tiberi	nonnatiberi1@gmail.com
Social Activities	Paul Mastrobuoni	twobeachbums@verizon.net
Youth Group		youthgroup@icsspotswood.com
Youth Organization	Richard Lancia	richlancia@comcast.net

Pastoral Services

Bereavement	Mary Hamm	rmtm26@aol.com
	Robert Balascak	bobtp01@aol.com
	Josephine Gorini	gorinifirstgrade@verizon.net
Interfaith Network of Care		www.interfaithnetworkofcare.org
Lazarus Ministry	Patricia Kowalski	pkrn61@verizon.net
	Eileen Farragher	efmf@comcast.net
	Rosemarie Nolan	rmn1943@gmail.com
Right to Life	Tom Gallo	patntomg@msn.com
Social Concerns Outreach		office@icsspotswood.com

Parish Consultative Councils

Finance Committee		office@icsspotswood.com
Liturgy	Deacon Tom	deacontomgriffoul@gmail.com
Pastoral Council	Christine Velsor	tomtina@comcast.net

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FUNDRAISER

The Spotswood Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Carrabbas Fundraiser Dinner at the Columbian Club Hall on Sunday, January 28th. Please save the date! For tickets and further details, please visit our website www.spotswoodkcofc.com and check the Bulletin in the weeks ahead.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Alice's CUP Food Pantry is in search of inventory personnel! We are looking to assemble a team of organized individuals to work together for this weekly volunteer position. This team would be in charge of maintaining pantry inventory and assisting with monthly deliveries from the Community Food Bank of NJ. If you are interested in this opportunity, send us a message on Facebook or email us at Communityhope@comcast.net. Thank you!



An invitation to COME AND TAKE A LOOK

OPEN HOUSE at Immaculate Conception School
23 Manalapan Road, Spotswood, NJ 08884
School 732-251-3090 / Pre-K 732-251-7430
Website: www.icsspotswood.org

PRE-K THROUGH GRADE 8
Sunday, January 28, 2018
10:00 to 1:30 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE "EVE" BASH

Saturday, December 30, 2017
7pm-10pm
ICS Cafeteria



Ring in the night BEFORE New Year's Eve featuring:

- DJ & Dancing
- Family Game Night – Bring your favorite board game
- Desserts & Candy Bar
- Basket Raffle – 50/50 Raffle
- Holiday Crafts
- BYOB

Cost: \$7.00 per person

Reservations available through advanced sale only until December 22nd.

Reservations can be made by submitting the form below with payment (cash or check made payable to ICFC) to: New Year's Eve "Eve" Bash, IC Fathers' Club, 23 Manalapan Rd., Spotswood, NJ 08884

New Year's Eve "Eve" Bash Reservations

Family Name: _____
 (Reservations will be held at the door)
 _____ # Children

_____ # Adults

Amount Enclosed _____

MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

The next monthly food collection will be held the weekend of January 13th and 14th. Non-perishable food items, baby food and disposable diapers (sizes 3, 4 and 6) are always needed! Please leave your donations in the church foyer before 12:00 PM on **Sunday, January 14th**.



COUNSELING AND WELLNESS SERVICES

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Metuchen is offering Counseling and Wellness Services. If you or someone you know needs counseling or is impacted by addiction, we can help. Individual and family therapy for children and adults is available. For an appointment, call (800) 655-9491.

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR BULLETIN SPONSORS

Our advertisers have been generous with their support of our parish bulletin. **Let us say thanks by supporting their businesses and please mention you saw their ad in our bulletin.** Some ads feature a money saving coupon.

ELECTRONIC GIVING: FAITH DIRECT

Do you often find yourself without your checkbook or envelope on Sunday morning? Join the many parishioners who have already enrolled in Faith Direct for automated giving to Immaculate Conception. Faith Direct is secure and convenient, and will provide you with an offertory card to place in the basket during the collections. There is no cost to you, and the program provides a great benefit to our parish. Sign up today by visiting www.faithdirect.net. Our parish code is **NJ107**. You can also pick up an enrollment form at the parish office or call Faith Direct's toll-free number, 866-507-8757, for more information. *Please consider using Faith Direct today!*
You may also wish to make a one-time gift to Immaculate Conception!

FOOD VOUCHERS

You may purchase vouchers on weekdays in the church foyer when school is in session from 8 AM – 11:30 AM Monday to Friday. Vouchers will be sold in the church foyer before and after Saturday evening mass and all Sunday masses. Vouchers can be used as cash at your favorite supermarket. 5% of every voucher purchased goes to our church. We carry:
Shoprite, Stop & Shop, ACME, Wholefoods (\$25 & \$100)
Kohl's, JC Penney, Macy's
Dunkin Donuts (\$10 & \$25 denomination)
Sam's Club/ Walmart (\$25 & \$100 denominations),
BP and Exxon (\$50 denomination),
Starbucks (\$10 denomination)
Mathnasium
Especially For You Florist
WaWa (\$25 & \$100 denomination)
Manhattan Bagel (\$10 denomination)
Panera (\$10 denomination)
 We thank and greatly appreciate the families currently using vouchers and urge all to join them.

HOW TO REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

If you were sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or you know of someone who was, you are encouraged to report that abuse to law enforcement, through the diocesan website (www.diometuchen.org), or by calling Lawrence Nagle, diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection, (732) 562-2413.

STAR WARS PASTA DINNER

The Star Wars Pasta Dinner is back. Calling all Jedi to join the Republic for a Star Wars Pasta Dinner on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in the ICS Cafeteria. Featuring:

- Buffet Dinner (Pasta, Salad, Bread, Desserts)
- Professionally Dressed Star Wars Characters
- Photograph with Star Wars Characters
- Star Wars Crafts
- Toy Raffles
- 50/50 Raffle
- Calendar Raffle



Cost: Adults: \$14.00, Children (3-15yrs): \$7.00, and Children under 2: Free
 Reservations are available through advance sales only until January 22nd. Make reservations by submitting form below with payment (Cash, check made payable to: ICFC) Submit the form through the school in an envelope marked:

Star Wars Pasta Dinner,
 Steve Rogala, IC Fathers' Club
 c/o Maddie Rogala 6th Grade -OR-

mail to
 Star Wars Pasta Dinner,
 Steve Rogala, IC Fathers' Club,
 23 Manalapan Road,
 Spotswood, NJ 08884.

Star Wars Pasta Dinner

Family Name: _____
 Email: _____

Reservations: _____ # Adults
 _____ # Children
 _____ # Children under 2

Amount Enclosed: _____
 (No tickets are issued - Reservation will be held at the door)

GIFT SCHEDULE

	Session Time	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"	Mandatory Mass
		9a-12p	10:15a-1:15p	6p-9p	5p-8p	5PM Assigned Date and Grade
	Day	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	
TOPICS	Dates					
Human Life Dignity	January	01/20/18	01/21/18	01/22/18	01/23/18	1/7/18 – 3 rd
The Lord/Slaves and Laborers	February	02/17/18	02/18/18	02/19/18	02/20/18	2/4/18 – 4 th
The road to freedom Through forgiveness	March	03/10/18	03/11/18	03/12/18	03/13/18	3/4/18 – 5 th & 6 th
Quality of Desperation Depression/Hope	April	04/21/18	04/22/18	04/23/18	04/24/18	