

IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA

*Finding forgiveness in
God's Mercy*

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

St. David Church | 7 PM

Doors open 5:30 PM | Doors close 6:30 PM

This Advent season, St. David Parish welcomes Immaculée Ilibagiza, a Rwandan genocide survivor, to share her miraculous story on finding forgiveness through God's mercy.

Immaculée Ilibagiza was born and raised in a small village in Rwanda, Africa. She enjoyed a peaceful childhood with her loving parents and three brothers. In the Spring of 1994, civil war erupted among the Rwandan tribes.

To protect his only daughter from rape and murder, Immaculée's father told her to run to a local pastor's house for protection. The pastor quickly sheltered Immaculée and seven other women in a hidden 3 x 4 foot bathroom. For the next 91 days, Immaculée and the other women huddled silently in this small room, while the genocide of her people raged outside the home and throughout the country.

While in hiding, anger and resentment were destroying Immaculée's mind, body and spirit. It was then that Immaculée turned to prayer. Prior to going to the pastor's home, Immaculée's father, a devout Catholic, gave her a set of rosary beads. She began to pray the rosary as a way of drowning out the anger inside her, and the evil outside the house. It was that turning point towards God and away from hate that saved Immaculée.

After the genocide, Immaculée came face-to-face with the man who killed her mother and one of her brothers. After enduring months of physical, mental and spiritual suffering, Immaculée was still able to offer the unthinkable, telling the man, "I forgive you."

Today, Immaculée is regarded as one of world's leading speakers on faith, hope and forgiveness. She has shared this universal message with world leaders, school children, multinational corporations, churches, and at events and conferences around the world.



I said the Lord's Prayer hundreds of times hoping to forgive the killers who were murdering all around me. It was no use-every time I got to the part asking God to "forgive those who trespass against us," my mouth went dry. I couldn't say the words because I didn't truly embrace the feeling behind them. My inability to forgive caused me even greater pain than the anguish I felt in being separated from my family, and it was worse than the physical torment of being constantly hunted.

IMMACULÉE ILIBAGIZA, LEFT TO TELL

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit:

<https://stdavidparish.org/advent-2021/>

Tickets go on sale November 1