



Immaculate Conception School
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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.

August 28, 2020

Bienvenido el parrochia!

V. 47 #03



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,



Jackson-Henry-Layla and 2 Holy Fathers Covid spritzers Sadie and Ava Mason leads again

FIRST ALL-SCHOOL MASS Fr. Carl and Fr. Nick make a great team. Whenever you knock, Fr. Nick shows up. John Bollone and Brayden Hines are getting into the tech voodoo that they do behind the scenes under the direction of Mr. Joe Gilbreth and Ms. Mary Boser! Thursdays with John and Brayden will be holy days for us!

ICS welcomes Katie Cornish to Pre-K and Claire Gaynor to Pre-School. Katie taught at St. Agatha's in New Athens for 3 years in Kindergarten and SPPCS for 5 in

middle grades and has her son Jack is in Pre-S. Claire has her Associate's from SWIC and wants to get into primary education. Please make them feel welcome!

COME MONDAY, 5% OF THE SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE OVER ALREADY!

Parent cooperation has been great this year and students have been even better. Honest reporting is the key to a successful cohort program. It's education in the '50's again but so much better than '*alone at home*'. We have actually gained efficiency in the cohort model due to less hall transit, scheduled restroom breaks, and more time on task. *It still stinks but it is the price we pay to be one to one.* The advantage of being a small school allows us to make this work. We use two large rooms for lunch to maintain safe distance and are not using the District buses this year. Students are allowed to bring their own chrome books since they are secure under our filter Go Guardian. We are also blessed with a faculty who started remote learning on March 17 and worked very hard over the summer to get even better. We have two Google Certified teachers on staff and Mrs. Tiffany Taylor, who moved to part-time with us this year, is in charge of remote learning. She is assisted by our current tech teacher Joe Gilbreth and our former tech teacher Sue Lewis. Having a new school with sufficient broadband is another key to jumping on-board with the 1,700,000 Zooms being held each day across the country. Very little *Zoom and Gloom* here.

In addition, the Diocese of Belleville has a real time data based app called MiineHealth which has a daily check-in on symptoms and temperature, taken from home. A generous donor supplied the school with a temperature scanner called fevIR2 which sounds an alert on anyone with a temperature coming in the building. Lots of scheduled cleaning, hand washing, sanitizing, masks, safe distancing practices, desk partitions, upgraded HVAC, and community building happen each day.

One of our biggest losses is active community building and the inability to assemble as one physically for our All School Masses. Only 2 classes can attend per day and the weekly All-School Mass is live-streamed. We are also feeling loss in the form of 8th grade-first grade buddies and 7th grade-Kindergarten buddies but we are working on that and I also miss 8th grade leadership in helping to run the school which has been scaled back. Standing at the doorway to keep safe distance for this compromised Principal is not much fun. And try to dance away from a 3 year old when they want to give you a hug. Emotionally and physically impossible!

All I can do is constantly say thanks to everyone for doing their part. I am reminded of the time I heard Coach K of Duke (live) say "we have to be like a fist, one finger out of place and you break your hand" (when you punch the virus). Please continue to keep the wheel of ICS rolling! We are in this for the long haul. Going day to day takes too much energy anticipating something that will not happen right away.

A BIG WAY TO SAY THANKS---Get your paperwork in. Do Miinehealth on time each morning. Save us from having to nag you to do your homework. Get in the routine(start the coffee---say the Morning Offering Prayer---take my temp and complete the app).



KEEPING ICS ROLLING

YOUNG AUTHORS Thanks to Chairperson Susie Funk! October 14th will be recognition day for the Awards for Young Authors. Turn-In Day is **Monday, September 21st** and it is a dress down day for those who participate. Susie will be seeking/coordinating the blind judging.

Parents & Friends Needs your help! Please see the Sign Up Genius link below to sign up to help our committees, volunteer or be a **room parent** for this year. Many hands make light work, so please consider how you can best help and sign up before September 13th. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044EA4A82DA5F85-parents>



Fr. Nick at work: Here he is with the 4th grade explaining the conversion of Nathaniel of Cana in Galilee---we know him as Bartholomew, and Phillip was his mentor who introduced him to the Christ! See the fig tree? See who's turning up hot on the fevIR2 scan?

INCLUSION We are accepting donations for an inclusion project to provide for a special needs student. We are trying to fund this outside the budget. To date we have

\$9,750 pledged and need more funding during the course of the year. Once again, we're just letting you know in case you can help.

The FORMAL AGREEMENT is REQUIRED. 233 of 240 are in! If you wanted to make the final 7, you did. Insurance---acceptable use form---publicity release---Covid response safety agreement---verification of our Reopening Plan. **Optionc accounts under communication.** Note there is also space for you to fill in any allergies or medical needs that your child might have. This is critical for the office to know. **We will cut off internet use Monday unless the agreement is in. This was due 8-14.**

PEDAL THE CAUSE ICS 7th grader Aiden Howard-Maul is in his 4th year of being cancer free. He has committed himself to help support research to cure cancer so other children won't have to go through what he did. Check out this inspiring video on Aiden and Mom Julie's experience. Real hero stuff!

https://www.mypedalthecause.org/riders_profile.jsp?MemberID=39859

Mrs. Laura Whelan's husband Dan and the Whelan Clan are big supporters of Pedal the Cause as well. On 9/11 we will hold a dress down day to support Aiden and the Whelan family's ride and their goals of \$2500. Free will donation. This is Patriot day. Many of the First Responders on 9/11 came down with cancer from their exposure in the face of saving others. We salute them and Aiden and Dan on this day.

GIVE StL Day We raised over \$40,000 last May for Covid relief via St. Vincent De Paul and promised donors a **dress down day for adults and students** for supporting this relief. If you forgot if you gave, let us know and we will check for you. **September 17** is Citizenship Day. We will count this as being part of our obligation of being good citizens. We all do that in different ways every day and not just one-shot like a donation. I like the connection to being a good neighbor. The campaign quoted Mr. Rogers during the GiveSTL campaign: "Be a helper".

THE ICS/JOE HOGUET MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT has been **cancelled** this year due to logistical problems. The courses may be full but there is no way to maintain the safe distance and buffets that make it such a great day. The Fathers Club will be seeking other ways to offset the loss. We count heavily on their support for our technology licensing and athletic support. They'll chip away!

Red Cross blood drive at IC Sept. 13. The Red Cross has made the decision to extend its testing of blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies through early January. As you know, the test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. **Anyone who gives blood will be tested for COVID-19 and notified if they have contracted COVID.**

THE SPORTING NEWS...Another First Cross country is our current sport and Coach Mike Braun is creating a course here with home meets contained to Thursdays and Saturdays. **Cross Country Meet here tomorrow: 9:30 and 10:30 starts.**

Mike Braun, ICS Cross Country Coach, 618.530.5473

Cross Country Guidelines: With the COVID Guidelines wearing a mask is required by the IHSA, IDPH, and Governor's All Sports Plan for spectators---**reversed to encouraged**. So much flip flopping on the rules makes life difficult. Social distance in place except for a family cohort. We have to handle low risks sports so we can hopefully come inside for medium risk sports. Runners and coaches have to wear face coverings in the bullpen unless 6 ft. social distancing can be maintained. Coaches have to wear face coverings during practice unless they are actively exercising in practice the team and can maintain social distancing. Runners should wear masks when not running.

CHILD PROTECTION TO DO: "Safe and Sacred" Child Protection Training, Diocese of Belleville www.diobelle.org

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED THE REFRESHER CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING COURSE FOR 2020, VISIT: <https://safeandsacred-diobelle.org/>

BELONGING TO A LARGER COMMUNITY We are under the auspices of the Catholic Diocese of Belleville and the Roman Catholic Church. Our extended family needs our support and participation. Jesus teaches us to love the neighbor we can see and the neighbor we can't see. The 2020 Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal of the Diocese has **191** donors from our parish. Our parish goal this year is to have **275** participants. Participation in this annual appeal for our Diocesan wide ministries is a good way to show our support for our Church and our new Bishop. The Messenger does a great job highlighting all our corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Maybe sign up for The Messenger too! Let's make our Holy Father the Pastor look good by doing what we are supposed to do without him begging. A small donation counts too and adds up!

WANNA GET AWAY? Maybe the very best way you can get to know fellow parishioners, find your spiritual path, restore some sanity to your life is to take an **A.C.T.S. RETREAT**. The next Men's ACTS retreat is October 1 – 4 at King's House. King's House is open for retreats, and following all the pandemic protocols. Sign-up. We have had over 300 men and women participate. It has a money back guarantee and we haven't had to use it yet! With over 40 new families in school, this is your chance to jump right in. All denominations are welcome and we do not beat you with a Bible if you come. (We had a biker on one of my retreats who found God on the road while enjoying the sunset!) Fr. Nick's a biker and he will be on the retreat!

SISTER THEA BOWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL: Our parish support is legendary at Sr. Thea Bowman! Everyone is encouraged to use the special envelope in the August packet to support the only Catholic School in East St. Louis. This year our anonymous donor has raised their matching gift offer from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Thus far we have donations totaling \$5,055!

FEED THE HUNGRY This weekend after all Masses, a Confirmation Cluster Group will be hosting a drive-thru food drive. Drop-off location: ICC as you enter Mass (6:30 am - 11 am) or in the Lower parking lot from 8:30 am - 12 pm.

Items in short supply:

Canned Vegetables	Canned Fruit	Canned Tomato Products
Chili Beans/Baked Beans	Canned Soups/Beef Broth	
Helper Meals	Side Dishes/Rice	Jello/Pudding Mixes
Canned Meats	Peanut Butter	Snacks, Jello/Pudding, Jams/Jellies

Cash/Check Donations also welcome!

As I go through the pantry, I try to give one thing I like for every can I bought by mistake.

PARISH LABOR DAY PICNIC: Our Parish has received \$8600 in donations toward the “rainy day” fund which will be depleted after this year’s picnic cancellation. Why not donate what you might have spent? Or donate what it is worth to you to not hear Mike Kish on the Microphone!

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING is the best kept secret of the Church. If we want peace, we have to work for social justice.

CEAC: Sept. 8 marks the first anniversary of the dedication of our new Catholic Education and Activity Center. A mailing is being sent out to all ICS parents with a copy of the dedication souvenir book thanking them for their pledge, and asking those who have not participated in the campaign to consider doing so. A similar mailing was sent to all PSR parents last winter. As of 3/31, we had 583 pledges, of which 564 had made some payment. There are many more that made a donation without a pledge but a work in progress to quantify. We are currently paying \$284,565 a year in interest. It is easier to pay attention to this and seek more pledges than to pay interest. **Some of the families I met with told me their support would come later.** I am still counting on that. You never pay the price for a project like our new facility. You reap the benefits. Belonging is believing. Believing is belonging. Please join our list of donors!



The Passage displayed in our hall reminds us that the Atlantic Ocean is the largest graveyard in the world. Notice the ship in the upper corner sailing on. When a slave ship was approached by an enemy with laws against slaving, they would

confiscate the ship. Oftentimes, the enslaved were chained together and thrown overboard to avoid the penalties of law. 11-14 million enslaved people started the voyage and millions died during the passage.

The original painting hangs in the hallway of Slave Haven in Memphis, an underground railroad home owned by John Buerkle. It is a major stop on our Memphis trip. I am always amazed at how touched our students are after the experience. Memphis changes a lot of hearts. Many parents have thanked me for this trip started by our late Pastor Fr. Steve Humphrey.

Our Theme of **Open Wide Our Hearts** is hard. We need to find a curriculum so we will understand that social justice will bring peace. That takes undoing all the prejudices we have had ingrained and learned unintentionally. Economics and environment and opportunity are the way to social justice. With Wednesday night's protest by the NBA and Jack Flaherty and Dexter Fowler over the shooting of Jacob Blake, maybe the corporate world will start to act beyond just taking notice and we can join in. I don't know how to be anti-racist. I have to be taught to be anti-racist.

GIBAULT Catholic High School News...Top Golf Outing Enjoy an afternoon of golf while supporting Gibault! On Sunday, September 20, we're hosting a new fundraiser at Topgolf in Chesterfield! Bring your family and friends, fill a bay, and have fun! Bays hold up to 6 people, and each ticket includes 3 hours of unlimited Topgolf, a fantastic BBQ lunch with fried chicken, brisket, and more, plus bottomless non-alcoholic drinks.

Tickets and sponsorships are available at www.GibaultTopgolf.givesmart.com.

Oktoberfest 2020 Save the date for our Roaring 2020's Virtual Oktoberfest on October 24th! Details coming soon!

Josh Glod, friend of Ms. Kailey Walker's from Murphysboro and at death's door with Covid at Barnes. He is beginning to respond a bit to treatment but has a long road ahead. He is 46. This virus picks on everyone.

Gladys Williamson, Jack and Cooper Williamson's paternal grandma is very sick with stage 4 cancer. Please keep her in your prayers for some relief.

Mrs. Angie Ettlting has lost her first cousin **Tim Meyer**, 36, to cardiac arrest. He is from Cape Girardeau. Please keep him and the family in your prayers.

Our condolences to Willy and Mandy Bogmeyer(Jack and Ollie) on the loss of Grandmother **Evelyn Borgmeyer**. She lived in Jefferson City and worked for Scholastic for years. She was 90. God be with the family!

Walter Menner, great uncle to Nick, Freddy, Emelia, Sylvia, and Forrest Doerr, and brother to our late Parish Secretary Marian Keim, has passed away and will be laid to rest tomorrow from St. James in Millstadt. God's peace to the family. Every time we lose a family member, the event brings to mind all we have lost.

175th Anniversary of Parish: 2021 will be the 175th anniversary of the establishment of our parish. Tomorrow we will hold funeral services for **Lester Frierdich**, 94. His Mom (Bertha Einwich) and Dad (Henry Frierdich) were from the founding families of our parish. Peace Lester! Says thanks to our founding families for us!

PRAYERS: Special Intention Gladys Williamson, Josh Glod, Josh Ritter, Tom Keeven, Sr., Lindsay White, Danielle Dorlac, Arlin Stechmesser, JoAnn Swip, Dan Hoeflinger, Karen Hornacek, Seth Watters, Glyn Raeber, Seth Conner, Mike Drone, George Perry, Geraldine McCoy, Kathy Neal, Logan Eichenseer, Marian Wickersham, Ashley Burris, Ed Schaefer, 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

This Weekend's Scriptures: *What does it profit a person to gain the whole world and lose their soul?* Readings this week focus on how we see things with our human eyes vs. how God sees things. It is hard to make this adjustment and easy to understand Jeremiah saying "You duped me Lord." Structure creates freedom. Being church is a necessary part of structure for it lets you take inventory. What did I bogey this week, or birdie this week or did I have an eagle? We all need to reflect about our lives and try to understand that being human brings joys and sorrows. We can't get out of this world alive. By reflecting, and taking the time to make the time to go on retreats, we can kind of put things into proper perspective and see a little bit with God's eyes. Come to the Altar---in person, on the parking lot, or on-line at the 5:00 recorded Mass.

Mike Kish

Principal

Ps "Why don't we have a class pet?" was the suggestion. Brady suggested 'yeast'! It's alive!!!!!! This is why I love school!

Ps \$28.38 for St. Raymond's this week. That's almost 200 quetzales!

PS Our annual new **Bible Blessing** will be September 10 for Grade 4 and all new students during the All School Mass. New students will hold theirs up in the classroom. Parents are asked to write a love note in the cover on loving The Word!

"In 2020 it feels like we're living in pot of boiling water. When placed in the pot an Egg is hardened. A Carrot is weakened. Don't be like either. Instead be like the Coffee Bean. It transforms the water into coffee. You have the power inside you to transform your environment. Be the change." - Jon Gordon / @jongordon11

For Peace in Anxiety During the Coronavirus Pandemic

Loving God, we come to you full of anxiety about what may happen in the coming days and weeks. Shower us with the peace Jesus promised to His disciples, and make us into steady pillars for those around us. In this time of uncertainty and epidemic, wake us up to the reminder that we are not alone.

Even as we are asked to keep our distance from others, help us to find ways to reach out to those who need our support. We pray especially for those who have lost family members and whose incomes and livelihoods are threatened. For those already isolated, lonely and scared. Loving God, give them your peace, and through our hands ensure they have what they need.

Sustain, strengthen and protect all caregivers. Bless them as they offer compassionate care and show selfless courage in the face of risk.

Remind us, each time we wash our hands, that in our baptism you call us to let go of our fears, and live in joy, peace, and hope. Amen

ELearning sidebar:

- Research says in person is best for maximum learning.
- School is more than just curriculum.
- School is about learning how to relate to each other.
- Your best education is learning people.
- Travel is the best way to do that but you need basic skills to handle it or you become a soft target.
- Values and work ethic are hard to catch in the vacuum of being alone.
- Much of the depression and anxiety within society right now is caused by the lack of human interaction.
- We have to be in it for the long haul---persistence. Living day to day wastes a lot of energy anticipating an end that's not here yet. And of course, if you persist too long on the wrong goal that is called insanity.
- Education teaches you to be flexible and resilient---like a rubber band.
- Structure creates freedom.
- Being church-ed is a necessary part of structure for it lets you take inventory. Where did I bogey this week, or birdie this week or did I have an eagle?

- **Our goal is that our students go through ICS and ICS goes through our students. ICS becomes a part of their identity.**

Much of this comes from Matthew McConaughey **via Jon Gordon of The Energy Bus.**