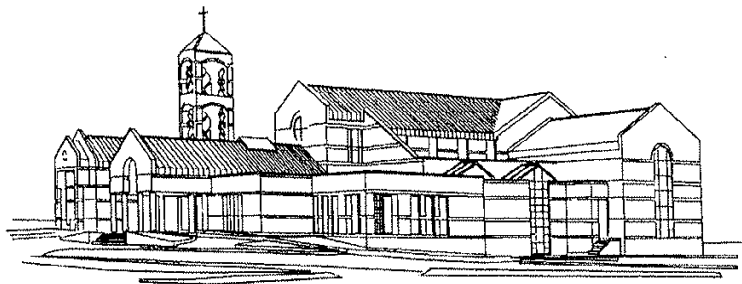


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

300 Ansley Grove Road, Woodbridge, ON, L4L 3W4
T: 905 856-2205 F: 905 850-5589
<https://immaculateconceptionwo.archtoronto.org>
icparish@rogers.com



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT February 26, 2023

From the Pastor's Desk... 2023 Lenten Message

*"Return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning" (Joel 2:12).*

Dear Parishioners,

Grace and peace from Christ our Saviour. We have just begun our Lenten journey in preparation for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery, that is, the passion, death and glorious resurrection of Christ at Easter. The holy season of lent is a valuable opportunity for us to pause from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and follow Jesus "into the wilderness" to pray, fast and renew ourselves through a radical conversion. The gospels tell us that immediately after his baptism by John, the spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where he stayed forty days without eating; he lived among wild beasts, and angels ministered to him. At the end, Satan tempts him three times. Jesus rebuffs these attacks and humiliates Satan who left until an opportune time (CCC).

Jesus is teaching us to be courageous in facing our own wilderness experiences, and through intense prayer and fasting, resist the temptations of the devil. We need to resist any form of dialogue or compromise with the lures and enticements of Satan. Always remember that Satan is shrewd and can easily trick us if we give him attention. St James says, "resist the devil, and he will flee from you"(4:7). Pope Francis contends that, Jesus does not seek compromises, does not make agreements with evil. He opposes the devil with the Word of God, which is stronger than the devil, and so he overcomes temptation" (Lenten Message 2022).

I urge you to be watchful and vigilant against the enticements of Satan that may appear under the guise of good. To this end, I invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, to accompany us on our Lenten journey. I wish you all a fruitful Lenten season.

~Fr. Eugene Chianain, CFIC

Parent/Child Workshop for First Holy Communion Candidates

All First Holy Communion candidates **must** attend the Parent/Child Workshop. Please bring the *We Share in the Eucharist Book*. Only parents and First Communion candidate should attend.

Saturday February 25, 2023 at 1:45pm-4pm
Immaculate Conception

Sunday February 26, 2023 from 1:45pm-4pm
St. Catherine & Other Schools

Saturday March 4, 2023 from 1:45pm-4pm
St. Gabriel

Sunday March 5, 2023 from 1:45pm-4pm
St. John Bosco

Missione Parrocchiale di Quaresima in Italiano

*La Missione parrocchiale Quaresimale sarà predicata da **Don Francesco Armenti** nei giorni **27, 28 febbraio 2023 e 1 marzo, 2023 alle ore 19**. Il tema della missione sarà "Pregate da poveri...perché è come pregare." Siete tutti invitati a partecipare ad un'esperienza di Dio che rafforzerà la vostra fede e vi ispirerà a condividerla con gli altri.*

Parish Lenten Mission in English

The Parish Lenten Mission, in English will be preached by **Fr. Hansoo Park** on **March 13, 14, & 15, 2023 at 7:00pm**. The theme will be "Into the Wilderness" (Hosea 2:14). You are all invited to participate in an experience of God that will strengthen your faith and inspire you to share it with others.

2023 Pasta e Fagioli Thank you! *Grazie Mille!*

On Saturday February 18, 2023, our Parish hosted the annual Pasta e Fagioli Carnival Dinner Dance in support of the Children's Mission of the Congregation of the Sons of the Immaculate Conception. The event was a great success with guests enjoying a good meal, dancing and fun. Thanks to your generosity, we raised **\$18,050** for the missions. The success of this event is due to the many people who generously gave of their time, talent and money to assist with the organization of this celebration. A big thank you to the members of the organizing committee, sponsors, donors, volunteers and everyone who participated in the event. May God bless you all!

*Sabato 18 febbraio, la nostra parrocchia ha organizzato l'annuale serata del Carnevale con Pasta e Fagioli a sostegno della Missione dei Bambini della Congregazione dei Figli dell'Immacolata Concezione. I partecipanti hanno goduto una buona cena e hanno danzato e suonato di musica. Grazie alla vostra generosità abbiamo raccolto **\$18,050** per la missione. Il successo di questa serata è dovuto alle tantissime persone che hanno generosamente donato il loro tempo e talento per l'organizzazione della festa. Un ringraziamento ai membri del comitato organizzativo, agli ospiti, i donatori, gli sponsors e i volontari per il loro sostegno. Dio vi benedica!*

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent at 7:30 pm in English and at 8:15 pm in Italian starting Friday, February 24, 2023.

Tutti i Venerdì di Quaresima alle ore 19,30 di sera in inglese e alle 20,15 in italiano, cominciando da Venerdì 24 febbraio, 2023.

Income Tax Receipts

Income tax receipts for the 2022 taxation year may be picked up from the parish office.

Le ricevute delle tasse per l'anno 2022 sono pronte e possono essere ritirate in ufficio parrocchiale.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday February 20

7pm	<i>Missione Quaresimale in Italiano</i>
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Tuesday February 21

7pm	<i>Missione Quaresimale in Italiano</i>
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Wednesday February 22

7pm	<i>Missione Quaresimale in Italiano</i>
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Thursday February 23

7pm	
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Friday February 24

7pm	English Mass & Stations of the Cross
8:15pm	Via Crucis

Humanitarian Relief Turkey & Syria Earthquake

Two devastating earthquakes and hundreds of violent aftershocks in Turkey and Syria have caused great destruction with more than 40,000 people injured and the rising death toll has now surpassed 30,000 people. Those wishing to help may do so may contact the parish office.

Due terremoti hanno devastato la Siria e la Turchia con più di 40,000 feriti e 30,000 morti. Coloro che desiderano donare possono contattare l'ufficio parrocchiale.

Vocation Seeds

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days of prayer and fasting. Are you open to being led by the Holy Spirit into the life-commitment God has prepared for you? If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Eugene.

HAVE A BLESSED
week ahead