

# Immaculate Conception

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[www.icceaston.org](http://www.icceaston.org)



## *Directory of Parish Ministries and Organizations*

DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER



## *Parish Mission Statement*

The family of Immaculate Conception Parish is a Catholic, Christian community that is nourished and sustained by the living presence of our God, in His Word, through the Eucharist and in His people among us.

We are invited by the Spirit to active discipleship; to be the welcoming bearers of Christ to those we encounter. We are called also to challenge and nurture each other as we prayerfully rely on the gentle guidance of the Father, to faithfully, courageously, and continuously build His kingdom.

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon – Thurs 8:30 am – 1:00 pm  
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

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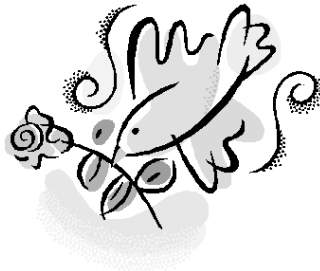
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## *Adult Education*

### **Adult Faith Study Groups**

Each of us is called to nurture our relationship with God through faithful reading and understanding of His Word. Several groups meet throughout the year to study how God has revealed His Love for us in the past, leading to a discussion about how we can see God working in our lives today. Groups may choose to study a book of the Bible, a section of the Catholic Catechism, a book or novel containing a Christian theme, or various other Christian topics. Faith Study Groups are in session throughout the year, meeting once a week at various times during the day and evening. Men and women who are interested in exploring their faith in a supportive, nurturing atmosphere are welcome at any time. No previous classes or experience is necessary.

### **Baptism Host Ministry**

The Baptism Host Ministry is committed to providing a welcome feeling of community to families who have chosen to bring their children to the Sacrament of Baptism.. A host couple is needed to attend a one hour, pre-baptismal parent meeting and give a short talk about their personal experience of this sacrament. The host couple can expect to spend approximately two hours time per year involved in this ministry. We welcome men and women who are willing to share their spiritual experience about the baptism of their children with other parents during this joyful time of life.

### **Book Club**

All are welcome to join the Immaculate Conception Spiritual Book Club. The Spiritual Book Club is open to all parishioners and friends to discuss motivational and inspirational books and enhance spiritual growth in an informal social setting. Meetings will be held monthly in the upper room of the parish hall.

### **Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA)**

The Christian Initiation process is a sharing of the Catholic Christian faith with individuals who have not yet been baptized (catechumen), baptized non-Catholics and baptized Catholics (candidates) who have not received First Communion. It is a team approach fostering faith and community. The curriculum includes a study of the Sacraments, Scripture, Trinity, morality, and social justice. Classes begin in September and conclude at Pentecost. Volunteers are needed to be sponsors, agreeing to walk the faith journey with the candidates and catechumens. You will be asked to attend Liturgy and catechesis with the person you are sponsoring. Meetings take place after the 8:00 am Sunday Mass and usually finish at 10:30 am.

## *Charitable Organizations*

### **Daughters of Isabella – Easton Circle 564**

The Daughters of Isabella is the sisterhood of the Knights of Columbus. It is a charitable, Community Service based organization of Catholic Women. Our motto is Unity-Charity-Friendship. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month (except January and August) in the Upper Room of the Parish Center. We welcome all Catholic women to be involved in a variety of services to our community and others.

### **Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus is a worldwide organization that acts as a support group for the Church worldwide as well as in the local community. The Knights are involved in fundraising for many local charities and those in need. Each council tries to interact with the children and seniors of the community by hosting activities on a regular basis. The Knights of Columbus also offers its members the opportunity to protect their families through its insurance programs. The only requirement is to be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Meeting times are twice a month, but there are no mandatory time commitments.

### **St. Vincent de Paul Society**

The St. Vincent de Paul Society seeks to help the needy and suffering in a spirit of charity and justice that promotes human dignity and integrity. The Immaculate Conception conference is a member of the Taunton District Council which gives aid to hundreds of needy persons each year regardless of creed, color or ethnic origin. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we strive to respond to the immediate crisis and to attempt to address and correct the situation that caused it. The society meets monthly and the information at meeting is kept confidential. We welcome men and women with a desire to respond to individuals and families in need.



## *Liturgical Services*

### **Altar Guild**

Our beautiful church is a prized treasure in our parish, but it needs continuing care to keep it in the condition we all desire. A group of parishioners come together every other week from 8:30 until noon for the purpose of maintaining and caring for the sanctuary area. Tasks include dusting, vacuuming, and sweeping the interior of the church as well as laundering linen and other items. We welcome men and women to continue this important work.

### **Altar Servers**

The primary role of the altar server is to assist the priest in the celebration of the liturgy during Mass. This is done through specific actions and by setting an example in the liturgy by their actions, singing of hymns, responses of the people, looking alert and sitting or standing at the appropriate times. Servers carry the cross, the processional candle(s), hold the book for the priest celebrant when he is not at the altar, carry the incense and censer, present the bread, wine and water to the priest or deacon during the preparation of the gifts or assist him when he receives the gifts from the people, wash the hands of the priest, assist the priest celebrant and deacon as necessary. Training is provided by the parish priests. Servers can expect to serve approximately twice a month. We welcome all boys and girls, who have received First Holy Eucharist and who have entered grades four and above.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

The Children's Liturgy is for children grades K through 5 to hear the gospel message in their language/vocabulary during the school year. They are invited during the "adult reading" to go to the sacristy at the right of the Altar during the 8:00 a.m. Mass and to the parish hall during the 10:15 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Volunteer leaders are needed for approximately fifteen minutes during mass to read to the children and discuss the week's message using a simple guidebook. Leaders supervise the children during readings, a question/answer period and prayers. There is minimal preparation required and no teaching experience is necessary. We welcome men and women to serve as Children's Liturgists in this important ministry. Parents are always welcome to attend with their children.

### **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Men and women assist the priests with communion at Mass as well as to those who are unable to leave their home to attend Mass. Interested parishioners are recommended for service by the parish priest. There is one instructional training session, and annual commissioning. You can expect to be placed on the schedule to serve approximately once or twice a month at a mass that is most convenient for you. Ministers of the Eucharist for the homebound distribute the Eucharist on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month following the 10:15 Mass. Anyone who has already been confirmed is eligible to become an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist.

## *Liturgical Services* continued

### **Greeters and Ushers**

Greeters welcome people as they come into the church for Mass and foster an atmosphere where all feel at ease. At the end of Mass, they are there to say goodbye, see that everyone, who wants one, has a bulletin and to answer questions. Your time commitment is the time you are at Mass. Ushers collect the weekly offerings. Ushers and greeters are scheduled at the Mass they prefer to attend approximately once each month.



### **Lectors**

A Lector is a minister of God's Word. A "reader" is not merely a person who reads at Mass, but one who helps God to be present to others in the proclamation of the Word. Readers are needed for Saturday and Sunday masses, for Holy Days and for some funerals and other celebrations. Parishioners with some experience in public speaking, clear diction and pronunciation are welcome. Training is available as needed.

### **Liturgical Decorating Committee**

We usually use the word "decorations" to mean balloons and streamers and other colorful materials that create a mood of festivity at celebration. Liturgical decorations are used to foster a mood sometimes of festivity and at other times of penitence or anticipation, but always of dignity and hospitality. Seasonal decorations help set the mood for liturgy. We welcome anyone who is interested in decorating our beautiful church, making it fit for worship during the church seasons. Volunteers are needed to assemble decorations before the holiday season and to help hang the prepared decorations. Any amount of time you have is welcome.

### **Liturgical Planning Committee**

The purpose of the Liturgical Planning Committee is to enhance the spiritual life of our parish through the preparation and coordination of its liturgical celebrations. The mission of this committee is to work together to discover ways in which the Trinity can become more alive and real in the lives of the assembly, (e.g., Sunday liturgy, Sacred Triduum, Holy Days of Obligation, Communion Services, etc.) with the leadership of our parish priest. This Committee is comprised of volunteers, registered in the parish, and who maintain a current understanding of the Church's liturgical documents and instructions.

## *Liturgical Services* continued

### **Wedding Ceremony Coordinator**

The Wedding Coordinator assists couples in planning the details of their Wedding Liturgy. This person guides the couple in reviewing the marriage guidelines as well as setting the date for and directing the rehearsal. The coordinator is responsible for contacting altar servers, securing the marriage license, connecting the couple with the musician and cantor who will participate in the ceremony, assist with prayer selection and collect any fees. They are present on the day of the wedding to attend to any details such as decorations, programs and receiving lines. We welcome members of our parish community who are interested in helping couples plan a liturgically responsible, joyous and distinctive celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.



### *Music*

Music is a vital and important part of Liturgy. Through music, we focus on a commitment to foster a feeling of understanding by recognizing each other's individual personality as well as the common bonds we share in our faith. We strive to deepen our understanding of God, values of kindness, helpfulness, personal responsibility and respect for others; qualities we know to be essential in leading spiritually, emotionally and physically healthy lives.

### **Adult Choir**

We welcome men and women who enjoy singing in a supportive, upbeat and energetic group atmosphere. Rehearsals last about an hour and take place the 4-6 weeks prior to Christmas and Easter. We rehearse/sing in the loft. There is no long-term commitment. Many members sing only at Christmas or Easter. Many others sing for the entire choir season (September through May). You are welcome to "sit in" at a rehearsal anytime to get a sense of what is being done. This is a wonderfully creative way to minister to your church community. Come join us and "sing" what you've been missing!

## *Music continued*

### **Cantors**

A cantor proclaims the Word of God musically and engages the congregation in praise and worship. Training and ongoing support is provided. Anyone interested needs to have a good, strong voice that projects well and should be comfortable singing in front of large groups.

### **Holy Smokes!!!**

Holy Smokes!!! is ICC's New Contemporary Ensemble geared for junior high, high school and college aged young men and women. However, men and women - any age - who enjoy singing and playing upbeat, Catholic Christian Rock-style music are welcome to join! Though currently we are a vocal group, we are looking to welcome musicians to play piano, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, drums, etc. so that we can bring this group into a full ensemble-mode. If you enjoy singing in a group and/or play an instrument, please take the time talk to us about how you can be a part of this exciting group. Rehearsals are weekly for one hour September through May.



### **Junior Choir**

The Junior Choir welcomes boys and girls in grades three through six. Rehearsals are weekly for one hour September through May. We sing Mass twice each month, including the 4:00pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Music is traditional and simple in order to emphasize the beauty of these young voices. Feel free to "sit in" at a rehearsal with your child, anytime, to get a sense of what goes on.

### **Liturgical Musicians**

Become a vital part of music ministry by sharing your time and talent with your faith community. Musicians are needed for all weekend Masses as well as Mass celebrated on Holy Days of obligation, holidays and other observances. If you enjoy playing an instrument, please take the time to talk to us about how you can participate.

## *Parish Life*

### **Finance Council**

The Finance Council is an advisory board to the pastor regarding financial matters that concern the parish. The council is required to meet quarterly, however, can be convened as necessary when called by the pastor. A strong background in finance is essential. Members are appointed by the pastor and serve for a length of time determined by the pastor.

### **Fundraising Committee**

The fundraising committee considers ways to meet the increasing financial needs of the parish. The objective is to acquire needed revenue while at the same time contributing to the social aspect of our parish community. Volunteers are responsible for organizing events and setting up subcommittees to facilitate the success of the events. Meetings are scheduled as needed. We welcome energetic, creative men and women with an interest in organizing and implementing fundraising activities and events.

### **Parish Council**

The Parish Council is a consultative body which assists the pastor and serves as a planning board for the parish. A total of fifteen active, registered parishioners serve: ex officio members; elected members (for two year terms); appointed members (for a one year term). Nominations are requested from all members of the parish in April. Elections and appointments are in May. The council meets monthly from September through June.

### **Public Relations**

The Public Relations Ministry is responsible for gathering interesting news and information regarding on-going activities, up-coming events and announcements of significant accomplishments of those in our church family. A brief write-up would be put together and published in our church bulletin, on our web site and in local newspapers. We welcome all interested members of our parish community who may have experience or interest in communications and photography.

### **Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee looks at ways we can all incorporate "Stewardship As A Way of Life" into our already busy and demanding schedules. We are committed to finding ways in which to illustrate, to our parish family, how each of us might use our particular gifts and talents to the betterment of our church community. The committee focuses on distributing information that enables all of us to share our time, talent and treasure as disciples of the Lord as we support and nurture each other on our faith journey. Meetings are held monthly from September through June. We welcome members of our parish who are interested in facilitating stewardship as a way of life.

## *Parish Outreach*

### **Bereavement Group**

Some people are able to cope with the grief of a significant loss with the help of family and friends. Others may find comfort from their faith community. Many people benefit from additional supports, such as the Bereavement Group provided by Immaculate Conception Parish. The bereavement group is a seven week program held quarterly for anyone who is in need of comfort and support due to the death of a loved one. Services are provided under the auspices of a Registered Nurse, Clinical Psychologist, and Pastoral Care Counselor.

### **Coffee and Donuts**

This ministry provides a wonderful opportunity for our parishioners to socialize together after Mass. The committee provides coffee and donuts after the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass during the Religious Education calendar year. The preparation for this ministry involves ordering the donuts on Saturday from Dunkin Donuts. Sunday morning one volunteer picks up the coffee and donuts and sets up tables and chairs so that everything is ready by 8:30 a.m. We welcome anyone interested in helping to provide an atmosphere of warmth and welcome.



### **Greeting Card Ministry**

The Greeting Card Ministry is part of the Outreach Ministry. The goal of the ministry is to spread God's love and hope by sending greeting cards to people in order to communicate to them that they are prayed for and thought about in love by their brothers and sisters at Immaculate Conception Parish. The recipients of cards may also be friends and family members of parishioners and not Immaculate Conception members themselves.

The Greeting Card Ministry is geared toward those who are ill, homebound, infirmed in a facility, or suffering the loss of a loved one. Cards are sent periodically to the homebound/infirmed on holidays and special seasons to lift their spirits.

### **Health Ministry**

The Health Ministry is composed of a group of volunteers, mostly nurses and other health professionals, who serve as an adjunct to health care providers. The ministry provides blood pressure screenings, health education, home, hospital, and nursing home visits, health counseling and support for the bereaved. Meetings are once a month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. We welcome any nurse or health care professional to serve as a volunteer.

## *Parish Outreach* continued

### **Homeless Meal Ministry**

The Homeless Meal Ministry provides a complete dinner for the Mainspring House Shelter in Brockton on the first Friday of each month. A pair of coordinators volunteer to plan the menu and shop for food. They also direct the meal preparation and serving at Mainspring House. Volunteers gather on the Thursday before the first Friday of the month, at the Parish Center, at a scheduled time to prepare the meal. Volunteers are also needed to serve the dinner at Mainspring House on that Friday evening. We welcome interested men and women who are available one or both evenings.

### **Ministry to the Homebound**

The ministry to the homebound strives to give help to those in need in our community, such as the elderly, those who are unable to leave their homes and people who may be ill. Volunteers provide transportation to medical appointments, treatments, hospitals, etc. Any licensed driver, with a good driving record, is encouraged to join in providing transportation for others in need.

### **Nursing Home Ministry**

Mass is celebrated at Southeastern Health Rehabilitation twice a month on the second and fourth Mondays at 10:30. The rosary is recited by a group from the parish on the first and third Mondays at 10:30 A.M. Volunteers are welcome to assist with praying the rosary and as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion during Mass.

### **Parish Hospitality**

The Parish Hospitality Ministry plans and serves all social receptions for meetings, retreats, parties, and holidays. Volunteer duties include shopping for food, food preparation or ordering, dining room set up/clean up, and decorating. We welcome all men and women interested in helping with any aspect of hospitality.

## *Prayer*

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

Eucharistic Adoration is an opportunity for the worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass. For generations, as faith in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist deepened, desire for silent adoration and prayer evolved into this practice and ritual. We welcome men and women who would like to assist in schedule planning and inviting persons to be present at assigned times the Eucharist is exposed, on designated days during the year.



### **Prayer Line**

The Prayer Line Ministry is comprised of a group of men and women who pray for various intentions on a daily basis. Prayer requests are forwarded to a group of volunteers. The list is passed down the line over the telephone to each member who is called at certain times of the day. Confidentiality is maintained as only first names are used. In some cases, no names are used. We welcome men and women interested in praying for the needs of others.

### **Rosary**

The ministry meets to pray the rosary on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM in the Chapel of the Parish Hall and also on Sunday evenings at 5 PM in the Father Peyton Center at Stonehill College. No past experience saying the rosary is necessary. We welcome anyone interested in praying the rosary to attend either or both meeting times.

## *Youth Ministries*

### **Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts**

Boy Scouts of America is a nationally recognized organization which teaches leadership and life skills while encouraging good citizenship, character and fitness. ICC sponsors Boy Scout Troop 193 for boys who are 11 - 18 years old.

Troop 193 meets weekly on Tuesday evenings in the gymnasium in the Parish Center. Monthly camping trips and a week together at Scout Camp in August are highlighted. Scouts are given the opportunity to structure their own activities and make lasting friendships with like-minded people in their own generation. For more information, please contact the Scout master.



Cub Scout Pak 193 is for boys ages 6-11 (grades 1-5). The Cub Pack meets one Friday each month in the gymnasium in the Parish Center. Weekly Den Meetings take place at the homes of individual Den Leaders. Cub Scouts teaches teamwork and fair play through the use of fun activities and community service projects. For more information, contact the Cub master or the Committee Chairman.

We welcome boys to join the Scouts as well as men and women who would like to volunteer to be Den Leaders.

## *Youth Ministries* continued

### **Religious Education**

Formal religious instruction of children begins with our First Grade Program and progresses through receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in Grade 10. Students in grades one through six meet on Sunday morning in two sessions: Parents choose one of the two sessions for their child to attend. Students in grades seven through ten meet at scheduled times on Sunday afternoons or evenings. Teachers prepare each week's lesson using the teachers guide to the corresponding workbook the children receive.

Volunteers are needed and welcome to teach at all sessions, and for all grade levels. It is not required for you to have a child in the program in order to teach. Volunteer positions are also available for those willing to substitute teach on an "on-call" basis, to cover when someone is unable to teach a class. Traffic volunteers are needed for both morning sessions to help direct traffic during pick-up times to ensure safety for the children. We welcome volunteers for any aspect of the Religious Education Program



## *Under Development*

### **Grant Writing Committee**

We are looking for men and women with strong writing, organizational and research skills to be part of a team whose purpose is to secure funds through grants. The team is responsible for preparing the necessary documents needed in order to secure grant money from potential funders, working hand-in-hand with various ministry heads in order to research, organize information and write proposals as necessary.



### **Sacristan**

The Sacristan is one who is charged with the care of the sacristy, the church and their contents. The duties of the Sacristan will include unlocking and locking the church, turning on/off the lights and heat/air conditioning prior to, and after Masses, and preparing the altar for Mass. Each Sacristan will be responsible for one mass on the weekend.

### **Youth Group Development Team**

The young people of our parish are not just our future, they are our present. It is our responsibility as a community to provide them with a supportive environment in which they can grow as Christians. We are dedicated to empowering the youth of our parish family to live as disciples of Christ in their world, encouraging them to be active, responsible members of the church, and fostering personal and spiritual growth for each of them. We strive to achieve this through social activities, service opportunities, and faith formation events.

Team members should enjoy working with teenagers, be willing to coordinate with other ministries, and be open to the possibilities that an active youth ministry can create in our parish and our community. Teenagers in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and above and adults of any age are welcome. No experience is necessary.



# Stewardship

*... A Way of Life*

Rev 02/2010