

Mary Immaculate Parish



St. Mary's
11095 St. Mary's St.
P.O. Box 442
Pavilion, NY 14525

January 3, 2021
The Epiphany of the Lord
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12
Rev. Alphonse Arulanandu

Immaculate Conception
5865 Ellicott St. Rd.
P.O. Box 98
East Bethany, NY 14054

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Parish Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday:
9:00am-1:00pm

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Bookkeeper – Diane Costa
mioffice@rochester.rr.com
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www.MaryImmaculateNY.org
[Facebook](#)
Mary Immaculate Parish



Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass: 4:00pm
Months of October – March at St. Mary's
Sunday Mass: 8:00am at St. Mary's
9:30am at Immaculate Conception

Until further Notice, all weekend Masses will be celebrated with **30 people at East Bethany Location.**
And with **40 people at Pavilion Location.**

Confessions: Any time by appointment.

Daily Masses are celebrated as scheduled.
Kindly log-on to our diocesan website for:
LIVE-STREAMED MASSES.

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion. (cf. Malachi 3:1; 1Chronicles 29:12)

Welcome to Mary Immaculate Parish

Mother Mary: We Love You, intercede for us at this time of COVID -19! Amen.

Mass Intentions

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, January 2

4:00PM – All Souls by Parishioners

Sunday, January 3

8:00AM – Renee Miller (For Improved Health) by Bill & Ursula Fuest

Sunday, January 3

9:30am – Conrad Gifford Sr (RIP) by Cheryl Anziano

Saturday, January 9

4:00PM – All Souls by Parishioners

Sunday, January 10

8:00AM – All Souls by Parishioners

Sunday, January 10

9:30am – Angeline Rigoni (RIP) by Family

Mon. 01/04 - 1 John 3:22-4:6;
Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25; (St Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious)

Tue. 01/05 - **Mass 8.30am East Bethany**
Reading - 1 John 4: 7-10;
Mark 6:34-44 (St John Neumann, Bishop)

Wed. 01/06 - **Mass 8.30am Pavilion**
Reading - 1 John 4:11-18;
Mark 6:45-52 (St Andre Bessette, Religious)

Thur. 01/07 – **Mass 8:30am East Bethany**
Reading - 1 John 4:19-5:4;
Luke 4:14-22a (St Raymond of Penafort, Priest)

Fri. 01/08 – **Mass 8:30am Pavilion**
Reading - 1 John 5:5-13;
Luke 5:12-16

Sat. 01/09 – 1 John 5:14-21;
Reading - John 3:22-30

Lector Schedule:

Saturday, January 2– 4:00pm – **Pavilion**
Lector: Rae Snyder

Sunday, January 3– 8:00am – **Pavilion**
Lector: Chuck Bishop

Sunday, January 3– 9:30am – **East Bethany**
Lector: Mike Jackson

Saturday, January 9– 4:00pm – **Pavilion**
Lector: Dan Gangi

Sunday, January 10– 8:00am – **Pavilion**
Lector: Randy Mastin

Sunday, January 10– 9:30am – **East Bethany**
Lector: Marita Midwick

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

Julia Barniak, Joseph Dean, David Welliver, Emma Burkell, Carl Taylor, Doris Elliott, Bonny Winspear, Jimmy Stothers, Erica Dombrowski, Etta Winter, Maverick Brumsted-Shaw, Robert Collette, Herman Hensel, Clarence Winspear, Ellie Volpe, Patrick Birmingham, Maryann Loiacona, Renee Miller.

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR NURSING HOME PARISHIONERS: Louise Lynch, Father Richard Cilano (Carol Stream, Illinois).

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Joseph Stanley, Maj. Jason Palermo, W2 Christian Koch, Dan Murphy, Alex Roth, Tim Stalica, Jady Gray, Jakob Kosiorek, Paul Agan Jr., Mst. Sgt. Nicholas Boyer, Brett Sheffer, Captain Mathieu Philie, SFC Jay Knower, Michael Rigoni, Mark Wilkinsen, Hunter Schiske and Sgt. Mike Steffenella

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS: Next parish council meeting will be January 21, 2021.

ENVELOPES: If you plan to attend mass at a different church, feel free to put your envelope in at that church. It will make its way to our parish. The church you attend will happily mail your envelope to Mary Immaculate Parish on your behalf.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Those who do not wish to attend mass on Sunday may attend a mass of their choice during the week and it will count as their weekly obligation. This will only be accepted during the coronavirus pandemic.

UPCOMING COLLECTIONS

Ladies of Charity.....Jan 10
Catholic Relief Services.....Jan 31
Assistance to Poland and Europe.....Feb 7

Thank You To Those Who Already Gave

PARISH REPORT

Regular Collection (12/27/20)	\$2211.00
Christmas	\$ 914.25
Christmas Flowers (cumulative)	\$ 534.00

Thank You to All Who Have Continued To Give

Reflection:

January 03, 2021

Feast of Epiphany

The Greek word Epiphany means appearance or manifestation. Multiple revelations of Jesus as God are celebrated on this Feast of the Epiphany. First, the angels revealed Jesus to the shepherds. Then to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi. And the time of the Baptism of Christ when the Father and the Holy Spirit gave combined testimony to Jesus' identity as Son of God. Later, in the synagogue at Nazareth, Jesus revealed Himself as the promised Messiah, and at Cana Jesus revealed His Divinity by transforming water into wine. The Church celebrates all these epiphany events on this Feast of Epiphany.

Today's Gospel teaches us how Christ enriches those who bring him their hearts. The adoration of the Magi fulfills the oracle of Isaiah, prophesying that the nations of the world would travel to the Holy City following a brilliant light and would bring gold and incense to contribute to the worship of God. Paul's letter to the Church of Ephesus expresses God's secret plan in clear terms by saying they are the copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. God permitted the Magi – foreigners and pagans – to recognize and give Jesus proper respect as the King of Jews, which reminds us that there is nothing in our sinful lives that will keep God from bringing us to Jesus. There were three groups of people who reacted to the Epiphany of Christ's birth. The first group, headed by King Herod the Great, tried to eliminate the Child, the second group, priests and scribes, ignored him, and the third group, represented by the shepherds and the Magi, came to adore him.

Therefore, let us make sure that we belong to the third group, by worshiping Jesus at Mass with the gold of our love, the myrrh of our humility, and the frankincense of our adoration; by giving a new direction to our lives. As the Magi chose another route to return to their homes, we need to choose a better way of life, abstaining from proud and impure thoughts, evil habits and selfish behavior. By becoming stars leading others to Jesus as the star led the Magi to Jesus – removing the darkness of the evil around us and radiating Jesus' love through selfless service, unconditional forgiveness, and compassionate care.

On this day let offer Jesus our grateful gift of friendship with God in the form of wholehearted love and devotion. His gift of friendship with others by leading them to Jesus through our exemplary lives of Christian charity in action. His gift of reconciliation with God by daily asking His pardon and forgiveness for our sins and giving unconditional forgiveness to those who wound us. His gift of peace by seeking God's peace in our own lives through prayer, leading a Sacramental life and meditation daily on the Word of God.

A child is born. A birth is always a source of hope; it is life that blossoms, a promise of the future. Moreover, this Child, Jesus, was born "to us": an "us" without any borders, privileges or exclusions. The Child born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem was born for everyone: he is the "son" that God has given to the entire human family...

We come from every continent, from every language and culture, with our own identities and differences, yet we are all brothers and sisters. At this moment in history, marked by the ecological crisis and grave economic and social imbalances only worsened by the coronavirus pandemic, it is all the more important for us to acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters... At Christmas we celebrate the light of Christ who comes into the world; he comes for everyone, not just for some."

Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you for being God's instrument of blessing in my life by your valuable prayers, wishes, gifts during Christmas and encouraging support in the past years. I assure you of my special prayers every day in the New Year 2021 during my Holy Masses. May the Holy Spirit of God continue to empower and guide you and your family. May He bring you good health and happiness in the New Year.

May God bless you every day of the New Year!

Fr. Alphonse

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: If you are interested in becoming a Council member and to help out your parish, please contact Father Alphonse or any Council member. If you have never been to a meeting, we invite you to join us at our next meeting will be in January 21, 7pm. We need your participation to make our parish alive and growing. Please do not think someone else will step up ... we need YOU!

COUNTERS NEEDED: We are in need of a few volunteers to assist in counting the collection at our Immaculate Conception location. Counters are needed for one week per month and an additional week one time during the year. If you can assist us with either need, please let the office know. Your parish is in need of your help. Please volunteer.

LIVESTREAMING THE MASS: Our parishioners who are still unable to join us for weekend masses now have the opportunity to view it by livestream. If you would like to livestream the Saturday mass at 4:00pm at St. Mary's Church you can do so by going on the church's website and clicking on the link. You will then be able to view the mass by livestream.

BABY BOTTLE DRIVE: Last weekend we started our annual Advent baby bottle drive to benefit All Babies Cherished, our regional pregnancy assistance center. Empty baby bottles will be available at the back of both churches between now and Christmas. If you can, please take one home and fill it with your change from shopping and other holiday activities. Then return it next month on the weekend of January 2nd and 3rd, the feast of the Epiphany. Just like the Magi brought their gifts before the baby Jesus, we will bring our gifts before Christ for His needy children of today.

BOXED ENVELOPES: Your offertory envelopes will be coming in boxed sets to the church this year as an alternative to the mailing process of past years. They will be available in East Bethany for pick up. Anyone wishing to pick them up in Pavilion, please give the office a call so that we can make arrangements for you.

Pope Francis Appoints Bishop Michael William Fisher 15th Bishop of Diocese of Buffalo, NY

Washington, D.C. Auxiliary Bishop Michael William Fisher has been appointed by His Holiness Pope Francis as the fifteenth bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo in an announcement from the Vatican 12/01/2020 at 12:00 noon Rome time.

Bishop Fisher's installation will take place on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Buffalo. His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Metropolitan Archbishop of New York, will preside and Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, will be in attendance.

PORTRAIT OF THE BISHOP: The Diocese is taking pre-orders of portraits of the Bishop. If you are interested the prices are as follows:

8x10 portrait \$10 each

11x14 portrait \$20 each

If you are interested in purchasing one of the portraits you can contact the parish office and we will place the order for you or you can email your order directly to the Diocese at spacillo@buffalodiocese.org or ldombrowski@buffalodiocese.org.

*O God of steadfast love, trusting you,
We devote our hearts to learning and
our lives to walking.
Teach us truth, that we may walk with courage.
Teach us mercy, that we may walk with
humility.
Teach us forgiveness, that we may walk with
compassion.
Teach us grace, that we may walk with strength.
Teach us wonder, that we may walk with praise.
Teach us goodness, that we may walk with those
in need.
O God of steadfast love, learning from you, may
we walk well.
Amen.*

-J. Bradley Wigger

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2021

Mary Immaculate Parish
Rev. Alphonse Arulanandu, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Tough times?

Throughout history, God has proven his faithfulness and care over and over again. He promises that He will help you through whatever tough times you face. *"God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it"* (1 Corinthians 10:13). Lean on Him.



Tune out the world and tune into Go

In our noisy world, it can be hard to hear God's voice over the din. Yet, listening is as important as talking during prayer. *"By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies"* (Isaiah 30:15). Talk to Him often, but make a point of listening for God's voice.

"Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).



Give the gift of friendship in the New Year

When times are tough, it can be our family and friends who help us through. There wasn't much Jesus wouldn't do for His friends. In fact, He was more concerned with being a good friend than with having one. In our current pandemic situation, we can care for our loved ones as Jesus would:

Make spending time together a priority. Connections between loved ones are critical now. When meeting in person isn't possible, phone calls, letters, and emails can keep us connected. Video conferencing has become a staple of daily life; consider organizing regular get togethers with friends and family using your favorite conferencing program.

Help other people feel important. No matter how you interact, give the other person your full attention in conversation, and show appreciation and understanding for what he is saying.

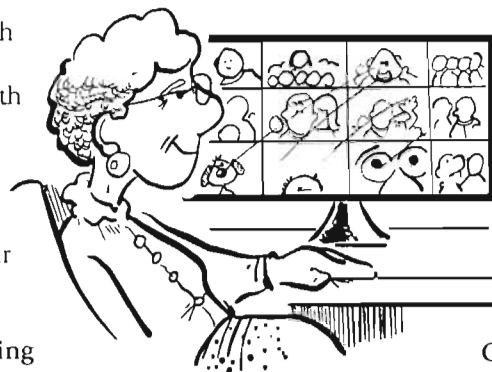
Celebrate your friends' successes. A true friend is genuinely happy when something good happens in the other's life.

Value differences. Don't try to change your loved ones.

Celebrate their diversity.

Be willing to apologize. You may let each other down but a sincere apology can bring friends closer together.

Don't forget old friends. Call someone you haven't been in touch with for a long time. Don't know what to say? Try, "I don't want another moment to go by without being in touch. I've missed you."



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics honor the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a symbol of Christ's love for us. It is often a heart surrounded by flame, pierced by a lance, topped by a cross, and circled by a crown of thorns.



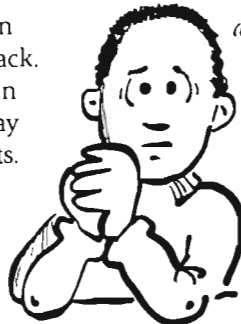
Jesus' love for us burns bright and intense like a flame. His heart is pierced by the lance representing our sins and the crown of thorns and the cross remind us of the death he suffered to bring us life.

“What do you want from me, Lord?”

God gives to us freely, but what does he want in return? Simply put, God wants us to love Him back.

Know Him. God made each of us with a space in our heart just for Him. Until we discover it, we may try to fill it with earthly things, but nothing else fits. When we turn to Him, the reward is beyond our dreams.

Love Him. Jesus said, *“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul,*



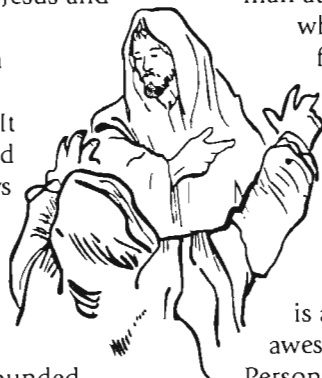
and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37). He wants us to surrender to his infinite love. Show your love by praying frequently, seeking Communion with Him often, and praising Him continually.

Serve Him. *“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me”* (Matthew 25:40). When we make sure everyone has enough to eat, warm clothes to wear, and a place to stay, Jesus takes it personally. It’s what he wants from us.

from Scripture

Mark 1:21-28, God’s authority is not a formality

In this Gospel passage, Jesus and his apostles entered the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus taught those gathered at the Sabbath. It was customary for learned teachers to say, *“Thus says the Lord...”* Instead Jesus said, *“I say to you ...”* He taught as one who spoke with the authority of God.



man at the synagogue recognized who Jesus was. They were forced to obey Him when he commanded them to depart, despite their reluctance. In fact, God’s power and authority isn’t just a formality. What God says, happens.

Our kind and gentle Savior is also our powerful and awesome Lord. As the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus has supreme majesty and we will one day appear before Him to be judged. Yes, he is our divine savior and mediator. But if we say, *“Jesus is Lord,”* then we give Him our loyalty and obedience.

His calm authority astounded Jesus’ listeners. Just as they began to wonder what it meant, he gave them a sign. He further demonstrated his authority by performing an exorcism. Spirits that bedeviled an unfortunate

Q & A How can I choose Catholic references that are accurate and faithful?

One good way to determine whether or not a book or pamphlet accurately reflects Catholic doctrine is to look for an *“imprimatur”* printed in the first few pages of the book. The presence of an



imprimatur generally means that a bishop’s office has determined it to be free of doctrinal or moral errors. It may be accompanied by a *“nihil obstat”* (Latin for *“nothing stands in the way”*) which means that someone well-versed in Catholic theology has reviewed the contents and found the same thing. Keep in mind that neither the imprimatur nor the nihil obstat imply agreement with the content or opinions.

It is particularly important for a book that purports to teach about the faith of the Church to carry the approval of the Catholic Church. There are many well-meaning people who intend to educate others about God’s infinite love but may have an imperfect understanding of Catholic doctrine. When choosing materials to learn more about our religion, you will want to be sure that they are accurate.

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Today, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary. Because this feast day is on a Monday, Mass attendance is optional (but encouraged) this year.

Jan. 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (1st Century). Setting out for Damascus to carry on the persecution of the Christians, he encountered Christ (Acts 9:1-19; 22:5-16; 26:12-18) while on the road to Damascus. He was struck blind from

the experience until he was baptized by Ananias three days later. He converted and began preaching the faith as he travelled around the Mediterranean.

Jan. 26 – Sts. Timothy and Titus (1st Century). Timothy was a convert of St. Paul’s and later became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work. He was with Paul at the founding of the Church in Corinth. Titus, also a friend of Paul’s, served the early Church as a peacemaker and administrator to a community on Crete.



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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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