PARISH PIPELINE

Church of the Immaculate Conception

OCTOBER 2026

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

WE WANT TO KNOW YOU!

Visit the Ministry Fair This Weekend-

Help Us Stay Connected to Our Parish Family

Every person matters. Every family matters. And every member of our parish family has a place at Immaculate Conception.

We are beginning a **Parish Census**, and we'd love for every household to participate.

Why are we doing a census?

This is about more than updating our records. It's an opportunity to **reconnect with one another** and make sure we know how we can better serve and support our parish family.

The census will help us:

- Make sure we have your **current contact information**
- Identify parishioners who are **homebound** and may appreciate a visit or Holy Communion
- Share **prayer requests** and keep one another in prayer
- Learn how we can better connect you with **parish ministries and activities**

Reach out to parishioners we may not have seen in a while

Have you been away for a while? You are still part of our family!

Whether you've been at Immaculate Conception for many years, recently joined us, or haven't been to Mass in a while, **you are welcome here. We'd love to reconnect with you.**

Please take a few minutes to complete your census form. Or complete it online at www.olgicsj.org/iccensus

We're not just counting households— we're reconnecting with our parish family.

Thank you for helping us stay connected!

For Census form and QR codes, see page 2

MINISTRY FAIR

For Liturgical Ministries

Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18

After all Masses | GATHERING SPACE

Meet ministry leaders, ask questions, and sign up on the spot.



Learn how much good you can do by giving an hour a week, an hour a month, or an hour a year.

For details on the Ministry Fair, see page 3

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CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Parish Census

We're not just counting households—we're reconnecting with our parish family. Please complete one form per household.

FILL THIS OUT ONLINE
www.olgicsj.org/iccensus

HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Last Name: ..... **Phone:** .....

Address: ..... **Email:** .....

City: ..... **State:** ..... **ZIP:** .....

FAMILY MEMBERS

NAME	AGE (OPTIONAL)	RELATIONSHIP

STAYING CONNECTED

Would you like info about parish ministries, activities, or volunteering? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Preferred way to contact you: ☐ Phone ☐ Email ☐ Mail

CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Staying Connected & Care

FILL THIS OUT ONLINE
www.olgicsj.org/iccensus

HOMEBOUND / PARISH VISIT

We'd like to know how we can serve you. Is anyone in your household homebound and interested in a parish visit or Holy Communion?

☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

If yes, Name: ..... **Best way to contact:** .....

OTHER WAYS WE CAN CONNECT (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

☐ I would like information about parish ministries or activities.
☐ I am interested in volunteering or learning about ways to help.
☐ I would like someone from the parish to contact me.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please share a prayer intention you would like our parish family to remember:

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE US TO KNOW?

Church of the Immaculate Conception

HERE I AM LORD!

MINISTRY FAIR

For Liturgical Ministries

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Meet ministry leaders, ask questions, and sign up on the spot.

Every one of us was baptized into one body, and every one of us has something to offer. You don't need to be an expert or have hours to spare. Pick the size that fits your life.

AN HOUR A YEAR

Help set up or clean up for a parish event
Bring a dish to a reception
Greet at a single Mass like Easter or Christmas masses

AN HOUR A MONTH

Ushers and Greeters: welcome people at the door, help them find seats, and assist with the collection and Communion line
Hospitality: host coffee and fellowship after Mass, welcome new parishioners, and help with receptions

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Matthew 25:35

AN HOUR A WEEK

Lectors: proclaim the first and second readings at Mass. Training and practice materials provided.
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: assist with distributing Communion at Mass and bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound. Training provided.

"The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life." St. Pope John Paul II

Not sure where to start? Choose the thing you *could* do, not the thing you feel you *should* do. Many who give an hour find they receive more than they offer.

CAN'T MAKE THE FAIR?

Contact Karen Ronca at 518-495-4876 or kronca@yahoo.com

The Church doesn't need a few people doing everything. It needs everyone doing something.

Interested in a different ministry? Let us know what your interests are and we will find a match. Each month we will focus on one or more ministries so you can be sure there is a fit for your talent and time!

St. Vincent de Paul Holiday Update

Thanksgiving and Christmas- We will be giving food baskets to families of need. We will also be distributing Christmas gifts to the children. Our green cards will be hanging from the Bethlehem Trees.

Food- We would like to thank all our church families who generously donate food throughout the year so we are able to help needy families. Since we provide food for about 60 + families for Thanksgiving and 70+ families for Christmas, we can always use more help. We are in need of: pasta sauce, packets of instant potatoes, canned peas, canned beans, and Chef Boyardee. Our containers are located in the gathering space of the church!

Volunteers- We also need help sorting the food items on Thursday, November 19th, and Friday, November 20th. If you are able to help, please call or text Joan at 518 669-6300. Thank you for all your help!

"For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat… " Matt 25:35



Mary, Mother of Life

by Larry Smith



Respect for life from conception to natural death is a tenet of our Catholic faith. Your parish Respect Life Ministry strives to help parishioners educate themselves on respect life issues.

Each October since 1973, the Catholic Church in the United States observes Respect Life Month and focuses on reflecting more deeply on the dignity and gift of human life. This year, the theme chosen is Mary, Mother of Life. "Our Blessed Mother is our model for upholding the sanctity of all human life in every stage and circumstance. We entrust all our efforts to protect mothers and babies to her motherly care, which we greatly need at this time," said Bishop Daniel E. Thomas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a statement inviting the faithful into prayer, deeper reflection, and action during the month of October.

"Today, with easier access to abortion pills, the abortion rate is tragically climbing, along with increased health risks," said Bishop Thomas. "This means that more women, many of whom have been misinformed about the nature and risks of the abortion pill, will have an abortion alone at home, without any medical supervision. It also sets up additional opportunities for exploitation by violent partners or human traffickers. These affronts to human dignity demand our response."

Through a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of the abortion pill, the Committee on Pro-Life Activities has encouraged the faithful to learn about the dangers of the abortion pill and take action by sending messages to pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies. Join the thousands of Catholics across the country who have embraced the nationwide invitation to prayer and action on abortion pills at https://www.respectlife.org/abortion-pills, as we continue our prayers and advocacy throughout the month of October.

Reference: USCCB website, https://www.usccb.org/news/2026/respect-life-month-bishop-thomas-requests-prayer-and-action-abortion-pill

A Spotlight on Rev. Anthony Onu

The goal of this Pipeline feature has been to build community by helping us get to know others, whom we may see in church but know little about. Readers are invited to contact Annette Botsford at annettemarie829@gmail.com with suggestions of future subjects.

"I find joy in my vocation." Fr. Anthony Onu understands his identity as a priest-- to be a bridge between God and his people to God. The priest belongs to the people symbolized by his entrance from the back of the church and his return to the back after Mass. Through the Mass and the Eucharist, he is a bridge to God. And he brings this mission and service to the people of Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Grace.



Fr. Onu was born and spent much of his early life in the southeastern part of Nigeria in the home state of Imo, as a member of the Igbo tribe, one of three major tribes in the country. He is one of eight children, the sixth and last boy to be followed by two younger sisters. His father died at the age of fifty-eight. His mother, who was a teacher and school administrator, still lives in Nigeria as do three of his siblings, while two live in Canada and two in Europe. One of his sisters is a nun in the Daughters of Divine Love.







Fr. Anthony with his mother



Fr. Anthony with his sister

See Fr. Onu, page 6

Fr. Onu, continued from page 5

Fr. Onu was raised Catholic and his parents were devout. In fact, his grandfather Charles Onu assisted in bringing Catholicism to their district, and their church, St. Charles out station in his village, was named after him. Fr. Onu was an altar server and has been told that, as a child, he would imitate their local priests. It wasn't until high school that he actually thought about becoming a priest. In his twenties, he attended St. Joseph major seminary Ikot Ekpene for four years studying philosophy. He came to the United States as an international student, studied at St. Leo's in Florida for one academic year, and in 2018 came to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany to begin a two-year period of discernment in the House of Formation. During this time, he completed a master's degree in Catholic philosophy at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry. For four years, he attended Mundelein Seminary, part of the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Illinois, receiving a Master of Divinity in 2024.

This rigorous study, along with a time for contemplation, are necessary steps in the preparation for the priesthood. If a person is being called by God to the priesthood, Fr. Onu would advise that person to take a step toward discernment; God is not seeking angels: he is calling humans to service.

As a seminarian, he served in Holy Trinity in Cohoes, Holy Family Little Falls, St. Joseph's Dolgeville and at St. Mary's in Ballston Spa, Corpus Christi in Ushers, and Blessed Sacrament in Albany. After being ordained a deacon, he served in St. Madeleine Sophie in Guilderland, St. Gabriel in Rotterdam, Our Lady Queen of Peace in Rotterdam, and St. Margaret of Cortona in Rotterdam. Fr. Onu was ordained in May, 2024 and was assigned back to St. Madeleine Sophie in Guilderland, St. Gabriel in Rotterdam, Our Lady Queen of Peace in Rotterdam, and St. Margaret of Cortona in Rotterdam, where he



served as a parochial vicar until he was installed as pastor of Immaculate Conception on July 5. His experiences have reinforced Fr. Onu's belief that the church is a unifying presence in the community, a symbol of truth, a reminder of our common humanity.

There is no typical day for him. Some things are planned—Mass, the breviary, meetings, and joyful ceremonies like baptisms. Others are unplanned like comforting the dying and bereaved. There are challenges to parish life, but Fr. Onu believes everybody has gifts and he has to be humble and accept help from others in building a community of faith.

See Fr. Onu, page 7

Fr. Onu, continued from page 6

A large part of a pastor's communication is the sermon for the weekend Mass. Fr. Onu begins his preparation for the sermon on Monday and starts writing it mid-week. He believes that he must have a good intention and homilies must come from a lived experience. There will be no recycling of homilies, no matter how effective they were, because the homilies come from his experience and that will have changed from the first time the homily was first delivered. Father Onu recognizes that his Nigerian accent might be difficult for some people, and he is making every effort to be clearer, even taking an "accent modification "class online for some semesters. It is fortunate for us that he doesn't want to lose everything in his accent because this accent pays tribute to his own history, identity and native language. As Fr. Anthony says, "When I travel home, I still want to connect with my people in their own way."



With all to do and to learn, how does Fr. Onu relax? He plays soccer! He's a mid-fielder or a striker and plays in pick-up games at the University of Albany with some guys in the summer and fall. He also goes to the gym, walks, and watches movies, especially documentaries. Fr. Onu likes to cook especially Nigerian food like fufu, rice and soup. He would like to travel—to Europe, to the Holy Land which he visited once and again back home which he visited last April.

Fr. Onu has come a long way from his native country to help us share in the joy of Gospel and being closer to God. Welcome, Fr. Onu.





Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from

July 12, 2026 to October 13, 2026.

We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Lydia Florence Vuillaume, child of Mara & Erik

Everett Nicholas Vuillaume, child of Emily & Kyle

Charlie Michael Fusco, child of Karra & Anthony

Rubi Rayne Rivers, child of Jennifer & Robert

Peyton James Bello, child of Jaime & Brandon

Gayle Pauline DeJesus, child of Glenn & Danica

Bianca Lynn Quesada, child of Alexandra & Justin

Amelia Clare Crast, child of Diana & James

The following marriages were performed between March 1, 2026 and October 13, 2026.

We wish god's blessings upon them.



Angelina Buono to Benjamin Kimble

Kayla Phillips to Thomas Nocito

We need your help! You have a few more days——

Registrations close on October 22 for the activities on October 24—Neighbors Helping Neighbors (formerly known as Morning of Service)

Off-site activities: delivering beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Regional Food Bank, Joan Nicole Prince Home, Guardian House

On-site activities: food for City Mission, Habitat, Street Soldiers, hats and scarves for Bethesda House, cards for nursing home residents, scrapbook pages for Albany Med-NICU. Narcan kits