

Stewardship Opportunities



**“Fan
into Flame
the
Gift of God”**

(2 Timothy 1:6)



Immaculate Conception Church

Ditmars Blvd and 29th St. | www.immacastoria.org



Immaculate Conception Church

21-47 29th Street – Astoria, NY 11105

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have all been graced by God in our Baptism so that we can minister to one another and give apostolic witness to the world about the Lordship of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, we have initiated a far reaching pastoral planning process so that our parish may grow into what our Lord intends us to be. While this process unfolds, it is necessary to expand and deepen what has already been achieved here at Immac.

You might ask: “What is Stewardship?” Stewardship is a very easy concept. God has given us everything: life, family, talents, a livelihood, faith, eternal life, etc. In response to God’s generosity, a Christian needs to offer up these gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure (material resources) for the service both of the Church and of the wider community. As St. Paul has written, we need to fan this giftedness into flame!

What I am asking is that you read this pamphlet listing all the opportunities to share your talents in those ways that you are gifted. After reading it, fill out the last page and either drop it off at the Rectory or into the collection basket at Mass so that you can offer God and this parish some new area of involvement that will make us a better and more Christian parish.

It is my hope that every adult member of our parish signs up for at least one opportunity for ministry. After you do so, we will contact you and put you in touch with the ministry that you have expressed an interest in. If there is any training necessary, we will explain everything and provide you with the necessary tools to help you live out your baptismal commitment.

May our blessed Patroness, Mary Mother of the Church, guide your discernment so that you may grow into the person that God wants you to be.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese
Pastor

NOTE: Due to pandemic restrictions, many of our organizations are operating on a limited basis. Still we recommend you sign up for the eventual return of full participation.

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WORSHIP: OUR LITURGICAL AND PRAYER LIFE



A.1. Altar Servers

Our Altar Server ministry provides an opportunity for boys and girls Grade 5 and above to serve at the table of the Lord while receiving continuing religious education in Catholic school or CCD.

A.2. Cursillos de Cristiandad

This is a very special retreat held annually and spans three days. Members of the retreat form special relationships supporting each other and maintaining their focus on living a Christian life.

A.3. Filipino Apostolate Ministry

The Filipino Community celebrates Mass every second Saturday of the month in Tagalog.

A.4. God the Father Children's Apostolate

The Apostolate meets every fourth Thursday of the month with a Healing Mass and Novena to God the Father. Being open to everyone, the mission is to make Our Father known, loved, and honored by all.

A.5. Grupo de Oración Carismático Amor y Fé

This Charismatic group meets every Friday evening dedicating itself to praying and singing in a free, energetic way. Although Spanish influenced, you do not have to be Spanish to join and enjoy the rhythm and the music that gives praise to God.

A.6. Grupo Mariano Hispano

This Spanish group promotes Marian devotion by reciting the Rosary every Friday.

A.7. Immaculate Conception Prayer Group (English)

This Prayer Group gathers for a meeting every Thursday evening to pray the Rosary, worship, and reflect on the Word of God. A prayer meeting is also held every first Saturday of the month

A.8. Italian Ministry

Every Sunday the parish offers Mass in Italian (8 a.m. in the Upper Church).

A.9. Ministry of Music: Adult Choir

Praising God through song is essential at the Liturgy. The Choir sings at Sunday Mass (10:30 a.m.) and has one rehearsal per week.

A.10. Ministry of Music: Children's Choir

At the family Mass (9 a.m.) on Sundays, a younger style of liturgical music is sung every week by students Grades 1 and up. The choir rehearses once a week on Thursday.

A.11. Ministry of Music: Contemporary Ensemble

The Ensemble, through more contemporary songs, sings at Mass on Sundays (1:30 p.m.) in a folk style. The Contemporary Ensemble rehearses every week on Sunday.

WORSHIP: OUR LITURGICAL AND PRAYER LIFE

A.12. Our Lady of Guadalupe Committee

This group honors our Blessed Mother by planning a yearly celebration on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A.13. Rosary Society

This women's organization seeks to develop the spiritual life of its members through Marian devotion as well as opportunities for Christian action. They meet on the first Sunday of the month to recite the Rosary before attending Sunday Mass together. Following the Mass is their monthly meeting. There are also two days of reflection per year on a Saturday in October and March.

A.14. Ushers – English/Spanish

These men and women welcome parishioners to our liturgical celebrations. By their patient and friendly bearing, they help maintain a reverence in Church at all times as well as take up the collection on Sundays and major celebrations.

WORD: OUR WORK OF EDUCATION



B.1. Flannery O'Connor Book Club

Named after the great American Catholic novelist, this group seeks to read and discuss great Catholic classics as well as contemporary religious literature.

B.2. Immaculate Conception Catholic Academy

In existence 97 years, the school provides Catholic Education to children nursery through eighth grades. Preparation for high school is so successful that most of the graduates receive full or partial scholarships to the Catholic high school of their choice. The school has capabilities of providing financial assistance through scholarship programs of various types.

B.3. Jornada Group / Jornadistas

The Jornada movement is part of the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens. This group holds weekly "charlas," talks about a specific topic about spiritual teachings of the church, the Bible, and life issues to a new and fun perspective lead by its own members keeping the motto: "Youth Evangelizing Youth."

B.4. Our Lady's Preschool – Children

This preschool program is designed to introduce the Catholic faith to children aged 3 to 5 through age appropriate lessons on Sunday mornings and providing opportunity for parents to attend Sunday Mass while their child is in class.

B.5. Religious Education Program (a/k/a CCD)

The program provides Religious Education for public school students grades 1 through 8. Children in the program are prepared to receive the sacraments of First Penance, First Communion and Confirmation.

B.6. Rite of Christian Initiation (English/Spanish) - Adults (RCIA)

The program is for adults who wish to be initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist or who wish to complete their initiation. They prepare for this through a program of prayer and study to receive the sacraments at Easter.

B.7. Rite of Christian Initiation - Teens (RCIA)

The program is for teens (grades 9 through 12) who wish to be initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist or who wish to complete their initiation. They prepare for this through a program of prayer and study on Sunday mornings and attend Mass until they receive the sacraments.

COMMUNITY: GROWING IN OUR COMMUNAL LOVE



C.1. Catholic War Veterans Post 1

This national organization was founded at Immaculate Conception Parish in 1935. It was started by Msgr. Edward Higgins, our second pastor, and we are Post #1. If you are a veteran, especially if you have just come back from serving our country, please sign up and be part of this great organization.

C.2. Columbian Squires

The Columbian Squires is the official youth program of the Knights of Columbus. As in years past, the Squires, who are young men 11 to 18 learn values and traditions from the Knights of Columbus. Immaculate Conception Circle #4411 provides an opportunity for young men to grow in their faith through prayer, parish and social activities, community service and fun events.

C.3. CYO Basketball

The CYO Basketball program is eligible to boys and girls in grades 1 through 8. The season runs September to April with games on Saturdays from October to April. Practices are held weeknights.

C.4. CYO Track

CYO track is for boys and girls grade 2 through 8. Registration is held in January. The season is in the spring with practices being held once a week at Astoria Park. Meets are held once a week on Saturdays.

C.5. CYO Volleyball

CYO Volleyball program is eligible to young girls in grades 3 to 8. Registration is held in October each year. The season runs from October to May with games on Saturdays and Sundays. Practices are held weeknights.

C.6. Happy Seniors of Northwest Queens

If you are in your golden years (age 55 or older), this community meets for fellowship and fun every Wednesday afternoon from September through June. Frequent trips and outings make this a great opportunity to build relationships and be active. There is a waiting list.

C.7. Knights of Columbus

Immaculate Conception Council #11449, of the Knights of Columbus, is one of the most highly ranked Councils in the country. The Knights of Columbus is the largest international fraternal organization of Roman Catholic laymen that promotes the ideals of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. The Council meets every second and fourth Wednesday.

C.8. Young Adult Initiative

For your young Catholic adults (between the ages of 21 and 40), this group was created to enable community and organize social, liturgical and spiritual activities.

C.9. Youth Ministry

This group has a comprehensive approach to youth ministry. It is open to members of our parish from middle school through college. The group provides opportunity for prayer outside of Mass and conducts social activities to foster growth in the faith.

SERVICE: EXTENDING OURSELVES IN LOVING SERVICE



D.1. Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is dedicated to helping the poor. Food is distributed to needy parishioners two times a month from our parish Food Pantry. They also arrange for the St. Vincent de Paul clothing truck to come to our parish twice a year.

D.2. St. Andrew Vocation Committee

Mandated by Bishop DiMarzio because of its importance, this committee works to increase awareness of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. They help the staff to provide programs that may help to encourage some of our young men and women to dedicate their lives to the service of the Church.

D.3. St. Gianna Molla Respect Life Committee

St. Gianna was canonized by Pope John Paul II. She was a wife, mother, and pediatrician while being a great pro-life example for the Church. This committee helps to spread the respect for life at all stages of development from conception to natural death.

D.4. St. Martha Hospitality Committee

This group was formed by members of our societies/ministries to work together to welcome all those attending our parish special celebrations. Committee participation is open to all parish members.

D.5. St. Paul Media Group

The purpose of this group is to advertise and communicate using all modern media tools available to inform the parishioners of the programs conducted within in the parish.

D.6. Shelter for the Homeless

Beginning in the fall and ending in the spring, we staff a shelter for homeless men in Monsignor Higgins Hall Monday through Wednesday nights. The men are screened by a City agency and approved for hosting. Using Christian values, two-person teams serve as greeters, overnights, or cooks (cooking at home and bringing it to the shelter) for a particular evening.

STEWARDSHIP AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH RESPONSE FORM

Please check the ministries that interest you.

Then return this form to the rectory or place it in the collection on Sundays

A. Worship

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A.1 | Altar Servers | <input type="checkbox"/> A.8 | Italian Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A.2 | Cursillos de Cristiandad | <input type="checkbox"/> A.9 | Ministry of Music: Adult Choir |
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D. Service

- | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> D.3 | St. Gianna Molla Respect Life Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> D.6 | Shelter for the Homeless |

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Children and ages (if applicable) _____

Some talents that I have that you might need (can include trades such as electricians, plumbing, computer tech, etc.): _____

Something that I would like to see here in this parish:

