

ICSB NEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION/ST. BRIDGET'S CHURCH

PLEASE VOTE

For those who have registered to vote, GREAT JOB! Now it's time to make sure your voice is heard! Whether you vote by mail or vote in person, please exercise that right to vote. If you need instructions on how to vote, please contact your local Board of Elections.

Monroe County Board of Elections Contact Info:

Phone: (585)753-1550

Email: mcboe@monroecounty.gov

Website: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections>

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

As you may or may not know, breast cancer disproportionately affects Black women the most. This is why it is vital to get screened. No matter who you are, we encourage you to get screened and ensure you are healthy. Our bodies are temples and we aim to treat it as such. For more information please visit:

<https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/>

*Rejoice always,
pray without
ceasing, give
thanks in all
circumstances: for
this is the will of
God in Christ
Jesus for you."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



WORD FROM OUR SHEPHERD

Written by Father Ray Fleming

In my wandering through the internet I have come across the impressive story of Carlo Acutis. He was born in 1991 and died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15. Recently, Pope Francis declared him to be Blessed Carlo Acutis, on the path to canonization. Blessed Carlo has already been given the title (unofficially) “Patron Saint of the Internet” for his love for computers as a tool for spreading the Gospel.

His incorrupt body has been enshrined and on view in a church in Assisi; he was buried wearing blue jeans and sneakers. In addition to his great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, Bl. Carlo was also known for his defense and protection of disabled children, often bullied in school. A remarkable life.

I have been reading about another remarkable life, close to us here at IC/SB: Father Charles Anthony Hall. Born in 1931, he died of colon cancer on Holy Saturday morning in 1967. In 1938 the family moved to Rochester and found a home in Immaculate Conception parish. Young Charles Hall graduated from Immaculate Conception school and then went to Aquinas Institute. While working as a pin setter in a bowling alley to earn his tuition, he was mindful of the poor and set aside some of his earnings to share with those in need.

While it's easy to succumb to worldly gain, having a Christ-centered life lets one enjoy rewards in eternity.



WORD FROM OUR SHEPHERD (CONT'D)

Written by Father Ray Fleming

The future Fr. Hall entered the Josephite seminary and was ordained in 1960. According to Charles' sister, Roxana, "He wanted to help people but there was a lot of prejudice. That's why he went to the Josephites." The Josephite order has been known for its mission and ministry to the Black community since the time of the Reconstruction after the Civil War. After ordination, Fr. Hall taught chemistry at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans.

Father Hall's two sisters are still with us here at IC/SB: Roxana Weber and Isabelle Walters. I hope you will all read the article "The Chemist in the Basement" in the Corn Hill Gazette (April 2020), based on an interview with these two powerful sisters. May Holy Fr. Charles Hall pray for us.

WORD FROM PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Written by Chibueze Onwunaka

There is a call for us to do more in our communities and be the light that Christ called us to be. Choosing the right path is not always the easy path. In this time of social unrest and continual injustice seen in our country, the calls for justice, hope, and peace only rise higher. In the coming future, the Parish Council will set up a virtual event to ask the parish what their thoughts are on current events in our community and country. We will also discuss what we believe our role is as a church in being part of the solution to the issues we see. We look forward to this opportunity and walking with God on this journey.

When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

Proverbs 21:15



PENNY PARRIS & LILY WHEELER - OUR ANGELS OF MUSIC

After a couple of months of Mass without music, Lily Wheeler, a member of ICSB's Women's Choir, decided to put her musical talents to work. She played piano and violin that first Sunday, and what a blessing it was for the congregation! This past Sunday (10/11), we received yet another blessing with the addition of Penny Parris on the Steel Drum. The two presented us with two selections together in addition to Lily playing three solo pieces,

Born in Trinidad, Penny has called Rochester home for the past 32 years. Penny is a Pediatrician and is married to Keith (for 7 years). She has attended Immaculate Conception for the past 20 years and was a member of St. Louis parish prior to that. Penny has played the guitar for a few years and has been a pannist off and on for over 30 years. "I decided to help out because I miss music at church. I was inspired by Lily playing the violin at Mass. I grew up in a country where the sweet sound of the STEEL PAN colored my days and nights, my worship and revelry. I miss it, enjoy playing it and wanted to share it with others. It has a rich history of my people and triumph over colonialism and reminds me that struggle often pushes us beyond our limits to unimaginably beautiful places." Penny was inspired by Lily and asked if she could join her. She says that Lily is easy to work with and she hopes to continue this partnership as long as it is fun!

*"He put a new
song in my mouth,
a song of praise
to our God. Many
will see and fear,
and put their
trust in the Lord."*

-
Psalm 40:3



PENNY PARRIS & LILY WHEELER - OUR ANGELS OF MUSIC (CONT'D)

Lily is originally from the Geneseo area, but has lived in Rochester for the last three years. She is married to Jake (2 years) and lives in Irondequoit with their dog. They have attended Immaculate Conception for 2 1/2 years and before that she was a member of St Luke the Evangelist Parish in Geneseo, NY.

"I have played piano all my life starting at 5 or 6 and then I took up the violin at age 13. I am currently learning the cello, but I don't feel public ready yet! One of the first things that drew us to Immaculate Conception was the infectious joy of the choirs and musicians. After the shutdown, everything seemed strange everywhere I went, and I was sad to attend church without music. I know everyone misses that, and I wanted to do my part in helping our church community feel as normal and joyful as possible in these difficult times. Penny talked to me after mass one week and told me that she plays and that she would love to play with me. I'm so glad she did because her music is lovely and adds so much to our little instrumental effort. I think we'll have lots of fun learning new songs together!" Lily works in Technical Education for a medical technology company.

*Oh come, let us
sing to the Lord;
let us make a
joyful noise to the
rock of our
salvation!"*

-
Psalm 95:1



MEET THE PARISH COUNCIL

As an advisory body to the Pastor, the Parish Council is “to orchestrate a statement of mission for the parish community and become the reference point for activity in the parish.” (Pastoral Council Guidelines, 2015).

The Council meets once a month (usually the first Saturdays in each month) at which time the Council hears updates from the Pastor and shares with the Pastor needs, concerns and ideas concerning activities in the Parish and/or ways in which the Parish and the community at large can come together to meet needs of the community.

Several ministries at the Church report to the Parish Council either directly or through another related ministry. As an example, the Liturgy Committee reports to the Parish Council, but other ministries such as the Choirs, Liturgical Dance, Art and Environment, The Black Catholic Heritage Committee and the Caribbean Mass Committee all report to the Liturgy Committee and therefore have representation on the Parish Council.

Members of the Church at large are invited to directly address the Parish Council during meetings (the Church secretary must be notified if a parishioner wants to attend or speak at a meeting because all meetings are virtual and a Zoom invitation needs to be sent out). Parishioners can also approach any Council member to voice concerns or make suggestions or comments.

The Parish Council and the Finance Council here at ICSB are the two Committees that are advisory to the Pastor. These two councils are the over-arching committees to which all the other ministries at ICSB report.

MEET THE PARISH COUNCIL



**RAMONA
MOORE**
Lay Trustee



**CHIBUEZE
ONWUNAKA**
President



**KAILA
KNIGHT**



**KEVIN
O'HAGAN**
Secretary



**BARBARA
TURNER**
Vice President



**JACQUELYN
DOBSON**

*"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Mark 10:45



MEET THE FINANCE COUNCIL

The Finance Council is also an advisory body to the Pastor. This entity “assists in the administration of the temporal affairs of the Parish and offers guidance to the Pastor and the Parish Council” on such matters. (Parish Finance Council Guidelines, revised 2018)

The Finance Council meets quarterly at which time the Council, in cooperation with the Parish’s Business Manager, reviews the statement of the Church’s revenues and expenses and the statement of our assets and liabilities. This Council also reviews the Church’s capital expenditure activities (improvements, repairs, upkeep of Church property) and stays abreast of concerns related to the Mt. Hope Family Center. The Finance Council, likewise, develops the annual operating budget for the Parish in cooperation with the Pastoral Council. Unlike the Parish Council meetings, however, the Finance Council meetings are typically closed, but parishioners are always encouraged to give comments or suggestions to the Finance Council chair or any of its members.

The major Ministry that is governed by the Finance Council is the Building and Grounds Committee.

The Parish Council and the Finance Council here at ICSB are the two Committees that are advisory to the Pastor. These two councils are the over-arching committees to which all the other ministries at ICSB report.

MEET THE FINANCE COUNCIL



**WILLIAM
CASTLE**
Chair



**VINCENT
STROUD**
Lay Trustee



**NORMA
THOM**



**MARCIA
FUGATE**



**GEORGE
FONTENETTE**



**JOANIE
FRAVER**
Secretary

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace"

1 Peter 4:10