

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

ST TERESA OF CALCUTTA PARISH

JANUARY 28, 2024 | **The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**“Brothers and sisters:
I should like you to be
free of anxieties.”**

1 CORINTHIANS 7:32

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word “pray” instead of the word “worry” in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying.

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

Technology, JOSHUA BENEVENTO
Joshua@montclaircatholics.org

Parish Secretary, SAMANTHA FUSI
Samantha@montclaircatholics.org

Receptionist, LUCILLA PIERINI
lucilla@montclaircatholics.org

Maintenance
JOE ZICHELLI
joe@montclaircatholics.org
JOE MULFORD

Parish Trustees
JAN ZIOBRO • RENEE BIANCAMANO

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CEMETERY

Supervisor, CHRISSY NASCE
chrissy@montclaircatholics.org

PHONE: (973) - 744-5939
FAX: (973) -744- 5659

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



Ash Wednesday
FEBRUARY 14
8:00 AM
Mass with Ashes
12 NOON
Mass with Ashes
4:00 PM
Liturgy of the word with Ashes
7:00 PM
Mass with Ashes



HELPING HANDS 2024
SUMMER MISSION TRIP
CATHOLIC CHARITIES RESPITE CENTER
(McALLEN, TEXAS | JULY 27, 2024- AUGUST 2, 2024)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE
Rising Sophomores - Graduating Seniors

COST: \$1,500
- \$600 Deposit out of pocket / \$900 fundraised
(Up to 50% of the deposit is refundable)

APPLY FOR TRIP:
- Applications are due by March 31, 2024
- visit montclaircatholics.org for details.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

5:30pm † May Maher

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

8:00am People of the Parish
† Gregorio A. Prado

10:30am † Marie Manley

6:00pm † Bozena Galezowska

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

8:00am † Elizabeth Fleming

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

8:00am † Todd Akers

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

8:00am † Victor Chapa Jr.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

8:00am † Emilia Villazon

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

8:00am † Stella Olsiewicz

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

5:30pm † Helen Posteraro

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

8:00am † John T. Greed Jr.

10:30am † Gangone & Chiulli Family

6:00pm People of the Parish
† Gregorio A. Prado

*"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, Genevieve Johnston, Frank Gallo, Barbara Regan, Jose Fidalgo Sr, Bridget Connell, Jaxson Rivera, Carole DeCepoli, Oneida Fernandez, Michelina Giuliano, Chester Karnas Jr., Laura McCannon, 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, Jim Maher, Shannon Finnegan, Catalino So, Jacob Rivera

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

"... A TIME TO DIE..."
Recently Deceased
FR. ED CIUBA

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
and
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SEMINARY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
present

A LENTEN EXODUS: *Journeying* *to the* *Promised Land* *with Fr Chris Ciccarino*

WEDNESDAYS | 7 PM | MADONNA HALL

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH | 30 NORTH FULLERTON AVENUE, MONTCLAIR

Week 1

FEB 15

"WITH MIGHTY HAND
& OUTSTRETCHED ARM"
THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT

*A historical
introduction*

Week 2

FEB 22

LIVING IN
EGYPT
(EX 1-12)

*The Ancient
Hebrews and Us*

Week 3

FEB 29

LEAVING
EGYPT
(EX 12-18)

*A biblical
"how-to" Guide*

Week 4

MAR 14

YOU SHALL BE
MY PEOPLE
(EX 19-24)

*Covenants,
Old and New*

Week 5

MAR 21

WALKING TO THE
PROMISED LAND
(EX 25-40)

*Living after
Mount Sinai*



Reverend Christopher M. Ciccarino grew up in Scotch Plains and is the youngest of five. He attended Bucknell University, majoring in history and religion, then entered seminary. After a year of Pre-Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary, he continued at the North American College in Rome. He completed an S.T.B. at the Pontifical Gregorian University and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark on May 25, 1996. Archbishop John Myers appointed him to the faculty of Immaculate Conception Seminary and asked him to return to Rome for graduate studies. Fr. Ciccarino completed an S.S.L. at the Pontifical Biblical Institute and an S.T.D. at the Pontifical Gregorian University.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
30 NORTH FULLERTON AVENUE, MONTCLAIR
MONTCLAIRCATHOLICS.ORG

"Come After Me"

FR. NICK SERTICH

IN OUR SCRIPTURES DURING THIS EARLY PART OF THE YEAR, we see some of the earliest days of Jesus's ministry and in our Gospel last Sunday, we witness Jesus calling his first Apostles to join him in his mission and ministry. For Simon, Andrew, James, and John – the Apostles we hear about in today's Gospel – it was just another ordinary day at work. They got up, ate breakfast, left the house, got to the seashore, and started chipping away at all the day's tasks. This day, however, was anything but ordinary. Instead, it was a day that would change their lives forever. When they encountered Jesus and he invited them to share in his own mission and ministry, they left everything behind and followed him. The rest is, well, history!

For us, though, Jesus doesn't break into our lives like we hear about in the Gospel today. Most of us will never see Jesus showing up at the office or in our cars as we sit in traffic on the Parkway going to work. Nevertheless, Jesus is still present in our lives each and every single day, inviting us to share in his mission and ministry, too. While he may not be calling us to be Apostles or priests or nuns, he does indeed call us to share in his ministry of love, forgiveness, and generosity in whatever walk of life we find ourselves. The challenge is, though, being able to see his presence in our lives each day and to listen to his voice calling us each in our own way.

I had a similar experience in my decision to answer God's call to the priesthood. There was never an "aha" moment where the lightbulb went off and I saw Jesus standing on the seashore. I didn't have an earth-shattering, existential enlightenment. Rather, it was a much more subtle, much more ordinary kind of encounter with him. I had

grown up in an average Catholic family, attended Catholic schools, worked in my home parish as a teenager, and knew many good and holy priests, so the idea of becoming a priest was always in the back of my mind. It was during my time in college, though, that I began to give the idea serious thought. As a young adult, I was able to look back in my relatively short life and see many different places in which God was at work – places where, in retrospect, I could see his presence, hear his voice, and understand that serving the Church was something to which he was always calling me. I saw and heard this in my experiences at work, my friendships and relationships, my studies in college, and the faces of the many people I met in life who helped shape me into who I am. Yes, I decided to become a priest, but it was a decision made only after looking back and seeing all the places in my life God had been and now I live that decision each day confident in all the places in my life God will be.

SO...ALL THAT BY WAY OF SAYING...God speaks to each of us through the ordinary. There most likely won't be a moment where the sky opens up and God tells you what He wants you to do. Instead, He's present with us each moment of our lives – the good and the bad – in every face we meet, in every encounter we have, in every challenge we face, in every place we go. If we each take some time to see his face and listen to his voice, we too might hear him calling us to share in his mission and ministry and to do great things for our world.



**Interested in
becoming Catholic
or learning more
about the Faith?**

**Catholic, but
missing a
Sacrament?**

JOIN RCIA!

Please Contact:
Joyce de los Reyes at
rcia@montclaircatholics.org

**Super Bowl Sunday
February 11**

Mass will be celebrated at 4:30 pm.
No 6:00 pm Mass.

How To Make Real Spiritual Progress In [2024]

BY RENZO ORTEGA | CATHOLIC-LINK.ORG

WE ALL KNOW THAT WE SHOULD PRAY EVERY DAY. Prayer connects us to God and allows grace to continue to work in our lives. At its core, prayer is communication and communion with God. We would never go long without communicating or spending time with our loved ones, yet many of us find ourselves struggling to make time to be in communion with God. We might even yo-yo, or go back and forth, between seasons of disciplined spiritual practices and nonexistent prayer.

How can we avoid the yo-yo prayer routine this year? What is the best way to make prayer a priority in our lives this year?

1. Structure prayer around things you already do every day

You may need to battle to build prayer into your daily life. Instead of trying to add another step into your daily routine, you can make prayer part of something you already do. You already brush your teeth, make your lunch, and go to bed. These are all likely already part of your everyday life. Use that to your advantage as you begin building your prayer life.

Start by adding a prayer to the thing you already do. Say a few Hail Marys while you brush your teeth in the morning. Have a daily commute? Pray a decade of the rosary. By

structuring prayer into your life this way, you are adding on top of good habits you already have, and you will be less likely to forget. Over time, you can add to your routine.

2. Start Small and Build

One of the pitfalls of building a daily prayer life is trying to do too much at once. When you set the bar too high, you risk seeing daily prayer as an all or nothing. Either we hit all the marks, or we hit none of them. Instead, we should see this as a process. Start small and slowly build.

Once you have a consistent prayer routine, you can begin to add longer prayers and devotions. Starting with daily Hail Marys can lead to praying the Angelus at 6 AM, Noon, and 6 PM. Once you get the Angelus down, you can add a daily decade of the rosary and eventually a full rosary. The goal is daily communion with God, and this takes time and patience. Start small and build.

3. Write it down and be specific

Vague goals are impossible to fulfill, no matter what area of life they are in. If you want to grow in your spiritual life, take the time to prayerfully consider how you might structure prayer into your day. Make a "rule of life" for yourself and write it down so you know exactly how you are going to pray throughout the day.

The Knights of Columbus have recently come out with a spiritual planner that can help you do this.

Vivat Jesus is a pocket-sized planner and prayer book that includes monthly calendars for 2023, space to write out your prayer plan each month, and suggested devotions and practices based on the liturgical calendar. For someone who doesn't know where to begin, it also includes some suggested prayer plans to get started.

4. Remember that God is at work in your prayer life too

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of thinking that everything comes down to us and our efforts. The truth is that your prayer life is not a daily to-do list, it's a relationship with God, and he is the primary actor in the relationship. St. John reminds us that "we love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). Your prayer throughout the day is a response to God who is constantly with you and loving you.

With that in mind, it becomes easier to face difficulties in your prayer life. Remember that God is drawing close to you, not because of the great efforts you're making, simply because he loves you. Continue with your daily practices, begin again if necessary, but always trust that God is at work in your life as well.

No matter where you are in your spiritual life, make it your goal to grow closer to God through prayer this year.

<https://catholic-link.org/catholic-planners-spiritual-progress/>



POPE
FRANCIS
QUOTE
OF THE
WEEK

Brothers and sisters, let us keep our feet journeying on this earth! The gift of faith was given to us not to keep gazing at the heavens (cf. Acts 1:11), but to journey along the roads of the world as witnesses to the Gospel. The light that illumines our life, the Lord Jesus, was given to us not to warm our nights, but to let rays of light break through the dark shadows that envelop so many situations in our societies.

We find the God who comes down to visit us, not by basking in some elegant religious theory, but by setting out on a journey, seeking the signs of his presence in everyday life, and above all in encountering and touching the flesh of our brothers and sisters. Contemplating God is beautiful, but it is only fruitful if we take a risk, the risk of the service of bringing God to others.

The Magi set out to seek God, the great God, and they found a child. This is important: to find God in flesh and bone, in the faces of those we meet each day, and especially in the poor. The Magi teach us that an encounter with God always opens us up to a greater reality, which makes us change our way of life and transform our world.

In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "When true hope is lacking, happiness is sought in drunkenness, in the superfluous, in excesses, and we ruin ourselves and the world ... For this reason, we need people who nourish great hope and thus have great courage: the courage of the Magi, who made a long journey following a star, and were able to kneel before a Child and offer him their precious gifts" (POPE FRANCIS - HOMILY, 6 JANUARY 2008).