

Bulletin Letter December 20, 2020 4<sup>th</sup> Advent Cycle B

***From the Pastor:***

Our season of waiting and fervent anticipation draws to a close. The promise of these four weeks, the coming of our Lord and Savior, will soon reach its fulfillment. The question we might all want to pray with this week is this; have we prepared a place in our hearts for the newborn savior? Have we focused more on how we might celebrate the holiday rather than on Christ? As we once again hear Mary accept the invitation to bear the Son of God, let us be inspired by her yes. She is a model of how we might accept God's invitation to bear Christ to one another.

We know that nothing is impossible for God and that is certainly how I am approaching Christmas and the New Year. We will face some challenges as we go forth with our three parish communities, but I also believe that there will be no shortage of grace and gift as well. This might be a good way to transition from Advent into Christmas, with a prayer that we welcome and love whatever is being born in our churches.

If you missed the **American Red Cross Blood Drive at Immaculate** this past Saturday, there will be another one on **January 16**. There is a vital need for blood for donations right now. The gift of life is essential so that others may live. Registration will be open soon.

We have all been living with the challenges of the coronavirus. **Covid-19** has upended all of our lives in various ways, large and small. The latest news shows that viable vaccines are nearly ready and will soon be administered. There was some confusing news about the vaccines initially. The USCCB has responded to claims regarding Covid vaccines stating that they present no obstacles in regard to Catholic teaching. You can read their memo at the USCCB website at the following link, which will also be posted on our website: <https://www.usccb.org/resources/memo-to-bishops-on-vaccines-for-covid-19.pdf>

Don't forget that every **Hannaford Helps bag** that you purchase in the month of December brings in additional funding for the Immaculate Conception food pantry run by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Maybe you can buy some non-perishables to donate and buy the bag to carry them in! Every little bit helps.

On the back side of this letter, we have added a handy chart of **Mass Times and Places** that will help everyone know what time weekend masses are at all three of our parishes and how to attend. If you have any comments or questions on our new configuration, please direct them to the trustees at your particular parish.

I also want to urge everyone attending mass at Immaculate to **please use our online mass sign up system** whenever possible. We all love getting your calls, but the most efficient way to register is electronically. Remember that registrations now open on Monday mornings at 9 am and close when full or on Thursday at 8 pm (4 pm for call ins). Thank you for such vibrant support and attendance at all of our worship spaces.

At Immaculate Conception they will have limited office hours between December 24 and January 1. Please give them a call before you stop by. Here at St. Joseph's our office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We will reopen on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. We will be open Monday – Wednesday our regular hours 9 AM – 3 PM. We will be closed December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> and will reopen at 9 AM on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

By time the next bulletin is out, we will have celebrated our Christmas liturgies. Please be assured of my blessings and prayers for one and all. May you and your loved ones find joy in these days, and may the light of Christ warm and illuminate the world.

*Joyeux Noel!*

***Fr. Jerry***

<b>Church</b>	<b>Mass Times</b>	<b>Mass Reservations</b>	<b>Website/Contact</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Immaculate Conception	5:00 -Saturday 9:00 Sunday	By Reservation Online or Phone	www.icglenville.com	518-399-9168
St Joseph's	4:00 Saturday 9:00 Sunday	Walk-in. No Reservation needed	<a href="http://www.stjosephschurchscotia.net">www.stjosephschurchscotia.net</a>	518-399-5713
Our Lady of Grace	5:30 Saturday 10:30 Sunday	By Reservation Phone or email	www.olgchurchbl.org mayerd@nycap.rr.com	518-384-0109

**For questions or suggestions, please contact a Trustee:**

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