



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.

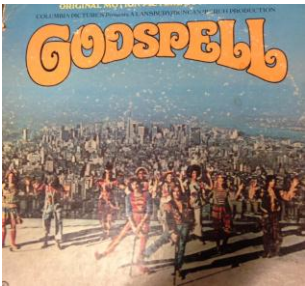
OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY!

October 16, 2015

V. 41 #17



Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



LOOK WHAT WE FOUND! This album cover (there is a bite out of the vinyl) was in Mr. Kassebaum's treasure trove left by Mr. Anderson. Our production does it much more than justice but you have to see for yourself! Please invite your friends and neighbors to visit the Church on Main for an evening of the Gospel of Matthew.

The ICS Builders Club, Immaculate Conception School, and I would like to say thanks to Mary Beth Scherr Babcock, the CAST of our 9th annual musical production **Godspell, Jr.**, and all our parents and theatre friends for their support. What a blessing our community has in The Dorothy Weinel Eppinger Foundation! Dorothy's stewardship to her beloved town lives on in theatre and the arts. We are grateful to

Board members Pastor Bill Groennert, Patti French, and Floyd Crowder for their stewardship of Dorothy's Foundation. Our school has changed greatly over the past 8 years by the influence of theatre in the life of our school.

The Gospels are the story of Jesus told to 4 different communities. **Godspell, Jr.** is based on the Gospel of Matthew who speaks to Christians who were basically Jewish. Using song and dance, the parables of Jesus are retold and Matthew is all about "the Kingdom". (Matthew mentions the Kingdom 31 times in his Gospel---more than half of the times mentioned in all 4.) *Prepare Ye, Day by Day, All Good Gifts* are songs I have personally led for liturgy before in this church but never as well as they will be done by our cast. Tonight we dance along with the lyrics. We are reminded anew and in a different way that the story of our lives, rooted in the Gospels, can be so much more---a life "in Jesus", day-by-day---*we beseech Thee, hear us!*

Each year, our selection is picked for a reason. As our beloved church transitions into another use, it is most fitting that it all kicks off with Godspell, Jr. Like the **Cotton Patch Gospel** of a few years ago, we need to put the Gospels into this time, into this place. **As we now work to build a new school that will replace buildings it took us 67 years to create, we realize we will have to do it in about the same time as Jesus public ministry.** Impossible? No, not with God. *Bless the Lord!*

Once again we will "pass the basket" at Intermission for Sr. Thea Bowman School in East St. Louis, where the same Gospel message we love is taught. We are so proud of their success and your generosity makes you part of it. The Good News of the Gospel and **Godspell, Jr.** is all about hope. And Sr. Thea Bowman School is too! Thanks to all our advertisers and theatre goers and concession stand supporters. Much of the good work of the ICS Builders Club comes from this production.

Finally, where would we be without MaryBeth, Dave Boser, our Tinkers (volunteer work crew), Desiree Frasure, Andrea Biske, Laura Whelan, Jolene Sasser, Jim & MaryAnn Held, Sandra Whitworth, Penny Prindiville, Lizanne Young, Beth & George Johns, Dan Whelan, and the backstage parents who shepherd the cast? **ONLY ONE THING IS MISSING FROM GODSPELL, JR.---YOU!** 7:00 each night



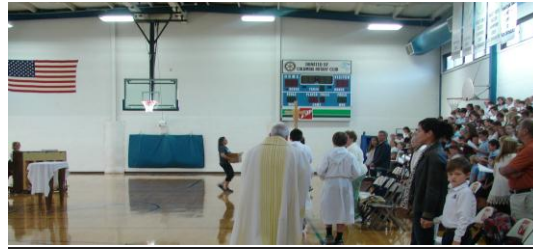
Never go to a matinee during siesta time!

LAST ALL-SCHOOL MASS Pam Keeven took this picture for us last Thursday



We sent it as a thank you to Columbia High and Gibault for letting our grads come. Gibault posted it on Facebook--- over 4000 hits in the first day!

And our First All-School Mass in the Gym!



FACULTY---THANKS FOR MAKING ME PROUD AT THE TEACHER INSTITUTE! Mr. Dan Kassebaum-Ms. Catie Taylor-Mrs. Maren Donjon-Mrs. Cyra Herrmann asked 4 of the 8 questions of Bishop Braxton (who will be coming here on November 12 to visit our school) during his homily on the Pope's message to Congress and The Racial Divide (authored by the Bishop) last Friday. Fr. Bob Hater, keynote speaker, reminded us to use our stories---Jesus taught in parables---people relate!

Cemetery Work Day: October 17 TOMORROW 8:00 till noon

Pick up trash on cemetery grounds, remove old faded flowers, blow/sweep off gravestones, trim weeds along drainage area, level, seed, straw and water graves requiring repair
Please bring trimmers, blowers, brooms, bow rakes, cultivators

School and Soccer Pictures were sent home today, 10/16/15. Check your child's backpack.

Retake day will all be Monday, 10/26/15. If your child was absent during school picture day please have them dress up for retake day. If there was an issue with your child's picture and you want them retaken, please write a note explaining the reason for the retake and send it with the package you ordered on retake day. Expectable reasons for retakes: Glass glare, out of focus and eyes closed etc.

Come Join the FUN!!! ICC Server Party! For new and current servers. Friday, October 23rd, 6-8:30 p.m. at the Monroe County YMCA. There will be food, swimming, and activities! 281-5105.

CAROLINE ROCHE is extremely creative and has a well developed imagination. She often looks at things differently from the rest of her family, which is great. One evening last week she had a "clown prayer" that she brought home and wanted Dad Brandon to say with her. Here's the conversation that she started after- which was completely unprompted and solely initiated by her.

Caroline: Daddy I don't know if I want to do holy orders or marriage.

Me: So you might be a nun?

Caroline: No, I will be a priest, a bishop or The Pope.

Break that glass ceiling Caroline!



TERRIFIC KIDS! Anna Haubrich, Abby Eichenseer, Briana Baldrige, Allison Stark, Alex Hrdlicka, Owen Dill, Genevieve Nadziejko, Hope Schwartz. Thanks to the Columbia Kiwanis, Advisor Pat McDermott, and Mayor Kevin Hutchinson for honoring us!

Gibault Art Contest Thanks to our artists! Claire Huebner/portrait, Maggie Schulte/line drawing, Megan Levin/cartoon, Jessica Lambert/Illustration, Noble Faris/Illustration, Noah Chism/cartoon, Reagan Herrmann/horse-realism, Kalia Jerkatis/cityscape, Mary Clare Murphy/design, Marie Prindiville/Quilt block, Ally Curry/illustration and Jacob Whitworth/Still Life. This competition is for 6, 7 and 8 grade only or we would have had a few more. The awards ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, November 1 at 1:00pm in the auditorium.

We sent 9 boxes of used Bibles and textbooks to Liberia via Sr. Raphael Drone, ASC this week. Thanks to Mrs. Jeanne Kish for delivery!

HAVE AN EXTRA COAT IN YOUR CLOSET? Grade 5 is collecting clean, gently used coats for Sister Thea Bowman School students. Drop off coats by October 22nd. Thanks for your help!

MENU CHANGE: On October 26th ---hot dogs only---McRibs will not be available that day

ICS Trivia Night- Saturday November 14th [See the Flyer!](#) Doors open at 6pm, Trivia starts at 7pm in the Gym More info to follow! Reservations: Tammy.hoeflinger@charter.net

ICS Craft Fair.... Calling all Crafters and Vendors! Spaces are available for the upcoming Immaculate Conception Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, December 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. To register, please find the registration form on the Immaculate Conception School website or contact Holly Blaskiewicz at [314-707-1045](tel:314-707-1045) or h_blaskiewicz@yahoo.com.

Chess for Beginners: introduction to chess will be held in the ICS cafeteria from 3:00-4:00 on Tuesday, October 20th for grades 1-8. This class is for students who are not currently on the chess team, but who might like to join. The basics of chess will be introduced both days. There is no obligation to join the team, just an opportunity to come and learn something new! If your child is interested, please email Mrs. Herrmann at cherrmann@icsmail.org



1st Lt. Chase Moore, Major Blake Crawford, Senior Airman Chandler Moore, Airman Basic Andrew Gilbreth of the Columbia-Dupo ROTC addressed the Class of 2016 today explaining options and value of the program. Chase, Chandler, and Andrew are ICS grads.

The Dorothy Weinel Eppinger Foundation On Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5 & 6, the Eppinger Foundation is hosting a trio of authentic Japanese instrumentalists from New York City –

Kyo Shin An Arts. The ensemble will be available for a performance on Thursday morning here. There will be a free concert on Friday evening at Immaculate Conception Church at 7 p.m. Mr. Hake is pulling together the information for us to be prepped for this cultural event. Thanks Mr. Hake!

Read below and understand why Fr. Ron Rolheiser is my fav. I was lucky enough to have him for retreat at King's House a few year's back and ate the last meal with him. He's a great teacher.

COMMANDMENTS FOR MAKING FRIENDS FR. RON ROLHEISER, OMI

More than twenty-five hundred years ago, Moses gave us the ten commandments. The centuries since, the Enlightenment notwithstanding, haven't given us a single reason to doubt the validity and importance of any of those precepts. However, as we struggle to live out them out, it might be helpful if Moses again descended from that same mountain with two new tablets of stone, spelling out some rules for better befriending each other, God, life, and ourselves. Perhaps this second set of commandments might read like this:

1) **Befriend humanity ...**

To be human is to be fallible, wounded, scarred, sinful, and living in a far-from-perfect history, body, family, church. Don't look for anyone to blame, to sue, to be angry at. This is called the human condition. Make friends with it. Grieve, don't rage. Think of chaos, not blame. Our parents called this "original sin". We talk of "dysfunctional families". It has ever been thus. Don't live in a sulk.

2) **Befriend what's best in you ...**

As long as we look out at the world through our wounds we will always fill with self-pity, bitterness, and jealousy. If, however, if we look out through the prism of what's best in us, our jealousy can turn to appreciation and we can again be astonished at others' goodness. We have two souls, a grand soul, where we carry the image of God and the memory of our blessings, and a petty soul, where we carry the bitterness and jealousies that comes from our wounds. We need to attach our eyes, our ears, our speech, and our attitudes to our grand soul. We need to be better friends with what's best in us.

3) **Befriend those who love you ...**

There are only two potential tragedies in life: To go through life and never love and to go through life and not express love and affection to those who love us. We need to make better friends with our friends, to express more readily our affection, our gratitude, our appreciation, and our contrition. Thank those who love you for loving you. Never take their love for granted, or as owed. Give out a lot more compliments. Say thank-you constantly.

4) **Befriend chastity ...**

So much of our pain and restlessness comes from our lack of chastity and much of our subsequent rationalization and bitterness come from not admitting this. We have sophisticated ourselves into unhappiness. For all of our knowing, we aren't happy. Make friends with chastity. Children and virgins, scripture assures us, enter the kingdom easily. Be post-sophisticated. Learn to believe in Santa and the Easter-Bunny again. Enjoy second-naiveté. Ride a merry-go-round. Make a searing, honest confession soon.

5) **Befriend your own body ...**

Don't be afraid of your own body, of its goodness, its sexuality, its pleasures, its tiredness, its limits. It's the only one you've got in any case. Befriend it. Don't punish it, don't spoil it, don't denigrate it. It's a church, a temple. Give it enough rest, enough exercise, enough discipline, and enough respect.

6) **Befriend the other gender ...**

The mothers and the fathers, the wives and the husbands, are fighting. Small wonder the children are suffering. Never trivialize the issues of gender. We are being called to a new level of mutual respect and mutual sympathy. Make friends with what seems most threatening to you in the other gender.

7) **Befriend your father ...**

Father-hunger is one of the deepest hungers in the Western world today. Reconcile with your own father, with other fathers, and with God the Father. Your father's blessing will de-constrict your heart. Forgive him his inadequacy. Acknowledge your hunger.

8) Befriend your mortality ...

Death comes to us all. Make friends with aging, with wrinkles, with grey hair, with a body that is no longer young. Accept, let go, grieve, move on. Bless the young. Share your wisdom with them. Give away what's left of your life. Let the zest, beauty, and colour of young people enliven you.

9) Befriend humor ...

In our laughter we taste transcendence. Humor takes us above the tragic. Laughter gives us wings to fly. Thomas More cracked a joke to the man who was about to behead him. That's a quality of sanctity that we too often neglect.

10) Befriend your God ...

The gospel is not so much good advice as it is "good news", it tells us how much God loves us, what God has already done for us. God is as proud of us as is any mother of her children. Peace comes to us when we can enjoy that favor. Befriend the God of love and the God of the resurrection, the God who is completely relaxed, whose face beams like a marvelous symphony, whose power to raise dead bodies from the grave assures us that in the end all will be well and all will be well and every manner of being well be well. Befriend the God who tells us 365 times in scripture not to be afraid. Walk in that confidence. Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI



On Friday October 9th, the Immaculate Conception School Jazz Band attended a performance and clinic by the group *The Yellowjackets*. The event was held at the newly renovated Ferring Jazz Bistro in Grand Center. The students watched the performance and were able to ask questions between songs. *The Yellowjackets* are a GRAMMY nominated jazz group that have been together for over 35 years. Band Director Matt Hake provides this opportunity several times a year. In attendance, Maria Hake, Ava Hake, Kyra Newton, Claire Eppinger, Jane Whelan, Hannah Janson, Eve Melliere, Collin Schmidt, Noah Newton, Jordan Smugala, Eli Garcia, Spencer Biske, Josh Matthews, and Jack Burke.

ASK ME ABOUT MY MERCY SHIRT Charley Stewart-Aubry Thomas-Molly Tippen-Eli Garcia-Lilly Barnett-Ava Hake-Jane Whelan-Hope Pollman-Dominic Dalpoas-Josh Matthews-Avery Herrmann-Kyra Newton-Marisa McGill-Jessica Lambert-Owen Dill-Thomas Schaefer-Ava Langhans-Keegan Thompson-Nick Traiteur-Grant Monheiser-Gali Palicious-Goudey-Steven Schaefer- Shawn Stuart-Izzy Foutch-Sophia Schuette-Alex Bira-Glenn Powers-Owen Dalpoas-Ava Hrdlicka-Josie Thomas-Kaiden Timmons-Jacqie Gogolek

THANKS TO THE COLUMBIA ROTARY CLUB for their donation of dictionaries to our Third Grade Class on "dictionary day". Tim Gutknecht chaired the project for us.

THE SPORTING NEWS...COLUMBIA EAGLES ICE HOCKEY CLUB. We have a few children that attend ICS that have expressed interest in playing hockey for us and we currently have Charlie Soetaert on our team. Based on their birth year some 7th and all 8th grade students attending ICS can play for the Columbia Hockey team. We are an independent club and are not sponsored by the school district. Feel free to contact me with questions. Andrea Weatherford, Secretary and Registrar, Columbia Eagles Ice Hockey Club [618-520-0481](tel:618-520-0481)

Basketball starts on Monday. Thanks to all our coaches-players-fans! Please read and follow all rules and keep everything in perspective. In my 45 years, we have one player who played professionally---Lance Stemler in Germany.

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Grades 6-7-8 are invited to a Movie Night at GCHS on Friday, Oct. 30th at 7:00 PM --- cafeteria.

Gibault Oktoberfest Dinner Auction "Flappers and Fellas" will take place Saturday, October 24. For details and reservations email sev@gibaultonline.com or call 939-3883. To view a list of main auction items visit gibaultonline.com

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE Sunday, Nov 1, 11AM -2PM Short sessions available on scholarships/financial aid and our electronic curriculum. Personal guided tours---art on display--- band--- chorus rehearsals, scholar bowl demonstration, faculty meet and greet, club/organization displays, sports info, and so much more! No reservation needed. Questions? pherzing@gibaultonline.com or 939-3883.

Comparing high schools? Our innovative schedule and electronic curriculum will get your 7th or 8th grader excited about high school! Schedule your student's date to shadow a Gibault student for a full day of class by contacting Pat Herzing (pherzing@gibaultonline.com).

PARISH NEWS...Join us for our Annual Blue Mass Honoring all First Responders: Police, Firefighters & EMS, remembering those who have fallen & praying for your safety

Sunday November 1, 2015 9 a.m. Mass Immaculate Conception Church 411 Palmer Road

All First Responders will process in with Fr. Carl and have reserved seating. Please wear your uniforms. A reception will follow in the Garden Level. **If attending kindly contact the Parish Office by Wednesday October 25, 618-281-5105**

"Heroes are ordinary people who make themselves extraordinary." — Gerard Way

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT: Friday, October 23rd starting at 6:30 pm. Fellowship Hall-Lower Level of the Immaculate Conception Church on Palmer Road as the Knights of Columbus present the next film from BUILDING THE DOMESTIC CHURCH program: "TOY STORY". Free popcorn and drinks. If you like, please bring comfortable chairs, bean bags and/or sleeping bags. Questions? Nick Matrisotto at (618) 281-0427, Brian Repp at (618) 281-9547 or Ted Haney at (618) 281-5990.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: Fall Festival & Hayride

Saturday, November 7th starting around 6:00 pm---IC Church Lower Parking Lot

Everyone is invited to an evening of food, fun and fellowship. We will begin the night's festivities by honoring our Holy Mother Mary with the Living Rosary. Candles, torches, and a huge rosary rope will make this a special experience for all ages. After the rosary, food will be served that includes chili, hot dogs as well as smores and hot apple cider. Hayrides for kids and adults will be available throughout the evening. We would appreciate if families with last names starting with A-M bring a "small" dessert and those with last names starting with N-Z bring a "small" side dish. Questions? Nick Matrisotto-281-0427, Ted Haney-281-5990, Brian Repp-281-9547.

ALL ARE INVITED... The relic of the body of St. Maria Goretti will be at the Cathedral in Belleville on Monday, October 19, 2015. Public veneration begins at 7:30 a.m. Solemn Mass in honor of St. Maria Goretti will be celebrated at 7 p.m. and public veneration will end at 11:30p.m.

Patricia H. Posnanski, mother of Tom Posnanski, Diocesan Director of Education, of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, fell asleep in Christ on Saturday, October 10, 2015, at the age of 91. 12 children, 30 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren. Beloved wife of Henry for 70 years. Patricia was a devout Catholic and cherished her Irish roots. Please keep Mrs. Posnanski and her family in your prayers.

Kelly Clements' mom **Marcella Heinrichs** is in the ICU at St. Anthony's as of yesterday. (Olivia Clements and Abby are ICS grads).

Barry Krizan Barry had his kidney/tumor removed. Tests came back benign! Alleluia!

PRAYERS: Marcella Heinrichs, Rick Abrahamson, Nicole Eichenseer, Bob Hayden, Denise Conner, Arlin Stechmesser, Eve Dorshorst, Harold Stemler, Josephine Chapman, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Patty Juengling, Marian Keim, Dan Whelan, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Josh Ritter, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, Special Intention

SIBLING RIVALRY If you are a single child, you are missing something. The power struggle for Mom and Dad's attention is huge. My Mom likes to remind me that I bit my baby brother's foot once--- trying to get her attention. All I got was Tom's attention and a swat. No different 2000 years ago. The Zebedee Boys, the "Sons of Thunder", were into the power-broker business. They wanted a spot at Jesus right hand and left hand in the great new kingdom that was coming. Without the Holy Spirit, they just didn't **get it**. Not an earthly kingdom boys! Come to the Table of Life this weekend. Hear the Good News that times haven't changed. Biting won't get you the right attention but working for the kingdom will help you **get it!**

Mike Kish
Principal

Ps Happy Birthday to Cyra Herrmann this week on the 13th and to Susan Fohne today. We hope your days were blessed!

Ps ***"You tell Fr. Carl the greatest thing to happen in my lifetime has been the churches getting together"***. Herb Shueler, 96, resident of Columbia Rehab and Nursing, a member of St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Columbia. Herb is a Battle of the Bulge survivor, pillar of the Columbia community, and made 20 retreats to King's House with the men of our parish in the 1950's and 1960's. He was ahead of his time. I love visiting with him after the Communion service. When he was able, he used to come.

PS Schoola-

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Schoola clothing drive! We collected 15 boxes of clothes, thank you! We'll keep you posted on the total funds raised.

PS Parents and Friends Meeting on Monday at 7:00 p.m. Find the agenda at icspf.org

Calendar 2015 Bring your kids to our cemetery tomorrow for a few hours of clean-up. I helped close graves when I was a kid. I never regretted the time I spent helping

10/15-18-ICS Musical "Godspell" in Old Church on Main

10/25-Trunk or Treat 5:00 p.m.

10/26-Paul Koleske Concert at Church

10/27-Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences

10/28-2nd Grade Field Trip Symphony and Missouri Botanical Gardens

10/29-Student/Parent/Teacher Conferences

10/30-No School

Band Schedule Week Oct 19-23

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

7:15-7:50 **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**
1:15-2:15 **Intermediate Band Full Band**

Thursday

7:15-7:50 **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

**Reflections for the Last Mass Immaculate Conception Church on Main Street, Columbia
October 13, 2015 7pm**

Maggie: ICS '76 Good evening. My name is Maggie Kish Burns.(President of Altar Sodality) Father Carl asked if I would be willing to share some of my memories of this Church. I brought my mother (Betty Schmidt Kish) and my daughter (Jessica Burns). We represent three generations of experiences - 169 combined years of memories in this Church. We have received a total of 15 sacraments here, my mother the recipient of six of the seven sacraments. This Church building & our Church community has been a large part of our lives.

Betty Ann Schmidt Kish: ICS '38 When I was a young girl we spent a lot of time in Church. There was daily school Mass, weekend Mass, and special prayer services too. My family lived next door to this Church & the old rectory. One time when I was in the backyard singing a favorite song, a big booming voice joined in across the fence – it was our neighbor Father Schroeder. He liked to sing too. When he had guests over we often heard them singing.

When we weren't IN church, we were reminded we had church obligations. Mr. Leo Fromme made sure the Church bells rang at 6 AM, Noon, and 6 PM. This reminded everyone it was time to pray the Angelus. He also tended all furnaces, mowed grass, dug graves by hand, drove the high school students by bus to Catholic High School in East St. Louis and home each day, and shoveled snow.

The Church looked a little different when I was young. There was a pulpit over there (Blessed Virgin side 4 pews in) where the priest went up several steps to read the gospel and say the homily. Father Schreuder could see everyone from there. I remember one day during the New Year's Day Mass he stopped and asked loudly, "Would someone wake up that man in the back seat".

There was also an additional aisle over on that back half (point to the back left). It divided those rows into smaller, half-pews. When I was a little girl our pew was about half way back, in that section. Yes, OUR PEW. Back then Father would pick a day and announce he would be auctioning off the pews. The closest pews went to the highest bidders. That was your seat for one year.

The priest stood facing the Altar on the back wall. After Vatican II, a new wooden Altar was added, where today's altar rests, so the priest could face the people. My brother was a carpenter who helped create that

wooden Altar.

This was a poor farming community. Your dress might have been made from a feed sack. Stockings were mandatory – including the rubber band that held them up on your thigh. No bare legs. Young girls covered their heads with a cloth – ladies too if they didn't have a hat. Sometimes I forgot my cloth and would have to use a tissue to cover my head.

Besides Mass there were other prayer services throughout the year like 40 Hours and 7 Day Novenas. People would stop by the Church during the day to pray, then there would be service in the evening with Benediction. Everyone was expected to attend.

Occasionally missionaries would come for the 7 Day Novenas. One time my husband happened to be growing a beard and one of the nuns thought he was so rough-looking he must be one of the missionaries and would be asking for money.

At the end of these events there was always a special service. Men wore their suits, young girls their white dresses. 4 men held up a white canopy for Father to walk under. He led a procession around the Church while carrying the monstrance. It was quite a big deal.

Rogation Days was another prayer time that was intended to bless the crops. We said extra prayers and, if the weather was nice, the school kids would walk up to the cemetery for afternoon prayer.

First Fridays were days we could gain special indulgences or blessings. In order to get these blessings you had to make sure you had nothing to eat or drink from the time you woke up until Mass which started at 8am. There was a water fountain up by the old library in the school that stole many of my special indulgences on those First Fridays.

Taking communion in those days was different. We lined up and knelt at the communion rail. We folded our hands and rested them on the top of the rail. The Altar Boys (yes – only boys could be servers back then) would then flip the Communion Rail cloth over on top of our folded hands. This made sure the host didn't touch us if it fell. The priest put the host on our tongue.

There were country schools so children wouldn't have to travel so far from their home, but during the year of their confirmation they had to attend the Catholic school to prepare for the sacrament. One of these children happened to bring some homemade wine to school. Of course they were caught. Father made all the children line up to watch him get paddled. The Bishop also came to ask the confirmandi questions, just like today. He scared us half to death back then too.

Men AND women were allowed to sing in the choir back then. Some time later it was decided that women shouldn't sing in the choir. The men's choir formed. The men also decided they wanted to be Altar Server's. I was volunteered to sew the man-sized Cassock's and surpluses for them. This exclusive men's choir was later asked to sing at special events. Women were added back into these special events and the group became the Strassenfest Singers and Dancers.

Church back then was woven into the fabric of daily life. This beautiful building was the home for that community feeling that formed the very center of our faith. It will always mean a great deal to me.

One last note, my husband almost married the wrong woman at our wedding. Father Schrueder said to my husband-to-be, "Do you take Betty Weilbacher ...". Albert said, "I will not. I will take Betty Schmidt!" Fr. Schreuder then caught himself and corrected the name. That was a close one.

Maggie: I may have been another son to my dad, but when it came to going to Church, I was a girl. He took his sons up in the choir (boys-only) and sent the girls down below with mom – 3rd row - Mary's side. That may explain why this "daddy's girl" tends to sing a little loud – I wanted to make sure he could hear me.

In my generation we no longer **bought** our pews, but we claimed them just the same. We always left 15

minutes early to make sure we got **our** seat. Occasionally random folks would make the mistake of sitting in **our pew**. Well, we smiled and squeezed on in anyway to make sure they knew it was **our spot** for the next time they came.

And, since we always had the same spot, I had nearly the same view of the statues and stained glass windows. When I was bored I prayed, imagined, and talked to the statues – they took on a personality and became my friends. I carried them with me in my thoughts. Church was so important - we played it at home. We would process to our crucifix, kneel, sing hymns, receive pretend communion. At home I **was able** to be in the choir.

The Church was divided into Mary's side and Joseph's side. I'm not sure what made Sunday folks stake their claim on any given side. But at weddings, the bride's family sat on Mary's side and the groom's family on Joseph's side. Since our family was so large, having 11 children, our side was always pretty full. There was conscious effort to strategically place **mutual** friends of the couple on the less full side to lessen some of the marked difference.

Altar Servers were still all boys. The dress code relaxed considerably. Girls wore pants to church and didn't have to cover their heads anymore. As school kids we had daily Mass – girls **could** sing in the school choir.

Receiving communion changed during my generation. The rail was removed, we started receiving the host in our hand, and we were now able to take the wine. There was a short time when we were allowed to dip our host in the wine.

I remember having to remove all mention of God as a male figure from the songs and responses.

One time at a Christmas Eve gathering at my mother's house, my brother Mike was stressing because he couldn't attend the Midnight Mass. He worried the men's choir would miss his strong voice. He recruited me to fill in. I was hesitant. For as much as I loved Midnight Mass and loved to sing, I wasn't sure I was ready to cross the barrier into the men's choir. I felt some tension when I entered the loft and eyes turned toward me, but Dorothy Metter on the organ and Joyce Rose had already made a path for me.

I loved the choir loft and dragged my family there whenever I could for Mike's guitar Mass. Part of the draw was singing with my brother. He stood front left playing guitar, and I stood top row on the right. With the acoustics of the church I could hear his voice as if it was right next to me. I imagined catching all the different voices between us and weaving them together to make our joyful noise. When we blended just right, I would get goose-bumps, even though warm air rises and we were usually sweltering up there. I sang many a wedding and funeral solo from the front corner of that loft. We didn't have microphones back then. You had to project and the church's wonderful acoustics helped spread the music.

The world's culture changed quite a bit during my generation. Children grew up and found jobs outside the farming community. We were exposed to many other events and activities that competed for our attention. I met my spouse through a co-worker. He lived in another town and was of another faith. Routines had to change to accommodate our new lives. While not always able to attend this church's activities, this building always grounded me. It reminded me of the importance of my faith, and always welcomed me home. It spoke of simpler times submersed in routines and traditions – a time I always had hoped I would regain. This church will forever hold a special place in my heart.

Jessie Burns(Grade 2 teacher in Memphis, TN) : ICS'05 My life is difficult to separate from this space. I was baptized here – I've seen the home video (I cried.). My kindergarten graduation took place here – I was a donkey. I had my first reconciliation here –feeling so proud when I was able to light my first reconciliation candle. My first communion happened here – with my entire row of family standing up beside me. I cantored, by myself, at this ambo in 4th grade – nervous and off-key I'm sure, but loved that my mom and grandma took the time to come to a school mass just for me (in a big family, that is a big deal). I was an altar server here – where I learned the ins and outs of how to keep mass flowing smoothly. I said good-bye to my grandpa Al in this space – and when the line of people reached the door, I wondered if I would ever make an impact on so many lives. I had my confirmation here – choosing the name Aldegondes, one of the cancer saints, in memory of all the family members I had lost to the disease. My eighth grade graduation happened in this church –

where I said so long to grade school and hello to high school. I received my blessing when I started driving – and if you know anything about my luck with vehicles, who knows where I would be if I hadn't received that. It was also here I received my blessing when I went off to college, the first time I would live away from home and away from my church. It was also here that I asked to be prayed over when I graduated from college – scared and unsure of what I was supposed to do with my life now. And it was here, just a month after college graduation where my life & the future I had planned, changed forever – this church became a space that would no longer be used for sacraments.

All the memories I had – singing in the choir loft with my family, serving, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, reconciliations, weddings, anointings, and funerals – would stay just that – memories. Growing up, I had always believed that I would also be married here, like my parents and grandparents – that I would also baptize my babies here, just like me and the generations before – and I believed that my funeral mass would be prayed here, just like so many family members before me. However, it looks like life has other plans for me. So no, I won't get to have those memories here, but when I look back at all the memories I did have here, my heart is full. This space has always been a very important part of me, and will continue to be. So no, I won't say goodbye, because this space will always be a beautiful, living, important part of me. Thank you Immaculate Conception Church on Main Street, for making me who I am.

THANK YOU