



Immaculate Conception School

409 Palmer Rd.

Columbia, Illinois 62236

Michael L. Kish, Principal

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Tammy Hoeflinger, School Board President

Celebrating 167 years of Mission, Community, Service.

The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

February 26, 2021

Bienvenido el parochia!

V. 46 #28



8 Beatitudes--ICTHUS



175 years strong



USCCB Pastoral

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,



The Bishop is coming! The Bishop is coming! Tuesday! 8th and 7th have him for Mass---room to room after especially Grade 2 First Communion Class---likes spaghetti. He's a lot like Fr. Carl but from the Chicago area. Fr. Carl likes to tell the story that Shawneetown was one time bigger than Chicago. Chicago wanted to borrow money from the Bank of Shawneetown. They said no! Southern Illinois won! Welcome Bishop Michael McGovern to Immaculate Conception School! (Thanks Kathryn!)



PARENTS AND FRIENDS VIRTUAL ICS DINNER
AUCTION might have set a record! Details coming
but we should net over \$120,000! Thanks to
Committee, all donors, all bidders, all workers!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR LENT. Stations will be at 2:15 pm SHARP. It will be

live streamed to watch in the classroom. 7:00 in the evening too.

Friday 3/26 - 8th & 7th grade (Living stations by the 8th grade)



Michael Wessel's poem "Come Home for Christmas" has been selected by the Illinois State Poetry Society as a State Finalist to be sent to the National Competition. Congratulations Michael! Enjoy this touching work! (used with permission)

Come Home for Christmas

There once was a little boy,

who didn't want a single toy.

He had a good sense of right and wrong,

And wished the whole year long

For his brother to come home safe and sound

Instead of being on a battle ground.

Being with friends and family instead of foes

Filled with love from his head to his toes.

The boy would pray, "come home, come

I don't want you to spend Christmas alone."



PICTURE THE MUSIC A piece of music is selected by the St. Louis Symphony members and sent to teachers for the competition. The students listen to the piece without background information and produce a piece of art based solely on the music. After they have completed a draft, teachers share information about the composer and the music. This year was an amazing woman, Florence B. Price with her composition "Juba Dance". ICS congratulates 7 students that first had to qualify from a pool of 65 drafts for the competition from ICS and then produce their art work with meticulous attention to detail for entry in the competition. 49 Metro schools participated with over 6,000 students trying to qualify as finalists. Qualifying from ICS were Will Wittenauer with "Rushing Water", Claire Wachtel with "Moving Along", Grace Jansen with "Circus Sensation" and Maria Hake with "March of the Ants". **Selected as finalists were Avery Melliere with "The Dance", Lucas Sheehan with "Trumpet Man" and Sloan Wilson with "Into the Storm".** In a BC year(before Covid), finalists were honored onstage at Powell Symphony Hall. This year will be a Zoom celebration. Carol Fetcho is the ICS Art Teacher who grows students one brush stroke at a time!



MATHCOUNTS: The ICS team of Brady Moore, Avery Herrmann, Riley McGill, Claire Barbour, Michael Wessel, Grant Monheiser, Will Wittenauer, and Kaila Jerkatis competed in the virtual MathCounts Chapter Contest on Friday, Feb. 5. Eighth grader **Brady Moore** had the highest score of ICS students and was the 9th place individual in the challenging math contest sponsored by the St. Clair Chapter of Professional Engineers. Brady was invited to compete in the Chapter Invitational Contest on Feb. 25, which will determine participants competing at the state level. The ICS team was coached by math teacher Karen Weiler.



Illinois Math League: ICS students in Gr. 6-8 competed in the annual IL Math League contest on Tuesday, Feb. 23. This contest consists of 35 multiple choice questions that must be answered in 30 minutes. The results are as follows: 8th grade:
1st place-Owen Haney, 2nd place- Brady Moore, 3rd place- Will Jansen, 4th place (tie)- Logan Acevedo and Grady Frierdich. Other commended scorers were: Grant Monheiser, Claire Barbour, and Thad Brauer.



7th grade:

1st place- Avery Herrmann, 2nd place- Riley McGill, 3rd place- Keegan Thompson, 4th place- Oliver Unwin, 5th place(tie)- Paul Ott and Connor Thoma. Other commended scores were: Cailynn Mueth, Hope Schwartz, Eva Haywood, Caroline Roche, Lila Griffin, Charlie Hake, Jack Thieret, Aiden Howard-Maul, Anna Videmschek, Aubry Thomas, and Joe Whitworth



6th grade:

1st place- Will Wittenauer, 2nd place(tie)- Easton Dill and Jack Siegel , 4th place(tie)- Sean Frederick, Anna Hornacek, Ryan Kroenig, Lucas Sheehan, and Nicholas Wahle



Terrific Kid s– February 2021

Mrs. Diewald: **Mary Buhr** is a Terrific Kid. Mary is a kind hearted student and is always looking out for others. She is a great friend to her classmates and makes sure everyone is always included. She never hesitates to lend a helping hand. Mary is a great example for her classmates. Keep up the hard work.

Mrs. Meyer: **Rhett Johnson** is a Terrific Kid because he works hard to complete his assignments and is always willing to help others. He has a great personality and participates well during class lessons.

Ms. Wright: **Reagan Koppeis** - Reagan has shown consistency since the beginning of the year. She works hard every day to keep her space organized, puts forth her best effort in her classwork, and is always doing the right thing at the right time. She's usually the first in the class to follow directions and always follows them the first time! I'm so glad to have such a terrific kid in our class, keep it up Reagan!

Ms. Kennedy: **Emmalyn Sander** is a Terrific Kid! She comes to school every day ready to learn and challenge herself. She is kind to her classmates and respectful to all. I can always count on Emmalyn to participate in class and turn in her best work! Great job!

Mrs. Donjon: **Brynn Moore** - Brynn is a terrific kid. She is willing to help others, she turns her work in on time, and makes sure she does the best she can. Brynn is a leader inside and outside of the classroom. Thank you for participating and sharing your ideas with the class.

Mrs. Ettling: **Drew Boyd** is a Terrific Kid because he is kind to everyone and works hard in class. He has been working hard to participate in class. His participation in class helps everyone to learn. Keep up the hard work, Drew!

Mrs. Schauster: **Addison Koppeis** is a Terrific Kid. Addison comes into the classroom each day ready to put in her best effort. I can count on her to strive for her best every day. Friendship comes easy to Addison as she is such a caring young lady. Her joy for reading has become contagious in the classroom and she is willing to share her books with those who are interested.

Ms. Dillon: **Daniel Huels** is a Terrific Kid. Daniel has been doing amazing this year! I enjoy hearing his contributions and questions in our classroom discussions. He is very eager to learn and enjoys school. I look forward to hearing his daily, "Have a good day, Mrs. Dillon." Keep up the great work Daniel!

Something to look back on and be proud---Audition Take the first step!

AUDITIONS FOR BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, JR. (GRADES 4-8): Monday March 1 and Tuesday March 2 from 6-8pm(sign-up genius time slots coming tomorrow).

- The Musical dates are now May 13-14-15 (no Sunday Matinee)
- I am considering younger grades for Be Our Guest only (stay tuned)
- Prepare a song from a musical or sing Happy Birthday
- Read a small part of a scene from the play
- The auditions will be in the Pieta Breezeway (upstairs, in between the church and school)...park upstairs, enter through the door in the Mary Statue garden upstairs between church and school. Auditions should only take 5 to 10 minutes.

MaryBeth, Artistic Director, The Actors' Attic actorsattic@gmail.com

BIRTHRIGHT Thanks for helping Birthright celebrate their 50th year of saving lives and keeping babies healthy! Over 200,000 mothers have been helped! We raised \$450 and Faith Jansen won the Amazon card!

SAFE AND SACRED As part of the Diocese of Belleville Child Protection Component, our students take a class on personal safety, internet safety, being socially safe and setting boundaries. Over the next two weeks students will take course provided by the Diocese and taught by Mrs. Tiffany Taylor. Upon completion, a parent packet will be sent home for discussion and one page evaluation **to be returned**. Please remember that parents are the first and best teachers and we know you want the best for your child. Take this seriously please as we work together to take care of God's little ones and prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child! Thanks Mrs. Taylor!

Due to Covid and restrictions on volunteers etc... many ICS parents have let their Child Protection compliance lapse. Please be on the look-out in your email for a notice from Angie about Child Protection. And please respond responsibly. We would

like to have everyone in compliance so that when we go back to a more normal system, there will be no issues with telling parents they cannot volunteer due to being incompliant. If you would like to check your compliance, please call Angie in the parish office 281-5105 or email her at abuelt@htc.net. **Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!!**

Angela K. Bueltemann, Secretary & Bulletin Editor

SEE, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW...a few of the parish staff took a tour of the former rectory and add-on, add-on, add-on school on the main Street Campus yesterday. Enjoy the pics. School is gutted. The rectory is starting to rent. Thanks Mrs. Lewis!

<https://suelewis.smugmug.com/2021ICS/Tour-old-school-and-rectory-/>

NEW CULVERT FOR PALMER CREEK-- from subdivision to subdivision. Palmer Road is now one way from the 5 way at Rueck and Quarry across Fr. Carl Scherrer Drive past Palmier Hill Cemetery back to Quarry as Quarry Road will be closed. For those of you coming in heading south, you will have to take Main Street to Rueck and come in that way and it will add another 5-6 minutes to get here. Leave earlier, don't drive faster.

THE SPORTING NEWS...

ICS VOLLEYBALL PROTOCOL 1. Masks are required for everyone, players included. 2. **one spectator per athlete**-- live stream will be available through the school webpage www.icscolumbia.org 3. entrance will be through the lower level parking lot main parish doors and exit will be through gym doors. 4. everyone's temperature will be taken upon entrance along with a phone number for tracing 5. one parent will be assigned to take temperatures of guests for each game (this will replace gate and concession stand workers this year) 6. seating will be marked on bleachers to ensure social distancing 7. games will be limited to 45 minutes or best 2 out of 3. Once a game is completed spectators and players will need to exit quickly out the gym doors so proper sanitation can be completed before the next game. Please no socializing after the games. (last game of the evening will not have this time restraint) 8. no concessions or gate collection 9. GAMES MUST START ON TIME! Plan accordingly. Some nights we have 4 games. The time in between games is needed for sanitation. **Wait in the gym lobby till it is your time to enter.**

KC FREE THROW CONTEST We will try to hold this in-house during split screen in the next few weeks.

Days to support DC funding. March 5th = Reading Across America Day.

- April 9th = Hat day to promote "Thinking cap" & Father Carl's favorite homily aid
- May 7th = Hawaiian Day to promote Goodwill, with all proceeds going to 8th grade DC Trip.

175th Anniversary Artifact of the Week:



Our **Guardian Angel statue**, now watching our playground, used to grace the exterior doorway of our 1921 school on the old campus. After some water leakage behind it, it was taken down by Bob Schueler and placed in storage for over 10 years. Upon the tragic death of Jason Mueller, ICS grad and Latchkey helper, Jason's Mom and Dad Chris and Steve had the statue refurbished and installed to guard the playground on Main. Originally donated by the Lepp Family in honor of little Clarence who died at the age of 6, we were privileged to honor Jason as well. As soon as the weather breaks, we will put "Clarence/Jason" on a proper pedestal. *Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love, commits me here. Ever this day be at my side to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.*

Sr. Thea Bowman Catholic School will hold a Virtual Auction this year from March 10-13. The Mega Raffle for \$10,000 has already started. **Tickets: \$100** Buy 1, Get 1 / Buy 2, Get 3 / Buy 3, Get 5 email Karen Waide at kwaide@srtthea.org



RRRR you ready to find some treasure Mr. Kish? (Do not eat the gold foil!)



The Treasure is in the Beatitudes!

Out of the mouths of babes department... I stepped out into the hall after my Zoom retirement announcement Tuesday and PreK was on the way to their 10 minutes of extra recess from the Principal. Ryan Thomas looked at me and said "you are going to untire!" 10 minutes later the Kindergarteners came by and spotted me in the office. "He's still here!" I will not leave you orphans! Be not afraid! This parish school will get even better!

2021 Gibault Summer Golf Classic Save the date for the 2021 **Gibault Summer Classic** on Friday, June 11, at Annbriar Golf Course. We missed seeing you last year and hope you will join us for this year's event!

Become a Host Family Gibault Catholic High School is seeking families with big hearts who are willing to share their homes with an international student for the 2021-2022 school year. Contact Desiree Frasure at dfrasure.educatius@gmail.com or Becky Ramlose at bramlose@gibaulthawks.com or call us at 939-3883 to learn more about this exciting opportunity. Gibault families can receive \$1,000 off of tuition for becoming a host family.

Come Visit Gibault! The whole family is welcome for a Private Tour. Your entire family can see our campus and ask our Director of Enrollment any questions you may have. To schedule a Shadow Visit or Private Tour, contact our Director of Enrollment, Kelly Day, at kday@gibaulthawks.com or 939-3883.

Applications for our Class of 2025 and transfer students are still being accepted. Visit <https://gibaulthawks.com/apply/>. Applications will be accepted all summer, but we recommend submitting applications by March 1, 2021, to ensure your student is eligible for scholarships and receives important registration updates.

Live-Streamed Sports Join the Hawks' virtual fan club! Visit <http://bit.ly/GCHSYouTube> for live game feed and videos of past live-streams. Keep checking our website for updated schedules: <https://gibaulthawks.com/events/category/sports/>.

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ONE FOR OUR DADS! Thank you St. Joseph! ***MEMO***

To: *Priests, Deacons, Seminarians and Diocesan/Parish Staff*

From: *The Very Reverend John Iffert,*

Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia

Date: *February 24, 2021*

Good Morning,

While Fridays in Lent normally are a day of abstinence from meat for Catholics, canon law provides an exception for solemnities that fall on a Friday. **The Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 19) will be on a Friday this year; therefore, Catholics are not obligated to maintain the usual Lenten abstinence on Friday, March 19, 2021.**

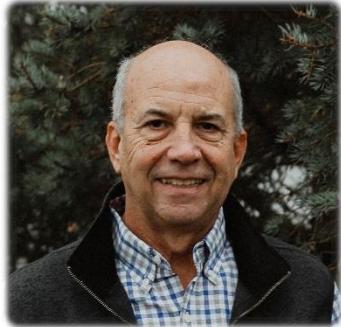
Canon 1251 notes, “Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.”

From Principal Jenny Martin of St. Andrew's Murphyboro:

Fr. Gary Gummersheimer received his lower back surgery for spinal stenosis. They removed a large cyst. He just arrived at Herrin Rehab yesterday. Now they will see if the surgery helped by getting him up and walking. He is in room 234. His spirits are better now than they were. ---Good news and continued prayers for Fr. Gary!

David Schueler of our parish had open heart surgery today. He is a private guy but I want your prayers for him. Patty is his wife and he is Grandpa to Hayden, Levi, Nolan, and Keaton Schueler, and Ellie, Olivia, and Jackson Deffenbaugh. He has his own prayer army but let's join them!

Steve Candler, father of Sarah(Dan)Thieret and grandfather to Jack, Isaac, and Luke Thieret, died on Thursday after an 8 1/2 year battle with Alzheimer's. He was the absolute best Dad. He never met a stranger and loved life. Our condolences to his family and we will let you know arrangements as they become available.



Terry Joseph Meyer, 65 years, of Columbia, IL, passed away on February 19, 2021 at Mercy Hospital South, St. Louis, MO. He was born September 19, 1955, in East St. Louis, IL, son of the late Charles R., and Eileen, nee Austin, Meyer. He was married to Lisa, nee Schorb, Meyer, who survives him. They were married January 28, 1989, in Columbia, IL.

Terry loved to have fun - whether that was taking his nieces and nephews for go-kart rides, flying kites on family vacations at the beach, bowling on his league at Westpark Bowl, or riding his beloved horses on the weekends.

Also, surviving are his son, Eric Meyer; daughter, Kaitlyn Meyer; sisters, Shae (John) Bilbrey, and Jeanne (Jeff) Schoettle; brothers, Michael Meyer, Patrick Meyer, and Christopher (Simona) Meyer; aunt, Norma Bouse; mother-in-law, Elaine Schorb of Columbia, IL; sisters-in-law, Laura (Mark Harris) Byrne-Harris, and Christine (Kevin Schmoll) Schorb of Columbia, IL; nieces and nephews, along with other relatives and friends.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Chuck Meyer; father-in-law, Eugene Schorb; brother-in-law, Kevin Byrne; and aunt, Doris Schmersahl.

Due to the Covid -19 pandemic, all services will be private. In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be directed to: Eugene Schorb - Immaculate Conception School Education Fund, 411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL 62236, EQUUS Rescue, P.O. Box 1032, Columbia, IL 62236, <https://equusrescue.org/>, or, The Institute for Justice, 901 N. Glebe Road, Ste: 900, Arlington, VA, 22203 <https://ij.org/>. For more

information, please access our website, www.leesmanfuneralhome.com. Leesman Funeral Home, Columbia, IL, handled arrangements.

PRAYERS: Special Intention David Schueler, John Stoffel, Randy Royer, Dan Schneider, Kathy Neal, Ruth Ann Mitchell, Grace Bartz, Donna Hoggard, Steve Patton, Elaine Schorb, Fr. Gary Gummersheimer, Harley Greer, Pat Whelan, Pete Riederer, Velma Taylor, Steve Killy, Joan Prigge, Joanna Prigge Ellner, George Perry, Gladys Williamson, Danielle Dorlac, Arlin Stechmesser, Karen Hornacek, Seth Watters, Glyn Raeber, Mike Drone, Geraldine McCoy, Logan Eichenseer, Ed Schaefer, Libby LoPorto, Donna Kania, Owen Jordan, Anthony Hendricks, Shawn Eichoff, Charlie Stockes, Angela Roepke, Jan Hoffmann, Bill West, Jennifer Nesser, Tom Kish, Patti Rottler, Mike Taylor

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT *How could God send his son to be murdered?* Well, it happened to Abraham as a test. And a bloody sacrifice was offered up instead. And then God sent his only begotten Son for real. And the bloody sacrifices were over. Many religions' have gods who can change forms. (See Harry Potter for some literacy license examples.) Our God transforms for real because God took our form to the point of being a slave and paying the ultimate sacrifice for us. This is deep stuff. Come and hear Fr. Carl and Fr. Nick break open the Word for you this weekend.

Mike Kish

Principal

PS Next Monday is Casimir Pulaski Day, Catholic, Polish, Revolutionary War Cavalry here who died at the Battle of Savanah. Every year at Mt. Vernon on this day, during our annual DC trip, the docents remind us of the legend that he once saved George Washington's life. A point of pride for us and a reminder.

PS KC fish fry menu below. Fr. Carl reminded us in his homily last Sunday about spring training to get ready for Easter. Trappist monk Thomas Merton reminded us to make the time to pray. Fr. Carl also teased about our fasting with all our fish fries now. He said "*Catholics make the rules and then they make the money*". (the Knights had 'em backed up to Quarry Road last Friday and it was well worth the wait!) Come back for seconds today!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY MENU	
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH — LOWER LEVEL: 411 PALMER RD., COLUMBIA, IL	
Ash Wednesday, February 17 th	Friday, February 26 th
Friday, March 12 th	Good Friday, April 2 nd
3:00pm until 7:00pm	
Fish Plate*	\$12.00
*Includes Choice of two sides	
1/2 lb Fish	\$8.00
1 lb Fish	\$12.00
Shrimp (5)	\$8.00
Shrimp Plate*	\$12.00
*Includes Choice of two sides	
Side of Fries	\$2.00
Side of Slaw	\$2.00
Side of Hush Puppies	\$2.00
Fish orders include choice of bread.	
Bread options: White, Wheat, or Rye.	
Drive thru only (order in person).	
We will only accept payment with credit card.	
We accept these credit cards:	

This was only sent out on Option C this week so I added it in our gmail blast.

Our former campus on Main Street is under renovation. Both rooms are slated for hotel rooms. We were lucky enough to get a visit last night.



The room where it happened--1955---I fell in love with school even though I cried every day for the first 6 weeks. School was the home of recess and I was recess king!



My first classroom--1971---I fell in love with teaching in this room.

February 24, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Monday evening at our School Board meeting, I announced I am retiring as Principal of Immaculate Conception School as of July 1, 2021. For years I have

said “*life or 75, whichever comes first*” or “*when Mrs. Epplin says I am crabby I quit*”. Neither of these two reasons came to be.

Joy has come to my door every day in your children. They have reminded me every day of my purpose. And that is to reflect Jesus Christ back to them as best as I can. That job is not just mine, it is ours. We were all baptized “priest, prophet, and king” and we are to reflect back to others Jesus Christ who is in us!

I have absolutely no real reason to leave. I am not in trouble. Life is good. This is the best school in the Diocese and I hope every fellow Principal in our Diocese feels the same way about their school. I have the best Parish, the best Pastor and Associate Pastor in the Diocese, best School Board, best Parish Council, best Parents and Friends, best Fathers Club, best fellow Music Ministers, best Tinkers group, best Benefactors, best Diocesan Superintendent and Office, best Regional Office of Education, best Faculty and Staff, best Secretaries and best Parent support.

But there comes a time when you wonder if you can find joy doing new things, or maybe even forgetting about scores of daily deadlines. And especially giving back to your beloved wife a little of the time with me that my “marriage” to ICS has taken.

I have a heartfelt desire to run this race to my last day full bore.(open throttle, not boring.) 61 days left and too much to do. I have had my retirement party every day as “joy came to my door”. I have a lifetime of trophies and awards and no room for any more and the legacy of all who have had a contact with ICS are my best gifts. But I would be most humbled by donations to our Catholic Education and Activity Center in gratitude for all the joy that has come to my door.

I will never live long enough to repay our parish for the life it has given to me. I will still be around to help and a Search Committee will flesh out our new path towards becoming a better school steeped even more in

“Mission...Community...and Service...since 1853”!

Mary Mother of the Church, patroness of our parish and school, pray for us!

Praised be Jesus Christ and Mary Immaculate!

Mike Kish Principal