

# Kingston Parish Marks Double Anniversary of Church, Chapel

By DAN PIETRAFESA

**D**on Bujak calls Immaculate Conception Church in Kingston his second home. The parish council president was the altar server as Cardinal Dolan celebrated Mass Sept. 4 to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Immaculate Conception Church and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the neighboring Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel.

“It’s just a big part of my life,” Bujak told CNY. “It’s a big part of my faith. It feels good to go there every week. It gives me a warm feeling and makes me feel good, especially serving on the altar.”

Bujak, 58, serves at 11 a.m. Mass each Sunday and was excited to do so for Cardinal Dolan’s visit, which included a reception on the church grounds after Mass.

“He’s never been to our church, which makes it even more special,” said Bujak, a lifelong parishioner of Immaculate Conception, a small parish church started in the late 1800s for Polish settlers in Kingston.

“The people are very dedicated to the Eucharist. They’re very caring people about the church,” said Father Mirosław Pawlaczyk, who has served as pastor since 2016.

Father Pawlaczyk is the 12<sup>th</sup> pastor in the parish’s history. His predecessor, Father John Borzuchowski, who served as pastor, 1991-2016, is pastor emeritus.

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PHOTOS BY ALAN ZALE



**DOUBLE CELEBRATION**—Cardinal Dolan and Father Mirosław Pawlaczyk, pastor of Immaculate Conception parish in Kingston, walk to a reception following Sept. 4 Mass for the 125th anniversary of the parish church and the 25th anniversary of the adjacent Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Above, Cardinal Dolan celebrates Mass inside the beautiful parish church. Right, the exterior of Immaculate Conception Church.

### Kingston Parish...

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Weekend Masses are celebrated at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday. A Polish Mass is offered at 9:30 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month.

Weekday Masses are offered at 8 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and on Saturday. A 7 p.m. Thursday Mass is followed by novena prayers honoring Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Confessions are offered at 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment. Karen Wereszynski is the director of religious education.

The parish ministries include Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors, altar servers, Living Rosary and adoration.

The parish also held its annual bazaar in July, featuring foods such as Polish sausage and peppers, stuffed cabbage and fried dough.

"Everyone looks forward to the bazaar," Bujak said. "It's a nice, big event.

"It's a beautiful church on nice grounds. The parishioners and (Father Pawlaczyk) have a lot to do with it being a good parish. (Father Pawlaczyk) is phenomenal. Everybody loves him. He's very active and energetic. He's done a lot since he's been here."

The parish dates back to 1893, about 15 years after the first Polish settlers came to Kingston, when Father Francis Fremel, who served at St. Peter's in Kingston and spoke German and Polish, was inspired by the Polish people to start a parish for them. He was appointed the first pastor.

On Christmas Day in 1896, Father Francis Fabian, the parish's second pastor, celebrated the first Mass in the current church, which was completed in 1897 and blessed by Archbishop Michael Corrigan on Nov. 21, 1897.

The Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel officially opened on Oct. 20, 1996, when Cardinal John O'Connor, who was then Archbishop of New York, celebrated Immaculate Conception's centennial Mass and carried the Blessed Sacrament from the church to the chapel after Mass. The chapel, in a renovated former convent, came into existence after a group of Catholics in the Kingston area, who were looking to expand adoration, organized a committee in 1994.



**ANNIVERSARY SIGNATURE**—Above, Cardinal Dolan signs the anniversary journal for Mary Santoroski to give to her aunt, who is in a nursing home and a parishioner of Immaculate Conception.. Cardinal Dolan celebrated Mass at the Kingston church Sept. 4, marking its 125th anniversary and the 25th anniversary of the adjacent Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Right, Cardinal Dolan prays inside the Divine Mercy chapel before celebrating Mass.



PHOTOS BY ALAN ZALE

## Iona University Adding Two Teams to Sports Roster

Men's lacrosse and women's acrobatics and tumbling will be added as the 22nd and 23rd intercollegiate athletic programs offered by Iona University in the 2024-2025 academic year, the university announced.

### Sports

"As Iona University continues to grow, we are very proud to offer these expanded opportunities for varsity intercollegiate competition to our students," said Matthew Glovaski, Iona's director of athletics. "With the Northeast and in particular Westchester County and the New York Metropolitan Area being a historical hotbed for scholastic men's lacrosse and the rise of acrobatics and tumbling as an emerging sport for women in the

NCAA, these programs will integrate themselves seamlessly into the goals and aspirations of the university."

Iona, which introduced a club men's lacrosse program in 2022, will compete in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference in the spring 2025 season. The Gaels will become the 11th men's lacrosse program in the conference featuring Manhattan College, Marist College and Wagner College.

"With our 10 current teams, Iona will strengthen the league and make our already competitive league even better," said MAAC Commissioner Rich Ensor.

Women's acrobatics and tumbling, which combines different disciplines of gymnastics and competitive cheerleading, will be overseen by the National Col-

legiate Acrobatics & Tumbling Association (NCATA), which had 32 programs competing in 2021-2022.

The NCAA adopted women's acrobatics and tumbling as an emerging sport for women after reaching 30 members in 2020.

"Iona's announcement continues expansion momentum in the Northeast, through which we've been fortunate to grow in all three NCAA divisions," said Janell Cook, the executive director of NCATA.

"Our NCATA member administrators continue to be our best advocates. We are thankful for those in the region who provided support to Iona through this process as we collectively move forward towards our goal of reaching NCAA championship sport status."