

Ministries and Groups

Liturgical Ministries:

The ministries whose members serve at Mass and other Liturgical Events include: Altar Servers, the Choir, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, and Ushers.

Parish Committees:

The Committees that assist in normal mission of the parish include: the Finance Committee, Flower Committees, and Hospitality Committee.

Outreach Programs:

Outreach programs assist those who are in need. They include Bereavement Support, La Comunidad Hispana, HOPE, Jesse Tree, and Morning Out.

Education & Youth Organizations:

In addition to Immaculate Conception School, the Parish Religious Education Program (PREP), and Adult Faith Formation, several parish groups are devoted specifically to the religious education and development of our parishioners: Bible Study, The Flock (formerly known as CYO), CYO Crusaders Basketball, and Vacation Bible Camp. Our Parish Religious Education Program is an after-school and evening program for students not attending Catholic School. Anyone willing to share their faith is invited to consider becoming a volunteer catechist. No experience is required, but professional teachers are particularly welcome!

Worship & Spiritual Development:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Assumption Altar Rosary Society, Cenacles of Life, Immaculate Conception Rosary Society, Knights of Columbus, and Legion of Mary.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

The adoration of Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Eucharist, is an expression of our love for Jesus who loves us without limit and without condition. Adorers come to pray and worship Jesus throughout the day. Each adorer volunteers a specific time to be present during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The time one spends in adoration is a 'thank you' to Christ for his great love for us that was shown when he was crucified on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to give us eternal life. This ministry assures someone is present at every moment of adoration.

Adoration at Immaculate Conception takes place following the Noon Mass on Mondays and First Fridays, except Memorial Day, Labor Day, and other public holidays. Benediction is at 7 PM.

Altar Servers

Altar servers provide a vital service by assisting the priests in celebration of daily and Sunday Mass, the heart of our faith. Servers also assist at weddings, funerals, and other special liturgies.

It is a great privilege and honor to serve at the altar of Jesus Christ.

Catholic boys and girls in grades 5-12 are eligible. Anyone interested in becoming an Altar Server should contact [Fr. Connolly](#).

Assumption Altar Rosary Society

The Assumption of Our Lady Altar Rosary Society promotes the spiritual development of its members and sponsors many events that are open to members of both parishes. Their activities include a Father's Day Breakfast, sponsorship of the annual Padre Pio Mass, Procession and Festival, a Jesse Tree program during Advent that benefits children in the community and an annual Day of Recollection.

Bereavement Support

Bereavement Support Meetings are a time for prayerful reflection, sharing one's grief journey, learning strategies for coping, and discovering that you are not alone as you begin to find healing and consolation.

Bible Study

The Bible Study Program meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM in the Lower Rectory. Please bring your Bible.

Cenacles of Life

The intention of the Cenacles of Life is to petition Our Lord through His Blessed Mother to bring about the triumph of the Culture of Life. Each Wednesday, we gather at 6:00 PM for a Holy Hour before the Tabernacle at Immaculate Conception Church to pray two rosaries for the cause of Life.

Choir - The Music Ministries

We have an extensive and varied music program, consisting of the traditional adult choir at both churches and a folk choir at Immaculate Conception.

Our adult choirs at Immaculate Conception Church sings at the 10:00 AM Sunday Mass. The folk choir at Immaculate Conception sings at the 5:00 PM Sunday Mass. There are special schedules for Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter.

We are always looking for new members to sing praise to the Lord.

Rehearsal Schedules:

- Immaculate Conception Adult Choir - Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM with additional practice as needed for special liturgies
- Folk Choir at Immaculate Conception - 4:15 to 5:00 PM on Sundays (before Mass)

CYO Crusaders Basketball

We are a parish based CYO basketball program open to boys and girls from 1st Grade to 12th Grade. The 3rd through 12th grade teams participate in Westchester/Putnam CYO league and the 1st and 2nd graders attend a basketball fundamentals clinic that will help them improve the skills they need to play.

The purpose of CYO basketball is to provide children with a positive, character-building experience through the vehicle of sports. Children have the opportunity to practice Christian attitudes and responsibilities, build confidence and self-esteem, and become friends with other children throughout the parish.

The parish recently built a brand new gym and are excited about the growth of our program.

[Please visit our web site for additional information.](#)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

This ministry involves two aspects of service. The ministers assist the priests in providing the Eucharist to the faithful at Mass. Ministers also visit the sick who are homebound and with whom Sunday Scripture readings are shared. Ministers may participate in just one or both parts of this ministry.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have a three-year mandate, which can be renewed. The Archdiocese of New York has [Guidelines for Eucharistic Ministers](#).

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee assists the pastor in optimizing the financial position of the parish. Committee members are selected by invitation from the Pastor.

The Flock (formerly known as the CYO)

The Flock, based on the principles of the Catholic Youth Organization, is a teen group open to any 8-12th grade students. It is a great way to make friends and spend time with fellow Catholics. The group participates in various parish activities, performs community service and holds fundraisers. Members also enjoy fun activities with friends who share the Catholic faith. The Flock aims to provide spiritual, educational, and social activities for the youth of our parish. It runs under the supervision of a clerical moderator, adult advisors, junior advisors and elected teen officers. Annual events include Advent Wreath making and sale, a Bake Sale for Charity, retreats, an annual Charity Dinner, and various trips for spiritual growth and/or leisure activities.

The Flock members meet in the Meeting House from 6:00 until 7:15 PM on selected Sundays (after the 5 PM Mass). Schedules are posted in the bulletin and on our [calendar page](#).

We encourage attendance and participation at the Sunday, 5:00 PM Mass.

Flower Committee

Have you wondered who is responsible for making our altar and church look so beautiful? The Flower committee decorates the church for Sunday celebrations and for major holidays such as Easter, Christmas, and Pentecost. Working together in teams, each team is responsible for approximately one week per month.

All members are expected to help on Holy Thursday, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Flowers are purchased for us as needed.

H.O.P.E.

To Help Other People Eat, this ministry provides over 440 home-prepared meals a month to the poor. Our parishioners are responsible for preparation of one course per month and to deliver it to the rectory porch; from there it is brought to a center in New Rochelle where those in need come to dinner.

Meals are prepared on the second Wednesday and third Tuesday of each month. Members sign up for one or both of these days. Each month's menu is posted on the [HOPE web page](#).

Hospitality Committee

Each church's Hospitality Committee coordinates the procurement of refreshments for the special celebrations that occur during the year. A member's involvement can be as little as baking on occasion or as much as coordinating a celebration. Our parishioners gather in anticipation and appreciation of good coffee, baked goods, and socializing.

Immaculate Conception Rosary Society

The Rosary Society is the oldest society in Immaculate Conception church. Our members are officially enrolled in the Rosary Confraternity. The primary purpose of the Rosary Confraternity is to praise and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and to secure her patronage by recitation of the Rosary for the mutual spiritual benefit of all the members throughout the world.

Our members promote our Blessed Mother and her holy rosary in many ways. Our monthly meetings begin with attendance at Benediction, followed by praying the rosary as a community. We continue in the Lower Church where we discuss upcoming plans, enjoy refreshment and listen to a brief talk by our religious advisor, Deacon Viola.

Rosarians do many charitable works, sponsor a fund raiser for our parish, support our school with scholarships and provide a spiritual pilgrimage opportunity every year that is open to the parish.

Rosarians typically meet on the third Monday of the month, but check the bulletin or calendar to confirm.

Jesse Tree

During Advent, the parish collects gifts for the needy of our community. A tag is provided that describes the age and gender of the recipient. When the donor places a gift with the tag under the Jesse Tree, an ornament is hung on the branches of the tree. The tree becomes a symbol of our parish community's generous gifts and willing spirit of sharing with others.

The Jesse Tree Outreach for the Parish of Immaculate Conception and Assumption of Our Lady provides for the homeless, the abused, the poor and the pregnant. They include homes for battered women, unwed mothers, women in transition, children and grandchildren of prisoners, the homeless, senior citizens and families in need. The gifts are distributed to parishes and agencies located primarily in the Bronx and lower Westchester County. More details are available [on the Jesse Tree page](#).

Knights of Columbus

This organization was founded in 1882 by Fr. Michael J. McGivney in New Haven, CT. Today it has become the largest lay organization in the Catholic Church. It has been praised for its support of the Church, programs of evangelization and Catholic education, civic involvement and aid to those in need. The Rev. John A. Keogh Council of Immaculate Conception - Assumption of Our Lady Parish is named for the first resident Pastor of Immaculate Conception. Meetings are held throughout the year on the second Monday of the month at 7:45 PM at Fr. Fata Hall.

Membership in the Knights of Columbus is open to any man over the age of 18 who is a practicing Catholic in union with the Vatican. Please contact John Larkin at 629-7798 for more information.

Additional information about the Knights of Columbus Keogh Council is available on the [Council's web page](#).

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus, located in New Haven, Connecticut, has a marvelous [web site](#).

La Comunidad Hispana

La Comunidad Hispana, our ministry to the Spanish-speaking members of our community, is designed to reach out to the Hispanic Catholics. The goals of this ministry include:

- To establish personal contacts with members of the Hispanic community in Immaculate Conception - Assumption of Our Lady Parish and to identify their needs
- To celebrate community by means of regular meetings of spiritual and social character
- To celebrate the Liturgy in Spanish
- To prepare both children and adults for the reception of the Sacraments
- To encourage a feeling of welcome to members of the Spanish-speaking community and to foster acceptance and support from our other parishioners
- To encourage participation in the other ministries of the parish

Our Mass in Spanish is celebrated at 11:30 AM each Sunday at the Assumption of Our Lady Church.

[Detailed information is available in Spanish.](#)

Lectors

Lectors participate in the daily and Sunday liturgy by leading the community in prayer, as well as proclaiming the Word to the assembled.

Lectors can visit our [Lector page](#) for more information including readings of the Passion from all four evangelists as well as useful links.

Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary is a lay Catholic organization; the Praesidium of Legion of Mary at Immaculate Conception Church is named “Our Lady Conceived without Sin.” The objective of this ministry is the glory of God through prayer and active works. The priority of the Legion is the spiritual and social welfare of each individual, and to assist the Pastor with the spiritual welfare of the parish. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, and through weekly apostolic work in the spirit of faith and in union with Mary.

Our meetings are on Thursdays at 7:30 PM. Our work takes us to Lawrence Hospital, Sunrise Assisted Living, and the Fountains at Rivervue. We promote the wearing of scapulars and the recitation of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The Legion of Mary also performs Spiritual Works of Mercy at the direction of our Pastor. Please consider attending one of our weekly meetings to obtain a “hands on” introduction to the Legion of Mary.

For information about the international Legion of Mary organization, visit their [web site](#).

Money Counters

Our “Counts and Countesses” count the parish collections each week. Membership is by invitation.

The Counts and Countesses do have suggestions:

- Please, do not use tape or staples to close your envelopes or to group your envelopes together. These can cause difficulties and injuries. The envelopes are treated with great care between your hands and ours.
- Please do not put envelopes inside of envelopes.
- If you have been away, it is okay to write one check for several weeks of regular collections (regular collection envelopes are white with a blue border). You can put the multi-week check in one envelope; there is no need to include empty envelopes for the weeks you missed.
- We do ask that you write separate checks for each of the second collection envelopes. We need to account for these collections individually - having separate checks facilitates that process.

- Please do not place Cardinal's Appeal checks or tuition checks in the collection basket, unless they are in a plain envelope with the purpose of the check prominently noted on the outside. We want to insure your donation goes where it was intended.

Morning Out

Morning Out is a support group for parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Meetings include a presentation for parents and caregivers covering topics related to child social, developmental and discipline topics related to raising young children. Supervised play for the children is provided. Facilitators trained by the Archdiocese coordinate the program.

A nominal fee will be collected to defray the cost of crafts, materials and refreshments. If there are financial concerns, please contact [Fr. Sorgie](#)

Parents Connect

Our mission statement: *To provide an opportunity for parents to connect and learn from each other in a welcoming, open and faith-filled environment.*

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP)

Our Religious Education program is devoted to the faith formation of children attending public schools. Families choose one of three sessions: Sunday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, or Wednesday evenings during the academic year.

We rely on the many volunteer Catechists and Assistant Catechists for the success of our program. If you are interested in becoming a Catechist, please contact [Sr. Cora](#), our Director of Religious Education.

For additional information on the Religious Education program, please visit the [The PREP web page](#).

Ushers: Ministers of Hospitality

Ministers of Hospitality serve a very important function at all our parish services and liturgies. The member's role is to greet, welcome, and provide for the comfort and well-being of all who enter our church. We seat individuals and families, take up the weekly collection, and in general cast a watchful eye on many of the details that enhance the sanctity of the particular service.

We welcome new members, men and women, of high school age and beyond who are willing to serve in this very important ministry. All one needs is a willingness to join and a brief training session. Meetings are generally held two times a year or as needed.

Vacation Bible Camp

Vacation Bible Camp is held at Immaculate Conception during the morning hours of one week in August. Through activities the children learn about their religion. Bible stories, songs, prayer, games, puppets, and arts and crafts make learning fun. The week culminates with a performance for the parents followed by a family Mass.