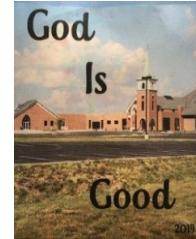




Immaculate Conception School 409 Palmer Rd.
Columbia, Illinois 62236
Michael L. Kish, Principal
(618) 281-5353 mkish@icsmail.org
Tammy Hoeflinger, School Board President

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.



May 22, 2020

Bienvenido el parochia!

V. 46 #47

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,

Kindergarten Graduation 2020 What a way to end our first year in our new facility! I am very proud of Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Herrmann in putting together a virtual graduation involving visiting every student, filming the porch walk, prayer, the Presidents, favorite fun from the year, and smiles galore! We will never forget this year!

Congratulations to Mrs. Murphy's Class:

Caroline Andres, Everett Darr, Madeline Dickman, Ally Evans, Alyssa Georger, Nathan Georger, Jack Hanlin, Allie Hrdlicka, Zoe Klingert, Mason Knobloch, Sumner Mestdagh, Addelyn Sander, Vivienne Schilling, Piper Schuette, Luke Thieret, Michael Weiler, Rebecca Williamson

Congratulations to Mrs. Herrmann's Class:

Easton Armstrong, Stella Day, Dylan Endraske, Harper Gilbreth, Savanah Goldschmidt, Kathryn Hoeflinger, Addison Holdener, Jacob Jordan, Zane Malamas, Gianna Mueth, Graeme Saathoff, Will Saathoff, Kaid Schilling, Luke Sommer, Camille Vail, Holden VanMatre, Gus Wachtel, Cooper Williamson

Kindergarten Graduation Porch Project Poem

This year was kind of different; We were together at the start.
We made so many memories, then had to be apart.
The first day brought such excitement with our brand-new beautiful school.

We were the first group of Kinders here, and boy, it was so cool!

We learned so many neat new things each and every day.

We laughed, we cried; we played and prayed and grew along the way.

We learned about transportation, penguins and dinosaurs just to name a few.

We walked to church, played outside and saw friends both old and new.

But then to keep us healthy, we had to go away.

We packed up all our things, and home we went to stay.

Our parents became teachers, our homes became our schools.

Computers, phones and iPads became important tools.

We learned and stayed connected with videos and Zoom.

We saw chicks hatch and planted beans and later watched them bloom.

Yes, this year was different and though we were apart,

This class will have a very special place within our hearts.

By Cyra Herrmann

MEMORIAL DAY The unofficial start of summer appropriately begins with remembering. To mourn our dead heroes and family members is human. But to remember them is holy. Our cemetery has many veterans who served and some who gave their lives. Our Parish Cemetery Committee goes to great lengths to ensure they are not forgotten. Every year at this time I am reminded of United States Army test pilot Gus Juengling who died in a crash in June of 1922. He was the first to fly into the Grand Canyon and held several altitude records at the time of his death. His funeral was reported to be the largest ever in Monroe County with a General attending and cars parking all the way to Bremser Road. Taps was played simultaneously at Turner Park. Whether or not you died for your country in the military, we all die for it one day at a time by trying to be the best citizens we can. God bless all who died, all who served, and all who work to make our country take care of the least amongst us and the world.

DEACON NICK FLEMING will be ordained to the priesthood on July 11. Pray for him and Deacons Seipp and Schrage. His address for now is 1028 Cypress Pointe Dr., Caseyville, IL 62332. Have your kids send him a card and you too!

FR. MICHAEL MCGOVERN will be ordained and installed as our 9th Bishop on July 22. Pray for our new Diocesan shepherd as he ministers to the 28 southern most counties in Illinois.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS Congratulations to our new officers President-Kim Timmons Siegel, Treasurer-Amanda Sander, and Public Relations Jolene Sasser. Stephanie Roccasalva is Vice-President and Katie Hart Secretary. Thank you to all the nominees, and special thanks to our outgoing officers: President Holly Blaskiewicz, Treasurer Kate Held Kienzle and Public

Relations Kara Nicole Boyd. Your time, dedication, and service to ICS P&F has been astounding and very appreciated. We reached new heights these past years with your leadership. God has always “risen up” the right people for us and we are grateful!

GRADUATION PICTURES for the CLASS OF 2020 will be held on June 2. A sign-up form through OptionC was sent out so please read your email and sign up if you haven't already. We want to follow social distance and safety procedures. **RETURN AND PICK-UP** Textbook, chrome book, uniforms, athletic bags, and desk/locker/cubby pick-up will be sent out next week as well on sign-up form through OptionC with the process. Thanks for your cooperation on this!

ACRONYM SOUP CARES, ESSER, FEMA, IEMA, NCEA, ICC, ROE, all sources of funding and support we are chasing to help us make it through this tough time. Our biggest asset is still your stewardship. New expenses this year will be safety procedures and practices inflicted on us by Covid-19. Just like you, I strain to hear progress on a vaccine. Science is simultaneously developing a vaccine and distribution plans so there will be little delay once we crack the code. A virus is not curable but we can reduce its effects. The *new normal* is buying time. God did not create this virus. It is not a punishment for our sins. God created natural law to run our world. And God created us to use our gifts, cooperate, and figure out how to deal with it. We mourn those we have lost, pity those who have been afflicted, and use all the best safety practices to reduce the mourning and suffering. Please continue to mask up, social distance, sanitize, and pray for our researchers and all who are offering themselves up to test new vaccines. Our individual rights stop where someone else's nose begins. A community puts the group above our personal opinions and preferences. Reread The Preamble to the Constitution and remember to promote the general welfare.

We will be sending out a survey on remote learning to help us prepare for a Covid come-back. We also need to:

- Pay attention to social-emotional needs---contact Mrs. Lundy if needed.
- Continue summer learning to less the normal back-slide we suffer from annually. The easiest way to counter this is reading!
- Keep virtual contact going until we can gather more once restrictions are lightened.
- Make tech upgrades/professional development priorities for the school and faculty
- Develop procedures for school cleaning and best practices within school

REGISTRATION 350 so far. Please finish this off. Mission-Community-Service. When we look back at our lives, we all wish we had spent more time on developing our spiritual side. Come and learn about God, His Son, the Spirit, and building relationships which are the foundation of it all!

CALENDAR We are still waiting on Columbia Community Unit #4. Please be understanding that flexibility beyond our wildest dreams is also part of the new normal.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY--Our goal this year is to have all parents certified early so we can avoid compliance problems with sports, volunteering, and field trips. And besides, it is good for you too because it is for the safety of our children! Take advantage of our dates as we post. The starting point is the Initial Child Protection Training and CANTS paperwork.

<u>FIRST EUCHARIST</u>	Sunday, June 14.
<u>CONFIRMATION</u>	Monday, June 22 at 7:00.
<u>GRADUATION</u>	Wednesday, June 24 at 7:00 or Tuesday, August 4 at 7:00 or virtual in our Church. The winner of these 3 will also be live-streamed.
<u>Awards Night/dance?</u>	Friday, August 7, 7:00 Grades 5-8. Lower grades during school the first week.
<u>MAJOR FIELD TRIPS</u>	to be re-scheduled if permitted within Covid guidelines

ATHLETIC MEETINGS FOR 2020-21 School Year

Coaches meeting for coaches of **ALL** sports at ICS will be held on **Wednesday July 15** from 6:30-7:30 or **Sunday July 19** from 2-3. These meetings will be in the **Garden Level of the church**. Please make sure you have taken the initial Child protection class and have all the other paperwork handed in. Child protection refresher will be available in August . If the necessary paperwork is not done, you are not allowed to coach.

Parent meeting for parents of all athletes at ICS will be **Sunday July 26** from 2-3pm, or **Wednesday August 5** from 6:30-7:30pm in the **Garden Level of the church**.

Soccer uniform distribution will be **Sunday August 2** from **12:30-2** for **grades 1-4, and 2-3:30 for grades 5-8** , and **Sunday August 9** from **4:30-6** for **grades 1-4, and 6-7:30 grades 5-8**. **This will be in the cafeteria.**

PLEASE HAVE PHYSICALS ON FILE AT SCHOOL AND ATHLETIC AND MAPLE GROVE FEES PAID. IF THIS IS NOT DONE, YOUR CHILD MAY NOT GET A UNIFORM. YOU CAN BRING IN PHYSICAL AND PAY FEES ON UNIFORM PICK UP DATES. Kindergarten uniforms will be decided upon and given out at school.

THANKS to the Columbia Rotary Club for another payment on their pledge for our Catholic Education and Activity Center. Thanks to all who continue to fulfill their pledges and all who are giving beyond their pledges. \$3,660,000 would finish off our debt. We can rejoice in our 20+ million dollar campus being so far along but, just like a household, we collectively have to work to eat the elephant one bite at a time! No one likes to pay interest!



The work of Olilia Blaskiewicz under the tutelage of our Art Teacher Carol Fetcho

JESUS THE RIDDLE MASTER Gospel In 16:16-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

"A little while and you will no longer see me,
and again a little while later and you will see me."

So some of his disciples said to one another,
"What does this mean that he is saying to us,
'A little while and you will not see me,
and again a little while and you will see me,'
and 'Because I am going to the Father'?"

(no wonder they scratched their heads!)

THANKS for all your expressions of support and prayers on the loss of my brother Patrick. March 31 we laid my brother Jerry and sister-in-law Rumay to rest at Arlington. God gave us some closure with Patrick's living wake but it sure was rushed.

Fr. Donald Blaes passed away last week. He was a fellow Principal at Althoff, Mater Dei, St. Paul Highland, College prof, historian, and served us as sacramental minister a few times over the years. He had a great sense of humor and a deep love for God's people. God's peace to him. The banter will cease but the memories live on.

James Harrigan was laid to rest this week. He was uncle to at least 3 ICS students over the years. There is never a good time to die but today's restrictions cut down on the support we've grown used to over the years. May he rest in peace!

PRAYERS: Special Intention Henry Johns, Beth Johns, Dorothy Hornacek, Glyn Raeber, Danielle Dorlac, Seth Conner, Mike Drone, Lindsay White, George Perry, Geraldine McCoy, Kathy Neal, Logan Eichenseer, Marian Wickersham, Ashley Burris, Tom Keeven Sr., Ed Schaefer, Dan Hoeflinger, 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

MASS THIS WEEKEND at 4:00 Saturday Remember, we are a community, not an audience. Watching from home should raise a yearning in our hearts to be together for the Liturgy. Make a Spiritual Communion! Watch for the link!

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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: I hope you didn't miss the Ascension yesterday. "Why are you standing here looking up at the clouds"? Jesus had to leave to let the Spirit come on the Birthday of the Church. 10 days of fear and trepidation and then the Great AHA Moment comes in the form of the Spirit.

In Jesus time, you didn't have a last name. You were "the son of", or "the Nazarean", or "the Zealot", or "the carpenter", or "the leper" or 'the beggar" etc. Jesus was "The Christ", the Anointed One. We all have a last name. But our best last name is "Divine Heir" for we are adopted children of God.

As we end the School Year, place your hand on your child's head and bless them. Make this connection so they can know a parent's love and overcome the greatest hunger we all long for, parent hunger!

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

Mike Kish

Principal

PS Thanks for the strong finish to the school year!

PS Getting ready for summer---

