

# The Connection

Newsletter of Immaculate Conception and Holy Spirit Parishes

VOLUME XVIII • NUMBER 2

EDEN, NEW YORK • NORTH COLLINS, NEW YORK

FALL 2016

## Success with Upon this Rock

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." (Matthew, 16:18)

Upon This Rock, the capital and endowment campaign completed this summer and fall, has been very successful in both parishes.

The initiative led by the Diocese of Buffalo was designed to strengthen parishes, invest in the formation and education of priests and provide care for retired priests, support the works of Catholic Charities and increase the availability of Catholic education.

Each parish was given a goal to be raised over five years, and will receive 35 percent of the goal. If a parish exceeds its goal, it will receive 55 percent of the amount that is over the goal.

Both parishes exceeded their goals in separate campaigns. In fact, both made 150 percent of their goals.

"I'm extremely happy for the generosity and the support of many parishioners," Father Walter said.

The goal at Holy Spirit was \$190,000, and \$285,680 was pledged.

"In North Collins, we see the fruits of that program with air conditioning in the church and parish center," Father Walter said. "We also bought new tables and chairs for the parish center."

The goal at Immaculate Conception was \$375,000, and \$569,670 was pledged, with a little more expected to come.

"We are going to extend the canopy at the entrance to the parish center to protect visitors from snow and rain," Father Walter said, adding the parish will look to update the heating system for the church and school with a high-efficiency furnace and a new heating zone for the school



that will save money.

As of mid-October, the diocese had reached 67 percent of its goal of \$100 million, with the campaign still to be instituted at a number of parishes through April.

## Prepare for the Birth of Our Lord at Advent Retreat

This year's Advent retreat will start at all weekend Masses at Holy Spirit and Immaculate Conception Dec. 10 and 11.

Mass will be said at Immaculate Conception at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, and Tuesday, Dec. 13.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Holy Spirit and at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception.

The Rev. Ryszard Biernat, secretary to Bishop Richard J. Malone,

will be the retreat master.

Father Biernat was born in Poland, and came to the United States in 2002 to attend a seminary in Michigan. He entered Christ the King Seminary in 2004, and was ordained in 2009. He served at St. Amelia Parish in the Town of Tonawanda for three years before being named the bishop's secretary.

Father Biernat has a sweet hobby, which he still practices. He is a bee keeper, and produces honey.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ginny and Sam Tripi at Holy Spirit. They received the St. Joseph the Worker Award from the Diocese of Buffalo.

Ginny is very active in many church ministries, and Sam is one of the most dedicated volunteers at Holy Spirit. With his knowledge of heating and electric systems, he is Father Walter's right hand in buildings and grounds.

Thank you for all that you do for us.

# Eden-North Collins Food Pantry's New Building Dedication Ceremony

The Dedication Ceremony for the Eden-North Collins Food Pantry's new building took place on Sept. 17 at 11:00 a.m. The new facility has been a dream of Don and Rosella Schasel for over nine years. Over 100 people were in attendance including Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Western New York Food Bank Representative Carol Palumbo, Village of North Collins Mayor Vinny George, Eden-North Collins Food Pantry Board of Directors Don and Rosella Schasel and Pastor of Immaculate Conception and Holy Spirit Churches Father Walter.

The pantry has been housed at Holy Spirit Parish since 2007. It is run by the churches in Eden and North Collins, making it a truly ecumenical project. As the pantry grew and more clients were serviced, the need for a new building became apparent. After years of grant writing, investigations, board meetings and meetings with the Town of North Collins, an angel by the name of Jim Smith stepped forward and donated a piece of land for a new food pantry structure. With the help of fund raisers and an anonymous donor, money became available to build the new food pantry. The new



building will allow for the easy storage of food, efficient distribution, and it will simplify loading of food which will make lighter work for volunteers. Some clients who do not drive will be within walking distance.

The pantry is open every Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone needing assistance may come on any Wednesday to fill out

an application. Volunteers are always needed and it is a great opportunity to help feed the hungry. The pantry is located at 2059 Franklin Street, North Collins, NY 14111.



## The New and Old at Our Cemeteries

There is a new well to use to water flowers at Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

"This was the best way and most economical way for your convenience," Father Walter said.

In the past couple years, we relied on the Eden Fire Department to fill up the tank at the cemetery, and we are most grateful for their kindness.

The well is easy to use. After about 10 pumps, the water comes out pure and clean. It is located to the back of the cemetery, near the shed. In the near future, it will be covered for safety and better visibility.

We will look into the feasibility of adding pumps to the Holy Spirit cemeteries.

This is the time of year that the leaves fall off the trees and the season changes to winter. The coming winter is necessary for new growth in the spring, just as our cemeteries do not signify death, but a new beginning in the Lord.



Please help us to maintain our cemeteries. Remove any flowers, pots or other items that have been placed at graves. We strive to maintain the beauty of our cemeteries. It takes lots of work, planning and cleaning. It should be the responsibility of everyone who owns a plot or who has a loved one buried in our cemeteries to do what they can to keep our cemeteries clean.

**The Connection**  
*The newsletter of Immaculate Conception and Holy Spirit Parishes*

**Chairwoman:** Barbara O'Brien

**Newsletter Committee:**  
 Fr. Walter Grabowski, Donna Horvatis, Cindy Longbine, Katrina Nasca

**Holy Spirit Church**  
 2017 Halley Road • North Collins, NY 14111  
 Parish Center: 337-3701

**Immaculate Conception Church**  
 8791 South Main Street • Eden, NY 14057  
 Parish Center: 992-3933

**www.icceden.org**

# Jubilee Year of Mercy Ends this Month

*God's tender mercy, arising like the sun,  
visit us with light, set your people free.*

Catholics around the world have spent the last year celebrating the Jubilee of Mercy.

And here at Holy Spirit and Immaculate Conception, we have done the same.

"We've had lots of activities, retreats, confession, mentioning in Mass, encouraging people to seek the Lord's mercy and compassion," Father Walter said.

Pope Francis proclaimed the extraordinary year from last year's feast of Immaculate Conception Dec. 8, 2015, to Nov. 20, 2016, the feast of Christ the King, so that the Church could find the joy of rediscovering God's mercy.

"This is the time for mercy. It is

the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation," Pope Francis proclaimed.

The pope went on to say: "Do not forget that God forgives all, and God forgives always. Let us never tire of asking forgiveness. Let us henceforth entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God.

"We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart in order to see how much generosity everyone is capable of. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God; everyone knows the way to access it and the Church is the house where everyone is welcomed and no one is rejected. Her doors remain wide open, so that those who are touched by grace may find the assurance of forgiveness. The greater the sin, the greater the love that must be shown by the Church to those who repent. With how much love Jesus looks at us! With how much love He heals our sinful heart! Our sins never scare Him."

## Giving On-line Debuts on New Website

Electronic, on-line giving is here at ICC, with WeShare, an electronic service that processes transactions for Immaculate Conception.

We have about 25 people who have already signed up, and they have contributed more than \$17,000 so far. The average is \$79 per use.

Donations can be set up to be deducted from a checking account, or a credit or debit card. They can be a one-time thing, or on a recurring basis, such as weekly or monthly.

Go to the website, [www.icceden.org](http://www.icceden.org), click on the WeShare link on the home page, and fill out the form.

"We encourage people to use it," Father Walter said. "It's secured and insured."

And it saves the parish time and money distributing the weekly envelopes.

Speaking of the website, while

you're there, check out the site's clean, crisp design. You can find the weekly bulletins, ministry schedules, and even a copy of this newsletter!

Don't forget to join our Facebook page. You can find it under

"Immaculate Conception Church." There are several churches with the same name, so be sure to look for the one in Eden, New York, or you won't be able to see some great photos of Father Walter's latest trip.

## Remembering Larry Wroblewski



Tall and lanky, always ready with a helping hand and a smile, Larry Wroblewski showed how to model Christ in the modern world.

A loving husband and father to three girls, Larry jumped into activities at Holy Spirit and in North Collins, in addition to his day job editing and reporting for the Community Papers of Western New York.

"He was always happy, laughing, positive. Most of all he was really practicing his faith," Father Walter said.

Larry was 59 when he died June 4 after a brief illness.

"In his final days, he was very peaceful," he said. "He accepted whatever was coming to him because of his faith and love of Jesus."

Larry was born in Buffalo, and grew up on the East Side in Corpus Christi Parish. He graduated from Bishop Turner High School and worked at Corpus Christi as a custodian while he attended Canisius College, where he graduated in 1979.

Larry was an altar server, lector and usher, and also served on the Parish Council and was president of the Holy Name Society. He played bass and sang in the folk group, and was a Scout leader. He also served on the board of the Polish Community Center, which now is known as the Matt Urban Center.

He started his journalism career as a reporter at the Am-Pol Eagle, and later joined the staff of the Polish American Voice, which eventually

merged with the Polish American Journal. He was a reporter, columnist and editor, serving as senior associate editor for the journal since 1984. He wrote for the Hamburg Sun, Springville Journal and the Gowanda News, where he was acting editor. He also was a member of the Connection newsletter, contributing stories and photos.

He seemed to know everyone, and always knew what was going on in his community.

"He was the type of person that you could count on and he would help any way he could, all you had to do was ask," one of his co-workers told the Gowanda News.

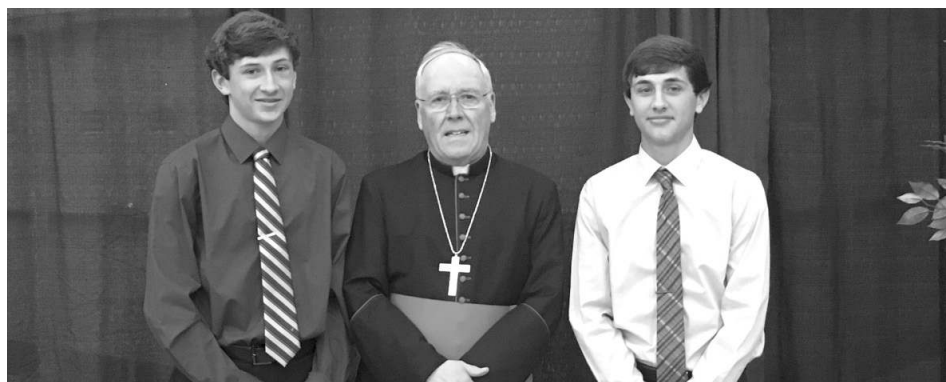
Larry and his wife, Barbara, married in 1992 and moved to North Collins.

He was active at Holy Spirit, and was president of the Holy Name Society. He was also the unofficial parish photographer.

He joined the North Collins Volunteer Fire Company and served as president and vice president. He was active in North Collins schools, volunteering with the Music Boosters, the Sports Boosters and the PTA.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Amelia, Isabelle and Sabrina.

"We are grateful and thankful Larry was part of Holy Spirit," Father Walter said. "We pray that God will embrace him and give him eternal peace."



*"Altar Server of the Year" awards with Bishop Malone and Michael and David Gullo from Holy Spirit Church*

## Respecting Life

Our parishioners participated in a number of events during Respect Life Month in October.

At Holy Spirit and at Immaculate Conception, parishioners created a Cemetery of Innocents. Crosses were placed on the front lawns near Route 62 in memory of the children who were not allowed to be born.

Immaculate Conception Church members once again sponsored needy expectant mothers associated with the Tri-County Pregnancy Center in Gowanda. Families selected booties from the tree in the sanctuary that listed items that they then purchased for the new mothers.

Members of the Respect Life Ministry also participated in 40 days for Life by attending silent, prayerful vigils outside an abortion clinic in Buffalo.



# KIDS' CONNECTION

## WHAT IS HOLY ORDERS?

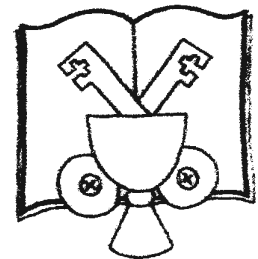
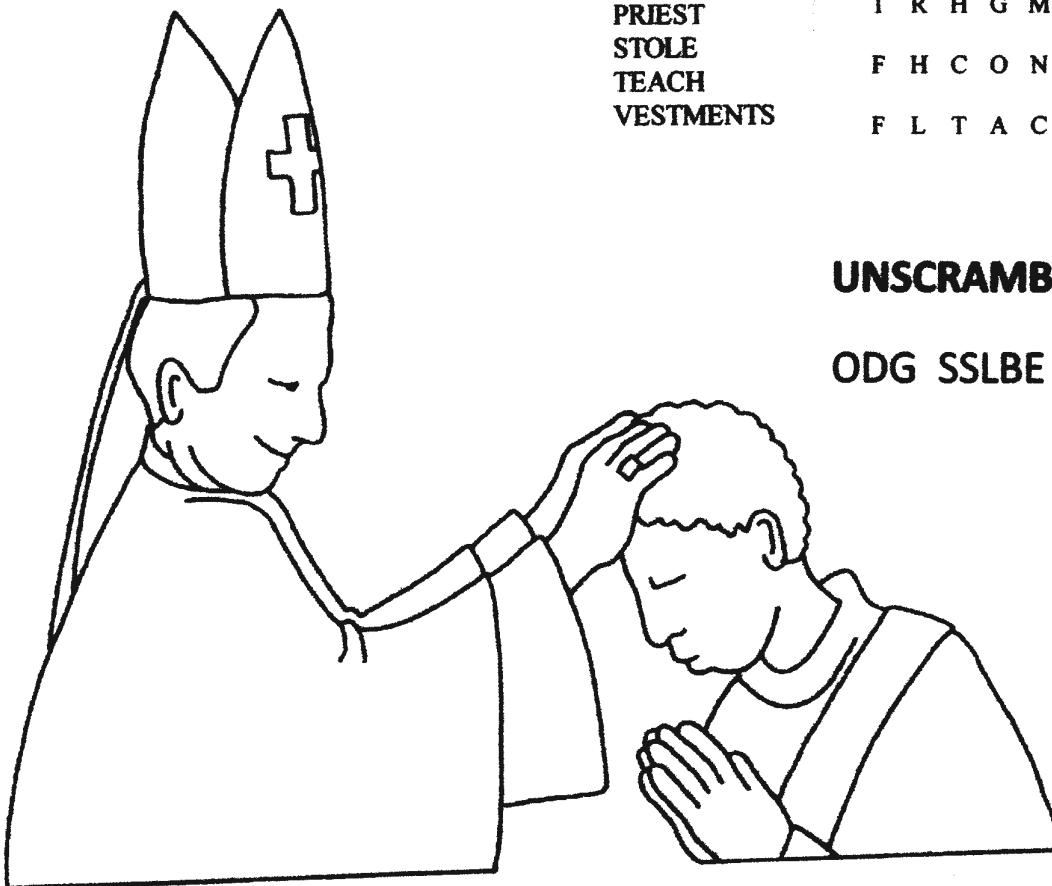
The sacrament of Holy Orders is the continuation of Christ's priesthood, which He bestowed on His apostles. The sacrament of Holy Orders is the "sacrament apostolic ministry."

- ANOINT
- BLESS
- CHASUBLE
- CONFIRM
- DEACON
- HOLYORDERS
- ORDAIN
- ORDAIN
- PRAY
- PRIEST
- STOLE
- TEACH
- VESTMENTS

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## UNSCRAMBLE:

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## Immaculate Conception Church

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Eden, New York 14057

-- Address Service Requested --

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# Coming Up

**Sundays through December 4**  
**following 9:30 a.m. Mass** (Holy Spirit)  
"Rosary Musicals and 33 days to Morning  
Glory" Adult Faith enrichment series -  
following Religious Ed schedule

**NOVEMBER 19**  
**Service Project at St. Luke's Mission**  
for Confirmation Students

**NOVEMBER 20**  
**Altar Server Investiture**  
8:00 a.m. Mass at ICC  
9:30 a.m. Mass at HS

**DECEMBER 4**  
**St. Nicholas Party**  
12:00 Noon at ICC  
**Ecumenical Christmas Program**  
3:00 p.m. at Eden United Methodist Church

**DECEMBER 8**  
**Potluck**  
5:30 p.m. at ICC  
**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**  
7:00 p.m. Mass

**DECEMBER 11**  
9:30 a.m. Mass (Holy Spirit)  
"Gather in His Name"  
followed by an intergenerational gathering  
for the entire parish family with prayer,  
learning centers and shared meal.

**ADVENT RETREAT • DECEMBER 10-14**  
**December 10-11**  
Weekend Masses  
**December 12 & 13**  
Mass at 7:00 p.m. at ICC  
**December 14**  
**Reconciliation Service**  
5 p.m. Confessions at Holy Spirit  
7 p.m. Confessions at ICC

**DECEMBER 18**  
**Altar Server Christmas Party**  
12:00 Noon at ICC

**JANUARY 8**  
9:30 a.m. Mass (Holy Spirit)  
Three Kings Celebration followed by a breakfast  
brunch for the entire parish family & Christmas  
presentation by the children of Holy Spirit.

**MARCH 1**  
Ash Wednesday

## Halloween Party

