



Immaculate Conception Parish

With the Churches of :

Immaculate Conception Church, Truro; St. Michael's Church, Brule; St. Kateri, Indian Brook; Sacred Heart, Millbrook; St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie

December 17th , 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

Pastor: Fr. Jim O'Connor

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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Monday, 7:00pm - † Magdalene Martin

Tuesday, 12:15 pm -† Kathleen Clark; † James Flynn

Wednesday, 7:00 pm- † Ann Black ; † Edward Peter-Paul

Thursday, 7:00 pm - † Souls in Purgatory

Friday, 12:15 pm - † Martin Whelan; † Vincent Syliboy

Saturday, 4:00pm - Coleen and Greg Glasgow

Sunday, 9:00am - † Socrates Ariosia

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday

4:00pm - Immaculate Conception, Truro

4:00pm - St. Michael's, Brule

Sunday

9:00am - Immaculate Conception, Truro

10:00am - St. Kateri, Indian Brook

11:30am - Sacred Heart, Millbrook

11:30am - St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie

Holiday Mass Schedule: Regular Mass times will continue throughout the Octave (8 days) of Christmas. For our Christmas Schedule and other Masses, see the last page.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays after the 7:00 pm Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 30 mins prior to weekday Masses or by appointment

Holy Rosary : In prayerful support of all our ministries, the rosary will be offered before every Sunday 9:00 am Mass, from 8:20 - 8:40 am. Everyone is invited to join us.

Baptism Preparation : If you plan to celebrate the Baptism of your child this coming year, we invite all parents and godparents to attend the Baptism Preparation session on Friday, January 26th, 2024 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm in the Kinsella Room. Please pre-register as you'll be required to watch videos prior to the session.

COLLECTION UPDATE

Previous Week's Collection was \$7,474.90 : ICC = \$6,256.20 ; St. Michael's = \$270.00; Sacred Heart = \$273.00; St. Bridget's = \$529.00; St. Kateri's = \$146.70 and Capital Campaign = \$790.00

DONATIONS

SVDP: The SVDP furniture committee is seeking donations of used furniture for pick up and delivery to needy families. If you have any furniture especially beds, dressers, chairs, cutlery, dishes or light sofas that you no longer need, please call **Pat** at our dispatch number - **902-897-0222**.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 1:30 pm

"May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may your spirit, life and body be kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Thessalonians 5:23

(Dec 17) Simbang Gabi: Our Parish Celebrates with the Filipino Community. For the first time **SIMBANG GABI** (meaning, Night Mass) will take place on **Sunday, December 17th** at **6:00pm** at Immaculate Conception Church. At this time, on our Third Sunday of Advent, we include the unique Filipino tradition of a Marian Mass before Christmas. Our aim is to share the rich Filipino Faith-Culture which embraces the Blessed Virgin Mary and continue to build our multicultural community. A festive potluck meal follows Mass with their cultural foods and carols. All Filipinos and friends are invited!

(Dec 20) Kane's Christmas Meal: On **Wednesday, December 20th** at **12:00pm**, our Kane's ministry will serve their annual festive meal once again in Campbell Hall at Immaculate Conception Church. Thank you for the support of so many volunteers, donors and prayers which make this weekly hot meal possible!

(Dec 24) Sunday Social at Immaculate Conception Church will not be held on Sunday, December 24th. Thanks for everyone's support through 2023. We wish each and everyone and their family a Merry Christmas Season. Enjoy some time with your family and friends. We will be back on **December 31st** following the 9:00 am Mass.

(Dec 25) Christmas Day Meal: St. Bridget parishioners are volunteering in a Free Community Hot Turkey meal with all the trimmings on **December 25th** at **12:30 pm** in St' Bridget's Hall. All who are lonely or have no one to celebrate Christmas with are welcome!

St. Bridget's Letter of Invitation: Recently, a letter was mailed to all known parishioners of St. Bridget's Church, inviting them to celebrate Christmas with us. Please pray that the health and heart of families will heed the spirit working through our initiatives to bring them home to our family of faith. Pray also they'll feel our welcome hospitality as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Parish Life Survey:

In cooperation with the Diocese we are striving to clarify what Immaculate Conception Parish's mission is in the midst of our active parish and the needs of our community. With a new year dawning and by the grace of God we have many ministries underway and others under consideration. What is our guiding light for choosing a ministry? How do we decide on formation programs? In what way should we reach out to missing Catholics and unchurched? The role of our Pastoral Council is to understand these things and to plan ahead. To start they wish to hear how you feel about your faith, our parish, the needs of our community, and how we fit into the mission of Jesus, the Christ. Therefore, in the new year we will present a survey for parishioners of all ages to complete. Please pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit upon all of us.

Christmas Eve Mass Tickets:

Tickets for the **4:00 and 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Masses at the Immaculate Conception Church**, are available after Weekend Masses from the Vestry. Please see an Hospitality Minister after Mass to collect your tickets.

Tickets are also available at the Office during Office Hours. Tickets are free, come get your Mass Tickets, before they are gone, as we have a maximum occupancy per Mass, due to Fire Code Regulations.

Reminders:

Bible Study: Our weekly Bible Study Sessions will be on break for the Christmas Season. We will recommence on Thursday, January 4th, 2024 at 10:00 am. We will be studying Romans II.

Family Faith Formation:

Nativity Drama (during 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass):

Rehearsal this Sunday after 9:00 am Mass. Parents are encouraged to participate and support the "cast." Your help is so appreciated! See you then.

Children's Liturgy (pre-school/elementary):

During the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Children proceed to Kinsella I & II where they participate in an age-appropriate reading of the scriptures, reflective discussion on the scriptures, prayers of the faithful, song and an activity if time permits. All children are welcome!

FFF Gatherings (Levels 1/2, Levels 3/4, Levels 5/6):

Usually gather bi-weekly from 10:15 - 11:30 am (but not always depending on the Church season). Schedules are hanging on the white, double doors down the stairs to the right of Veritas. Home Lessons are also available. Program is designed for the family. If a parent is unable to attend, please send your child(ren) with an adult with whom your child is comfortable. Grab a snack in the Hall and head downstairs by 10:15.

"Because FAITH is best taught and lived out in the family, the Church calls parents to be the first and foremost educators of their children."

Mass Activity Booklet:

A booklet designed to help children grow deeper in their understanding of the Mass. Usually extra copies are hanging on the white, double-doors down the stairs to the right of Veritas by Monday of each week. Help yourself!

Youth Night (Levels 7/8, Levels 9/10, Levels 11/12):

Monday Nights - 7:00 - 8:30 pm; Weekly. All Youth are welcome to attend! Currently journeying through the Alpha for Youth Series. Youth are learning the basics of the Christian Faith in order to equip them to go forth and make disciples of all nations - our Baptism call and Confirmation mission!

Ministry Volunteers Needed:

Hiring for FFF: In the new year we'll be advertising for a part time coordinator in our Family Faith Formation. Ann Huntley, Carla Field and many volunteers have undertaken a great task to lead our current program with renewed spirit. We'll continue to build on the foundation already established in our parish using Alpha and Formed.org resources. Our goal is to increase faith practice in families and retain faith practice of youth into their adult years. We also invite new volunteers to consider this rich ministry. Anyone interested in the paid position or volunteering, please contact Carla in our office.

Any Photographers Out There? Our parish has many cherished moments and celebrations in need for capture with photography. If you are skilled with a camera and would like to volunteer in this ministry, please contact our parish office or speak with Father Jim.

SVDP: The SVDP requires two more dispatchers to volunteer with helping the poor from the comfort of your home, by answering calls and sending members out to help in any way needed. Some basic computer skills are required to log calls and information, but training is provided as well as lots of support from experienced dispatchers. Please call **Janet Shea** at **902-843-0414** for more information.

Thank You!

ICLA: Thank You! We want to thank all the parishioners who so generously donated to the Foodbank project. The response was awesome! The donations will be greatly appreciated. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

SVDP: The SVDP Christmas Index Committee wishes to thank all members of the Parish for their generosity toward the Christmas Index program this year. **100%** of all of the requested gifts for children and parents were donated by the Parish. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated by the Committee and members of the SVDP!



CHRISTMAS SEASON

MASS SCHEDULE

Simbang Gabi Filipino Mass: Sunday, December 17th, 2023

Immaculate Conception, Truro – 6:00 pm

4th Sunday of Advent: Sunday, December 24th, 2023

(Regular Schedule for Saturday and Sunday)

Christmas Eve Mass, Sunday, December 24th:

Immaculate Conception, Truro – 4:00 pm
Immaculate Conception, Truro – 7:00 pm
Immaculate Conception, Truro – 10:00 pm
St. Michael's, Brule – 4:00 pm
St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie – 7:00 pm
Sacred Heart, Millbrook – 4:00 pm

Christmas Day Mass, Monday, December 25th:

Immaculate Conception, Truro – 10:00 am

Octave Weekday Mass Times at ICC, Truro:

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| Tuesday, December 26 th – | 12:15 pm | St. Stephen |
| Wednesday, December 27 th – | 7:00 pm | St. John, Apostle |
| Thursday, December 28 th – | 7:00 pm | Holy Innocence, Martyrs |
| Friday, December 29 th – | 12:15 pm | |

Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, December 31st:

(Regular Schedule for Saturday and Sunday)

New Year's Eve Mass, Sunday, December 31st:

Immaculate Conception, Truro – 4:00 pm
St. Michael's, Brule – 4:00 pm

New Year's Day Mass, Monday, January 1st:

Immaculate Conception, Truro – 9:00 am
St. Kateri, Indian Brook – 10:00 am
Sacred Heart, Millbrook – 11:30 am
St. Bridget's, Shubenacadie – 11:30 am

