

Mission Statement

We, the Roman Catholic community of Immaculate Conception Church, continue the tradition of proclaiming and living the gospel under the guidance of the Blessed Mother. We wish to be a Eucharistic family striving to minister to our sisters and brothers of multicultural traditions.

We are committed to become like Christ to all.

A Journey of Faith

Pastoral Plan
of

Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church
754 East Gun Hill Road
Bronx, New York 10467

COME TO WORSHIP..... LEAVE TO SERVE

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Preface

It seems to me that Immaculate Conception Church is a real TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More). The team-work began in 1903 and it has never stopped since. For the past one hundred and fourteen years, our community has experienced good times and bad times. This is not unusual; in fact, every family, person, or institution goes through the ups and downs of success and failure, pain and joy, good health and illness. It's indeed unusual to be so poor all the time and to be so rich spiritually. Our church was never financially booming, but it was always spiritually blossoming with ministries serving immigrants, minorities, and the marginalized. Our parish has never been a perfect family, but it has always been a happy family. Little Frankie was practicing his violin to play a solo in church, and the torturous noise was making the dog howl. Upstairs, the boy's father, who was a CPA, was trying to crunch numbers as best as possible. After trying to put up with the combined racket of the violin and the barking dog for twenty minutes, the father finally called down, "Frankie, can you play something the dog doesn't know?" This Pastoral Plan is not simply crunching numbers, barking or playing the violin, but, because we are a happy family, we can do all three and more.

Brother John C. Aurilia, ofm.cap.
Pastor

Immaculate Conception Pastoral Council 2017

Ex Officio

Father John Aurilia, ofm.cap. - Pastor
Father John LoSasso, ofm.cap. - Vicar
Father Dasu Prathpati, ofm.cap.
Father Meena Gude, ofm.cap.
Brother Walter Fitzpatrick, ofm.cap.
Brother Jesu Perez, ofm.cap.
Brother Kevin O' Loughlin, ofm.cap.

President

Dennis Campbell

Vice President

Dorothy Kaalund

Secretary

Sonia Edwards

Members

Mary Bailey
Gloria Contreras
Richard Gill
Clarisa Gonzalez
Roberta Lener
Laura Moise
Brigid Oku

Historical Summary of our Church

The story of Immaculate Conception Church goes back to the early 1900's. The original church started in a small store on White Plains Road and 215th Street, opposite St. Mary's Church, and was under the pastoral care of Reverend Father Joseph Ciringione. The Capuchin friars were introduced to the church with the appointment of Father Raymond Tonini as pastor on June 27, 1920. During his time as pastor, the parish community grew in numbers and spirituality.

On December 23, 1923, the original wooden church burned to the ground, leaving only the cement foundation. Faced with the task of rebuilding the church, Father Raymond looked at the empty land on Gun Hill Road east of Holland Avenue and saw new possibilities. The groundbreaking ceremony occurred on March 4, 1924 and the building was completed on December 4, 1925 under the architect Joseph Ziccardi in a basilica-like, neo-romanesque style. It was dedicated by his Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes on October 19, 1927.

Throughout the second half of the 20th century, Immaculate Conception Church continued to grow in size and spirituality. On January 29, 1950, the groundbreaking ceremony for the school was held, and it officially opened for classes on September 11th of that same year. As the demographics of the area changed, the church grew in cultural richness. On October 7, 1976 the first Spanish Mass was celebrated in the lower church. On February 6, 1988, the Gospel Choir sang for the first time at the 10am Mass. The first annual Pentecost Festival, at which all the cultures in the Church celebrate and share with each other, was celebrated on June 7, 1992.

Today, Immaculate Conception Church stands proudly on 754 East Gun Hill Road. It is home to a multicultural community and welcomes all people! It has various ministries that parishioners can choose to be a part of and evangelize with. There's Helping Hands, the outreach to the hungry which began on November 22, 1994; the St. Martin de Porres League, which has been working since January 1986 to foster interracial justice and

imitate St. Martin’s devotion to Christ and his love for those who suffered injustice; the Holy Name Society, which aims to honor and glorify Almighty God by offering acts of love and devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus; the Secular Franciscan Order, a ministry for lay people to live the gospel through imitation of St. Francis; the Ladies Guild in February 2000, which aims address the spiritual and social concerns of the women in the parish and perform community service outside of the church; the Spanish Society, which aims to foster the spiritual growth of the church’s hispanic community; and the Servants of the Most High God, a charismatic prayer group which began on May 22, 2002, to praise God with the rosary, teaching, and testimony. Additionally, the church provides catechism for children and adults through its Religious Education and RCIA programs.

At Immaculate, there’s a place for everyone!

List of Pastors since 1947

Father Francis Miritello	1947-1950
Father Mauro Landini	1950-1957
Father Christopher DiPace	1957-1964
Father Charles Mott	1964-1970
Father Vincent Liuzzo	1970-1976
Father Richard Baranello	1976-1982
Father Ignatius Zampino	1982-1988
Father Robert Grix	1988-1991 and 1993-1995
Father Camillus Protomastro	1991-1993
Father John LoSasso	1996-2015
Father John Aurilia	2015- present

Major Goals

As our community experiences action and contemplation, our ministries get their strength from the combined effort of “Growing together.” We are all involved in this process through Evangelization, Ongoing Formation, Liturgy, and Social Action. This Pastoral Plan has been prayerfully and carefully prepared to live the present in faith and love and to project the future with hope.

Evangelization

Nobody defined better than Pope Paul VI what Evangelization is or should be: “Evangelization is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize, that is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of his death and glorious Resurrection.” (Evangeliis Nuntiandi = On the Evangelization in the Modern World, 14 - 1975). Our goals are:

- To create in us enthusiasm for our Catholic Faith.
- To communicate the gospel’s message to others by word and example.
- To create a welcoming environment within and without our parish community.

Ongoing Formation

The educational mission of our parish is: a - to coordinate religious education, b - to promote Catholic identity and c - to make catechesis our top priority. The spiritual formation is an ongoing process of growth as we make our Christian journey. “Quite early on, the name *CATECHESIS* was given to the totality of the Church’s efforts to make disciples, to help people believe that Jesus is the Son of God so that believing they might have life in his name, and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus building up the Body of Christ.” (St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *catechesi tradendae* CT 1;2)

Liturgy

The Eucharist and the Word are the essence of our liturgical life. The Sacraments are the primary effects of the mystery unfolding in our daily practice of WHOM we worship and WHAT we believe. Our goals are:

- To create a proper environment for worship.
- To foster and encourage community worship.
- To support groups which develop actions and contemplation.
- To help children and adults in their journey of faith
- To pray for vocations

Social Action

The social issues and the church teaching will shape the social action of our worshipping community. The goals are:

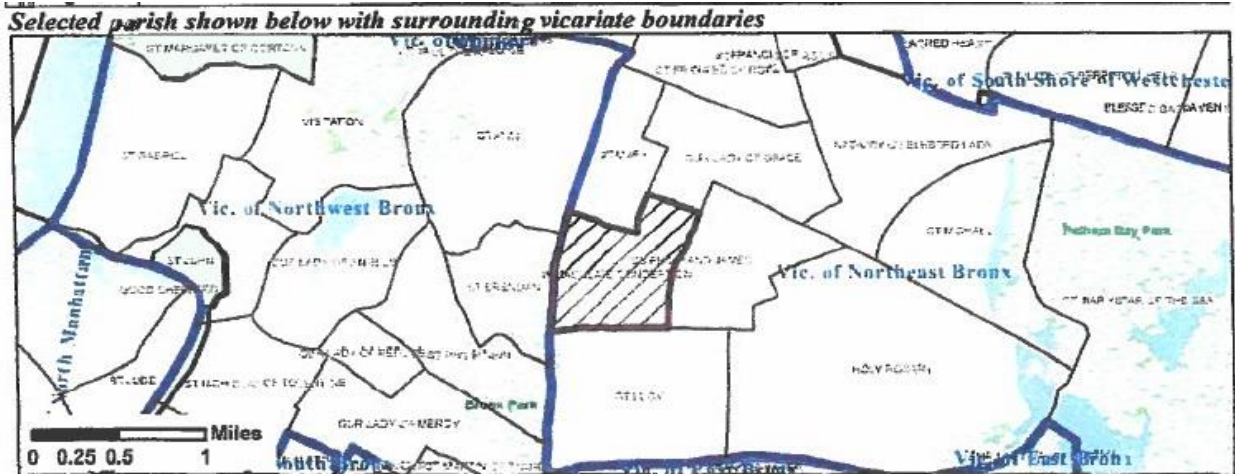
- To define problems and community issues that can be addressed in a Christian and timely manner.
- To raise consciousness of the needs of the people we serve, keeping in mind that serving our sisters and brothers is a privilege not a burden. Saint Teresa of Calcutta used to say: "Thank you for giving me the privilege to serve Jesus in you."
- To support the various ministries of action and contemplation in our parish and to cooperate as best as we can.
- To address the needs of those who are spiritually and socially marginalized by society.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Immaculate Conception is located in Williamsbridge, of the Bronx County of New York City. Williamsbridge is in the North Central portion of the Bronx. The boundaries starting clockwise are North East 222nd Street, East - Boston Road. South - East Gun Hill Road. West - Bronx River and South, White Plains Road. The zip codes include 10466, 10467, and 10469. It is part of Community Planning Board 12.

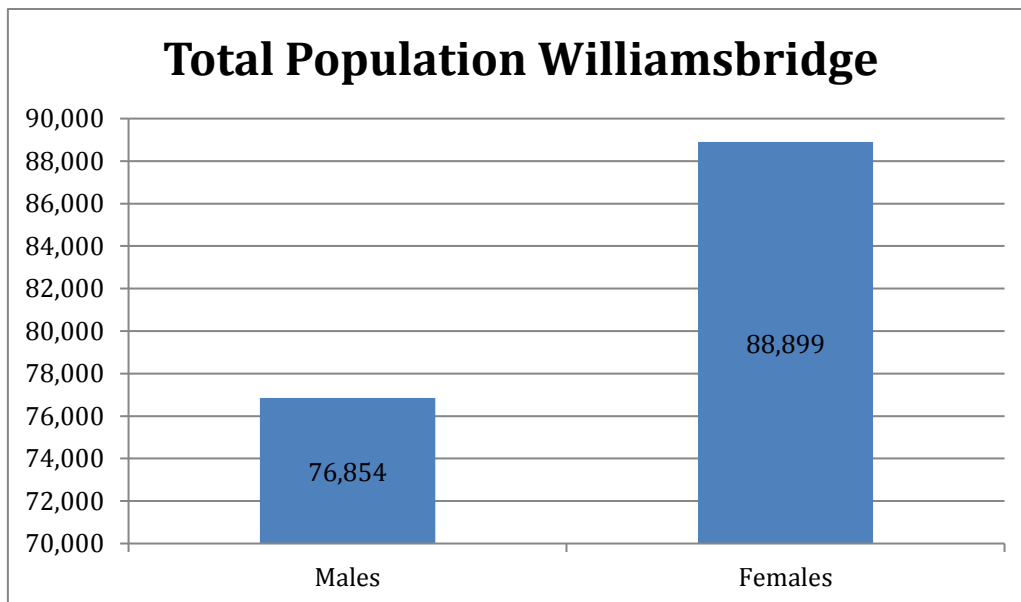
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION *Vicariate of Northeast Bronx*





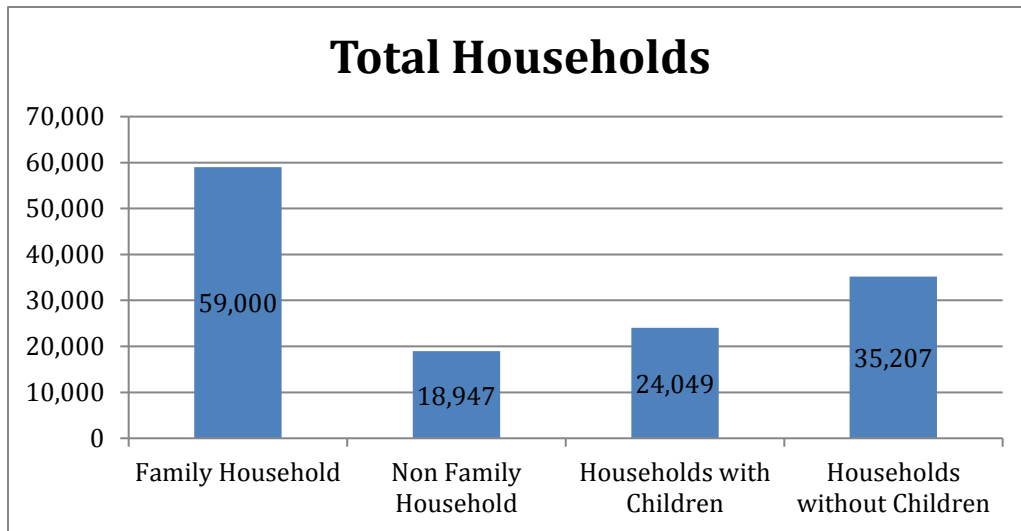
Historically, the area was populated by Jewish and Italian-American families. In the 70's, the area became predominantly African-American, and in the late 80's there was an increase of Caribbean and West Indian immigrants, particularly from Jamaica. Currently the neighborhood is predominantly African-American, much of this population being people of Caribbean descent.

- A. Total Population Williamsbridge - 165,753
 1. Males - 76,854 or 46% of total population
 2. Female - 88,899 or 54% of the total population
 3. Median age is 34.5 years



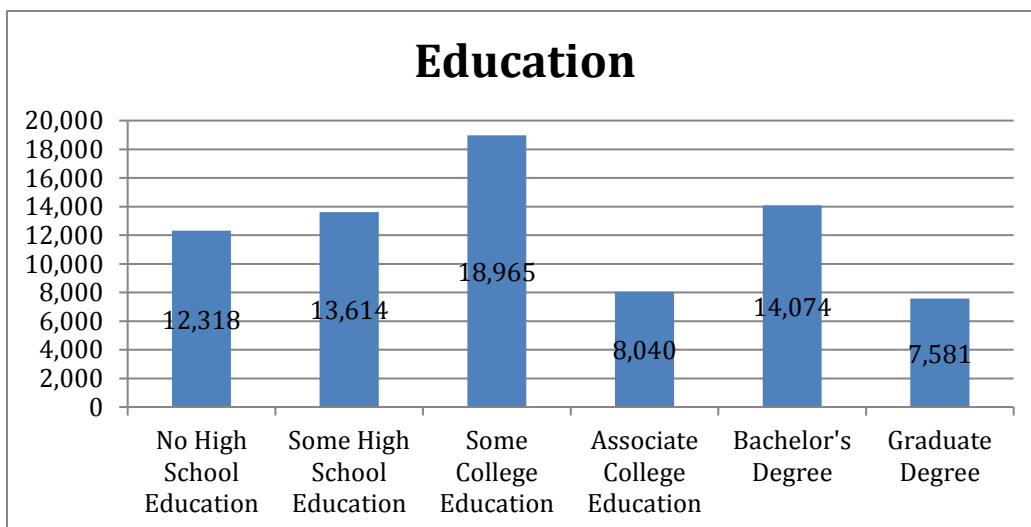
B. Total Households - 59,255

1. Family household - 59,000 or 68%
2. Non-family household - 18,947 or 32%
3. Households with children - 24,049
4. Households without children - 35,207
5. Average Household with children is 2.75/household



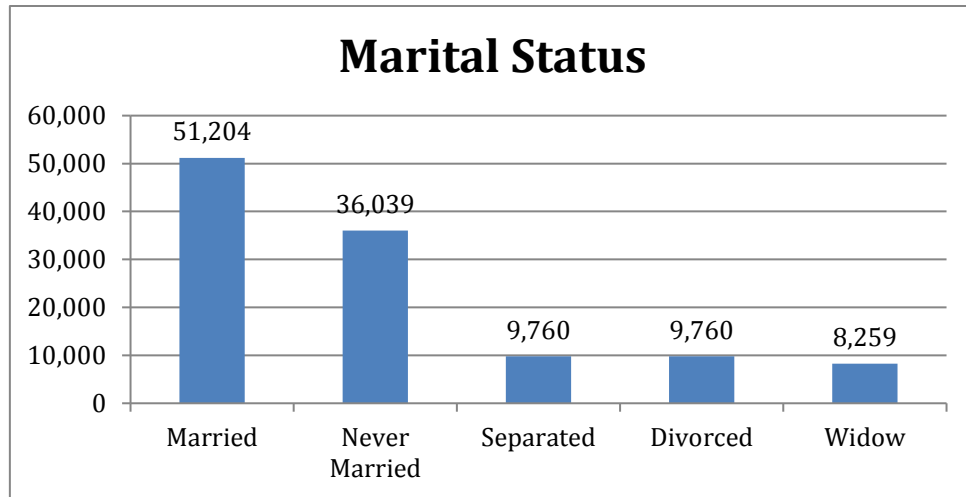
C. Education

1. No High School Education 12,318 or 16.5%
2. Some High School Education 13,614 or 18.3%
3. Some College education 18,965 or 25.4%
4. Associate College Education 8,040 or 10.8%
5. Bachelor's degree 14,074 or 18.9%
6. Graduate Degree 7,581 or 10%



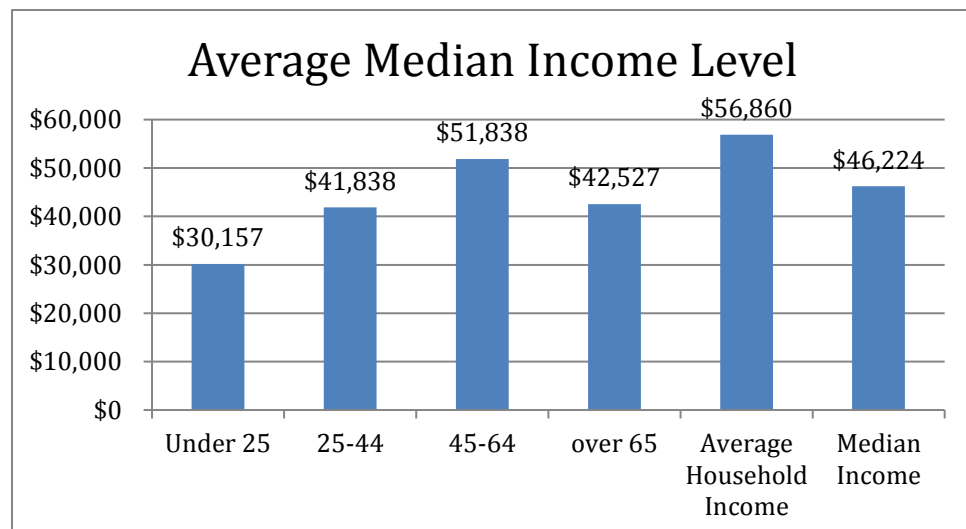
D. Marital Status

1. Married 51,204 or 47.5%
2. Never married 36,039 or 33.4%
3. Separated 9,760 or 9.1%
4. Divorced 9,760 or 7.7%
5. Widow 8,259 or 2.3%



E. Average medium income level

1. Under 25 - \$ 30,157
2. 25-44 - \$ 41,838
3. 45-64 - \$ 51,838
4. Over 65 - \$ 42,527
5. Average household income - \$ 56,860
6. Medium income - \$ 46,224

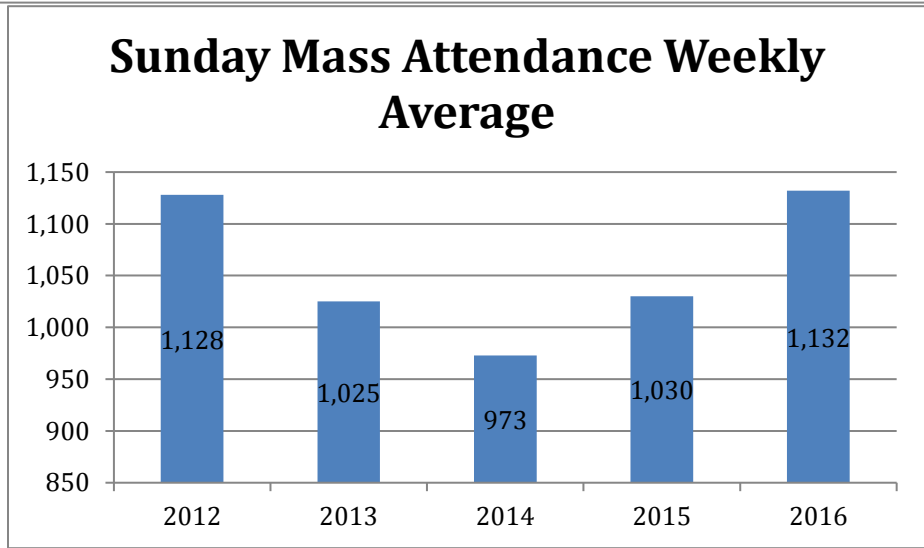
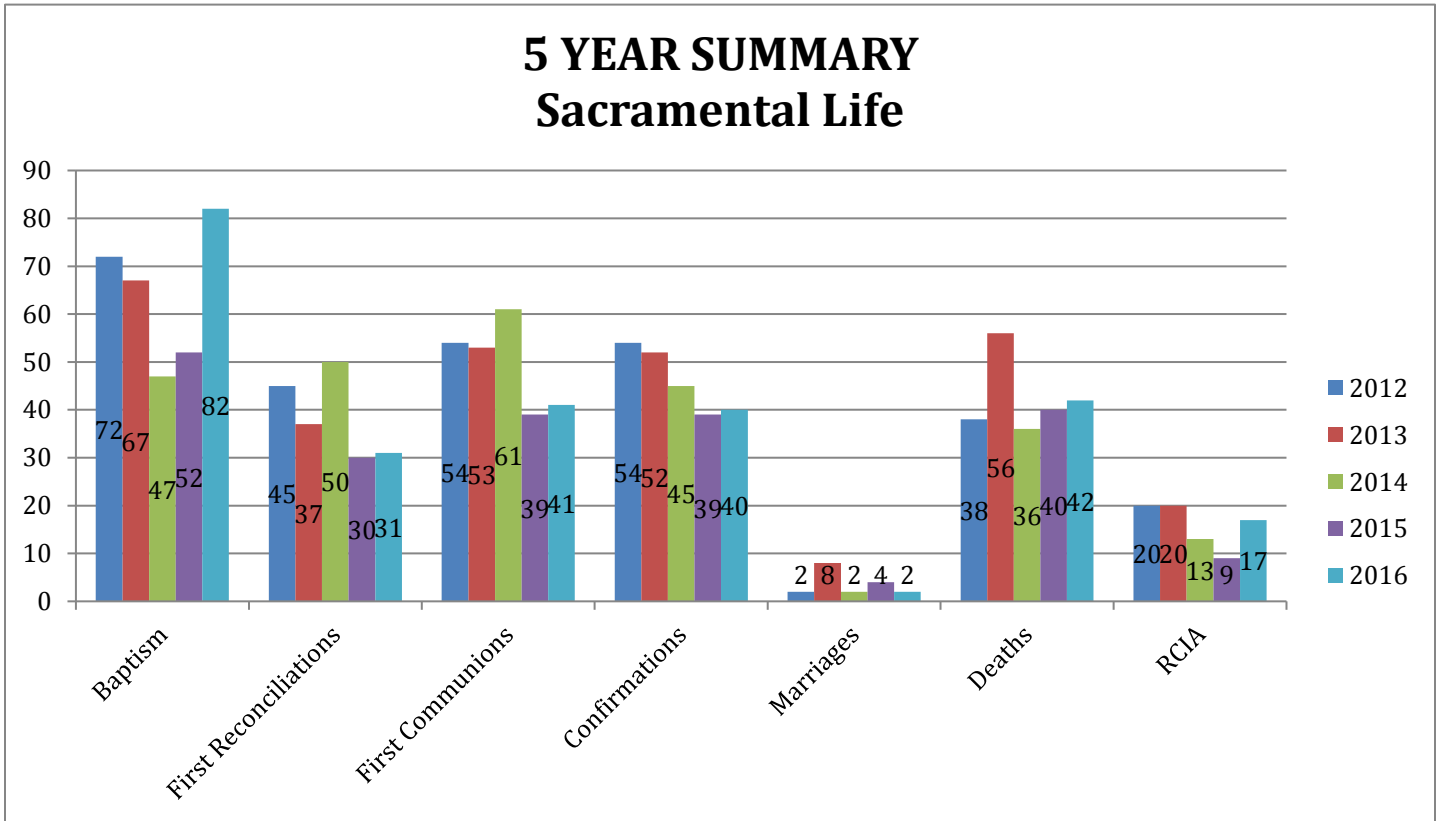
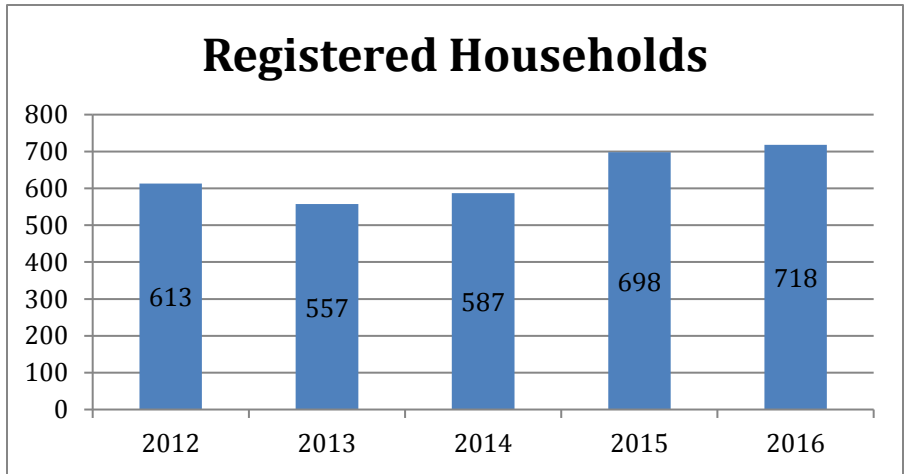


Sacramental Life

The Code of the Canon Law (cc.528-530) outlines at least 15 elements (see *Revisiting the Pastoral Council* by Gubish, Jenny, McGannon, Paulist Press, Mahawah, NJ.2001, pp.64-65), which are the foundations of any active parish. The pastor, the pastoral team, and the pastoral council are channels through which the process takes shape. It must be noted, however, that they are only instruments of the real source of sacramental life: Jesus Himself. The mystery of the Sacraments cannot be possibly codified or structured according to laws and human standards. The seven pillars (sacraments) that sustain any parish community do not stand on sandy ground (gospel reference) where floods and winds demolish, they are rooted in Jesus, from whom every sacrament flows. How important are the sacraments? Without them is like having a beautiful building without foundations.... simply built on sand. Our parish seems to be built solidly and strongly on Jesus, who is the cornerstone.

Here is a summary of the past 5 years:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Registered Households	613	557	587	698	718
Baptisms	72	67	47	52	82
First Reconciliations	45	37	50	30	31
First Communion	54	53	61	39	41
Confirmations	54	52	45	39	40
Marriages	2	8	2	4	2
Deaths	38	56	36	40	42
RCIA	20	20	13	9	17
Sunday Mass Attendance (weekly average)	1,128	1,025	973	1,030	1,132



Parish Ministry of Prayer and Service

Altar Servers

History: Long standing service since the foundation of the parish

Mission Statement: To assist the mass and other liturgies. To provide training to new servers.

Director: Brother Jay Perez, ofm.cap.

Number of altar servers: 22

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist

History: In the early 70s the lay people of this parish with all the requirements of the church started to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Mission: to assist the priests and deacons by distributing communion on Sunday and special liturgical events and by taking Holy Communion to the sick, the homebound, and to the residents of Bronxwood Nursing Home.

Moderator: Margarita Soto

Numbers of ministers: 36

Helping Hands

History: This Ministry began on Thanksgiving Day in 1994 by Father John V. Salvas ofm.cap. on Thanksgiving Day 1994. Lunches were served three times a week at the beginning. Through the "Food Pantry" service, take-home packages of groceries were given to the needy and delivered to the homebound. Presently, more than 160 people are served a hot meal from Monday through Friday. Donated food from Food Bank, City Harvest, and Catholic Charities is also distributed as it arrives.

Mission Statement: To serve each hungry person who comes seeking food with love, dignity, and respect.

Presently, the ministry is under the umbrella of Catholic Charities. Fr. Meena Gude, ofm.cap. coordinates service on site. A total of 8 volunteers cook hot meals from Monday through Friday.

Approximately, 13 people from Special Needs program assist in serving.

Holy Name Society

History: Established at Immaculate Conception Church in 1915.

Mission Statement: To serve as Spiritual Confraternity. To promote devotion and reverence to the Holy Name of God and Jesus. To help members grow in holiness and obtain their spiritual salvation. To help members live out their faith through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Vincent Yeale - President

Frank Parisi - Vice President

Richard Henry - Treasurer

Dennis Campbell - Recording Secretary

Number of members: 30

Ladies Guild

History: Established in February 2002 to address the spiritual and social concerns of the women of our parish.

Mission: To achieve personal and spiritual growth through prayer and the sacraments. To enhance the diversity of our parish community, forming a multi-cultural group of women representative of our diversity. To engage in charitable works, preferably toward those in our local community.

President: Ms. Joanne Boris-Salley

Number of members: 35

Lectors

History: Lay lectors were introduced in this ministry in 1973 following the Vatican Council II

Mission Statement: Through personal study and prayer, the lectors prepare themselves to proclaim the Word of God at the liturgical celebrations.

Moderator: Brother Kevin O' Loughlin, ofm.cap.

There are 28 lectors in English and 18 in Spanish

Liturgical/Spirituality Committee

History: This Committee began its operation in the year 1999 at the request of the Pastoral Council.

Mission Statement: To assist in coordinating and planning Sunday and Special Masses. To provide training for the different ministries in the church. To sustain Spiritual Life within the parish through a variety of experiences such as retreats, revivals, and days of recollection.

Officers: Brother Kevin O' Loughlin, ofm.cap. - ex officio
Laura Moise, chair

Committee members: Yvel Calderon, Gloria Contreras, Clarisa Gonzalez, and Mary Bailey.

Music Ministry

History: This ministry goes back to the foundation of the parish.

Mission: To give praise to God, to contribute to the beauty of the liturgy, and to lead the community in prayer through music, during masses and other special liturgical celebrations

Music Director and traditional choir director: Emily Bavaro

Caribbean Choir Director: Jefferson Paul

Gospel Choir and City Angels (children) Director: Mrs. Wanda Sligh-Robinson

Grupo Hispano: Juana Gonzalez

Contracted Cantors: Carla Lopez-Speziale, Jeanette Sutherland, Francesca Caviglia, Emily Way, Anna Tonna, Sohoko Sato

Volunteer Cantors: Pat Pichardo, Sal Romano, Christine O' Connor

Number of musicians and singers in all 5 choirs: 58

Religious Education - RCIA

History: Classes for students have been given on Sunday Morning since 1994. The first four candidates for RCIA were received into the church at the Easter Vigil of 1981

Mission Statement: 1 - Education in the Catholic Faith and preparation for reception of the Sacraments for children and adults. 2 - Training and support to parents in their role of “domestic church.” 3 - Provide learning material about the faith to parishioners upon request.

Coordinator: Sheryl Loving

Catechists: Mrs. Gloria Contreras, Ms Clarisa Gonzalez, Mrs. Frances Powell, Ms. Francine Powell, and Ms. Maynelle Robin.

Junior Catechists: Gabriela Gonzalez and Euphrasia Rose Johnson

Saint Martin De Porres League

History: The league started in 1986 by Father Ignatius Zampino, ofm.cap. and Mrs. Dorcas Wilson.

Mission Statement: To achieve personal/spiritual growth through Christian involvement. To imitate St. Martin De Porres’ love for his brothers and sisters. To engage in charitable works for the needy.

Officers: Paula L. Gillisslee (president), Herman Meyers (vice-president), Grace McGhee (recording secretary), Jacinta Dujon (corresponding secretary), Sherrie Williams (treasurer)

Number of members: 44

Secular Franciscan Order - Tau Cross Region

History: Established in this Parish in 1925

Mission Statement: To be a religious congregation in the church for lay people who are drawn to living the Gospel of Jesus Christ in imitation of St. Francis of Assisi.

Officers: Fay Muir (minister), David Burger (vice minister), Jeanne Riccio (treasurer), Sandra Valley (secretary), Blanca Rivera (formation director)

Number of members: 12

Servants of the Most High God Charismatic Group

History: The Servants of the Most High God Prayer Group was established on May 23, 2002 by Father Nicholas Mormando, ofm.cap. After prayerful consideration under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the prayer group was given the above name based on Daniel 3:93

Mission Statement: The members of the prayer group are called to grow through service, sharing our faith, and fellowship. To provide an opportunity to praise God through charismatic prayer and song. To pray and intercede for the intentions of others.

Meets every Wednesday from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Ave Maria Hall

Core team: Nicholas Aigbogun (leader), Vicky O. Akalonu, Yvel Calderon, Richard Gill, Verina Hilton Thomas, Hope McCarthy, Laura Moise, Sandra Valley.

Number of members: 30

Ushers

History: This ministry of welcoming and hospitality has been present since the foundation of the parish.

Mission Statement: To greet and seat parishioners and guests as they arrive for liturgy and other celebrations. To provide any assistance necessary for their convenience and comfort. To organize the collection and the carrying of the gifts to the altar. To distribute the bulletin and other items as instructed by the leader.

President: Fritz Pierre
Number of ushers: 29

Young Adult Catholics

History: This group began on February 4, 2017

Meeting: Every two weeks on Saturday afternoon.

Mission Statement: To promote spiritual support and growth for young adults older than 18 years of age. To provide opportunities in the areas of social gatherings, spiritual activities, and service in the parish and community. To reach out and encourage younger Catholics who have been confirmed.

Coordinator: Amarilis Morales
Number of members: 7

Youth Ministry - ICCYM

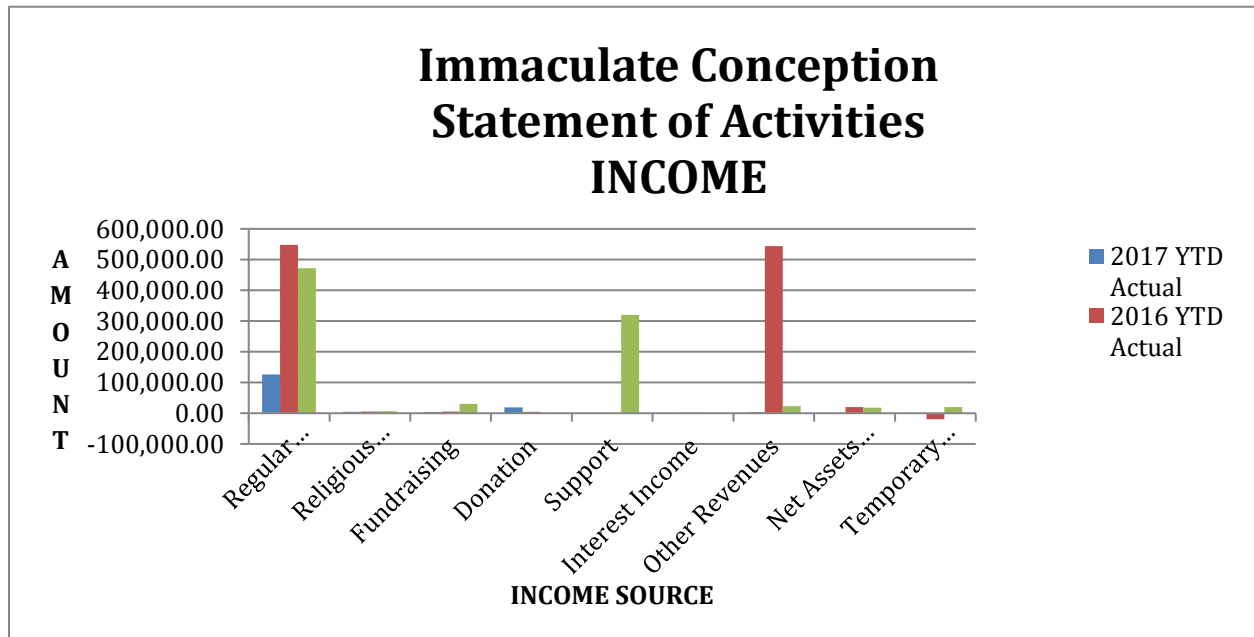
History: First organized in 2013 as a Basketball Camp. Other activities such as Walk-a-Thon and trips were added later on.

Mission: To broaden the athletic, intellectual, and spiritual well-being of youngsters, ages 7 to 16 - To build faith and solid foundation to our children. To strengthen their dignity, confidence, and self-esteem. To work with one another and to express care for elders and the community.

Mr. Richard Gill (leader), Mr. Vincent Yeale and Mr. Hector Rosario (volunteers)

Parish Finances
Statement of Activities

Income	2017 YTD Actual	2016 YTD Actual	2015 YTD Actual
Regular Collections	126,653.51	547,848.57	471,722.68
Religious Education	4,728.68	5,904.76	6,606.84
Fundraising	3,068.00	5,235.00	30,703.10
Donation	18,506.00	4,097.00	1,716.52
Support			320,272.46
Interest Income	3.02	27.96	35.00
Other Revenues	2,922.00	543,448.51	23,194.41
Net Assets Released from Restricted		19,885.00	18,170.00
Temporary Restricted Revenues		-19,885.00	20,375.00
Total Income	155,881.21	1,106,563	892,796.01



Expense	2017 YTD Actual	2016 YTD Actual	2015 YTD Actual
Salaries	89,511.95	422,152.14	446,232.93
Medical Benefits	16,708.53	62,259.82	64,172.33
Office Supplies and Clerical Support	33,250.08	134,730.35	140,077.79
Religious Education Department Expenses	158.86	2,293.69	4,329.22
Utilities	9,868.36	78,107.89	120,060.37
Repair and Maintenance	24,306.33	72,224.52	73,019.39
Other Plant Costs	10,046.92	73,893.25	42,614.47
Consumables	371.77	1,176.17	2,774.92
Interest Expense to the Archdiocese	769.69	3,722.39	15,207.33
Assessments	9,909.51	39,637.98	35,377.00
Fundraising Expenditures	468.00	153.52	12,386.80
Other Program Expenses (Ministry...)		400.00	50.54
Charitable Contributions	500.00	2,203.80	-74.93
Expense Totals	195,870.00	892,955.52	956,228.16
Income-Expenses:	-39,988.79	213,606.28	-63,432.15

Immaculate Conception Statement of Activities EXPENSES

