

# *Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget's Church*

*A Roman Catholic Community of African American Tradition*

*"We've Come This Far By Faith"*



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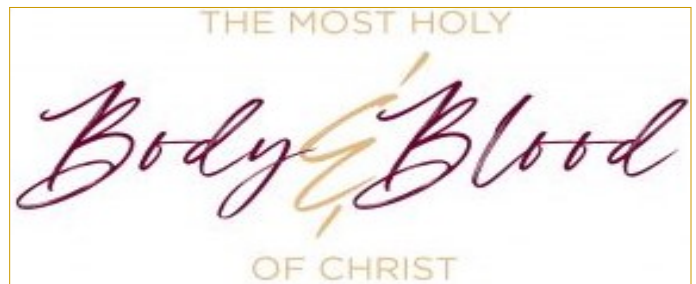
Church Office Days/Hours for the week of June 7-13:  
Monday, Tuesday, & Friday  
8:30 am — 4:00 pm

## Parish Staff

Pastor	Rev. Raymond Fleming <a href="mailto:fr.ray.fleming@dor.org">fr.ray.fleming@dor.org</a>
Assisting Priest	Rev. Robert Bradler
Deacon	Richard Rall
Religious Education Coordinators	Myrtle Fontenette <a href="mailto:myrtle.fontenette@dor.org">myrtle.fontenette@dor.org</a> Harry Pierre-Philippe <a href="mailto:harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org">harry.pierre-philippe@dor.org</a>
Director of Finance & Administration	Carol Wynne <a href="mailto:carol.wynne@dor.org">carol.wynne@dor.org</a>
Regional Business Manager	Mark Shevlin <a href="mailto:mark.shevlin@dor.org">mark.shevlin@dor.org</a>
Property Manager	Paul Mitrano <a href="mailto:paul.mitrano@dor.org">paul.mitrano@dor.org</a>
Maintenance	Groven Glenn <a href="mailto:groven.glenn@dor.org">groven.glenn@dor.org</a>
Parish Secretary	Tracy Jordan <a href="mailto:tracy.jordan@dor.org">tracy.jordan@dor.org</a>
Music Director	Frederick Dicks <a href="mailto:frederick.dicks@dor.org">frederick.dicks@dor.org</a>
Liturgical Dance Coordinator	Alyssa Bourgeois <a href="mailto:alyssa.bourgeois@dor.org">alyssa.bourgeois@dor.org</a>
Pastoral Council Chair	Walter DeRouen

**Mission Statement:** The Parish of Immaculate Conception/ St. Bridget's is a Roman Catholic faith community whose worship reflects and celebrates the cultural gifts and diversity of its members. We welcome all believers to worship God, love one another, evangelize the good news of Jesus Christ and serve those in need.

*June 14, 2020*



*Today we celebrate the truth that Jesus left us an immeasurable gift, that of his sacred body and blood, which is made present for us every Mass we attend.*

*At times, we may find it hard to comprehend that Jesus is truly here and present with us. Each time we receive holy Communion, we truly receive Christ. Nourished and strengthened by Jesus, we draw closer to him. Our participation in holy Communion allows us to live in greater love and unity with one another and gives us the strength we need to share Christ's light and love with others.*

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**Holy Days:** Consult bulletin or call parish office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** By Appointment.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Pre-Cana is a Diocesan Requirement. Arrangements should be made at least six months in advance.

**Baptism:** Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

**Catechumenate:** Adults interested in joining the Roman Catholic Church, please call the parish office.

**WE WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 AM**

**NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!**

**Bible Readings for Sunday, June 14, 2020**

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14B-16A

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel John 6:51-58



**Bible Readings for Sunday, June 21, 2020**

Jeremiah 20:10-13

Romans 5:12-15

Matthew 10:26-33

**Most Holy Body  
& Blood of Christ**



Jesus is the reminder of who God is in our lives and through the Eucharist he remains present in our lives in an ordinary but extraordinary way. He uses the ordinary things of life—bread and wine—to stay with us. We believe that he is really though mysteriously, present through the ordinary signs of bread and wine.

You and I constantly need reminders of what is most precious in life. It is all too easy to forget what is of the greatest value. The Eucharist is a way of keeping the memory of Christ alive in our hearts. Just as you and I don't always think of what our friendships and marriages mean in our lives, but need reminders now and then, so too do we need to be reminded of who we are in God's sight and in the sight of one another.

We need to be faithful to the signs we make to God and to one another. The signs have to be true. Most of us feel revolted by the phony kiss or endearing words that some people use. These signs are not true to what they profess to say. When we take the Eucharist we are pledging our faithfulness in love to God and to each other. Jesus has been faithful to death and we are called to be faithful during our whole lives.

**JUNE CHRISTIAN ACTION**



**APPRECIATE YOUR FATHER, GRANDFATHER,  
BROTHER, SON, GODFATHER, MALE  
COLLEAGUE, NEIGHBOR, ETC.**

**SHOW THEM YOUR LOVE IN A SPECIAL WAY.**

*Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget's parishioners will  
make the world a better place one action at a time.*

**BIBLE STUDY CORNER**

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the spirit for the common good.

*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*

**Reflection:** Paul is appealing to the hearts of the people to live in harmony with one another and to work together for the common good. Paul reminds the church at Corinth that they are no longer members of material world, but members of the spiritual community of God. Paul's challenge was getting the Christian community to think and act in light of their spiritual reality.

All the gifts, services, and activities of the people of God must be used to build a civilization of love, peace, and compassion.

**Ponder:** What world am I living in at the moment?

**Prayer:** Lord send your Spirit and empower me to use my gifts and talents for the common good of all people.

**Practice:** Today I will be an instrument of peace and reconciliation.

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

*In re Diocese of Rochester*

Case No. 19-20905

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT,** On September 12, 2019, the Diocese of Rochester ("Diocese") filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code").

The Bankruptcy Court has established August 13, 2020 at 11:59 pm (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the "Bar Date").

If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/rochesterdiocese> or call (855) 347-3773 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

**IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS MADE TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEBTOR'S CHAPTER 11 CASE.**

***If racial justice and peace will ever be attained, it must begin in the church:***  
***Shannen Dee Williams***



***Bishop Mark J. Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, kneels at El Paso's Memorial Park holding a "Black Lives Matter" sign June 1, 2020. (CNS photo/Fernie Cenicerros, courtesy Diocese of El Paso)***

The global protests over the long-standing plague of white supremacy, most recently manifested in the police and [vigilante murders of George Floyd](#), Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, have put our nation and church on the precipice of monumental change or devastating setback.



Shannen Dee Williams is assistant professor of history at Villanova University. (CNS photo/John C. Shetron, courtesy Villanova University) What comes next will depend on how policymakers, elected officials and institutional leaders, including religious men and women, respond to the ever-growing cries of the people in the streets declaring that “Black Lives Matter” and “Enough is Enough.”

Recent statements and demonstrations by Catholic leaders condemning the sin of racism and in a few instances calling for change have been encouraging.

However, Catholic statements that fail to acknowledge and confront the church’s direct complicity and agency in the contemporary crisis and its sin histories of colonialism, slavery and segregation ring painfully hollow. This is especially true for black Catholics who have long shouted with their actions and words that “Black Lives Matter” in the face of church opposition.

Indeed, for black Catholics, racism became a pro-life issue in the 15th century when the issuance of several papal bulls including “Dum Diversas” (1452) and “Inter Caetera” (1493) not only authorized the perpetual enslavement of Africans and Native Americans, but also morally sanctioned the seizure of “non-Christian” lands and the development of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

Contrary to popular belief, African slavery did not begin in the land area that became the United States in 1619. Instead, the Catholic Church introduced slavery in present-day South Carolina and then Florida in the 1500s. Moreover, the church served as the largest corporate slaveholder in the Americas, including Louisiana, Saint Domingue (later Haiti) and Brazil.

U.S. Catholics must also never forget that it was Roger Taney, the nation’s first Catholic Supreme Court justice and a descendant of prominent Maryland slaveholders, who infamously declared that black people had “no rights which the white man was bound to respect” in 1857.

After slavery, most white Catholic religious orders of men and women and seminaries continued systematically excluding African-descended people, especially U.S.-born black people, from admission on the basis of race well into the 20th century.

*If racial justice and peace will ever be attained, it must begin in the church cont...*

The archival, oral history and written record is also littered with heart-wrenching examples of white Catholics subjecting black and brown Catholics to humiliating segregation and exclusion in white-led parishes, schools, hospitals, convents, seminaries and neighborhoods.

Because so much of the church's history of racial discrimination is excluded from curriculums in Catholic institutions, this moment calls upon us engage in some long overdue historical truth-telling through education and reparation.

**For Catholics seeking to do the hard work of racial justice, here are five ways to get started:**

- Education. Learn about the long history of anti-black racism within church boundaries. While this history is not widely known or taught, it is well-documented. The testimonies and lived experiences of black Catholics, religious and lay, are especially powerful sources.
- Action. Challenge racism in Catholic spaces and call for a change. Make black and brown Catholic history mandatory in Catholic school curriculums, religious formation and seminary training. End discriminatory and anti-black hair policies in Catholic schools. Hire black and brown Catholics in leadership positions in church institutions. Adopt an anti-racist praxis in your Catholic organization.
- Support. Donate to organizations fighting for racial justice, especially those working to end mass incarceration, cash bail, racial disparities in health care, the school-to-prison pipeline and police violence.
- Reconciliation. Call upon the Catholic Church to formally acknowledge and apologize for its histories of slavery and segregation. Reconciliation is not possible without justice, and justice does not come without the acknowledging the truth.
- Pray. Pray for all victims of racism and state violence. Pray also for those in positions of power. Pray that they hear the cries of those calling for an end to white supremacy in every institution where it exists.

While the road ahead might seem difficult, black Catholic history is filled with examples of faithful who fought for racial justice in the face of resistance and unholy discrimination.

Take, for example, the witnesses of Mothers Mary Lange and Henriette Delille. Barred from joining white sisterhoods due to racism, these women established the modern world's first Roman Catholic sisterhoods open to African-descended women and girls in the United States.

Through their congregations, which founded many of the nation's earliest Catholic schools, orphanages and nursing homes open to black people, these holy women powerfully declared to the church's slaveholding leaders, male and female, that black lives mattered.

In wake of the police murder of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, I am also reminded of the example of Daniel Arthur Rudd. Born into Catholic slavery in Bardstown, Kentucky, Rudd was a pioneer black journalist, tireless advocate for racial justice and the founder the Colored (now Black) Catholic Congress.

Despite the church's egregious failures during slavery, Rudd fiercely believed that his church could transform itself into a vessel of racial justice and unyielding love. As he once put it, "The Catholic Church alone can break the color line. Our people should help her to do it."

Black Catholics have long known what all Catholics must come to know: If racial justice and peace will ever be attained, it must begin in the church.

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***Shannen Dee Williams is the Albert Lepage assistant professor of history at Villanova University. In 2018, Williams received the inaugural Sister Christine Schenk Award for Young Catholic Leadership from FutureChurch for using history to foster racial justice and reconciliation in religious congregations of women.***

***If you are interested in advertising or including a Memorial  
Please call the Parish Office – 325-3893***

<b>St. Joseph's House of Hospitality</b> A Rochester, NY Catholic Worker Community 402 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607 585-232-3262	<b>BUCKMAN'S PLAZA</b> 2590 W. Ridge Road, Rochester  Visit our many stores including City Mattress, Visionworks, Pino's Deli, Megan Nail Spa, Red Cross, Hair Finale Morgan School of Driving, Orville's Appliances and many more.	
<b>CORN HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION</b> 133 S. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY 14608 www.cornhill.org	<b>Mileage Master Center of Rochester</b> 2488 Browncroft Blvd. Rochester, NY 14625 585-586-1870 <i>The perfect place for all of your grilling needs</i>	<b>TOM ZUBERT, REALTOR</b> <b>RE/MAX REALTY GROUP</b> 585-721-1313 zubert.tom@gmail.com (ICS Graduate)
In Loving Memory of the <b>QUAMINA &amp; HARPER FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Gail, Elise, Joyce, Richard</i>	In Loving Memory of My Wife <b>ILONA WHITE</b> <i>Alphonse White</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>CREÔLE MON'AE FONTENETTE</b> <i>Love your Grandparents</i>
In Loving Memory of <b>HENRY FAISON JR.</b> <i>Love your Mom, George, Adrian, Andre</i>	Prayerful Remembrance of the Gordons <b>ARTHUR, SARAH, PEGGY, BUD, BOB, NANCY, GARY</b> <i>Blessings Bill &amp; Family</i>	<b>THIS SPACE FOR RENT</b>
In Loving Memory of <b>DR. NATHANIEL HURST</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>DAVID MILES</b> <i>Love your Wife &amp; Children</i>	In Prayerful Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the <b>CULLEN &amp; CORRAL FAMILIES</b> <i>Love Ralph &amp; Maureen</i>
In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES STOKES</b> <i>The Stokes Family</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>JAMES WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>JEFFREY WALTERS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i>
In Loving Memory of <b>DOUGLAS SIMMONS</b> <i>Alice Walters</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>ADA FULLWOOD</b> <i>The Augustine/Fullwood Families</i>	In Loving Memory of <b>RITA VIOLET AUGUSTINE</b> <i>The Augustine Family</i>
<b>THIS SPACE FOR RENT</b>	In Loving Memory of <b>JOE HAUSER</b> <i>The Wingo Family</i>	<b>THIS SPACE FOR RENT</b>

***Welcome Visitors to Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget's Church  
We are blessed by your presence.  
Please come again!***