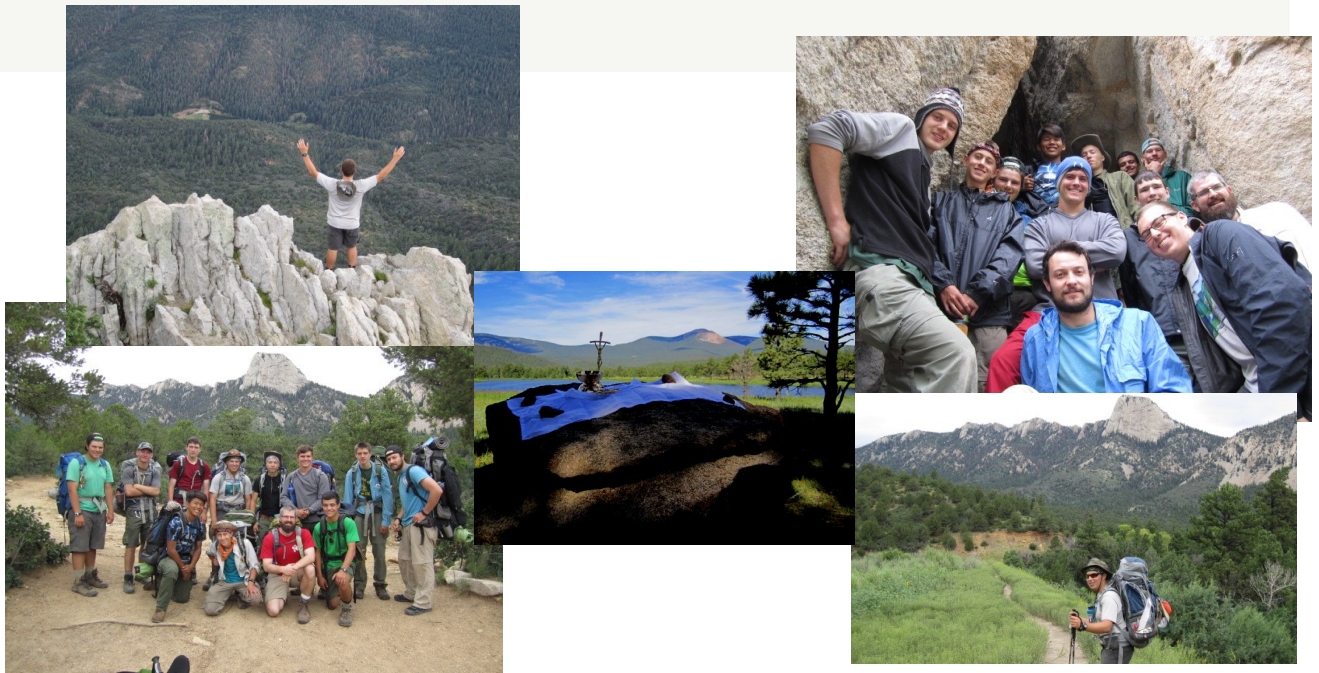


Boy Scout Trek in "God's Country" by Ryan Pantalone



Hello! My name is Ryan Pantalone and I am currently a Senior at Burnt Hills Ballston Lake High School. I am a very active member of Troop 65 here at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. I participated in the National Catholic Youth Conference in 2013 and will be again this November. I am also a very active scout from Troop 65 and an Eagle Scout. This past summer I was given the opportunity to participate on the St. George Trek at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico. The ranch is located in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, Spanish for the "Blood of Christ." Philmont is one of four high adventure bases the Boy Scouts of America owns and operates. The base's main adventure is a 12-day backpacking trek on the property. The St. George Trek is a special trek offered every two years through the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. This year I was blessed to have been chosen by the Albany Diocesan Committee on Scouting to participate on scholarship

I left Albany on July 8 and flew with another scout to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where we met our crews which included scouts from Alaska to Florida. Our crew advisors were all priests, seminarians and sisters. We were able to get to know each other through prayer and teamwork for two days before we hit the trail on July 11. Everyday we were faced with challenges. Whether it was from the devastating flood just a week before that destroyed

trails or the downpours and lightning that kept us from doing certain activities, daily, usually in the evening, we would celebrate Mass. There is no better way to celebrate Mass than in God's Country. Our first night we got to our campsite late so we held Mass in the pitch black under that beautiful Milky Way Galaxy. Another Mass that was a highlight for me was on top of Wilson Mesa, a Plateau in the northern edge of the Ranch with a gorgeous view of the tallest mountain on the property, Baldy Mountain. My favorite and most prayerful Mass was the final one on the trail. Myself and two other members of my crew got up at 3:30 am and hiked to the peak of the Tooth of Time, the most iconic location at Philmont, for sunrise. No one else from our crew wanted to join us for the short hike; however, when we arrived at the peak, another crew from the St. George Trek had also just arrived and they invited us to celebrate the Eucharist with them. Words cannot describe the emotion as we prayed on the peak as the sun rose, as Jesus did himself. I have never felt so close to God before this experience. I had the opportunity to share this experience with people I didn't even know, yet by the time we got off the trail I felt as if I had known them forever.

I would like to thank the Catholic Committee on Scouting, Father Jerry and the entire Youth Ministries team for helping me get to such a point in my faith. I look forward to further enriching myself with the Lord.

Ministry Updates

Welcoming Committee



The Welcoming Committee will be hosting the New Family Breakfast which will be held in the Parish Center, Sunday, November 15th, following the 8 AM Mass. A special blessing will be placed upon the newest members of our parish family at the 8 AM Mass. We have been blessed with many new members!

Contact: Sandy Lowe : 885-7339; slowe1@nycap.rr.com

Altar Rosary Society

The Altar Rosary Society would like to thank all the parishioners for supporting our various fund raisers throughout the year. With your help and the mighty work of our members, we have been able to continue our outreach programs. In simpler ways, we outreach to our members by sending greeting cards for those who are sick or experiencing a loss.

New members were installed at the October meeting which followed the Rosarian Mass on Sunday, October 4.

We hope to continue to be a charitable and faithful organization and welcome new members and new ideas.

Contact: Carmel Laverne: 399-8761; lucky19@aol.com

Bethlehem Tree Project 2015



The Bethlehem Tree originated from the "Church Renew" project which took place in the 1980's. This means our parish has sponsored this project for about 30 years, and it continues to be successful year after year, due to the generosity of the parishioners.

In 2014 we were able to provide approximately 1200 gifts and had very few request cards left on the trees. We also had monetary gifts from parishioners and the Knights of Columbus which were used to purchase gifts for those remaining requests.

This year, the Bethlehem Tree Project begins the weekend of November 14-15, and presents are due in the Flicker Room December 6. This early schedule, requested by recipient organizations, allows them time to sort presents, purchase additional gifts if necessary, and distribute them to clients.

There are many unseen hands working to make the Bethlehem Tree successful. They include Tom Bigos, who prints out the request cards, the Bethlehem Tree Committee, which writes out the requests, last-minute shoppers who purchase gifts for the cards remaining on the trees, youth volunteers who sort gifts according to organization, and, of course, the parish staff of Fran, Kathy, and Lenny who patiently answer gift questions, post information in the bulletins, and help arrange the gifts in the Flicker Room. Everyone's generosity and cooperation help to make this a wonderful seasonal success.

Contact: Lynn and Vivian Swank: 399-4903; lyvian@aol.com

Faith Formation

Faith Formation is back and busy as ever. Classes began on Sunday, September 27 and everyone seems very happy to return. We welcome seven new classroom catechists and two new catechists for Children's Liturgy of the Word. We are so happy to have all of these generous volunteers come forward to give their time to the children of our program. We are proud to welcome to Faith Formation: Lisa Keating, Jennifer Olmstead, Kelly Sullivan, Laurie Thomson, Katie Igoe, Sarah Youngs, Nicole O'Rourke, Kathleen Brown and Jessica Vedder. May God Bless you and all of the inspiring catechists in our program.

Safe Environment Education for the children will occur for all classes the week of November 1, 2015. The "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" established by the Bishops of the United States requires us to provide safety instruction to every child, in every grade each year they are in our program. The age appropriate 10 minute DVD presentation endorsed by the Albany Diocese will be presented at the beginning of every class. Parents who do not wish to have their children participate in this safety presentation, must sign and write "opt-out" on the form and return it to the Faith Formation office prior to the November 1 showing. It is very important that our efforts at Immaculate Conception Church serve to assure every parent that nothing is more important to us than the safety and security of their children.

The 37th Annual 5th Grade Bake Sale will take place in the Parish Center on November 22, after the 8 and 11 Am Masses. Each year we not only offer incredible baked goods to purchase, but we have a supersized raffle that takes place. Themed Raffle Baskets are donated by students in specific grades and from local and out of state businesses. It is always a great morning and the coffee is free. So, be sure to stop by on the morning of November 22, after Mass, to get some goodies for your holiday table and take a chance on winning some really great gifts. Remember this is for a good cause. All the proceeds are given to the St. Vincent DePaul Society to help stock their food pantry for the holidays.

The Children's Masses will be held each month, and, beginning in November, we will be once again be awarding the "Student of the Month" to a boy and a girl who have exhibited a desire to learn and live their faith, who participate in class, and who show respect to catechist and students alike. This is not ever an easy choice, the catechists nominate the students they feel have these qualities, and it is always so heartwarming to read about the depth of kindness and sensitivity that is shown in our classrooms by the children. Maybe we should give an award for Parent of the Month.

Our Children's Masses schedule for 2015 is as follows: October 18, November 22, and the Children's Advent Mass, Sunday, December 20. All of the Masses are at 11 AM.

Contact: Madeline Fretto: 399-9210; mal417@nycap.rr.com

Ministry Updates-cont.

Respect Life Ministry

October is Respect Life Month. Now more than ever, Church teaching on respect for human life from the moment of conception till natural death can serve as a beacon of direction and hope for all of us when we see what is happening in the world. The Respect Life Committee has been busy this month promoting pro-life events:

Respect Life Sunday was October 4. The Ministry provided information on a wide range of pro-life issues covering life from conception to natural death in the gathering space after the weekend Masses. We thank the Hospitality Ministry for the refreshments they provided and fellowship they promoted.

On October 6, a presentation was held in our Parish Hall on *Doctor-Assisted Suicide: Unethical, Unnecessary and Dangerous— What You Need to Know*. As presenter Kathleen Gallagher has said, “*The trend today is toward absolute patient autonomy: my life, my death, my choice. Our faith, on the other hand, says our lives belong to God and we have stewardship - not ownership - of our lives.*” Director of Pro-Life Activities of the New York State Catholic Conference, Ms. Gallagher has been representing the state’s Roman Catholic Bishops in presenting the Church’s life-related policy positions to legislators, the media and other external groups statewide for many years. Attendees learned about the moral teaching and principles of our Catholic faith and how they offer a better alternative to today’s destructive right-to-die culture. The Respect Life Ministry collaborated with Adult Faith Enrichment and Youth Ministries to host this informative talk attended by more than 50 people. Teens who attended earned youth ministry workshop credit. Attendees asked many good questions and shared their personal experiences in end of life situations.

40 Days for Life continues through the month of October. You can take action here in Schenectady to peacefully end abortion. Twice a year, members of our committee and parish organize and participate in these 40-day vigils whose keys are prayer, fasting and community outreach. See www.40daysforlife.com/schenectady or call Viviane at 384-0699 for more information.

Contact: Larry Smith: 384-0882; LPJTSmith6@msn.com

Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 10013

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council (KofC) 10013 was formed in September of 2012, and now has over 26 members. We are a sisterly group of woman of the church whose goal is to support the Knights in their efforts. We bake, help with, and serve at the meals the Knights put on for their many fundraisers during the year, as well as help with the Christmas Caroling Party at Glendale Home, adopt a family from Catholic Charities and provide gifts, and other activities.

We meet at the same time as the Knights, the first Tuesday of the month, at 7 PM, September thru June. The first half hour of our meeting is spent doing a Faith-Sharing Reflection on the upcoming Sunday’s Gospel. After the business part of our meeting we have coffee, tea, and dessert, and many of the Knights join us after their business meeting for refreshments.

The Ladies Auxiliary is open to (1) the wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters over the age of 18 of Knights of Columbus members (present and deceased), and the woman need not be Catholic, (2) as well as woman of the parish who want to support the efforts of the Knights.

The Knights and the Ladies helped at the Parish Picnic. The KofC District Deputy installed our officers for the coming year, at the Installation Dinner, 15 September, along with the Knights of Columbus officers.

There are no dues, but we request each member purchase a nametag with the Ladies Auxiliary logo. We have ordered Ladies Auxiliary aprons, which are very popular and worn at the meals we help the Knights with.

Contacts: Geraldine Havasy: 406-5675; gmhavasy@yahoo.com and Diana Byron: 346-8954.

Adult Faith Enrichment Team

We are pleased to report that Karen Ronca has now taken over the lead for our Adult Faith Enrichment program, the goal of which is to help enrich the faith of the adult learner. Our AFE team has been hard at work planning the fall and spring offerings. We kicked off the fall program with Fr. Jim Kane of the Diocesan Ecumenical Office giving a presentation on Islam. The event was a huge success with 90 people in attendance from many parishes. The feedback received was all very positive.

On Saturday, October 17th, we will be teaming up with Youth Ministries to bring a family movie night and pajama party featuring the movie “Facing the Giants.” Fr. Jerry will be

reading a bedtime story to the little ones and they will be watching an age-appropriate movie as well. Admission will be 2 non-perishable food items for the St. Vincent DePaul food pantry. All proceeds from the concession stand and free will offering will benefit our teens going to the NCYC conference in November.

In the next three months, a 3-week series featuring Bishop Robert Baron’s “Priest, Prophet & King” DVD series will be presented on 3 consecutive Wednesday nights starting October 14th and on November 12th and 19th, Deacon Mike and Sean Caron will be presenting “Can God really have mercy on me AND the whole world?”. There is also a possibility of a presentation in December on Mary our patron saint.

Contact: [Kim Klementowski: 384-2234; kdklem2@gmail.com](mailto:Kim.Klementowski:384-2234)

Ministry Updates-cont.

Youth Ministry—NCYC, Part 2 by Christine Goss (cicyouth@nycap.rr.com)

Meet the Teens of our Parish attending the National Catholic Youth Conference and WHY they want to attend!



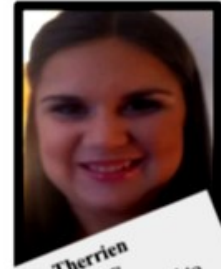
Thomas Monaco
11th Grade at BH-BL
"to strengthen my faith"



Krissy Bikowicz
11th Grade at BH-BL
"to experience God in a new way"



Samuel Nally
10th Grade at BH-BL
"to see God in other people"



Gabriella Therrien
10th Grade at S/G
"to meet new friends and to continue to grow in my faith"



This trip would not be possible without the generous support of our Parish and all of the wonderful people and organizations who have supported our fundraising efforts. THANK YOU!



Benjamin Brousseau
10th Grade at BH-BL
"to grow closer to God"



Lauren Pantalone
9th Grade at BH-BL
"I heard about the experience my siblings had and want to become closer to my faith"

Please keep us in prayer as we make our Pilgrimage in November.

Jessica Zukas
9th Grade at BH-BL
"to meet other Catholic teens and to grow in my faith"



Ryan Pantalone - 12th Grade at BH-BL
"I am going again because NCYC 2013 was not just awesome but life-changing"



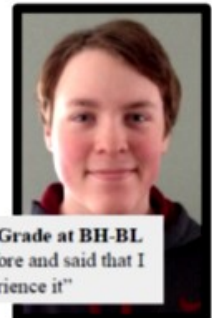
Julia Salvatore
10th Grade at BH-BL
"to grow closer to God"



Maria Fernandez
9th Grade at BH-BL
"to grow in faith"

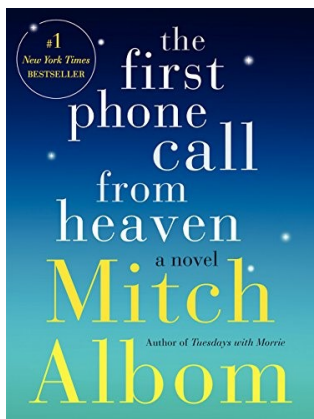


Matt Foster - 10th Grade at BH-BL
"my sister went before and said that I should go and experience it"



Book Review: *The First Phone Call from Heaven* by Mitch Albom

Reviewed by Kim Klementowski



As children, we are taught that if we're good and obey all of God's commands, then one day we might go to Heaven. We are never taught that Heaven might come to us. But what if there was a way we could communicate with our departed loved ones? What if they could call us from Heaven? What would they say? What would we do? Would we take it on faith that it was truly

them? Would we think we were going crazy? This is basically the premise of the book *The First Phone Call from Heaven* written by Mitch Albom, who also wrote *Tuesdays with Morrie*, another highly recommended book.

The book takes place in a fictional town called Coldwater in Michigan. On a Friday during the summer in this small town where everyone knows your name and your business, 8 people have received mysterious phone calls from their departed loved ones. The calls continue each Friday for several weeks. Some of the townsfolk think this is a great miracle; others think it's a hoax and want proof. As word gets out, people from all over descend on this small town either hoping to hear from their loved ones, or searching for proof. But as a small town pastor is lying on his death bed he says, "If you believe it, you don't need proof."

Appropriate for teenagers on up, I found this fictional book to be a fast read which had me hooked on the very first page. I think you will find it enjoyable as well.

What do you like about this parish?

Photos & Interviews by Joanne Schabinger



Jake P. with daughters Annelise and Juliana and son Nathanael: "This is a great community of believers. Fr. Jerry is a great pastor, he has a pastoral heart, and the liturgy is beautiful."



Ron B.: "I like the people and the community here. Mass is well attended and everyone is very nice, very social. I am in the Knights of Columbus and have been a member here for 24 years."



Lisa C., Mary G., and Elizabeth M.
Lisa: "My friends invited me here a few years ago. People were very welcoming greeting us and saying they were happy to see us. I have been a member for 3 years."

Mary: "Everyone is very nice to handicapped people."



Mark D.: "I like the enthusiasm and energy on the altar and in the congregation. The singing and message are uplifting. It is an excellent start to a new week."

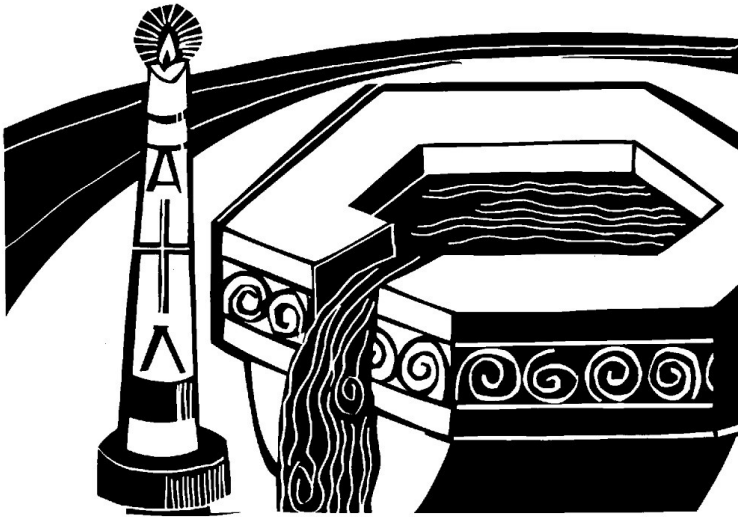


Jennifer P.: "I like the warmth of the parish. My daughter feels comfortable here."



Sharon D.: "It feels like family."

Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from July 1 to September 27. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Evangeline Rose Heath, child of James and Angela
 Penelope Ann Stone, child of Jared and Julia
 Jayce Michael Goddard, child of Michael and Marisa
 Waylon James Macey, child of Brandon and Courtney
 Colin Nicholas Aguilera, child of Clinton and Nicole
 Matthew Gregory Grimmick, child of Brian and Jennifer
 Alexia Ngamba Batubenge and Althea Tshiama Batubenge,
 children of Serge and Gisele
 Kennedy Paige Egan, child of Aaron and Kara
 Ella Juliet Cianfarani, child of Dante and Heather
 Charlee Angelina Lape, child of Nicholas and Stephanie
 Viviann Freya Ozolins, child of Christopher and Ann Maria

These couples were married in our church from July 1 to October 10. We wish God's blessing upon each one.

Brendan Doyle to Amy Lynn Cuomo
 Nicholas Kearns to Tracey Agustin
 Dominick Barone to Jacqueline Zaengle
 Tom Telese to Laura Mastrianni
 Vincent O'Neill to Staci Makovich
 Thomas McGuinness to Chelsea McBea

Meet the Staff: Kathy Friscic, Pastoral Associate for Administration



We leave Mass each Sunday, the weekly bulletin in our hands. We read it thoroughly--parish announcements, ministry news, the list of Masses for loved ones, Fr. Jerry's letter. It is there without fail every week, and, if it wasn't, we would surely miss this

primary vehicle for parish communication. Behind the scenes, putting the newsletter together week after week is Kathy Friscic, Pastoral Associate for Administration, and this is just a part of what she does to make the business of our parish run smoothly.

Surprisingly, most of the work on the Sunday bulletin is done on Monday. Kathy organizes the information she has received. Some items might be time-sensitive; some might need to be written or edited. Although she is not scheduled to work on Tuesdays, Kathy sometimes has to come into the office in order to have the file ready to electronically send to the printer early Wednesday. Copies are delivered on Thursday ready for stuffing with flyers and special announcements, if necessary.

Kathy began work at Immaculate Conception seventeen years ago, for one day a week, to record weekly contributions. She now works four days a week and is responsible for a wide variety of essential jobs. She still records regular contributions (with the assistance of Michele DeLorenzo) along with donations and gifts. She is the administrator of the electronic giving program and is the contact person for anyone wishing to participate.

Kathy keeps the records for background checks and the Virtus program, which ensures a safe environment for children and the vulnerable, and sends the information to the diocese proving compliance. She is responsible for keeping the church's sacramental records, for mailing the

holiday messages, and for keeping the ministry list up to date. Add to these duties those that happen every day--answering the phone and the door, assisting with special activities, helping parishioners to create flyers, and connecting those in need with parish resources.

Kathy was born in Buffalo and moved around the country as her father was transferred by General Electric. She lived in Syracuse, Florida, and Alabama, where she graduated from high school. She began college in Buffalo and transferred to the University of Alabama from which she received a B.S. in nursing. She worked as a neonatal nurse in Texas and Virginia for twelve years before moving to Glenville where her family was living. They were already parishioners at Immaculate Conception where, believe it or not, her mother Betsy worked on the church bulletin! Betsy is still a parishioner volunteering in many capacities in the church. Two of Kathy's siblings are local, in Albany and Niskayuna; two others live in Buffalo and Bethesda.

In her spare time, Kathy enjoys singing, especially her monthly sing with Friends in Harmony. She is also involved in local theater. She has been on the board of directors for Schenectady Civic Playhouse where she has produced, worked on crew and sound, made costumes, trained volunteers, and written playbills. She has also been on the board of the Schenectady Theatre for Children and has worked with Schenectady Light Opera Company, Albany Civic Theater, and Colonial Little Theatre.

When asked what she likes most about her job, Kathy answered that it is the variety; she can never be bored. Remarkably, anyone who connects with Kathy will never realize that she might be in the middle of a complex, detail-oriented task. With a pleasant smile, she patiently answers questions and helps however she can. We are fortunate to have Kathy both for the work that she does and the pleasant, welcoming way she does it.

Warm Coats from Warm Hearts

Collecting: Gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves

Men's, Women's, Children—Good, clean, undamaged.

Gloves and mittens should be in a bag so they will not get separated. Glove/hat/scarf sets bagged together.

Drop Off: Gathering Space at the Church of the Immaculate Conception

When: 10/23-24, 10/31-11/1, 11/7-8, 11/14-15.

Sponsored by: Immaculate Conception Pastoral Council, the Rosary Altar Society, and the Knights of Columbus

Questions: Maryann Haskell 399-6706; Maryann.haskell@gmail.com



Ask Fr. Jerry*



Question: What is Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition?

Answer:

Before we can answer this question, we first need to define the word **Eucharist**. The Eucharist is the sacrament that Jesus established when he took bread and wine, blessed them, and declared them to be His body and blood (LK 22:17-20). He commanded his disciples to “**Do this in memory of me.**” As Catholics, we believe that when a priest follows this command of Jesus and offers the words of consecration at Mass, the bread and wine are permanently changed, and they become Jesus: his body, blood, soul and divinity (CCC 1373-1376).

The Eucharist, in the form of bread, called a host, is kept in a special place of honor, called the tabernacle. In our church, the tabernacle is very visible, located just to the left of the altar. A red candle burns constantly above the tabernacle to remind us that Jesus is present in our midst. The first evidence of the Eucharist being “reserved” or kept in a tabernacle was in the 2nd century because of a pressing pastoral need: to bring the Eucharist to those who were unable to be present for the Sunday celebration of the Sabbath. Only a small amount of Eucharist was to be kept in the Tabernacle and new bread was consecrated for the assembly to consume at each Mass. This continues to be the primary purpose of reserving the Eucharist.

By the 13th century, the “laity” or the faithful, rarely received Communion and so their participation at mass was primarily “visual.” The faithful would only *look* at the elevated Host during the consecration of Mass (*hence the appearance of bells!*). Consequently, by the 14th century, we see the onset of various forms of Eucharistic devotion outside Mass, *i.e.* processions and 40 hour devotion, etc. Thus, the people’s primary understanding of Eucharist appeared to be in the form of private and silent adoration of the Lord truly present on the altar or the tabernacle.

The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council drew us back to our liturgical roots, particularly regarding the Eucharist. In its *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, The Council Fathers stated: “The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed. At the same time it is the fount from which all the Church’s power flows.” Thus, our worship was not limited to *adoration* of the Blessed Sacrament and our primary act of worship is **active participation in the Mass**, culminating in Holy Communion. This is our sharing in the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord, our nourishment and our strength. This is the most intimate form of adoration.

The Church teaches that prayer offered in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament is a privileged and precious time during which we may pray and visit with Christ the Lord from our hearts. Here at Immaculate Conception, we are fortunate to be able to keep the front doors unlocked all day, every day of the week, so we can “come and sit” with Jesus in tabernacle anytime. On Tuesdays, beginning at the end of Mass and closing at 6 pm we have a more formal adoration time. The Eucharist, in the form of bread (*the Luna*) is placed in the monstrance which is then placed on the altar throughout the day. This Eucharistic adoration is called *Exposition* (*you can see the Eucharist*). At 6 pm we conclude Exposition with Benediction, *i.e.*, songs of praise and incense.

Eucharistic Adoration and Exposition, as with any devotional practice of the Church, should always lead us back to the Lord whose Real Presence we encounter in the celebration of the Eucharist.



In this eighth issue of the *Parish Pipeline*, some of our ministries have updated their activities. Immaculate Conception is fortunate to have many more ministries which will be highlighted in coming issues. For a complete list of ministries,

- see the church website: <http://www.icglennville.com>
- contact Maryann Haskell, 399-6706, e-mail maryann.haskell@gmail.com
- fill in the information below and drop it in the collection basket. You will be contacted.

Name _____ Phone # _____

I am interested in the following ministry/ministries:

January 16-17: Next issue of the Pipeline to be distributed.

January 6: Submissions due.