

RCIA—A Journey of Faith

Before the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, people wanting to enter the Church worked directly with a priest to do so. In the post-conciliar era, we have RCIA, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults as the process by which a person strengthens his or her relationship to Jesus and commits to the Catholic way of life. Three groups participate in this process:

- Those who have not been baptized (catechumens)
- Those who were baptized into another Christian faith (candidates)
- Baptized Catholics who did not receive complete instruction in the faith and have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. (candidates)*

Here at Immaculate Conception, the RCIA team, led by Maureen Cormier, is comprised of fifteen members. According to Maureen, people coming into the program rediscover themselves, as if they are being reborn. Also, members of the team often say they get more out of the process than anyone because their own faith is challenged and they consequently grow in their faith. Whenever possible, the team tailors the program to fit the needs of the families. This year, they had the unique and powerful opportunity to guide two families through the process of RCIA—the Gilmore family and the Watkins family.

The Gilmore family is made up of Dan and Stacey and their children, 10-year-old Jacob and 8-year-old Chloe. Their journey began when Stacey and her children started going to Mass; soon Dan joined them. They spoke with Father Jerry, joined the church, and subsequently Maureen Cormier contacted them so Stacey could have her confirmation and Daniel could be baptized and confirmed. They needed and wanted information and found that the classes, which started in October and met weekly, satisfied that need. While their parents were studying, Jacob and Chloe were working with Madeline Fretto. They all put in a lot of work but they also learned a lot, and, more importantly, became closer as a family. As Stacey said, RCIA came at a time it fit them better so they could



“think it in.” At the Easter Vigil, Stacey, who had been baptized and raised Catholic, was confirmed, and Dan was baptized, received the First Eucharist, and was confirmed. Jacob and Chloe were baptized and will receive their First Eucharist in May.

The Watkins family is made up of Bill, Richele, and their children, 10-year-old Carrie and 8-year-old Andrew. Before coming to Immaculate Conception, the Watkins were practicing Christians. Bill came to realize each town has many different churches but all worshiped one God. What separated them? What can we do to unify them? He was drawn to the beauty of liturgical worship and studied the history of the Catholic Church, and he came to believe in the truth of the Church’s claims. When he shared his desire to become a Catholic with Richele, he challenged her to learn more about the Church with him, so that this faith journey could be done as a family. They wished to join the RCIA program to learn more about the church and to join the parish. They found the program to be powerful with many people dedicated to meeting, talking, and answering the questions they had. Their faith deepened as they learned about the church and its traditions. While Bill and Richele studied with the adults, the kids participated in Faith Formation. With Madeline Fretto’s help, Carrie has already made her First Communion, and Andrew will make his in May.

Both families have found the Immaculate Conception Church community warm and welcoming and look forward to participating in church activities. We welcome them with great joy as they move forward in their faith and parish life.

*(See page 7, The Four Stages of RCIA)

Ministry Updates

Music Ministry—a Conversation with Derek Stannard



If one word describes the job requirement of a parish music director, it would be flexible. No one understands this better than Derek Stannard, who became a music director for the first time at the

age of thirteen.

Growing up in Fort Ann, he began piano lessons when he was six and, as a child, started playing the piano at his grandmother's small church in Raceville, New York. A graduate of the Crane School of Music with degrees in music education and voice, Derek taught public school for a year and a half before deciding that he should concentrate on liturgical music. In February of this year, he marked his second anniversary at Immaculate Conception.

His days here are busy and varied. For weekend masses, Derek prepares the weekly worship aid and rehearses with the 11 a.m. Mass choir and the singers, cantors, and instrumentalists for both the 8 a.m. Mass and 5 p.m. Mass. He plays for funerals as well as masses at the Glendale Home. He has seasonal responsibilities as well; for example, he is now working with second graders preparing for their First Eucharist and rehearsing with over 200 children in the Faith Formation program who participate in children's masses. In addition to these responsibilities, Derek rehearses by himself on the organ for six to eight hours a week. His

goals for the music program are to have an active and regular children's choir of about thirty children and to add another adult choir, for a total of three performing groups.

To showcase our music program and reinforce the role of our church in the community, Derek has organized the Festival of Lessons and Carols for the last two years as well as a Palm Sunday program in conjunction with the First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls last year. The contributions from these programs have supported the music program and charitable causes.

In keeping with this effort to open our doors to the community, on May 3, Immaculate Conception will be hosting a concert by renowned organist, recording artist, composer and conductor, Diane Bish, the creator and host of the television series *The Joy of Music*. This program is seen weekly by over 300 million people around the world and is seen locally on EWTN. Technically proficient as well as expressive, she connects the music to religious text in her programs.

Ms. Bish was the senior organist and artist-in-residence at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Coral Gables, Florida, for over 20 years. In this position, she developed one of the country's first church concert series. She has recorded on famous organs worldwide and was the first American woman to record on the four organs of Freiburg Cathedral in Germany. In 1989, she was awarded the National Citation by the National Federation of Music Clubs of America, the Federation's highest award "for distinguished service to the musical, artistic, and cultural life of the nation." We are fortunate to have Ms. Bish sharing her talent with us in May.

Ten facts about our new organ:

- Derek went to the Allen Factory in Pennsylvania and played over 15 different consoles and pedal boards in the process of deciding the best options for us.
- Allen was the first company to build a digital organ; ours is fully digital.
- The organ took 9 months to build.
- The organ was made specifically for us; we chose every detail and component, including the wood case, the font used on the stops, and their position.
- The keys are made of plastic; the naturals are a buffed plastic; the sharps are walnut.
- The soundboard rack weighs 250 lbs. and is was moved by hand to the inside of the new organ façade.
- The speakers are located behind the screen.
- A representative comes to church each week to "voice" the organ to our space; by the time he is finished, he will have spent over 100 hours making these adjustments.
- Allen keeps parts for every organ it has ever made in a vault in case repairs are necessary.
- The sound quality chosen for our organ is versatile for liturgy, with soft sounds, reeds and trumpets. Its range is from the soft to fanfare; so far, it has been opened to about 75 percent of its potential.



Ministry Updates-cont.

Respect Life Ministry

The Parish Spiritual Adoption Program

Our parish participated in the "Spiritual Adoption" Program for the 9 months between the Feast of the Annunciation last March until the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. During this time monthly bulletin announcements invited parishioners to join and included updates on these babies' development from conception to birth.

The program encourages parishioners to pray for an unborn child in danger of abortion:

Prayer for the Unborn Child by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much.
I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child
whom I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.*

Twenty six participating parishioners reported in on Respect Life Sunday in October and collected the names they had given their babies: Annabel, Annelise, Ayesha, Barack, Carmen, Catherine, Cecelia, Claire, Dona, Gabriel, Giovanni, Grace, Jackie, Jacob, Joseph Michael, Kaitlyn, Kenneth, Mary Elizabeth, Mary Margaret, Nicole, One Known to God, Riley, Robin, Stephanie, Vincent, and William.

On Epiphany Sunday, a beautiful arrangement of white roses with the babies' names attached was brought up at the Offertory to represent the birth of these and all other babies prayed for by our parishioners.

Thank you to all in the parish who participated in the Spiritual Adoption program. Watch for announcements to participate in the program later this year.

40 Days For Life Ecumenical Prayer Vigil

On Thursday, March 26, 2015, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany, Bishop William Love of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, and Bishop Emeritus Daniel Herzog of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany led approximately 90 people in an ecumenical pro-life prayer vigil at the Planned Parenthood facility in Schenectady. They were joined by local pastors in a special 40 Days for Life event to pray for an end to abortion and a return to the Culture of Life.



Left to Right: Fr. Richard Carlino, Fr. Bradley Jones, Bishop Emeritus Daniel Herzog, Fr. Peter Schofield, Bishop William Love, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger. (photo by Michael Schweigert)

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

Pastoral Care

Happy Spring!!! The Pastoral Care Ministry has been busy with their weekly visits to our homebound, nursing home, and assisted living parishioners. These visits consist of both spiritual, receiving Holy Eucharist, and friendly visits, simply being with the individual, talking and listening. More than 60 parishioners receive these visits each week.

Easter is always a busy time for the Pastoral Care Ministry.

Easter baskets, filled with traditional Easter treats: colorful jelly beans, chocolate Easter bunnies, pinwheels, and a stuffed sheep, were created, and then delivered by the many pastoral volunteers to our parishioners, who are no longer able to be active in weekly Mass and the life of our parish.



Those folks with dietary restrictions were also taken care of with special goodies. Those who received the baskets were very appreciative.

Looking ahead...on Monday, May 18th, will be our Anointing Mass at 11 a.m. in the church, followed by a luncheon in the Parish Hall. Anyone, no matter the age, who is in need of healing of mind, body, or soul, is invited to attend. RSVP is appreciated for both the Mass and luncheon by calling the rectory at 399-9168 ext. 226 by Monday, May 11th.

The Pastoral Care Ministry is always looking for people of all ages to become volunteers. There are many opportunities for anyone to become actively involved in this wonderful ministry. For more information, please contact Rachel Winters, Pastoral Care Coordinator at 399-9168 ext. 226 or by e-mail at pastoralcareic@gmail.com.

Ministry Updates-cont.

Another Successful Year for the Knights of Columbus Fish Dinners



As Father Jerry said in the Easter Sunday bulletin:

*The **Knights of Columbus**, Council 10013, had a record Lenten fish fry season here at Immaculate. So much work goes into these Fridays in Lent dinners! But the men could not do it without the help of the **Ladies of Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus** and members of our **Youth Ministry** who assist. Congratulations to all! Your work for the church, charities, and our community are appreciated.*

This is the ninth year of putting on the fish dinners for the parish and community. The Knights started these dinners in 2007 and that year served a total of 465 dinners. This Lenten season almost four times that number of meals were served, and three times this year, over 300 meals were prepared. The food is cooked outside under a tent, which sometimes provides challenges from the wind, the snow, and the cold.

Over the years, the menu has expanded from the fried fish, French fried potatoes and coleslaw to now include choices of baked potatoes, macaroni and cheese, gluten-free mac & cheese, and orders for side dishes of mac & cheese. The Bakers Ministry has provided homemade desserts.

The Knights thank all of those who have supported us in this community effort. All of the money raised goes to various local charities, food pantries, scholarship, support for seminarians, and many other charitable groups.

Contacts: Mel Byron: 346-8954 and Gerard Havasy: 406-5675.

Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus is a service organization in support of the Knights Council 10013 and "Helping Knights Help Others." It is a fellowship of ladies supporting each other and our parish.

During the month of December the Auxiliary collected gifts for a needy family and joined the Knights for its annual Christmas caroling at Glendale Home. During Lent the group helped the Knights with their Friday Fish Dinners.

The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in room 4. Meetings include a reading, reflection, and discussion of the Scripture in the upcoming Sunday Gospel followed by refreshments.

Contacts: Geraldine Havasy: 406-5676 and Diana Byron: 346-8954.

Rosary Society

Ladies of the Rosary Altar Society will be having their annual TAG SALE May 15 & 16, 2015, in the Father Chamberlain Hall. Proceeds from the sale are donated to local charities.

Collection of all re-sellable items will start on March 2. Clothing that is gently worn, small furniture pieces, kitchen items, bric-a-brac, bedding, toys, books etc. will be accepted. Items that will NOT be accepted are TV's, computers and computer-related items, large appliances, shoes, or home made DVD's and videos. Please watch the bulletin for more information regarding time and dates for drop off and contact person.

Contact: Carol Baumgartner: 882-6494; cabc@hotmail.com.

Friends of Musoma

We are deeply saddened by the passing of long-time sponsor Sandra Martinez in January. Father Choka has been delivering 2015 tuition payments for our sponsored students. On March 14, Paulette George delivered a presentation to the College of Saint Rose Alumni Association on the Friends trip to Tanzania. A new website has been created for our organization: friendsofmusoma. As noted on the website, the group is seeking additional board members and sponsors for school children.

Contact: Georgiann Holm: eholm@nycap.rr.com

Ministry Updates-cont.

Youth Ministry—Volunteering in Appalachia



Hello! My name is Nico Angerosa, a graduate of BHBL and currently a sophomore at Oswego State. At Oswego, I am involved with our Hall Newman Center Faith Community/Parish on campus. In January, I was very fortunate to be able to participate on a service trip to a beautiful place called Nazareth Farm through the Newman Center. Tucked away in Appalachia of rural Salem, West Virginia, Nazareth Farm is a tight-knit community that lives by four cornerstones: prayer, service, community and simplicity. Throughout the week, we lived out those four cornerstones as well as learned more about and practiced Catholic social teaching, and came up with ways to bring them back home. We set aside and gave up our phones and other electronic devices for the week not knowing what time it was (it was always God's time—10:10—as Jesus' arms on the cross would suggest) and this helped me to see and realize how much valuable time we are missing with each other. At the farm, we came together with other college groups from around the country and each day went out and served the surrounding poor community by repairing their houses, insulating, painting, constructing structures, and much more. There was even one day during the week when a work crew would stay home, clean the farmhouse, cook meals and welcome everyone home, while learning the ministry of hospitality. It has made me more aware and comfortable with my relationship with God and how I incorporate my faith into my everyday life, whether religion is welcome or not. Serving and interacting with the community members who do not and cannot afford much was truly a blessing, and their stories and experiences are incredibly inspiring. I learned much more about them as well as myself, and how the little things in life DO matter. They may not have a lot of money, but they sure do have A LOT of heart. Whoever knew that this kind of impoverished community exists in our own country, the land of the free and opportunity? Being able to focus on and help serve people of our own country with fellow college peers from around the country is incredible. With that, I send out a huge thank you, for this trip would surely not be possible (without your support), and for letting me experience other ways God has helped shape this planet with so many beautiful people.



Nico

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee is excited about its accomplishments during the first year. Maria Yorkshire did a fantastic job heading up the Parish Family Directory with over 200 parish families included. Those photographed should watch the bulletin for pick-up information. Also a special thanks to all who helped to make this project a success!

Our next New Parishioner Breakfast is being held on Sunday, April 19th. This event is held each November and April after the 8:00 a.m. Mass when Father Jerry blesses our new families. After Father Jerry offers grace, a delicious buffet is served, and many representatives

talk about their ministries. It's always so much fun and a wonderful welcoming way to get to know our new families.

In early January, Debbie Pearce sent out parent letters to the parents of recently baptized children. This is a series of 7 post-Baptism mailings to keep the families inspired in the faith offering Catholic wisdom, support and encouragement as the parents nurture their child's spiritual growth.

The Welcoming Committee is always looking for new ideas and new members to help make all of our parishioners feel as welcome as possible at the Church of the Immaculate Conception.

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

Adult Faith Enrichment Team

Over the past 3 months, the team sponsored a very successful 5-week series on "Premeditated Mercy: A Spirituality of Reconciliation" featuring Fr. Pat Butler. The event was well attended and brought in people from 9 different parishes. On April 16th, Dona Fragnoli, founder of CEO of The Pebble Effect, a corporate training organization, offered a presentation titled "Building Resilience: Finding Peace in a Stressful World."

On May 14th and/or May 21st, Sean Caron will present "Joyful Anticipation/Quiet Fear: A Theology of Aging."

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

Ministry Updates-cont.

Resurrection Ministry

The responsibility of the Resurrection Ministry is to assist the celebrant during a funeral service. The duties of the ministry are to provide greeters, readers, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, incense server, cross bearer, and escorts for offertory gifts. Also, members of the ministry escort the family to sign the memorial book and assist in the placement of the pall on the casket. Through all that they do, the Ministry adds warmth and dignity to the funeral service.

More than 20 years ago, when Father Jerry was Assistant Pastor, the Resurrection Ministry was formed. Currently, twenty-two parishioners, including some with over fifteen years of service, serve in this Ministry. Dolly and Bob Boutier recently retired from the Ministry as charter members.

The Ministry assisted at 47 funerals during 2014 and have assisted in 15 in 2015. Additionally, the team assists in the All Souls Day Mass remembering parish loved ones who had died during the previous year. As the name of each deceased is read, a family member or friend comes forward to light a candle and receive a rose.

Besides the assistance that they provide and the support and comfort that they give to the bereaved, members of the Ministry find their efforts personally rewarding. The following quotes represent some of their reflections:

"I find it rewarding to give comfort to the grieving family."

"It has caused me to grow in my faith and understanding of everlasting life."

"It is a ministry without perks--except knowing you are there to help someone who is truly hurting."

"It offers an opportunity to assist in a beautiful and respectful goodbye to one of God's children."

"It helps in making a more meaningful funeral service by letting the family know that someone is there for them in their time of grief."

"I get great comfort in supporting the living as they grieve their loss and try to accept the joy of knowing their loved one is at home with God."

The Church of the Immaculate Conception thanks all ministers, past and present, for their service. Everyone is welcome to join in this wonderful ministry.

Contact: Arleen DiCaprio: 374-1258; pdicaprio@nycap.rr.com

Greeters and Ushers

When worshipers enter the church, the first faces they see are those of the greeters; for both parishioners and guests, they set a welcoming tone for the service to come. In a warm and friendly way, they are frequently able to address parishioners by name as they hand out worship aids. At the conclusion of the Mass, they hand out church bulletins with good wishes for a pleasant day. Then they set about preparing the church for the next service. They arrange booklets in pews, put up the kneelers, dispose of trash, gather personal items which have been left behind, and bring these items to the gathering space.

Ushers assist in locating seating room when the church is crowded. Before the Mass, they place the collection baskets at the church entrances and the money bag in the large basket at the main entrance. Before Mass begins, they select three people to take the gifts to the altar. Those offering a Mass often want the honor of bringing the gifts up during the Offertory. Finally, ushers are responsible for collecting offerings, sealing them in the money bag and depositing the money at the bank.

Currently, 43 people serve as greeters and 21 as ushers. Since 18 greeters and 18 ushers are required for the three weekend Masses, there is a need for more volunteers particularly for the 11 a.m. Mass and to a lesser extent the 5 p.m. Mass.

Immaculate Conception Church is fortunate to have such a loyal group of greeters and ushers who make everyone feel welcome and part of a friendly church community.

Contacts: Sandy and Christine Heitkamp: 399-4754

The Memorial Wall by Fr. Jerry Gingras

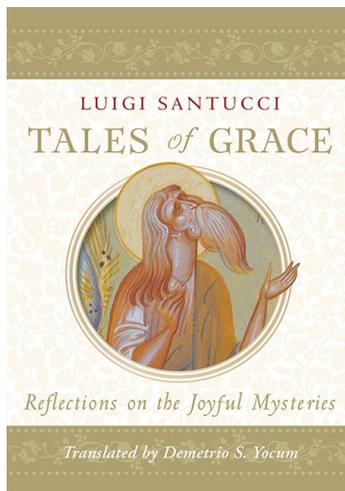
The wall to the left of our tabernacle is our “*Memorial Wall*.” You will find two items of note as you gaze upon it. The first is the *Book of the Dead*, sometimes called the *Memorial Book*. The names of all those who were buried from our church since the conception of our parish in 1957 are found on its pages. At the end of our funeral liturgy, the memorial book is placed on the altar and the family of the deceased is invited to come forward and sign their loved one’s name in the book on the page of the day that they died. After this, the book is then carried in procession to the memorial wall. On the anniversary of each of our deceased parishioners, we read their names before we begin mass and pray: *may their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace*. With the praying of this prayer, our beloved deceased are never forgotten from our parish.



The second item of interest is the Memorial Crosses. Each memorial cross is marked with the name of our deceased sisters and brothers along with the dates of their death. The cross is brought to the funeral home the evening of the wake and placed in the casket of the deceased. Before the casket is closed, the cross is removed from the casket and given to the family who carries it to church. Once the casket is situated in the place of honor (to the south of the altar), the family places the cross on the top of the casket. At the end of the funeral mass, after the memorial book has been signed with the name of the deceased, both book and cross are carried in procession to the memorial wall. A family member normally places the cross on the wall. During the procession to the memorial wall, the community joins the choir in singing *Quietly, Peacefully*, a beautiful ballad about the saints and angels taking our loved one home to God, there to see God face to face. I often see family members in church looking at their loved one’s cross or touching the cross. It’s very touching to be a part of this gentle scene. On the memorial wall a plaque reads: *Life is changed, not ended*. During this Easter season, let us hold those words close to our hearts.

Book Review: *Tales of Grace: Reflections on the Joyful Mysteries*

By Luigi Santucci—Reviewed by Fran Rossi Szpylczyn



Every now and then I am asked to read a manuscript in order to provide an “*editorial review*,” what you would think of as a book blurb. You know, those quotes on the back cover of a book, or inside somewhere, where people who are supposed to know what they are talking about, say something about the item in your hand. Many editorial reviews, or “blurbs” are used on promotional materials instead of the book, such as on Amazon, in brochures, or websites. As “blurber” my experience has been that you get the book, you read it, and you hope that you will like it!

When I first heard about the premise for *Tales of Grace: Reflections on the Joyful Mysteries*, by Luigi Santucci, translated by Demetrio S. Yocum, I was excited. Then I received my copy and began to wonder what I had gotten myself into! The premise of the book reminded me of the Ignatian contemplative practice, in which you insert

yourself into the Scriptural story, but it seemed a bit over the top for me. Quickly however, I realized that I had nothing to worry about, as I dove headfirst into a beautiful and prayerful place where whimsy and grace meet. The title was certainly aptly chosen!

Beginning each chapter is to fully enter each one of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, to become part of each story as it unfolds. Not imagining himself as Mary, for example, the author finds his way into the story in various ways. By taking part in what's happening, we join him as we go into relationship with the story - and thus with God. Reading the book felt like a delightful dream, the sort that leaves you feeling transformed upon awakening.

I'll close with the words I crafted for that aforementioned editorial review: ***"This book is an extravagant invitation inviting the reader on a rich and powerful journey through the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. We follow the author as he is inserted into the story in the style of imaginative contemplation. Examining everyday elements of sin and grace, this astonishing allegory is rich in language and symbols, illustrated with magnificent icons that beckon us into deeper prayer. The mystical meditations build to a brilliant crescendo of the joy of the salvific power of Christ."***

The Four Stages of RCIA

- The Pre-Catechumenate, or Inquiry, stage is the time in which those interested ask their questions about the faith and determine how the faith connects with their lives.
- The Catechumenate is the period in which Catechumens, both those preparing for Baptism and those already baptized who are preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist, study Catholic beliefs and way of life, through Scriptures, Catholic teachings, and participation in worship and parish activities. A sponsor gives individual support to each Catechumen. The Catechumenate lasts for a period of time, ending with the Rite of Election when they are accepted for Easter Sacraments and are referred to as “elect.”
- Purification and Enlightenment, coinciding with Lent, is the period in which the Elect complete their final preparation for initiation through prayer and reflection and the celebration of the Scrutinies. This period ends at the Easter Vigil with the celebration of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.
- Mystagogy or “leading into the mysteries,” lasts from Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday. During this time, the initiated reflect on their faith experiences and begin their growth in the Catholic way of life.

Ask Deacon Mike

Question:



WHAT ARE THE HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION?

Answer:

Once again, this is a great question that often brings a lot of confusion. So, allow me to break it down a little. It all starts with the Code of Canon Law. Canon laws spell out all the "Laws" that every Catholic must obey and follow. (By the way, our new Bishop, Bishop Ed Scharffenberger, has a doctorate degree in Canon Law and civil law).

The Code of Canon Law spells out when the holy days of obligation are on the Church's universal calendar:

Can. 1246 §1. Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, must be observed in the universal Church as the primordial holy day of obligation. The following days must also be observed:

- the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- the Epiphany,
- the Ascension,
- the Body and Blood of Christ,
- Holy Mary the Mother of God,
- her Immaculate Conception,
- her Assumption,
- Saint Joseph,
- Saint Peter and Saint Paul the Apostles,
- and All Saints.

These ten are the exact holy days of obligation that are celebrated in Vatican City, but there is variation elsewhere (including in Italy). The reason is that the Code of Canon Law goes on to state:

Can. 1246 §2. With the prior approval of the Apostolic See, however, the conference of bishops can suppress some of the holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday.

Thus different countries celebrate different holy days of obligation (apart from Sunday, which they all celebrate).

The details can be a little bewildering though, so here is a complete, up-to-date list of the holy days of obligation in the United States:

- **Mary, Mother of God** (always celebrated January 1, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass)
- **Epiphany** (this has been permanently translated to the first Sunday after January 1)
- **Ascension** (this is celebrated on different days depending on which ecclesiastical province you live in; a few provinces celebrate it on the traditional date, which is the Thursday of the sixth week of Easter, but most provinces in the U.S. have transferred it to the seventh Sunday of Easter.)
- **The Body and Blood of Christ** (this has been permanently translated to the second Sunday after Pentecost)
- **Assumption of Mary** (always celebrated August 15, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass)
- **All Saints** (always celebrated November 1, but if this occurs on a Saturday or a Monday there is no obligation to go to Mass)
- **Immaculate Conception of Mary** (always celebrated December 8)
- **Christmas** (always celebrated December 25)

There is one other wrinkle to the holy days of obligation in the United States: the state of Hawaii. Hawaii is part of the United States, but it is located in a part of the world where most of the surrounding dioceses belong to the Conference of Bishops of the South Pacific (CEPAC). As a result, there is a special indulgent for Hawaii to regulate its liturgical days in accord with the surrounding dioceses. Therefore, since 1992, Hawaii has only had two holy days of obligation (besides Sundays), which are the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and Christmas (Dec. 25).

My thanks to the web site "CATHOLIC.COM" for this simplistic explanation.

In this sixth 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.icglenville.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:

July 18-19: Next issue of the Pipeline to be distributed.

July 6: Submissions due.