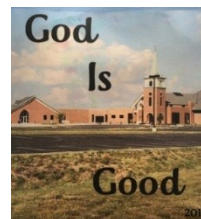




Immaculate Conception School
409 Palmer Rd.
Columbia, Illinois 62236
Michael L. Kish, Principal
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Tammy Hoeflinger, School Board President

Celebrating 166 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.



"God is good!"

March 27, 2020

Bienvenido el parroquia!

V. 45 #39

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,

MASS THIS WEEKEND: Last weekend had over 1600 hits! Fr. Gary broke open The Word so well for us. Try to see with God's eyes. If you go against human nature, it is oftentimes God-like! Lord, help us to see!

ACT OF GOD DAYS The State mandated days to counter the COVID-19 expire on Monday. **School resumes online on Tuesday the 31st and grades will count.** We have had a really good response during these two weeks with only a few students lacking contact. We will be compassionate as we work through this but do your absolute best to be accountable. Remember that this is hard on our teachers as well but they are professionals and understand how important education is for our future. I am very proud of them! The Superintendents of the Dioceses in Illinois as well as the Catholic Conference of Illinois are in agreement that we will all be grading after the 30th. Easter Week is cancelled. If we resume on the 8th, we would still take off Holy Thursday and Good Friday and probably return on Easter Monday.

LETTER FROM FR. CARL THIS WEEK:

March 25, 2020, Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord

Dear Parishioners,

Yesterday, March 24, we received updated information and instructions from Bishop Braxton regarding the Diocese's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Essentially, the Bishop has mandated that there will be no Masses or church services until after Easter, in order to continue to do our part to inhibit the spread of the coronavirus. These unprecedented times demand unprecedented measures for the common good. Below is a summary of his statement.

- 1) All churches and adoration chapels must be closed and locked until the order is lifted by the Governor. Private prayer in any parish buildings must be discontinued until the order is lifted. All homebound Communion calls are cancelled until further notice.
- 2) There can be no live Stations of the Cross or any other gatherings anywhere on parish/school property, nor can any parish personnel be involved in organizing them on any other site.
- 3) All weddings and baptisms must be postponed and can be rescheduled only after the order is lifted. There will be no scheduled opportunities for Reconciliation.

- 4) Funerals & wakes, and weddings, must be postponed until the order is lifted.
- 5) Parish offices must be closed. (If you need assistance, call Fr. Carl at 618:541-9008).
- 6) Palm Sunday and Holy Week Liturgies, including Easter, will not be celebrated publicly in parishes. (We will continue to livestream weekend Masses, the Easter Triduum Liturgies & an Easter Sunday Mass).
- 7) There are NOT to be any distribution of blessed palms until a later date. There will be no public Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.
- 8) The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday will be livestreamed at 7 PM.
- 9) There are NOT to be any public celebrations, even outside, including live Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. (We will livestream our Good Friday Service at 3 PM).
- 10) The abbreviated Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service will be livestreamed from IC at 7:30 PM. The Easter Sunday Mass will be livestreamed from IC at 10 AM.
- 11) Easter Sacraments for RCIA candidate & catechumens are to be postponed until this crisis subsides.
- 12) There should be no Communion services currently nor during Holy Week until we are cleared to return to public liturgies.
- 13) These guidelines and restrictions on public liturgies and gatherings are inclusive of Easter Sunday and all liturgies after Easter until further notice. Due to the uncertainty of the situation, it is yet to be determined how the scheduled dates for Confirmation, as well as First Communion, will be handled. Further information will be forthcoming.
- 14) The financial impact of the coronavirus is devastating to everyone, including your parish. As a matter of justice, during this time of "Shelter in Place," we continue to pay all our employees at Immaculate Conception. We appreciate all who continue to practice generous stewardship of treasure, and urge you to continue your on-line giving or giving through the stewardship of treasure envelopes you receive monthly in the mail. Your stewardship envelopes can be mailed to the parish office at 411 Palmer Rd, Columbia, IL 62236. If anyone in our parish needs any financial assistance during this time of crisis, please contact me at 618:541-9008, and I will see that you receive the assistance you need, all in complete confidentiality.

LINK FOR LIVE STREAMED LITURGIES AT IC:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Qrck7-lpPOOcA9UQ2qRqQ/>

(All parish liturgies will also be posted on the parish website. There is also livestream Eucharistic Adoration and Stations of the Cross on the parish website.)

During this time of crisis, let us continue to make prayer a part of our daily life, remembering all who have the coronavirus and all the medical personnel and health care staff who are heroically taking care of them. I complete my 14 day self-quarantine on April 1, and so far I'm symptom free. For your own health, and for the common good, please **"DON'T ROME – STAY HOME!"** Remember, the Lord has power over all things, even the coronavirus! God is good...
In His Love,
Fr. Carl

PS DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE YOUR 2020 CENSUS FORM!!

WHO WANTS TO WIN A BASKET? The women's club at Immaculate Conception has some wonderful baskets that you can win. The average value of the baskets are \$70 a piece! Our members worked hard on these baskets and due to the current shelter in place, we are only able to sell the chances online. I attached pictures of all eight baskets - Cardinals Basket, Spa Basket, Eckert's Basket, Spring Basket, D'Italia Basket, Turtle Mania Basket, Baby Basket and Light of My Life Basket.

If you are interested in purchasing raffle tickets, the prices are: \$1 for one ticket, 6 for \$5, and 15 for \$10. You can message me your order and I will fill out your tickets for you.

jarandle30@yahoo.com You can send your money to Joyce Randle at 315 Armin Circle, Columbia, IL. 62236 Winners will be announced on April 19th.

Thank you for helping us support the Masses at Immaculate Conception. Our ministry provides hosts, wine, candles and other important altar items. We couldn't do this without your support!

[Click here to see the baskets](#)

Joyce Randle

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE?

We are currently collecting names to be drawn for new School Board and Pastoral Council members on 5/2.

What's involved in serving on the School Board?

- ♦ Serve as an advisory group to support the Principal and Pastor in developing and implementing school policies.
- ♦ Meet 3rd Tuesday of the month, 3 year term beginning in June

What's involved in serving on the Pastoral Council?

- ♦ Serve to recommend policy to the Pastor for parish spiritual, educational and financial matters.
- ♦ Meet 4th Tuesday of the month, 3 year term beginning in June

Please **prayerfully** consider **placing your name in the discernment box** for School Board or Pastoral Council (located in the gathering space in the back of Church). New members will be drawn from the boxes at the end of the 5PM Mass on May 2nd. If you have any questions or want to **submit your name via email**, you may contact Toby Ellner at 618.615.2868 or toby.ellner@gmail.com regarding School Board or Lauren Powers at 314.402.8009 or L1POWERS@yahoo.com regarding Pastoral Council.

A Semblance of Normalcy---School uniform fitting from Catholic Supply: Because of the "Stay Home" order currently in place, we have moved the remainder of the March and April fittings to online orders. Our current suppliers do have inventory in stock and are shipping goods, however, their factories have closed due to the virus and are they uncertain when they will be able to reopen. We would like to get any orders in with our suppliers sooner rather than later. We have lowered the amount to qualify for free shipping and we have dock pick-up. Our retail store is closed while the 'Stay Home' order remains in place. [Click here for flyer!](#)

Marge Krizan, retired legendary ICS Geography Teacher, is recovering from some clots in her leg. She seems to be recovering well but would appreciate our prayers.

Glyn Raeber had a stroke early this week. Dad to Tara Vail and Grandpa to Mattie, Millie, and Evan. If you have ever picked up your children from school, you've seen him. He sure is a good guy to talk with. Prayers please.

Mike Drone, Catie Tyler's dad (Grandpa to Joe, Emma, and Louis) went into the hospital on Saturday and is extremely sick. Please keep him in your prayers.

Kelton(ROE 45 Superintendent) Davis's mom **Linda Davis** has died from heart complications. Prayers for the family and Kelton as he keeps us up to date on the State Board of Education.

PRAYERS: Special Intention Glyn Raeber, Mike Drone, Lindsay White, George Perry, Seth Conner, Geraldine McCoy, Kathy Neal, Logan Eichenseer, Patrick Kish, Danielle Dorlac, Marian Wickersham, Lauren Darr, Ashley Burris, Tom Keeven Sr., Ed Schaefer, Dan Hoefflinger, Libby LoPorto, Tom Giovanni, Dion Scherr Miller, Donna Kania, Owen Jordan, Anthony Hendricks, Mark Fiore, Shawn Eichoff, Charlie Stockes, Angela Roepke, Jan Hoffmann, Bill West, Jennifer Nesser, Tom Kish, Patti Rottler, Mike Taylor

LAZARUS IS US. Death stinks. You cannot rationalize it or argue it away. Our hope is in the Resurrection. There were many good Hebrews in Jesus time who did not believe in the Resurrection. There are many today as well. My friend Alan November once asked me if I was going to heaven? "I hope so", I replied. He then said "I have to leave my mark here on earth for when I die it is over". When we hear in this Sunday's Gospel from John the great profession of faith by the grieving woman that "I know my brother will rise again", we remember that Faith is caught by curiosity, by a desire to believe in a God who is "ridiculously forgiving", and from an inner belief system that understands the hole in our heart will not be filled until we are back with our God, as St. Augustine told us. Get to Mass online this weekend and hear Fr. Gary break open The Word!

Mike Kish
Principal
PS

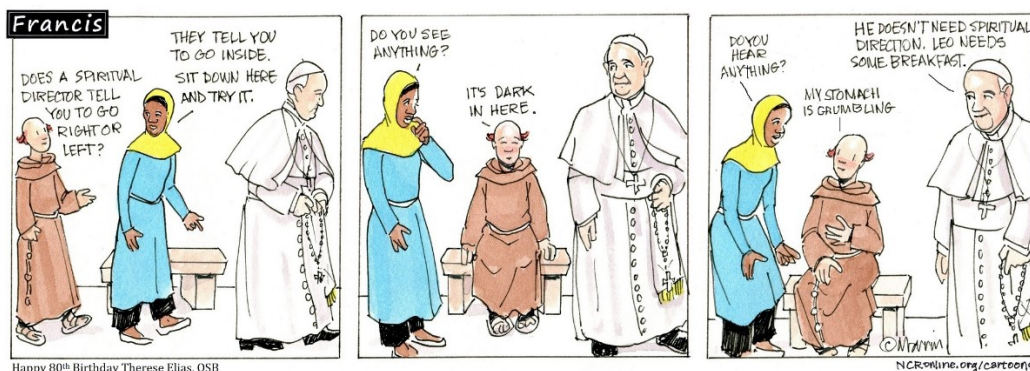
NOON TODAY A blessing form Pope Francis

Subject: PRIORITY Communication from the Apostolic Nunciature Your Eminence, Your Excellency, Thank you for the occasion to convey to you that the Office of the General Secretary has received communication from Most Reverend Christoph Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, that the Secretariat of State of the Holy See has requested that all local Churches be informed that all members of the faithful and other Christians are invited to participate in the special prayer of the Holy Father taking place in Saint Peter's Square this FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020. The Apostolic Nunciature further conveys that during this Statio orbis, which will be broadcast by Mondovision and streamed on the website of Vatican News (WWW.VATICANNEWS.VA) at 6:00 P.M. in Rome, 1:00 P.M. (EDT), the Holy Father will grant to all participants the Plenary Indulgence before imparting the Urbi et Orbi Blessing. The Apostolic Nunciature has requested the assistance of the Conference in promoting this event through all means, especially social communications. I ask that you and your communications teams consult and scroll all of the Conference social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) and Catholic News Service to amplify the content there regarding this event as a means to promote and advance this invitation. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this memorandum.

This is a good one---

FROM THE DESK OF BISHOP BRAXTON

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VEMYIO6EDA>



From a student to the teacher on this week's Religion assignment:

**i forgot to pray this week do i just
pray extra**

This is deep but you can handle it. Reflect and understand what desire means.

Text from the Archdiocese of New York

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire
to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you
sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there

And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen

<https://archny.org/acts-of-spiritual-communion/>

KEEP A LOG OF WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

Mrs. Lundy encourages you to SURPRISE US!!

Can you be inspired to learn something new or do something over this next 2 weeks that is a new skill you worked on?

Surprise us!

Join the Surprise Project!

Let us know what you are working on, which can be any of the following or your own idea:

1. I am following a daily routine that keeps my skills sharp and helps me stay current with my classes.

-AND/OR-

2. I am developing new/different study skills (tell us what has changed).

-AND/OR-

3. I am learning the new skill of _____ (cooking, cleaning (_____), laundry to help around the house.

-AND/OR-

4. I am practicing my instrument every day for _____ minutes

-AND/OR-

5. I am exercising every day this way: (give examples)

-AND/OR _____ for this many minutes _____.

6. Did you learn about someone who lived with a challenging situation and inspired you?

-AND/OR _____

7. Surprise us with your own ideas.

We are excited to hear from you! We will be looking for someone with the most unique new skill. All who submit a "surprise" skill will be publicly acknowledged.

The class with the most participants can win it's own dress down day.

The class with the most unique "surprise" can win a choice of pizza party or ice cream party for their class.