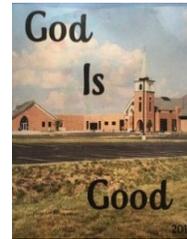




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Celebrating 166 years of Mission, Community, Service.
The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.



June 5, 2020

Bienvenido el parroquia!

V. 46 #49

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,

**RESUMPTION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST AT
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: June 6/7, 2020**

After seeking the counsel of our Reopening Leadership Team and our Pastoral Council, I'm delighted to announce that **we will resume our public celebration of the Eucharist on the weekend of June 6/7**. Since there are still restraints on the number of people who can be in church at one time due to social distancing recommended by both the Center for Disease Control and the Illinois Department of Public Health, and since there are still many members of our parish who are in the over-65 vulnerable age group (including me) who might not yet feel comfortable gathering in church, we are going to begin having two weekend Masses in our upper parking lot, one on Saturday at 7:00 PM and one on Sunday at 7:00 AM. This way everyone can feel safe as they remain in their automobiles and tune their car radios to 88.5 FM that will carry the audio. Please use your mobile phone or I-pad for the song lyrics sent via email. Both the **CDC & IDPH** guidelines state that drive-in services pose a lower risk of infection than indoor services. The priest and Eucharistic Ministers will bring Communion to you while you remain in your car. Of course, we are all anxious to return to our beautiful new church, but again the health and well-being of all parishioners always remains our first priority. We will continue to do the online Mass on Saturdays at 4:00 PM for those are not able to join us for the "Park & Pray" Mass.

The times for the two Masses were selected hoping that the outdoor temperature will be a bit cooler during the heat of summertime (you might want to bring your sunglasses

& a water bottle). If attendance exceeds the number of cars the upper parking lot will hold, we can consider adding another Mass on Sundays at 9:00 AM. For the distribution of Holy Communion, the priests and Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, wearing their face masks, will go to the driver of each car, who is also required to wear a mask, who will indicate the number of people in the car receiving Holy Communion, and then the required number of consecrated hosts will be given to the driver to be distributed to other family members eligible for Communion.

Another part of the rationale for these “Park & Pray” Masses is to avoid having to completely clean and sanitize our church after each Mass with parish volunteers, which is the recommendation of the **CDC** and a requirement of the Diocese. The main doors of the church itself will remain locked on the weekend, but if there is an emergency need for a restroom, the family restroom at the side entrance of church will be available. A collection basket will be available as you enter the parking lot for those who bring their stewardship of treasure envelopes, and you will also receive a parish bulletin and a palm branch as you enter. For the safety of everyone, please remain in your car at all times, and do not exit the parking lot until dismissed by the parking volunteers! No one who is feeling ill or who has a fever should attend. Finally, Bishop Braxton has indicated that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in place.

Indeed we all have a “*Holy Hunger*,” but as your pastor I’m committed to keeping all members of our parish community both physically healthy as well as spiritually healthy. Like you, I look forward to the day it is safe to return to our spiritual home. In the meantime, let us remember that the Church is not a building, but a Community of Faith. I look forward to continuing to pray with and for you.

--Fr. Carl

Mark your calendar: Our new Bishop, Michael McGovern, who will be ordained and installed at our Cathedral on July 22, will have the 11:00 AM Sunday Mass here at Immaculate Conception on July 26!

SURVEYS: Thanks for your responses! That’s how we get better! Surveys usually garner 1/3 response and we are over 50% and growing! We sent out an additional one from the Diocese today. Please weigh in!

DROP OFF AND PICK UP This really went well too! Over 300 dropped off and picked up! We will be open from 8:00-Noon on Saturday for our essential working parents. **DON’T FORGET!** It is time to shut down for a while and take a break!

WELCOME TO OUR WORLD! Our newest addition to the family, Jeffrey Alexander (aka Alex) Dickman was born on 5/20/20. We are all so happy that he is healthy and doing well. Congratulations to Liam and Maddie and the whole family!

GRADUATION PICTURES for the CLASS OF 2020 Tremendous cooperation! Thanks to all for being on time and on task and on camera!

TELE-HEALTH Karen Lundy 719-1815, ICS School Counselor.

ESSENCE OF COMPASSION Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant with the weak and wrong...because sometime in your life you will have been all of these. A. Nonymous

FIRST EUCHARIST Postponed

CONFIRMATION Postponed

GRADUATION Tuesday, August 4 at 7:00 or virtual in Church-live-streamed.

Awards Night(dance?) Friday, August 7, 7:00 Grades 5-8.

Lower grades during school the first week.

MAJOR FIELD TRIPS 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.

Seth Watters, ICS and Gibault grad who moved to Florida for health reasons has made the list for a lung transplant. He called me yesterday to give me the exciting news and I told him he was on our prayer list! Seth was a miracle baby, weighing in at a little over a pound. He spent his first 6 Christmases in the hospital fighting off complications and had a large portion of his lungs removed. He spent a lot of time in the office with us as we fed him lunch every day through his g-tube in 20 seconds and then made him wait to go out with his class. Just talking with him lifted my spirits and our hope is that a new pair of lungs will allow his overworked heart to slow down and give him his life back. Please keep Seth in your prayers.

Pat Whelan, Great-Grandmother to Owen and Ben Haney, (Mike(Jan) Whelan's Mom), and grandmother to many ICS grads, is in need of our prayers as she suffers from the isolating effect of the virus while at Bethesda. The emotional toll of this virus is often worse than the disease itself. Even in recovery, you still pay a price. We wear masks

because we love each other. This time will pass but we must help each other through it. Prayers please for this good lady and friend to ICS and our parish.

PRAYERS: Special Intention Seth Watters, Pat Whelan, 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

God's peace to the family of Dorothy Hornacek who was laid to rest today.

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! A plan is being developed for return to Church once restrictions are lifted.

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 Fr. Carl at 618-541-9008, and he will see that you receive the assistance you need, all in complete confidentiality.

Mike Kish

Principal

A DIFFICULT CONVERSATION I was raised racist. It wasn't intentional. "Politically correct" or "white privilege" weren't topics in the white community. We made racial slurs all the time and thought nothing of it. Lynches happened elsewhere (except in East St. Louis as my grandfather watched a black man dragged off a streetcar and murdered in 1917. As an immigrant, he ducked and ran for cover. The NAACP was founded in St. Louis around this time.) With the death of 14 year old Emmett Till, the refusal of Rosa Parks to give up her seat on a bus, and a young and talented preacher named Martin Luther King, Jr. taking on a poor church congregation instead of a rich one he could have had, a concerted movement began. Along with it came a national examination of conscience that still goes on today with no absolution until we get to the Promised Land of loving one another.

What's a parent to tell their children during these times? A country built on revolution and protests that often turned violent are not new to our history but why does change come so slowly and why does someone have to die? Belonging to a Church built on a death, a Resurrection, and hundreds of thousands of martyrs doesn't make horrific tragedies any easier to take. The actions of a few debases the thousands of police personnel who work tirelessly every day for the common good. Every single racial sin reminds us of the thousands of racial sins since 1619.

Tell your children how you feel and why you feel the way you do. Teach your children what it means when someone says “uncle” or “I can’t breathe” and surrenders and how you have a moral obligation to ease up and more importantly not even get to that point.

This Sunday we will sing “God we praise you.” It includes the lyrics “*by your cross is sin defeated, hell confronted face to face*” and that is exactly where we are. Hell---face to face. And confrontation is exactly our way out. Standing up to sin. Seeing Christ in each other’s faces. Holding people accountable yet giving them their God given rights. And remembering to always seek the essence of goodness and that *Whoever debases others is debasing himself*. “Politically correct” must move to productive conversation that honors each person’s dignity and strengthens our relationships.

Come Holy Spirit! Help us work for justice so we can have peace!

**STATEMENT OF THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE
WAKE OF THE DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD AND NATIONAL PROTESTS**

May 29, 2020

We are broken-hearted, sickened, and outraged to watch another video of an African American man being killed before our very eyes. What’s more astounding is that this is happening within mere weeks of several other such occurrences. This is the latest wake-up call that needs to be answered by each of us in a spirit of determined conversion.

Racism is not a thing of the past or simply a throwaway political issue to be bandied about when convenient. It is a real and present danger that must be met head on. As members of the Church, we must stand for the more difficult right and just actions instead of the easy wrongs of indifference. We cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.

While it is expected that we will plead for peaceful non-violent protests, and we certainly do, we also stand in passionate support of communities that are understandably outraged. Too many communities around this country feel their voices are not being heard, their complaints about racist treatment are unheeded, and we are not doing enough to point out that this deadly treatment is antithetical to the Gospel of Life.

As we said eighteen months ago in our most recent pastoral letter against racism, **Open Wide Our Hearts**, for people of color some interactions with police can be fraught with fear and even danger. People of good conscience must never turn a blind eye when citizens are being deprived of their human dignity and even their lives. Indifference is not an option. “As bishops, we unequivocally state that racism is a life issue.”

We join Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda of St. Paul and Minneapolis in praying for the repose of the soul of Mr. George Floyd and all others who have lost their lives in a

similar manner. We plead for an end to the violence in the wake of this tragedy and for the victims of the rioting. We pray for comfort for grieving families and friends. We pray for peace across the United States, particularly in Minnesota, while the legal process moves forward. We also anticipate a full investigation that results in rightful accountability and actual justice.

We join our brother bishops to challenge everyone to come together, particularly with those who are from different cultural backgrounds. In this encounter, let us all seek greater understanding amongst God's people. So many people who historically have been disenfranchised continue to experience sadness and pain, yet they endeavor to persevere and remain people of great faith. We encourage our pastors to encounter and more authentically accompany them, listen to their stories, and learn from them, finding substantive ways to enact systemic change. Such encounters will start to bring about the needed transformation of our understanding of true life, charity, and justice in the United States. Hopefully, then there will be many voices speaking out and seeking healing against the evil of racism in our land.

As we anticipate the Solemnity of Pentecost this weekend, we call upon all Catholics to pray and work toward a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for a supernatural desire to rid ourselves of the harm that bias and prejudice cause. We call upon Catholics to pray to the Holy Spirit for the Spirit of Truth to touch the hearts of all in the United States and to come down upon our criminal justice and law enforcement systems. Finally, let each and every Catholic, regardless of their ethnicity, beg God to heal our deeply broken view of each other, as well as our deeply broken society.