



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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**CELEBRATING 162 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.*

"We are people of joy"

April 24, 2015

V. 40 #47

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

**FIRST COMMUNION** last Sunday served as a great reminder to us of our Baptismal call and desire to stay close to the Lord. Thanks to Fr. Carl, MaryBeth Babcock, Heather Schaefer, Mr. Peterson, Cathy Fern, Emily Meyer and Sarah Diewald and their parents for all the preparation. One Holy Day!

**STATE BAND CONTEST** Tomorrow we travel by bus to Triad Middle School for the State Band Contest. Students will wear khakis and activity shirt with brown or black shoes. Bring money for snacks afterwards. Parents are welcome! It is always great to have our fans at contest. If is driving, and can haul some percussion and low brass, please let me know. Thanks, Matthew Hake

Meet at ICS: 8:00am

Warm-up at Triad: 9:30am

Perform at Triad: 10:00am

Arrive back at ICS: 11:45am

**SCHOLASTIC BOWL THE REGIONAL IS HERE!** Our impressive record steps aside as it is now one win at a time. Aviston was tough this week. Our matches are open to spectators and they are a lot of fun. Good Luck Team and Coach Taylor and Coach Kassebaum.

Round 1 4:00 ICS vs. Bunker Hill Wolf Ridge

Aviston vs. Mt. Olive

Round 2 5:00 ICS vs. Aviston

Bunker Hill Wolf Ridge vs. Mt. Olive

Round 3 6:30 ICS vs. Mt. Olive

Bunker Hill Wolf Ridge vs. Aviston

**What a week! Local, State, and a National Award!**

**Regional Office of Education Spelling Bee** in Steelville, IL.

Congratulations to James Ramette, who won 2nd place in 20 rounds, Noah Newton for winning 3rd place in a 26 round contest, and to Mason Babcock who also placed third in 5 rounds. Jack Burke represented Grade 7.



**eCyberMission Second Place in State!** Megan Levin, Marie Prindiville, Rose Sippel, the "Terrific Three", collaborated on a science project on the highlighted color of words affecting memory. Each student will receive a \$500 savings bond from the United States Army. This is the school's 11 ranking in 13 years, taking over \$88,000 from the program! The Team was coached by ICS Technology director Sue Lewis.



**ROE ART CONTEST** Another first for ICS! All 19 contestants received 1<sup>st</sup> places in the contest at SPPCS with **Isabella Garcia, Maggie Parks, Eve Melliere and Emma Melliere and Jacob Whitworth** winning “Judges Choice”. Judges Choice means you were the best in that category. **Jane Whelan** also received a perfect score. And Competitors: **Caitlyn Schwartz, Ally Curry, Allison Shuler, Kalia Jerkatis, Noah Chism, Anna Adams, Delaney Lundberg, Maggie Schulte, Spencer Biske, Kaylum Furlow, Kaleb Chism, Sarah Rose, Hannah Weiler.** And the Coach Carol Fetcho!!!

**ILLINOIS MATH LEAGUE GRADES 5 AND 4** Congratulations to 5th graders

1st - Jacob Whitworth 25/30      2nd - Autumn Ramey 22/30      3rd - Allie Shuler 19/30  
 4th - Grant Mathany 18/30      5th - Adelynn Murphy, Georgia Sasser, & Reece Ward 17/30  
 Ally Curry, Caroline Keefe, & Noah Newton 16/30      Andrew Epplin & Glenn Powers 15/30  
 Emma Blaskiewicz, Joey Hesterberg, & Joe Soetaert 14/30      Paula Boser 12/30

4<sup>th</sup> Graders: 1st - Tyler Wahle 20/30  
 2nd - Ariel Adams, Ben Haney, Colin Mueth, & Aidan Sullivan 19/30  
 Maria Biske, Drew Schmoll, & Sydney Wahle 18/30  
 Andrew Feldker & Anna Haubrich 17/30      Cole Huebner 16/30  
 Libby O'Brien & Audrey Sullivan 15/30      Michael Costner & Zachary Gibson 14/30  
 Charles Matthews, Emma Schmidt, & Dominic Voegele 13/30  
 Jack Basler, Danny Repp, & Stephen Johns 12/30

Any score above 12 is commendable! Now remember, there are 9 INTELLIGENCES where we are smart. And all our students shine somewhere!

Dear Sue Lewis, **Congratulations! I'm very pleased to let you know that IMMACULATE CONCEPTION has been named a 2014-2015 Mix It Up Model School.**

You and many in your school community—including students—have teamed up to plan and implement Mix It Up. You publicized the day and generated enthusiasm in innovative ways. Most important, your students enjoyed the day. We want you to be proud of your designation. You can use this Model School badge on your school website, or print it out and display it in the building to let everyone know that you're an official 2014-2015 Mix It Up Model School. We're also sending you a letter and certificate by postal mail. The best part about being a Mix It Up Model School is that your experience will help others. We're already planning ways to weave what you've done into our guidance for Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2015. And we hope that you'll actively participate on our Facebook page, where Mix organizers share their experiences and answer each other's questions. But more about that when next school year begins. Thank you for striving to make every student in your school feel valued and included. Best regards, Maureen B. Costello, Director, Teaching Tolerance





Caroline Keefe attended the Illinois EPA "Transportation and Air Pollution: What Are Green Solutions?" Awards ceremony at the Old Capitol in the room where Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech and where his body was viewed after his assassination. Caroline was one of six top winners in the poetry and prose category with competition from Chicago, Champaign, etc. We are proud of you Caroline!

**Home And Community Education Names Sharon And Ron Scherer Its Great American Family**

Columbia's Scherer family named the Illinois Great American Family by HCE are, left to right, first row, Owen Keefe and Luke Gimpert; and second row, Tim Keefe, Caroline Keefe, Debra Scherer Keefe, Sharon Scherer, Ron Scherer, Matt Gimpert, Jennifer Scherer Gimpert and Elise Gimpert.



The Illinois Association of Home and Community Education named the Ron and Sharon Scherer family of Columbia the Illinois Great American Family for 2015. The Scherers accepted their award during the HCE's annual convention held March 18 at the Elsie Mies Banquet Center in Decatur.

Strong roots, love of family, simple lifestyle, faith in God and service to the community were among the reasons the Scherer family was named a Great American Family. The Scherers have two daughters and four grandchildren. Sharon is an active HCE member and currently serves on the Monroe County HCE Board. Sharon has also served as a 4-H leader for 10 years. She is currently serving her fifth year on the Illinois State 4-H Foundation. She also has volunteers with her church, serves on the Parish Council, Altar Society and Prayer Shawl Ministry. Sharon graduated from the University of Illinois and had worked as an Extension Advisor in Bond, Cook and Monroe Counties. Sharon retired as a high school teacher with 15 years of service. Ron Scherer is a retired public relations professional. He is a past State FFA secretary-treasurer. One of his great interests was the University of Illinois with service on the ACES Alumni Board and the University of Illinois Alumni Board. During the awards ceremony, HCE officials stated, "The Scherer family are not rich but have enough. They have had medical challenges, but always have hope for a healthier day. They have had special friends and strong family support group. Simple, hard-working, like so many families, make them a Great American Family."

**PARISH COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD DISCERNMENT 2015 Get your name in the box for the drawing on May 9<sup>th</sup>! We need you!**

**BUILDERS CLUB WEEK** Thanks for a great week! The Club honored 80 students this week for displaying virtues as determined by their classmates and teachers. Modeling good behaviors helps us all.

Monday-Virtue of Fortitude: Avery Melliere, Malia Schaffer, Hope Schwartz, Keegan Thompson, Ava Langhans, Emily Rose, Abby Repp, Olivia Blaskiewicz, Tyler Wahle, Sydney Wahle, Dorian Thorne, Glenn Powers, Dominic Dalpoas, Jacob Feldker, Jane Whelan, Sophie Spurgeon

Tuesday: Virtue of Justice: Gus Schmidt, Will Schmoll, Emma Tyler, Cailynn Mueth, Sadie Loless, Grant Monheiser, Aubry Thompson, Emma Schmidt, Hope Pollmann, Maria Biske, Allie Shuler, Ally

Curry, Marie Prindiville, Andrew Harmon, Robbie Guetterman, Alex Barton

Wednesday: Virtue of Courage: Cam Donjon, Alex Hrdlicka, Ava Blaskiewicz, Kaila Jerkatis, Mason Voegele, James Thebeau, Marisa McGill, Ava Hake, Danny Repp, Drew Schmoll, Joe Soetaert, Holly Repp, Mary Clare Murphy, Zoe Swip, Trevor Stockard, Kaleb Chism

Thursday: Virtue of Patience: Megan Janson, Sean Frederick, Avery Herrmann, Genevieve Nadziejko, Ava Hrdlicka, Sadie Metz, Allison Stark, Joseph Tyler, Emma Tippen, Dan Stewart, Caroline Keefe, Paula Boser, Delaney Lundberg, Noah Chism, Eve Melliere, Lexi Hennes, Chloe Graff

Friday-Virtue of Knowledge: Carolyn Randle, Julia Hoeflinger, Paul Ott, Riley McGill, Kaiden Timmons, Carter Groppe, Drew Roche, Maggie Williamson, Colin Mueth, Andrew Feldker, Autumn Ramey, Noah Newton, Katie Grawitch, James Ramette, Spencer Biske, Adam Stearns

**TALENT SHOW** Isabella Garcia-singing "Think of Me" from Phantom, Spencer Biske solving a 3 X 3, 4X 4, and 5X 5 rubix cube in 4minutes 36 seconds, Sophie Spurgeon-tap dancing to "Do Your Thing" are this year's top three. Thanks to Lucy Settle for her speech "Thoughts During a Boring Sermon", Jacob Feldker for his speech "Stupid in School", Marie Prindiville and Katie Grawitch doing a Camp O



song, Delaney Lundberg and Molly Tippen singing "A Thousand Years", Hockey Shoot-out: Andrew Epplin and Glenn Powers, Hoops Shoot-out: Dylan, Sam, Johnny, and Alex Barton vs. Ryan Gallagher, Trevor Stockard, Bryce Pautler and Alex Bira---score big boys 2-0 in overtime, Gymnasts Anna Adams, Reagan Herrmann, Megan Levin, and Emily Gillan, Puff the Magic Dragon----"The Myth Busters" Lucy Settle, Johnny Adams, Sophie Spurgeon, Alex Barton, Lucas Herrmann, Kate Adams, Avery Herrmann. Kaleb Chism and Thomas Young were the emcees assisted by Mrs. Whelan. What a great show! You made us so proud!

**Magazine Drive 2015 Another \$3146.80!** Thanks for paying up! More pay-day! **Cardinal Day is April 30.** Parents are reminded not to take their children to the day game outside this group since it is one of our privileges for the successful drive. We placed 7 in the top 25 according to production. On the field for batting practice: Coming in second was Spencer Biske, 4<sup>th</sup> Lexi Hennes, 12<sup>th</sup> Drew Schmoll, 14<sup>th</sup> Matthew Epplin, 15<sup>th</sup> Sam Sippel, 18<sup>th</sup> Maddie Gummersheimer, 21<sup>st</sup> Eleanor McGuire, 23<sup>rd</sup> Emily Gillan. Also attending the game will be Mrs. Tolan's homeroom. Owen Haney, Lucy Settle, Jaylyn Brister, Nate Stechmesser, Stephen Johns, Isabella Frasure, Rose Sippel, Andrew Epplin, Will Schmoll, Maria Biske.

**Limo Ride:** Stephen Johns, Drew Schmoll, Lucy Settle, Spencer Biske, Lexi Hennes, Matthew Epplin, Sam Sippel, Maddie Gummersheimer, Emily Gillan, Eleanor McGuire, Isabella Frasure, Sean Frederick, Paul Ott, Kaiden Timmons, Jaylyn Brister, Dan Stewart, Allison Shuler, Eli Garcia, Nick Prindiville, Hannah Weiler

**Ice Cream Party:** Mrs. Tolan's Homeroom, Mr. Kassebaum's Homeroom, Mrs. Ettlign's Homeroom Spencer and Maria Biske, Lexi Hennes, Will and Drew Schmoll, Matthew and Andrew Epplin, Maddie Gummersheimer, Sam and Rose Sippel, Emily Gillan, Eleanor McGuire, Isabella Frasure, Stephen Johns, Jaylyn Brister, Nate

Stechmesser, Lucy Settle, Owen and Ben Haney, Lexi and Tristin McQuade, Holly, Danny and Abby Repp

**THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE 25 YEARS!** 1 million observations from the space telescope has changed how we see our universe after 7 + billion miles traveling above the earth's outer atmosphere. Galaxies and how they change, thousands of new galaxies, it is located above. Our current view of space is like looking at stars from the bottom of a full swimming pool. The "deep field" look allows us access to our growing universe. It's replacement is slated for 2018. What more will we see?

**WILL YOU COME?** Life is busy. There are so many things we need to do, and just finding 5 minutes to yourself sometimes seems like it's impossible. Between work, the kids and their activities, the house, the yard, the family... the list goes on and on. When was the last time you took time for just yourself? Without any guilt? Just as we try to be diligent about taking our kids to the doctor or scheduling our dentist appointments, it's important that every now and then we stop to take some time for a check up on ourselves. A weekend away for YOU- spending time with other women building each other up, laughing, talking, and praying. No distractions, no to-do lists, just some time for you to re-center yourself, and check in with your faith in a calm, safe place. Sound intimidating? It's really not. It's just a weekend full of love. I am personally inviting you to join me at King's House **April 30-May 3** for the Women's ACTS retreat. We meet at church at 6:30 on Thursday evening, and then come back for the 11:00 mass on Sunday. No cooking, no cleaning, no outside stress, just time for you to relax and be you. If you have any questions or concerns please email me at [andrea@biske.com](mailto:andrea@biske.com), the application form is attached and can be returned through the Parish or ICS office. Scholarships are available if the cost is what is holding you back (that information is kept strictly confidential). I would love to get to know you better, so will you come? Come as you are... we'll be waiting. Sincerely, Andrea Biske

**CHICAGO 2015** "Expect the unexpected" happened again as we encountered the worst fog we have ever faced Friday morning and yet made it to our train in Monee after a few wrong turns with 6 minutes to spare. Not a whine, not a complaint, nothing but smiles all day! And the chaperons were good too! Thanks to Mary Ann Lambert, Theresa Traxler, Todd Biske, Kevin Pautler, Don Gallagher, Bryan Rausch, Penny Prindiville, Sarah Furlow, Margaret Raisch, Chris Bira, Dan Whelan, Ame Mathany, Darlene Huebner, Paul Schulte and Lori Hennes for making the trip possible!

**St. Louis Storytelling Festival Here!** Feel welcome to come!

Wed. April 29 at 9:45 am (pre-K to 1<sup>st</sup> grade), 80 students

Wed. April 20 at 10:45 am (2 – 4 grade), 93 students

**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION** **I LOVE IT WHEN PEOPLE SNIP FOR ICS!** \$1,166.60 from those little clippings off our cereal boxes(remember Grade 7---Ceres is on the top of the Chicago Board of Trade)! Thanks Mrs. Schauster and Mrs. Sippel and everyone who thinks big of us by acting in a small way by clipping!

**LAST WEEKEND TO ORDER** **Spring pictures** are now available online to view and purchase. Go to [www.keevenevents.com](http://www.keevenevents.com) and select **2015 ICS Spring pictures**. password is: **spring**

Cropping is available on Spring pictures!

Zoom in - Zoom out! Frame it up the way you like it- Portrait-Landscape! After you select your package and image. select "Crop Image"

Order by April 27th for free shipping through school.

Pam Keeven-Keeven Photography, Inc. [pam@martykeeven.com](mailto:pam@martykeeven.com) [314-773-3587](tel:314-773-3587)

**Chess Camp at ICS** - Five days...**June 22nd-26th, 1:00-4:00** at ICS. The Webster University Grandmasters who have conducted chess camp for the last two years will be with us again this summer! What an excellent opportunity to learn from the THREE time National Chess Champs! Campers will focus on developing strategy and chess tactics. Classes will be leveled. The cost will be \$90 per student. Chess Camp t-shirt and snacks included! Space is limited. Email Mrs. Herrmann at [atcyramatt@htc.net](mailto:atcyramatt@htc.net) to sign up. We are offering this to other area schools this year as well, but offering to ICS students first. Enrollment will be offered to other schools starting **May 1st**. deadline is May 20th. [See attached flyer](#)

**Mrs Fetcho's Art Camps** - Please dress in old clothes, we will be very messy.

***Mosaics, Medallions and Me!***

***Time: 10am – 12pm (project cost included)***

***Where: ICS/Science & Art Room (look for the signs)***

***June 8 – June 12 Going into grades 2nd – 7th ...\$95.00per student***

This class will focus on the modern term of “selfie” using clay to create a mosaic, acetate (plastic sheets) to create a self-portrait that can be placed in any setting. Your selfie can visit the moon or walk with the dinosaurs, just use your imagination! Then take a trip to the Byzantine era when Constantinople was perfect for trade between East and West. Create a medallion with stones and glass gems that give the appearance of precious stones.

***Horses, Bison and Unicorns?***

***June 15 – June 19 Going into grades 3rd – 8th ...\$95.00per student***

***Time: 10am – 12pm (project cost included)***

***Where: ICS/Science & Art Room (look for the signs)***

Learn and Create a cave wall painting like the ancient Lauscaux Caves of France using colored plaster or paste (fresco) to create images of bison, horses and handprints that look like the real thing. Then travel to modern Europe to create images of colorful horses using oil pastels and splatter painting techniques like Franz Marc and Wassily Kandinsky (Der Blaue Reiter). Make a splatter painting of a unicorn just because it’s a UNICORN!

***Deconstructed Books***

***June 29 - July 1 Grades 4th - Adult ...\$65.00***

***Time: 10am - 12pm Where: Science/Art Room (project cost included)***

Use an old book to create a new story out of it's pages by sculpting them into a three dimensional pop-up story. Birdhouse, ocean with ships or hidden treasure. Uses techniques of origami and other paper manipulations.

email at [cfetcho@icsmail.org](mailto:cfetcho@icsmail.org) or text/voicemail at [\(314\)565-7354](tel:3145657354). Payment due first day of class.

**“Soccer Made Simple” Instructional Camp**

**Camp information . . .When:** July 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup> make-up date in case of a rainout during the week)

**Where:** Oerter Soccer Park (on route 3 in Columbia, IL)

**Time:** 5:30pm-7:00pm (K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders) 7:15pm-8:45pm (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders) **grade entering Fall 2015**

**Cost:** \$65.00 (Includes camp T-shirt)

**See attachments on the webpage---payment to: Soccer Made Simple, 5706 Beefwood Ct., St. Louis, MO 63129**

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT Friday, April 24th starting at 7:00 pm**

**Please come and join us in the Fellowship Hall-Lower Level of the Immaculate Conception Church on Palmer Road as the Knights of Columbus presents the next film from BUILDING**

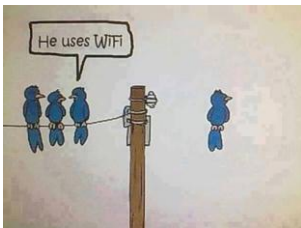
**THE DOMESTIC CHURCH program: "THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE". We will have free popcorn and drinks available. If you would like to, bring comfortable chairs, bean bags and/or sleeping bags. If you have any questions, contact Nick Matrisotto at (618) 281-0427, Brian Repp at (618) 281-9547 or Ted Haney at (618) 281-5990. *Mary Poppins was really about Saving Mr. Banks! A tremendous production. We are all over this show! Do yourself a favor and see it!***

April 23-26 as the Gibault Catholic High School drama department presents Mary Poppins! Shows will be performed Friday-Saturday evenings at 7:00 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM in the gym.

ICS Students: Mason Babock, Johnny Adams, Sophie Spurgeon, Isabella Garcia, Spencer Biske, Isabella Frasure, Kaylum Furlow, Katie Grawitch, Molly Tippen, Thomas Young

ICS Graduates: Dan Haller, Emma Burns, Sarah Lantsberger, Ethan Schmersahl, Kelly Fletcher, Mark Young, Morgan Ladyman, Elena Biske, Megan Huether, Millie Wolz, Jake Daniels, Andy Loless, Julianna Hollman, Henry Babcock, Gabe Howlett, Seth Watters, Alejandro Perez, Alex Dickinson, Molly Diehl, Cara Gallagher, Lizzy Raisch

Parents Helping: Jim Spurgeon, Pat Grawitch, Desiree Frasure, Marilyn Frasure, Mary Tippen, Jane Haller, Heather Garcia, Katie Spurgeon, Tina Grawitch, Mary Schroeder, Lizanne Young, Mandy McGuire, Chris Wessel, Andrea Biske



**SISTER CITIES** According to our friends from Gedern, no one in Columbia had the WiFi access that ICS did for their presentations! Thanks to Swip Systems, Inc., Mrs. Sue Lewis, a generous donor for Ubiquity, and Sidebarr Technologies, LLC for making us look good internationally!

The planning for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Monroe County has begun. Incorporated on January 2 of 1816, the first meeting did not occur until June. Our County seat was Harrisonville. It flooded out too often and we moved to Waterloo in 1825. The celebration could be historical-geological-flora and fauna-theatrical-educational or all. A logo contest with 30 applicants has already happened. Each high school winner will receive \$500 for their best selection and an over-all winner will have the logo for our celebration. 40 river landings along the County 59 one room schools at the peak Nike Missile site in Hecker Kassala-Schaefer stone tablet on display at



Cahokia Mounds was found south of Valmeyer. Lynn Ripplemeyer-first woman qualified to fly a 707-727-767 Dreamliner. Bud Ripplemeyer was Hall of Famer Steve Carlton's pitching coach.

**THE GIBAULT MEN'S CLUB** would like to extend a big "**THANK YOU**" to the **ICS staff, teachers and students** who stopped by to test drive and/or enjoy the BBQ. The event was a huge success as we were able to meet the 300 driver quota and thus maximize the Ford Donation of \$6,000, all of which will be used to benefit Gibault High School. Winners were 8<sup>th</sup> grade class with 14 votes. Thank you again for all your help! **Jeans and Gum Day for Grade 8 on May 5.**

**THANKS TO AT&T Employee Giving Campaign** for a match of \$14!

**THE SPORTING NEWS... TRACK** Good luck at the meet tomorrow at Red Bud!

**AWARDS NIGHT** is May 15 at 7:00 for Grades 5-8. Awards Day for Grades 1-4 is May 20 at 2:00. Thanks to Penny Prindiville, Kathy Sainz, Melissa Curry, Tina Grawitch, Mary Tippen, Sue Lewis,

Bev Eplin, Dale Anderson and Athletic Director Tara Kennedy.  
Please launder and get your uniforms in to Mrs. Whelan this week!

## **GRADS IN THE NEWS...**



**Alex Bell** won the Gustav Penzler Award in Scholar Bowl from the Columbia Turner's Thursday night! He was from our Class of Leaven! The Class is still rising!

**Brittany Huebner**---College student looking for summer babysitting job. Former ICS grad, references available, experience, and CPR trained. Please call Brittany Huebner at [618-281-6458](tel:618-281-6458).

## **SUMMER TUTORING**

ICS graduate and current Gibault student, Jay Hollman, is offering tutoring over the summer. He will complete his sophomore year this spring. He can tutor in science, English, math, history, and Spanish. Can tutor at any location and rates are flexible. Email him at [jayhollman2@gmail.com](mailto:jayhollman2@gmail.com) for more information.

I will again offer summer tutoring / enrichment at ICS for a 6 week session. I extend this service to you to consider for your child who may be struggling in Reading/ Language Arts and or Math. I can review and enrich a grade level or work on the next level's skills to aide a student's transition. I could also teach a child wishing to master a grade level in anticipation of moving up in Math as well. My plan would be to work for an hour once or twice a week. The session will run from the week of June 22 through the week of July 27 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact me if you have questions or are interested in signing up. Thank you.

Carol Waide 281-4186; 618-910-1648 c. [cjwaide@htc.net](mailto:cjwaide@htc.net)

**CAMP ONDESSONK** Hit the website [www.ondessonk.com](http://www.ondessonk.com). Be sure and get registered early so you get the dates you want for a great summer experience!



Cardinal George, 78, dies after battle with cancer By [Meinrad Scherer-Emunds](#)

Today, Friday, April 17, along with the rest of our home archdiocese of Chicago, *U.S. Catholic* mourns the death of Cardinal Francis George. He died at 10:45 this morning after a long battle with cancer.

In a statement to the press, George's successor, [Archbishop Blase Cupich](#) said, "A man of peace, tenacity and courage has been called home to the Lord."

Cupich recalled how George, who had contracted polio as a child, "overcame many obstacles to become a priest."

George, who served as president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops from 2007 until 2010, was a national leader who never hesitated to call things as he saw them. He led the bishops in opposition to the Obama administration's Affordable Care Act and the contraception mandate.

George was a deeply conservative intellectual who loved to spar with others over theology and society, but he also came to appreciate and pastor a city and diocese whose Catholic culture has tended more toward openness and pastoral approaches.

Cupich urged the Catholics of Chicago, "Let us heed [Cardinal George's] example and be a little more brave, a little more steadfast, and a lot more loving. This is the surest way to honor his life and celebrate his return to the presence of God."

May Cardinal George rest in peace!



Cardinal George was a graduate of my alma mater St. Henry's Prep in Belleville. Itaque, he was a great man!

### **DO YOURSELF A FAVOR AND READ THIS....MOTHER TERESA'S FAITH Fr. Ron Rohlheiser**

A recent book on Mother Teresa, *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light*, makes public a huge volume of her intimate correspondence and in it we see what looks like a very intense, fifty-year, struggle with faith and belief. Again and again, she describes her religious experience as "dry", "empty", "lonely", "torturous", "dark", "devoid of all feeling". During the last half-century of her life, it seems, she was unable to feel or imagine God's existence.

Many people have been confused and upset by this. How can this be? How can this woman, a paradigm of faith, have experienced such doubts?

And so some are making that judgment that her faith wasn't real. Their view is that she lived the life of a saint, but died the death of an atheist. For doctrinaire atheists, her confession of doubt is manna from the abyss. Christopher Hitchens, for example, writes: "*She was no more exempt from the realization that religion is a human fabrication than any other person, and that her attempted cure was more and more professions of faith could only have deepened the pit that she dug for herself.*"

What's to be said about all of this? Was Mother Teresa an atheist?

Hardly! In a deeper understanding of faith, her doubts and feelings of abandonment are not only explicable, they're predictable:

What Mother Teresa underwent is called "*a dark night of the soul.*" This is what Jesus suffered on the cross when he cried out: "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" When he uttered those words, he meant them. At that moment, he felt exactly what Mother Teresa felt so acutely for more than fifty years, namely, the sense that God is absent, that God is dead, that there isn't any God. But this isn't the absence of faith or the absence of God, it is rather a deeper presence of God, a presence which, precisely because it goes beyond feeling and imagination, can only be felt as an emptiness, nothingness, absence, non-existence.

But how can this make sense? How can faith feel like doubt? How can God's deeper presence feel like God's non-existence? And, perhaps more importantly, why? Why would faith work like this?

The literature around the "*dark night of the soul*" makes this point: Sometimes when we are unable to induce any kind of feeling that God exists, when we are unable to imagine God's existence, the reason is because God is now coming into our lives in such a way that we cannot manipulate the experience through ego, narcissism, self-advantage, self-glorification, and self-mirroring. This purifies our experience of God because only when all of our own lights are off can we grasp divine light in its purity. Only when we are completely empty of ourselves inside an experience, when our heads and hearts are pumping dry, can God touch us in a way that makes it impossible for us to inject ourselves into the experience, so that we are worshiping God, not ourselves.

And this is painful. It is experienced precisely as darkness, emptiness, doubt, abandonment. But this is, in fact, "*the test*" that we pray God to spare us from whenever we pray Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer - "*Do not put us to the test.*"

Moreover this experience is usually given to those who have the maturity to handle it, spiritual athletes, those who pray for and truly want a searing "purity of heart", people like Mother Teresa. They ask Jesus to experience and feel everything as he did. He just answers their prayers!

Henri Nouwen, in a book entitled, *In Memoriam*, shares a similar thing about his Mother: She was, he states, the most faith-filled and generous woman he had ever met. So when he stood at her bedside as she was dying he had every right to expect that her death would be a serene witness to a life of deep faith. But what happened, on the surface at least, seemed the exact reverse. She struggled, was seized by doubts, cried out, and died inside a certain darkness. Only later, after prayer and reflection, did this make sense. His mother had prayed her whole life to die like Jesus – and so she did! **A common soldier dies without fear, Jesus died afraid.**

**In a remarkable book, *The Crucified God*, Jurgens Moltmann writes: "*Our faith begins at the point where atheists suppose that it must end. Our faith begins with the bleakness and power which is the night of the cross, abandonment, temptation, and doubt about everything that exists! Our faith must be born where it is abandoned by all tangible reality; it must be born of nothingness, it must taste this nothingness and be given it to taste in a way no philosophy of nihilism can imagine.*"**

Mother Teresa understood all of this. That is why her seeming doubt did not lead her away from God and her vocation but instead riveted her to it with a depth and purity that, more than anything else, tell us precisely what

faith really is.

**PRAYERS:** Bill Pennock, Zac Epplin, Kaylee Fogarty, Erin McKean, Patty Juengling, Marian Keim, Dan Whelan, Edward Pelker, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Josh Ritter, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, Special Intention

**IN JOHN 10** We are reminded that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. God always speaks to us right where we are. It is time to turn the flock out into the pasture from the pen after letting the grass recover over the winter. The sheep will frolic and some eat too much and get floundered. The good shepherd keeps an eye on this and might have to dig out the hose to let the air out( Doc Shilliday the Vet taught us this one! Grease up the hose with Vaseline first!) It was great growing up on a farm. I wish everyone had had that experience. Nature teaches many lessons and Scripture is filled with nature references...just like the concept of a cornerstone. Come and see, hear, believe!

**Mike Kish**  
**Principal**

**PS THE END IS NEAR** The last day of school will be May 21 with early release at 11:25. Kindergarten graduation will be that morning at 9:30 and the Class of 2015 will graduate that evening at 7:00 in our new Church.

**PS HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Mrs. Karen Waterman on April 21.** Everyday is a party in Kindergarten!

**PS Menu change:** April 29th: Cheese pizza, salad, sweet potatoes, and pears

May 1: Mexican Haystacks, refried beans, corn, pineapple and chocolate chip cake

**PS SECRETARY'S DAY was WEDNESDAY.** God bless Bev and thanks to Penny who has been our Super Sub for favors great and small!

[PS Blue Jay Football registration form attached](#)

**BAND SCHEDULE Saturday State Contest Meet at ICS 8am**

Week April 27-May 1

Monday

8:05-8:35 6th-8th Flute and Clarinet 1

8:35-9:05 6th-8th Clarinet 2

9:05-9:35 5th Flute

10:35-11:05 4th Flutes

11:05-11:35 4th Clarinet

Tuesday

7:15-7:55 Jazz Band

8:55-9:25 6th-8th Saxophone and F Horn

9:25-9:55 6th-8th Trumpet

9:55-10:35 5th Clarinet

11:05-11:35 4th Saxophone

11:35-12:05 4th Trumpet

Wednesday

8:05-9:05 Concert Band Full Band

9:05-9:35 Percussion Ensemble

10:35-11:35 Beginning Band Full Band

1:45-2:45 Intermediate Band Full Band

Thursday

7:15-7:55 Jazz Band

8:55-9:25 6th-8th Low Brass

9:25-9:55 6th-8th Percussion

9:55-10:35 5th Saxophone

11:05-11:35 4th Low Brass

11:35-12:05 4th Percussion

Friday

8:05-8:35 5th Trumpet

8:35-9:05 5th Low Brass

9:05-9:35 5th Percussion

10:35-11:05 Jazz Band Sectionals

11:05-11:35 Smart Music Lab

