


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH

APRIL 28, 2024 | Fifth Sunday of Easter



*“Children,
let us love not in word or
speech but in deed and truth.”*

1 JOHN 3:18

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it’s not too late to start!

Parish Info

PARISH CENTER CONTACT:

1 Munn Street, Montclair, NJ
PHONE: 973.744.5650 FAX: 973.744.7936
EMAIL: info@montclaircatholics.org

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY 9am-4pm
TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9:30 am-3:30 pm
OFFICE CLOSED Friday, Saturday and Sunday



PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor, REV. A. BENNY PRADO

Business Manager, PATTY SITAR
Patty@montclaircatholics.org

Faith Formation Coordinator, MARY PETERS
familyfaith@montclaircatholics.org

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Parish Secretary, SAMANTHA FUSI
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JOE MULFORD

Parish Trustees
JAN ZIOBRO • RENEE BIANCAMANO

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CEMETERY

Supervisor, CRISSY NASCE
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PHONE: (973) - 744-5939
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712 Grove Street
Montclair NJ 07042

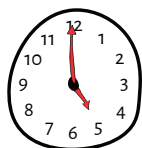
MASS SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
30 North Fullerton Avenue, Montclair

Indicates the Mass is livestreamed.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday: 5:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am | 10:30 am | 6:00 pm

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE:
Monday - Friday at 8:00 am



PLEASE NOTE:

Mass schedule change beginning June 1:
Saturday Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

5:30 pm † Thomas Posteraro

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

8:00am † Isabell Mortellite

10:30am † Antonina Trotta

6:00 pm People Of The Parish

MONDAY, APRIL 29

8:00am † Jesus Iberra

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

8:00am † Jose Sequeria Cortes

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

8:00am † Maria de Los Reyes

THURSDAY, MAY 2

8:00am Anne Nausad

FRIDAY, MAY 3

8:00am † Ava Margaret Garcia

SATURDAY, MAY 4

5:30 pm † William Giangrosso

SUNDAY, MAY 5

8:00am † Giacomo & Catherine Carrara

10:30am † Barbara O'keefe

6:00 pm People Of The Parish

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." - Ecclesiastes 3:11

"... A TIME TO BE HEALED..."

Michael Bruder III, Anthony Pacifico Jr, Joel Rivera, Carmen Kessler, Ieda Giles, Doreen Carson, Lauren Ojido, Connie & Vinny Romano, Maria Metzel, Eileen Burriss, Sylvia Magliaro, Kevin Haber, Karen Potucek, Frank Gallo, Barbara Regan, Jose Fidalgo Sr, Bridget Connell, Jaxson Rivera, Carole DeCepoli, Oneida Fernandez, Michelina Giuliano, Chester Karnas Jr., Laura McGannon, Joseph Carrier, Fabiola Fong, Charlene Widmaier, Kenneth Busku, Rose Bruner, Edward T. Crowe, William Crowe, Terry Henson, Robert Henson, John Rahilly, Kent Riggs, Harriet Riggs, Jim Norris, Gary Davila, Charlene Widmaier, Melba Espinoza, Kevin Cole, Carlos Mario Moreno, Anne Granja, Shannon Finnegan, Jacob Rivera, Gloria Dwley, Clara Rojas, John Giustiniani, Cliff Schaffer, Barbara Ann Ellert, Khameryn Oliver

Please contact the Parish office if you would like to add someone to the sick list.

"... A TIME TO DIE..." Recently Deceased

MAY THE SOULS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED REST IN PEACE.

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁴ APPEAL

Thank You for Generosity...

WE DID IT!!!



We have reached our parish goal for the 2024 Annual Appeal!

Bear Much Fruit and Become My Disciples

BY MARY PETERS | FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

SPRING HAS SPRUNG! The flowers are in bloom, the nights are longer, warmer and summer days are on the horizon. Thank you, Jesus! This time of year brings a lot of optimism to this Texas native.

As many of you know, I enjoy spending long hours hiking, admiring all of God's beautiful creation throughout the looping trails. The massive trees, the birds singing their tunes of choice, the deer racing through the brush, and the tiny streams that have filled from passing showers.

Nature is fully alive! And so am I!

Others might not share this same enthusiasm. The spring season also (un)welcomes pesky allergies, bringing unwanted repeats of sneezing, sniffing and red, watery eyes to many. As we say in Texas to you, "Bless your heart!"

Whether you are a nature lover, or admire it from a filtered, air-conditioned room, today's Gospel is a reminder on how to keep our spirit alive and renewed with Jesus as our Master Gardener throughout all the seasons.

If we take a closer look at our lives, we can spot two types of branches in our own garden: those that bear fruit and those that do not.

Let's begin with the branches that are not bearing fruit. Those withering branches that can drain our energy and drag us down in our day to day lives.

One click on a social media platform, and the dark hole scroll begins. After all the reels have been shared, recipes saved, and the latest looks added to your "shopping cart"; how much quality time has been added to your day? Guilty.

Or, one more episode (and seasons later), you have invested in countless hours to mindless "reality" television. Who will get the final rose? And how did that singer get to the final round? Guilty.

Over time, without realizing it, we can feel our spirits weakening from the careless attention we have given to these less than nurturing habits.

How do we get our fruitless branches back to thriving and looking healthy after long binges?

How do we reconnect to The vine, and disconnect from the empty noises that fill our days?

It's as easy as one of those viral recipes I'm sure you've seen and maybe tried!



Here is what our Master Gardener explains:

Remain in me, as I remain in you.

Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own

unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine, you are the branches

Stay connected to The vine. Remain and flourish. Bear good fruit.

That is the answer.

Say, "yes", to living a life as a disciple of Christ.

Say, "yes" to strengthening our withering branches in our family, our community, and our church.

Just like the trails bursting with life at Mills Reservation on my hikes, so is life here in the pews at Immaculate Conception Church!

Here's some extra nourishment beyond the pews:



Expand our Children's Liturgy of the Word ministry during the thirsty, summer months. One lesson with these little ones and your cup will runneth over!



Volunteer to grow our new Seeds program beginning in the Fall for our Preschool/Kindergarten parishioners. See Jesus through their eager eyes and open hearts!



This Fall join the Youth Group as an adult mentor, and challenge our teens to monthly activities, in and around our community. This year we plan to serve meals monthly at MESH Café.

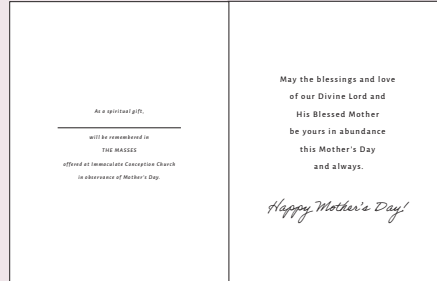
We are all beautiful creations, yearning to bear good fruit for Jesus, but there may be areas in our lives that need to be pruned; withering branches that need sustenance.

Growing together in faith with our community is how we can all thrive and stay rooted to The vine.

As you reflect on today's Gospel, find comfort in the gift of grace that Jesus offers us when we are weak. Accept the invitation to remain in Him and with Him. Say "yes" and together, here at Immaculate, we will bear much fruit and become His disciples.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRESENTS

Mother's Day Cards



Cards in thanksgiving and remembrance for Mother's Day Mass will be for sale at Parish office and at the end of Mass.

\$20 offering

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRESENTS

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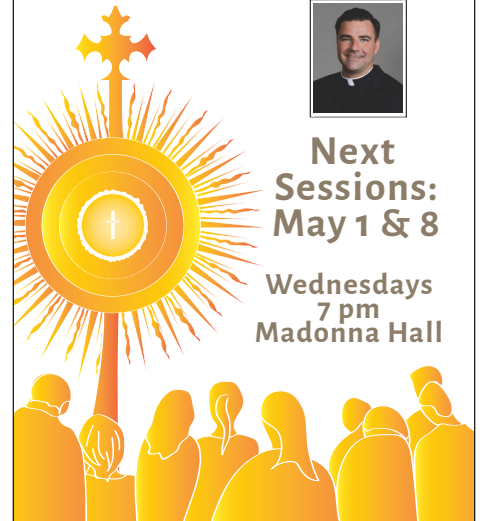
A Five Week Easter Series

with
Fr Jared Brogan



Next
Sessions:
May 1 & 8

Wednesdays
7 pm
Madonna Hall



SUMMER MISSION TRIP
CATHOLIC CHARITIES RESPITE CENTER
[McAlLEN, TEXAS | JULY 27, 2024- AUGUST 2, 2024]

Please look for the collection board located in the back of the Church, with tags of items that are requested for the teens to bring on the Mission trip to McAllen, Texas in July. All items can be returned to the Church, or Parish Office.

Purchase your 50/50 tickets today and help support our teen missionaries traveling to Catholic Charities Respite Center in McAllen, Texas.

With your ticket purchase, we will be able to:

PROVIDE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR OUR 11 TEENS

MAKE DONATIONS TO THE RESPITE CENTER FOR SUPPLIES

MEET THE NEEDS OF THE FAMILIES WE ARE SERVING

Additional tickets are available for purchase at our Parish Office, M-F, 9am-4pm

The families at the Respite Center are in need of a warm meal, clean clothes, a place to rest, and a welcoming smile, and that's just what we will provide during our week of service.



Vivat Jesus Spiritual Planner

The Montclair Knights of Columbus Council is offering its organization's Spiritual Planner, **Vivat Jesus**, free of charge to Parishioners.

Vivat Jesus is a pocket-sized planner and prayer book that includes monthly calendars for 2024, space to write out your prayer plan each month, and suggested devotions and practices based on the liturgical calendar.

To order please email your request to christopherbaker747@gmail.com with your name, mailing address and telephone number.

FROM THE VATICAN:

Cycle of Catechesis. Vices and Virtues. 9. *Envy and Vainglory*

Paul VI Audience Hall | Wednesday, 28 February 2024

Today we examine two deadly vices that we find in the great lists that the spiritual tradition has left us: envy and vainglory.

LET US START WITH ENVY. If we read Holy Scripture (cf. Gen 4), it appears to us as one of the oldest vices: Cain's hatred of Abel is unleashed when he realizes that his brother's sacrifices are pleasing to God. Cain was the firstborn of Adam and Eve, he had taken the largest share of his father's inheritance; yet, it is enough for Abel, the younger brother, to succeed in a small feat, for Cain to become enraged. The face of the envious man is always sad: he's always looking down, he seems to be continually investigating the ground; but in reality, he sees nothing, because his mind is wrapped up in thoughts full of wickedness. Envy, if unchecked, leads to hatred of the other. Abel would be killed at the hands of Cain, who could not bear his brother's happiness.

Envy is an evil that has been investigated not only in the Christian sphere: it has attracted the attention of philosophers and wise men of every culture. At its core is a relationship of hate and love: one desires the evil for the other, but secretly desires to be like him. The other is the epiphany of what we would like to be, and what we actually are not. Their good fortune seems to us an injustice: surely, we think to ourselves, we would be much more deserving of their successes or good fortune!

At the root of this vice is a false idea of God: we do not accept that God has his own "math", different from ours. For example, in Jesus' parable about the workers called by the master to go into the vineyard at different times of the day, those in the first hour believe they are entitled to a higher wage than those who arrived last; but the master gives everyone the same pay, and says, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" (Mt 20:15). We would like to impose our own selfish logic on God; instead, the logic of God is love. The good things he gives us are meant to be shared. This is why Saint Paul exhorts Christians, "Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor" (Rm 12:10). Here is the remedy for envy!

AND NOW WE COME TO THE SECOND VICE WE ARE EXAMINING TODAY: VAINGLORY. It goes

hand-in-hand with the demon of envy, and together these two vices are characteristic of a person who aspires to be the centre of the world, free to exploit everything and everyone, the object of all praise and love. Vainglory is an inflated and baseless self-esteem. The vainglorious person possesses an unwieldy "I": they have no empathy and take no notice of the fact that there are other people in the world besides them. Their relationships are always a means to an end, characterized by dominating the other. Their person, their accomplishments, their achievements must be put on display for everyone: they are perpetual beggars for attention. And if at times their qualities are not recognized, they become fiercely angry. Others are unfair, they do not understand, they are not up to it. In his writings, Evagrius Ponticus describes the bitter story of a certain monk struck by vainglory. It happened that, after his first successes in the spiritual life, he already felt that he had made it, so he rushed into the world to receive its praise. But he did not realize that he was only at the beginning of the spiritual path, and that a temptation was lurking that would soon bring him down.

To heal the vainglorious, spiritual teachers do not suggest many remedies. For in the end, the evil of vanity has its remedy in itself: the praise the vainglorious person hoped to reap from the world will soon turn against him or her. And how many people, deluded by a false self-image, have then fallen into sins of which they would soon be ashamed!

The finest instruction for overcoming vainglory can be found in Saint Paul's testimony. The Apostle always reckoned with a defect that he could never overcome. Three times he asked the Lord to deliver him from that torment, but finally Jesus answered him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness". From that day Paul was set free. And his conclusion should also become ours: "I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Cor 12:9).



God Bless the Newly Baptized!



Remi Carter



Eva Collares

week ending April 19

Collections	Weekly	Fiscal YTD
Budgeted	\$6,692	\$261,000
Actual	\$7,859	\$292,996
Excess (Deficit)	\$1,167	\$31,996
Means of Giving	Weekly	YTD
Envelopes	50	2,163
Loose checks	12	410
Other	1	136
Online gifts	68	2,376

Outside Announcements

Open House at Saint Peter's Prep

Saint Peter's Preparatory School will hold its Spring Open House on Sunday, May 5 from 1:00-3:00 at the school's campus in historic downtown Jersey City. Faculty and staff as well as coaches, students and parents, will be present to answer questions about the school, and tours of the campus will be provided. Saint Peter's Prep is an independent, college preparatory school for boys and it remains New Jersey's only Jesuit high school. **For more information on the Spring Open House, please call 201-547-6465.**