

MINISTRIES AND GROUPS

at Immaculate Conception & Assumption Churches

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES:

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

CHURCH AND PARISH COMMITTEES:

The Committees that assist in normal mission of each of the churches or the parish include: the Finance Committees, Flower Committees, Hospitality Committees, and Liturgy Committees.

OUTREACH PROGRAMS:

Outreach programs assist those who are in need. They include Bereavement Support, Blood Drive, Hispanic Outreach, Evangelization, HOPE, Jesse Tree, Morning Out, and the Memorial Mass.

EDUCATION & YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS:

In addition to Immaculate Conception School, the Parish School of Religion, and Adult Faith Formation, several parish groups are devoted specifically to the religious education and development of our parishioners: Bible Study, CYO, and Vacation Bible Camp. Our Parish School of Religion is an after-school religious education program. 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:

Assumption Altar Rosary Society, Cenacles of Life, Eucharistic Adoration, Immaculate Conception Rosary Society, Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary, and the Padre Pio Prayer Group.

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. Clarke.

ASSUMPTION ALTAR ROSARY SOCIETY

The Assumption Altar Rosary Society promotes the spiritual development of its members and sponsors many events that are open to all parishioners. 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 local 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.

Please register for the next meeting call: the rectory at 961-3643 to speak to a grief counselor. The meetings are on selected Mondays: 7:00 - 9:30 PM in the Meeting House on Winter Hill Road.

BIBLE STUDY

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

BLOOD DRIVE

Twice each year, the Knights of Columbus sponsors a blood drive which is conducted at Immaculate Conception. The donated blood is provided to local hospitals. The dates for the opportunity to volunteer for this life giving service are announced well in advance.

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 each church sing at the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. The folk choir at Immaculate Conception sings at the 5:30 PM Sunday Mass. There are special schedules for Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULES:

Immaculate Conception Adult Choir - Tuesday evenings at 7:30 PM
with additional practice as needed for special liturgies

Assumption - as needed for special liturgies

Folk Choir - 4:45 to 5:30 PM on Sundays (before Mass)

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.

We encourage attendance and participation at the Sunday, 5:30 PM Mass.

Please visit our web site for additional information.

CYO

The CYO, or 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 fund raisers. Members also enjoy fun activities with friends who share the Catholic faith. The Immaculate Conception branch of the CYO Teen Federation 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 a car wash, Advent Wreath making and sale, a Bake Sale for Charity, a retreats, an annual Charity Dinner, and various trips for spiritual growth and/or leisure activities.

The CYO meets in the Lower Church from 6:30-7:45 PM on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month except July and August, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin. We encourage attendance and participation at the Sunday, 5:30 PM Mass.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

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.

EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Evangelization Committee is to encourage parishioners to evangelize and bring our faith and parish community to individuals that do not regularly attend Church for worship and to participate in the community of Immaculate Conception and Assumption Churches.

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.

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.

HELP OTHER PEOPLE EAT (H.O.P.E.)

To Help Other People Eat, this parish 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. 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 parish. 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 churches collect gifts for the needy of our community. A tag is provided that describes the age and gender of the recipient. When the donor provides a gift, 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.

Assumption's Jesse Tree serves children in the community. Immaculate Conception's Jesse Tree serves a number of parishes and agencies that provide 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 thirteen parishes and agencies located primarily in the Bronx and lower Westchester County. More details for the Immaculate Conception Jesse Tree Ministry are available on the Jesse Tree web 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 Assumption & Immaculate Conception 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.

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 ministry is designed to reach out to the Spanish-speaking Catholics in the community. The goals of this ministry include:

- ❖ To establish personal contacts with members of the Hispanic community in both Immaculate Conception and Assumption churches 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

Ministry members meet regularly on Mondays at 6:30 PM in the lower level of Fr. Fata Hall.

Our Mass in Spanish is celebrated at Noon each Sunday at Assumption Church.

[Additional 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.

Meetings are on Tuesdays 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.

LITURGY COMMITTEE

The members of the Liturgy Committee assist the Pastor in celebrating the Sunday and special solemnities of the church. This involves discussions and suggestions for making celebrations joyful and hope filled.

MEMORIAL MASS

Twice a year, a small group organizes a Saturday celebration of Mass in memory of parishioners that have died during the previous months. The group also hosts coffee and refreshments after Mass.

These Masses are typically celebrated on the Saturday after Easter and the Saturday after All Souls Day.

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 for Immaculate Conception and light blue for Assumption). 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. That will 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 Sr. Cora.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP

The Padre Pio Prayer Group gathers for Mass on the fourth Tuesday of select months at the Church of the Assumption at 7:30 PM. Praying of the Rosary and Confessions begin at 7:00 PM.

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 SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Our Parish School of Religion is devoted to the faith formation of children attending public schools. Classes meet Mondays through Thursdays during the academic year. Students in the younger grades meet in the afternoons; classes for older students are held in the evenings.

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 Katy Feeney, our Director of Religious Education.

For additional information on the Parish School of Religion, visit the PSR web page.

USHERS: MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Ministers of Hospitality serve a very important function at all our 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 various 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.