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Tammy Hoeflinger, School Board President

**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.**

*Merciful God, you are the Divine Builder, who calls us to build your Church. Guide us in building our new Catholic Education & Activity Center, so that we can build the Church of the future by passing on the treasure of our faith to future generations. Bless the work of our hands, and keep us strong in faith, hope and love, so that all we do might bring glory and honor to you, forever and ever. AMEN*



## **REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN THE LORD!**

November 30, 2018

*Bienvenido el parrochia!*

**V. 44 #24**

Dear Parent,

**THE 2018 PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY HOSTED BY THE KCS** \*Saturday, December 8, 2018 in the ICS Gym Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:45 p.m., and Dancing until 10:30 p.m.

\*Ticket information: \*Adults (13 and older): \$12 \*Children (ages 7–12): \$6  
Kids 6 and under: FREE! The ICS Jazz Band will perform!  
Great Food! Social Event of the year! Santa comes! Don't miss this fun time! This is for the WHOLE parish!

**Bienvenido!** Celine(Seleenay) Capellan Gr. 2 and Luisanny(Loueesani) Capellan Gr. 6 have joined us at ICS. They are adjusting well and have smiles that go miles!

**ICS NEWS** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf\\_cTH-9dgM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cf_cTH-9dgM)

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS CRAFT FAIR IS TOMORROW! COME AND GET THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT! THANKS FOR GETTING YOUR COOKIES IN!**

The **ICS Christmas Spirit Wear** order is out! There are lots of great gift ideas and stocking stuffers! You can also check out the samples and order at the ICS Craft Fair on Saturday. In order to get the items to you by Christmas, all orders are due this **Monday, December 3.**  
Thank you.

**DC FUNDRAISERS** [ICS Santa's Kottage: Please click here regarding the 2018 Santa's Kottage](#) that will be held **December 1st through December 4th**. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be given to the Eighth graders who volunteer to be "Elves" during the shop hours. The Santa's Kottage is an opportunity for students to do their holiday shopping for parents, grandparents and siblings in a familiar environment. Beth Johns

**Kiwanis Club** could use some of the **Builder's Club** to help out tomorrow. Not enough kids in Key Club to cover the 16 lanes at West Park. They would be there from about 11:45 - 2:15 and

will get lunch. 6 or 7 kids would help, but will take any number. I know it is Gibault testing and the Craft fair, but the 7th grade can come help.

If 8th graders come, I'll sign for Confirmation hours. Sharon Nealon

**ICS ANNUAL SKATE PARTY:** December 27, 2018 4:30-6:30. See the flyer last week, Let's have some fun over Christmas break.



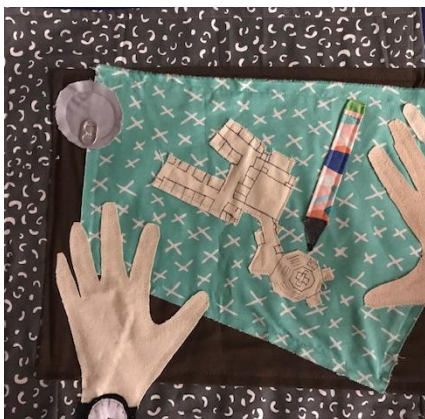
**FUNDERWEAR** On December 10 we play SPPCS in Waterloo in *basketball*. We have a good chance of winning. But we would also like to win the Funderwear competition for DayStar in Cairo. Underwear, socks, scarves, glove, hats are used for Christmas gifts for clients. We are having friendly classroom competitions so please send them in to be counted so our brothers and sisters can feel clean from the inside out.

**BUILDERS CLUB** will again support the **Griffin Center** and hope to collect a minimum of 75 **gifts** by December 20th. Buy a gift, wrap and tag it with boy/girl and age. It is a good practice to let your child pick out something they might like to receive to enhance the concept of sharing God's gifts. Thanks for loving all God's children! Thanks Builders Club and ICS supporters!

**BUILDERS CLUB** will take donation (**25 cents please**) for Candy Canes Dec. 14-17-18-19 to help raise money for Kids Against Hunger. Our goal is \$3500 so we have to hustle!

**Thanks Mrs. Neff** It's that time of year for our Secret Santa Program! Caritas has gone back to accepting gifts, but will also accept monetary donations as well. I have attached a list of requested gift ideas. The gifts will be due **Thursday, December 6th**. Let me know if you have any questions.

Suggested Christmas gifts for children in foster care. We respectfully request that all donated items be NEW, unused and unwrapped. • Gift cards to Amazon, Target, Walmart, Old Navy, GameStop, etc. (Please include receipts) • Movie and arcade gift cards • Body wash & lotion gift sets • Bicycles and bike helmets • LEGO sets • Barbie dolls, baby dolls, Our Generation and other dolls • Board games for all ages - Uno, Yahtzee, Scrabble, Trouble, Monopoly etc. • Outdoor game balls - basketballs, playground balls, tennis balls and Nerf balls • The book, "Oh the Places You Will Go" by Dr. Seuss • Makeup sets, nail polish and hair accessories • Educational games • Play-Doh, Art & Craft sets • Interactive pet toys and Hatchimals • Hot Wheels cars & track sets • Character toys: Dinosaurs, Batman, Superman, Spiderman, Avengers, Doc McStuffins, L.O.L. Surprises, Disney, etc. • Remote control cars and trucks • Dress up play clothes • Interactive & educational toddler toys • Boys and girls clothing/shoes for ages 0-18' Monetary donations can be made at [caritasfamilysolutions.org/ssyearround](http://caritasfamilysolutions.org/ssyearround). For more information please contact, Samantha Lappe, Events Coordinator at 618-213-8717 or [Sam.Lappe@caritasfamily.org](mailto:Sam.Lappe@caritasfamily.org). THANK YOU!



**National School Block Challenge** We are sent uniform colored material and then have to add our story to the block. I saw Stephen Johns yesterday ad it is timely and really well done. Looking straight down, see the soda can? See our future? Great job Stephen! Give them a good write-up before we send it to Paducah!

**YOUNG AUTHORS** Jan. 8th student stories due - jeans day Jan 30th- spring assembly

**Chess Practices in Cafeteria from 3:00-4:00 on Alternating**

**Tuesdays: Grades 2 and 3:** Dec. 4-18, Jan. 15- 29, Feb. 12-26

**Grades 4 through 8:** Dec. 11, Jan. 8-22, Feb. 5-19

**Chess Meets:** January 26 - at St. Teresa, February 16 - at ICS, March 23 - at St. Clare

**MOVE WEEK on Maybe you can block out a day or two? We will have "Sign Up Genius" too**

**March 9-17** We will need several hundred hands and want to have it all

moved in by Wednesday, March 13, so teachers have a couple days to get acclimated.

March 18 Opening Day, will be one of the most exciting in our school history.

**SCHOLASTIC BOWL TEAM 2018-2019**

Maria Biske	Abby Eichenseer	Zach Gibson	Ben Haney	Emma Schmidt	Drew Schmoll
Sydney Wahle	Tyler Wahle	Sam Glasscock	Gavin Kesler	Brock Murphy	Drew
RocheAllison Stark	Joe Tyler	Maggie Williamson			

**GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...GIBAULT HAS 13 ILLINOIS SATE SCHOLARS**

**THIS YEAR!** The Illinois Student Assistance Commission this week announced its 2019-20 Illinois State Scholars. These students rank in approximately the top 10 percent of high school seniors in Illinois and are chosen each year based on a combination of exemplary ACT or SAT test scores and sixth semester class rank. **Our ICS Class of 2015 had 8 of 21 students. (38%)** Congratulations to **Johnny Adams, Dylan Altadonna, Isabella Garcia, Lucas Herrmann, Sarah Rose, and Adam Stearns from Gibault and Andrew Gibson and Jack Sainz** from St. Louis U. High School! We are proud of you!

**Finish some early Christmas shopping at Gibault**

Catholic's spirit wear store! Our online store will open on Nov. 15 and close Nov. 29, with delivery to Gibault Catholic on Dec. 15- just in time for Christmas!

<https://gcs2018.wswebstore.com/store?preview=tjg8d9>

**Placement Test:** Gibault Catholic will hold its placement test for the incoming Class of 2023 on Saturday, December 1 from 8:30AM-11:45AM. The test is given free of charge. Please RSVP to reserve a sport for your child by November 30 to Pat Herzing ([pherzing@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:pherzing@gibaulthawks.com))

**Tuition and Scholarships!** While the students are testing, parents are invited to a light breakfast, coffee, and conversation in the Gibault Catholic library to discuss variable tuition, scholarships, classes, uniforms, transportation, technology-based learning, and more!

**Magical Breakfast with Santa:** Join the Gibault Catholic March for Life for its 6th Annual Magical Breakfast with Santa. Children of all ages can enjoy crafts, games, breakfast, and a picture with Santa in his sleigh!

**Date:** Sunday, December 2 **Time:** 9AM-10:30AM or 11AM-12:30PM **Location:** SS. Peter and Paul gym

**RSVP:** by Nov. 27 via e-mail ([magicalbreakfast@icloud.com](mailto:magicalbreakfast@icloud.com)) or Jennifer Kreps at 314-223-6981

**Cost:** \$15 for the first child; \$5 for each additional child per family; \$5 per adult; children 1/under free

**Gibault March For Life Group**

We will once again take Honey-Baked orders for your Christmas entertaining! Forms are available at the exits of church, or you can contact Beverly Epplin for more information

([bepplin@icsmail.org](mailto:bepplin@icsmail.org)). Please return to the parish or school office by Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Orders can be picked up from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, 12/22/18 in the ICS cafeteria.

Thank you from the students traveling to Washington DC for the March for Life!

**Junior High Glow Dance**—The Gibault Catholic Ambassadors Club is sponsoring a Glow Dance for grades **6- 8 on Sunday, December 30 from 6:30-8:30PM** in the Gibault cafeteria. Admission is \$5. White or bright color clothing is suggested. We hope to see you there!

Dear Friends,

Cold winter weather has arrived earlier than usual and the **Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council** desperately needs blankets and coats to distribute to those in need. **Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) and blankets of all types/sizes – are being requested.** Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at #13 Vieux Carre Drive, Suite 2, East St. Louis (Loisel Village area, immediately off Route 157 across from the

Save-A-Lot grocery) or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126 for additional information. Please help us spread the word by sharing this information within your organizations or groups, with family, neighbors and friends. We have requested notices be placed in parish bulletins.

Warm your heart by helping to keep someone warm – check your closets and donate a coat or blanket today! On behalf of Pat and Joe, thanks so very much for your help and generosity

Gratefully, Judy Phillips

**YEAR END TAX TIP...** Donate IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) to Immaculate Conception or other charities tax-free if over age 70 1/2. Annual withdrawals from traditional retirement accounts that accumulated tax-free are required after age 70 ½. However, you can avoid income tax on a required withdrawal up to \$100,000 per year by donating directly to a qualifying charity. Charitable contributions must be made by December 31 and can only be made from IRAs (not a 401(k) or 403(b) unless rolled to an IRA). You don't need to itemize your taxes in order to make an IRA charitable distribution, but cannot additionally claim a charitable contribution tax deduction. For a retiree in the 25 percent tax bracket, an IRA charitable contribution of \$5,000 could reduce your income tax bill by \$1,250. Funds must be transferred directly from the IRA to an eligible charity by the IRA trustee in order to qualify for the tax break. Father Carl does it! Contact Keith Huels in the parish office or your tax advisor for more information.

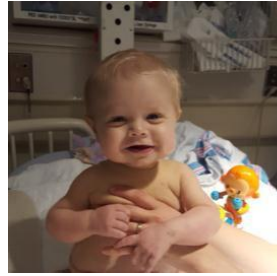
**TEC (TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST)** *Want your teen to grow up? Can't stand that they think the world revolves around them? Ship them off to TEC. Sure worked for my 3 girls and it is still one of the best programs we have as a Church. (If you are an A.C.T.S. person, you understand me.)* Calling all juniors and seniors in high school: TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) weekends: January 19-21, 2019 at Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville, IL, and February 16-18, 2019 at Sacred Heart School in Du Quoin, IL. Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) is a three-day Catholic retreat for the young adults of Southern Illinois. It's a place for older teens and young adults to reflect-through talks, skits, art, music, sacraments, fellowship and fun-on where they are in life and where they're going, where God fits in, where their faith is leading them, and how they can live their faith with love, joy and courage. TEC is also open to adult observers (18+). To learn more and/or to apply visit: [www.bellevilletec.org](http://www.bellevilletec.org)

**Fr. Carl is having open house at 424 Terry** from 1:00-4:00 Sunday. The parish bought Rosie and Jim Law's house. No housewarming gifts please. (And yes there is a chimney for Santa to come down.) Find Adeodatus! A hare raising experience!

**NATIVITY SCENES:** Our parish is hosting a display this Sunday from 8:00-1:00. Sue Lewis is bringing 20 nativity sets to the display for the parish this weekend from her collection of 300. It would be worth a stop and then head to Fr. Carl's new digs. Advent is just starting and liturgically nativity scenes shouldn't start till Christmas but realistically, we have nativity scenes all the time as



babies are birthed and ideas too! My favorite nativity scene right now... Owen, Mom's hands, a little friend already, just missing Jacob and Dad.



**We are Full Stewardship! Please turn yours in. 265 so far.**  
Commit to your God and see what life sends you. Life will still be messy but you will handle it better if God is in the mix!

Light the Advent  
Wreath Candle

First Sunday of Advent Dec. 1/2	Second Sunday of Advent Dec. 8/9
5pm _____	5pm _____
7am _____	7am _____
9am _____	9am _____
11am _____	11am _____
Third Sunday of Advent Dec. 15/16	Fourth Sunday of Advent Dec. 22/23
5pm _____	5pm _____
7am _____	7am _____
9am _____	9am _____
11am _____	11am _____

**Our Parish needs Advent Wreath Candle Lighters. Live dangerously. Light the fire!**

Please pray for Jean Swip's Dad, **Frank Moxey**, who is recovering from a possible minor stroke. Thanks!

**Michael Dorshorst**, Teresa's brother, has a serious heart issue. He just came home to be with sister Danielle Dorlac and now this. Please say a prayer for him that he responds well to treatment.

**PRAYERS: Special Intention** Danielle Dorlac, Frank Moxey, Michael Dorshorst, Ken Biske, Pat Morr, Charlie Stockes, George Perry, Angela Roepke, Joyce LaPrade, Tabitha LaPrade, Tom Johns, Jan Hoffmann, Bill West, Jerry Weiler, Jennifer Nesser, Bill Anderson, Patrick Kish, Owen Jordan, Patti Rottler, Mike Taylor, Richard Prater, Donna Kania, Libby LoPorto, Lindsey Herbeck, Marla Vogt, Judy Gundlach

**FR. FITZIE** Fr. Edmund Fitzmorris died on November 29, 1970. He was our beloved associate pastor straight out of the movie *The Bells of St. Mary's*. Irish. 4' 11 1/2" tall yet he was a mountain of a man in many ways. Quick witted, loved by the children at school who used to hang over him as if he was grandpa. When I was in fifth grade he taught me a prayer I still say this date when I genuflect before the Blessed Sacrament: "**Oh Jesus, I adore you here present in the sacrament of your love**". As a teacher you hope that the good you do lives on. I have been saying this prayer for over 50 years and I think of Fr. Fitzie often. Rest on in peace in our parish cemetery Fr. Fitzie!

**Luke 21** “*Be vigilant at all times*”, Jesus tells us. My Dad said, “life’s great if you don’t weaken”. We cannot escape life. As soon as you realize you are back to being on the “high side of Job the Prophet”, life dumps on you again. Living a good life is the best defense. Change what you can and be patient with the rest. Eventually, things will work out for the better. As Advent starts, we are preparing for the winter to set in(though it looks like it is already here), but more importantly for a new Church Year to begin as we revisit the thousands of years of waiting for the coming of our King. We know that Jesus is not Plan B. We work ourselves into a moment in time where we stand up and profess Him as Lord. Sometimes, it takes a lifetime for this to happen for us. Don’t weaken. Be vigilant. The 100 year old tree in my yard that was hit by lightening and had to be removed is still sending up shoots. God finds a way for us too if we pay attention.

*Mike Kish*

Principal

PS **Happy Birthday Katie Repp 11-29! Oh Happy Day!!**

PS ***If you can’t give thanks for what you have, at least give thanks for what you have escaped.*** Fr. Jim Dougherty’s Dad

PS **Sr. Thea Bowman Advent Program** Grades 5-8 on **December 17**. Leave 9:30. Program at 10:00. Should be back by 11:40 or so. Permission form is out. Another one of our best days of the year!

PS **Dinner Auction Honor Roll** needs more participation! Students can earn a dress down if they turn one in by **December 7<sup>th</sup>**! [See attached flyer.](#)

PS GCHS winter baseball camp is Dec 26-28! [See attached flyer](#) for information!



Need good weather



some windows are in



power to the students!