



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.

December 4, 2020

Bienvenido el parochia!

V. 46 #17



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,

"The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves."

Saint Nicholas of Myra

sf saintmarys

Saint Nicholas of Myra's feast day is December 6th. The Bishop of the Greek city of Myra, the life of Saint Nicholas is the focus of many legendary accounts. He is remembered as a miracle worker who performed many great deeds in the name of the Lord, earning him the title of Nicholas the Wonderworker. He is regarded as the patron saint of many things, including sailors, repentant thieves, and children. We ask for Saint Nicholas's intercession, that we, too, may work tirelessly to bring about God's goodness on Earth.

**St. Nick** should be filling up shoes tomorrow night!

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS** This weekend is the time for our spirit of Christmas building Craft Fair. Once again, we improvise, moving to a raffle and virtual support for our crafters. Lift their spirits and yours!

### Immaculate Conception Virtual Craft Fair & Raffles

Come and shop virtually this

Saturday, December 5th with many of the vendors you've come to know and love at this annual event. Now more than ever it's important to shop local and help support those who have helped Immaculate Conception for years participating in this event. Shop with the vendors here: <https://fb.me/e/1Lj293b5b>

Also, take your chance on these awesome raffles! You could win big just in time for Christmas while helping out Immaculate Conception! You can view and purchase raffle tickets here: [icscraftfair.givesmart.com](http://icscraftfair.givesmart.com)

**THANKSGIVING TEST** The danger zone hits this week to see whether we are practicing the Covid-19 safety protocols. Please continue to stay home with symptoms that are out of the ordinary. Remote stinks but so does quarantining classes. Honesty. No faking. School 8:00-3:00 in remote. We have several students not handling remote well and this detracts from the academic process, not to mention what it does to the student personally. Own your education as a "Roomer or a "Zoomer". Parents are armed with the biggest love word in the world: **NO!** Keep the kids home and safe. Don't be afraid to drop this word and do not fear being unpopular with them. The "secret sauce" in what we are able to do at ICS begins with a base of PARENTS! Then you mix in a faculty and staff and Fr. Carl and Fr. Nick and School Board and benefactors and academics then become a 5-star experience for our students!

**And while mentioning HEROES: Thanks to our substitute teachers** who keep the process going here! Where would we be without Katie Cornish, Tiffany Taylor, Sue Lewis, Courtney Acevedo, Theresa Bradshaw, Sharon Nealon, Dale Anderson, Emma Zika, Claire Gaynor, Rachel Groppe, Kim Sullivan, Brad Kretzer, and Fr. Nick? This is a secret list---not to be poached!

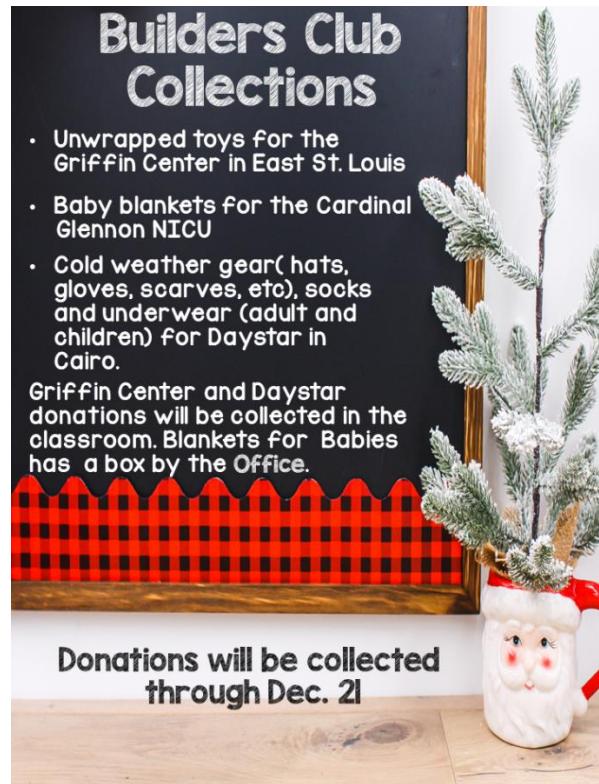
**DECEMBER 8: FEAST of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:** All-school Mass  
**O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to those.** This is the prayer surrounding the Miraculous Medal. As Catholics, we have all kinds of 'sacramentals' that help us pray. The Miraculous Medal frieze is over the door of our old Church on Main Street. The Immaculate Conception, was formally proclaimed as dogma in 1854 based on implicit understanding. Sure makes sense to me that the Mother of God would be free of sin. Faith is believing in the unbelievable. The link is on our school website. Please join us in honoring our namesake!

**December 9: RECONCILIATION:** We are scheduled for December 9. This is a great way to prepare for the coming of the King.

**KATHY SPENCER** has joined our kitchen staff and is taking Kaeli Hart's position. Kaeli has taken on more hours at her other job and has the opportunity to work from home. Kathy is new to the area. She just moved to Waterloo a few months ago, from Wisconsin, to be near her family. Many thanks to Kaeli (she will still help us a back-up) and welcome to Kathy! Like an army, ICS travels on its stomach!!!

**AFRICAN CHILDRENS' CHOIR** We will work a virtual tour with the choir during Catholic Schools Week. We will have a YouTube they created and some run-offs telling their story. They were a big hit here a couple years ago. More info coming.

**INUNDATED:** This is the season for giving. We have so many to support. Don't feel obligated to do each request but know God's children, young and old, appreciate each one you are blessed to handle. Pick and choose and thanks be to you!



**From Sr. Beth Ruder, D.C., of the Griffin Center...**

*This has been a different year ever since we had to close our doors in March. But this did not keep us from still providing this years' summer camp and again opening our doors for the After-School Program in August to about 125 children. Currently our centers are on pause with their programming but we will still provide Christmas for our children. We have applauded our staff for their courage in being there for our children during this time. They have discovered how to be creative in the activities they are providing through our programming. It has been a blessing to again hear the happy voices of our children as they enjoy each day with us.*

*You too are part of our group of heroes in Christmas shopping for our children. Thank you for reaching out and touching them in heartfelt ways. May God bless you and all those who join with you in your caring generosity. Be well and stay safe. A blessed Christmas to each of you!*

*Gratefully,* **Sr. Beth M. Ruder**

**CARITAS** Thanks to Jenny Neff and Mandy Borgmeyer for chairing and Jen Schuster and her elves for transporting the gifts collected by our Room Mothers. God bless!



### Blankets for Babies is back

There will be a blanket and clothing collection to benefit the babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital the month of December. We are in desperate need of clothing size preemie and newborn and blankets of course! Gently used or new would be great. There will be a big red donation box at school. Just have your child drop the items in during school hours. Last year was a huge success. Thank you for spreading the love this Christmas season. Let's wrap these babies up!



### Thanks for supporting the Class of 2021 DC Fund Raiser "Sippin' With Santa". Best ever!

Dress down days to support DC funding. Thanks for \$360.85 today!

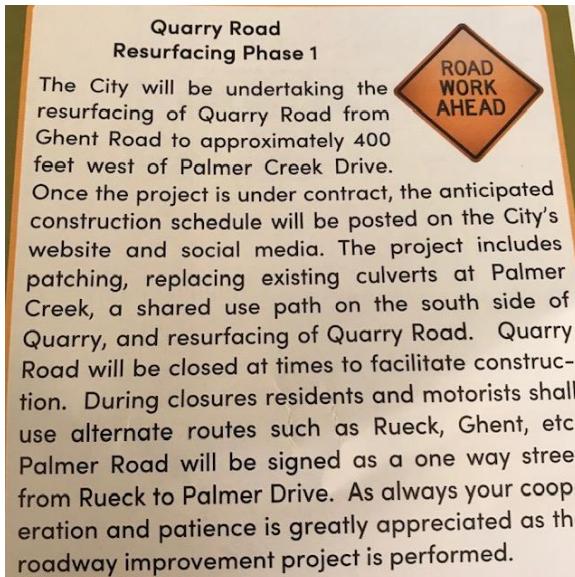
- January 8<sup>th</sup> = Pajama Day to promote an end to the hectic-ness of the **holidays coming to an end**
- February 5<sup>th</sup> = Sport Jersey Day to promote **Teamwork/upcoming Superbowl**
- March 5<sup>th</sup> = Dr. Suess Day to promote **Reading**
- April 9<sup>th</sup> = Hat day to promote "**put your Thinking cap on**" & **Father Carl's favorite activity**
- May 7<sup>th</sup> = Hawaiian Day to promote **Goodwill**, with all proceeds going to next year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade DC Trip.

### THE THANKSGIVING DEPARTMENT:



Thanks to Dave Boser for securing set of bleachers for us! Should seat 35 or so! I know there is a soccer game somewhere in its future!!!

**The Elf on the Shelf of the Faculty restroom is Karen Weiler!** Many thanks for brightening the day of so many and decorating our "necessary"!



Heads up on Quarry Road. Not sure when...



Cardinal Wilton Gregory gets a red hat and Pope Francis says 'don't let it go to your head'! Cardinal Gregory won't have that problem. He has always been a learner and pastoral in his decisions and we raised him well as Bishop of Belleville!

**VATICAN CITY** — Pope Francis warned the world's Catholic cardinals Nov. 28 against seeing their positions as ones of honor or distinction, stressing that the lives of the church's highest prelates should be those of self-sacrifice and service to others.

In a first of its kind partly virtual ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica to create 13 new cardinals — including Washington, D.C. Archbishop Wilton Gregory and a number of prelates serving in remote regions across the world — the pontiff cautioned the new cardinals not to prioritize their own interests, but those of the people they serve.

Francis even told them not to see themselves in terms of the honorific traditionally given to cardinals, or as "eminences." "When you feel like that, you are 'off the path,' " the pope warned the new cardinals. "You will no longer be the pastor, close to the people."

**GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:** **Spirit Wear:** Give the gift of Gibault gear this holiday season! Ship to school for free or to your home at an additional cost. <https://gibaultcatholicapparel.itemorder.com/sale>

**Gibault's Raffle-Mania time!** With a purchase of a \$25 ticket, you are entered for:

- \$100 Early Bird Christmas Drawing (purchase by December 15 to qualify)
- \$30 Daily Drawings on Monday-Friday from January 1 - May 31, 2021
- \$100 Bonus Winner the last day of each month (January - April)
- GRAND PRIZES in May for \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250!

If your ticket is pulled it goes right back in. [www.GibaultRaffle.givesmart.com](http://www.GibaultRaffle.givesmart.com) or 939-3883.

**Enrollment News** Applications for 2021-2022 are being processed. If you did not receive one, but would like to apply, contact our enrollment office at 939-3883.

**HARLEY GREER, Layla's Mom**, is in need of our prayers. Thanks for helping out!

**Lindsay's Funeral** Fr. Bill McGhee delivered a wonderful homily on Lindsay's life, describing her as a "piece of heaven in this world". As a life-giving daughter, wife, mother, and nurse, her cross of cancer was removed in the joy of the Resurrection and eternal life. The Resurrection allows us to rise above natural law. May her example inspire us! Our sincere condolences to Brandon, Mason, and Parker, all her family and friends, and to us who suffer her loss in our hearts. Memorials may be made to the family for an educational fund for the children.



Lindsay R. White, nee Hanvey, 35 of Columbia, IL., born November 11, 1985 in Belleville, IL., passed away, after a three year battle with cancer, on November 27, 2020, at her residence, with her family at her bedside.

Lindsay was a registered nurse and was employed by SSM St. Mary's Hospital in Clayton, MO. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Columbia, IL, and a life long member of St. Augustine Catholic Church in Belleville.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Kenneth and Leota Hanvey; maternal grandparents; Carl and Betty Hays; a cousin, Noah Hays; and grandparents in law; Lawrence and Gail Fetterer and Robert and Grace White.

Lindsay is survived by her loving husband of eight years, Brandon R. White, whom she married on August 25, 2012. They were high school sweethearts. She was the cherished mother of Mason and Parker. Also surviving are her parents Kenneth and Carla Hanvey of Belleville, IL; father and mother-in-law, Mark and Kathleen White of Belleville, IL; a brother, Eric (Angela) Hanvey of Belleville, IL; two sisters-in-law, Jennifer (Drew Hall) White of Columbia, IL, and Grace White of Belleville, IL; a brother-in-law Kristopher (Victoria Goodman) White of Fairview Heights, IL; nieces and nephews, Harper, Norah, Decker, Carter, Grayson and Arya. Lindsay had many friends and family that loved her dearly.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on December 3 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Columbia, IL, with Msgr. Bill McGhee officiating, with burial in Immaculate Conception Cemetery. Lindsay's life celebration was live-streamed by Mr. Gilbreth, John Bollon, Brayden Hines and Thad Brauer. Thanks to our tech crew!



Joshua 'Josh' R. Ritter, 24 years, of Columbia, IL, passed away on November 30, 2020 at Barnes Jewish Medical Center, St. Louis, MO. He was born March 29, 1996, in St. Louis, MO.

Josh was a graduate of ICS and SLU High School - Class of 2014, and a founding member of the Patriots Club. He received his Bachelors Degree in Business Management/Human Resources Management/Information Technology from SIU - Edwardsville, IL, where he graduated cum laude, and later achieved the designation of Human Resources Professional, of which he was quite proud. He was still pursuing his MBA at the time of his

passing. Josh was a workaholic in academics as well his career as a HR Manager at St. Flags, St. Louis, MO. He was passionate about roller coasters and their design, and had visited and enjoyed many amusement parks across the country. Josh valued his spare time with his friends. His positivism and generosity were an inspiration to all.

Surviving are his parents; Carl 'John' (Kimberly) Ritter of Columbia, IL, and Cheryl (Mike) Czopek of St. Louis, MO; sister, Madeline Ritter of St. Louis, MO; paternal grandmother, Christine Ritter-Gauvain of Waterloo, IL; maternal grandmother, Cathie Morgan of Sacramento, CA; maternal grandfather, Jerry (Jackie) Morgan of DuQuoin, IL, along with other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his grandfathers, Carl 'Corky' Ritter, and Arthur Gauvain.

Visitation will be Saturday, December 5, 2020, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, at Immaculate Conception Church with a Funeral Mass following visitation at 12:00 pm, with Fr. Carl Scherrer officiating.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be directed to: Immaculate Conception Education and Activities Center Building Fund 411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL, 62236, or Make-A-Wish Foundation, 8251 Maryland, St. Louis, MO, 63105. For more information, access our website, [www.leesmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.leesmanfuneralhome.com). Lawlor Funeral Home, Columbia, IL, handled arrangements.

Here is the link(Thanks to Mary Boser) to Josh Ritter's funeral livestream on Saturday: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NUSUW99bQY>



**Bill Leingang** Bill was a lifelong member here and active in the men's choir, Knights of Columbus, and on the School Board that hired me. His wife Mary is an active quilter for us and their 4 children attended ICS. Thanks for praying for a really good man.

**William "Bill" C. Leingang**, 87, of Columbia, died Dec. 2, 2020 at Oak Hill Care Center. He was born Aug. 26, 1933, in Columbia, the son of the late William A. and Mary E. (nee Toenjes) Leingang. Bill married Mary E. (nee Klein) Leingang in Freeburg on July 1, 1959. In addition to his wife, Mr. Leingang is survived by his sons, William (Theresa) Leingang of St. Louis, Mo., Robert (Rosemary) Leingang of Columbia and James (Andrea) Leingang of Chesterfield, Mo.; daughter, Maria Leingang of Corpus Christi, Tex.; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Catherine, William B., Andrew, Nathaniel, Alexandra, Sabrina, Noah and Owen Leingang; sisters, Rita Hill of Freeburg, Marian (Reynold) Ledbetter of Columbia and Germaine (William) Schlueter of Webster Groves, Mo.; and brother, Paul (Jane) Leingang of Evansville, Ind. He was preceded in death by his brothers-in-law, Harry Hill and John Klein. Bill had retired as a supervisor with the Federal Aviation Administration. He was active with the Immaculate Conception Parish, where he had served on the school board, sang for more than 30 years in the men's choir, and was a treasurer of the Knights of Columbus Council 6165. Mr. Leingang was also a member of the Columbia American Legion Post 581. Bill's family was always his passion and priority, and he never missed any of the grandkids' sporting events; he was their greatest fan. Mr. Leingang was an avid gardener and for many years sold vegetables from the family farm. Bill loved all things farming – tractors, barns and auctions. Visitation is Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. 12 noon at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Columbia. A funeral will follow with Father Carl Scherrer officiating. Mr. Leingang will be buried at the church cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Eugene Schorb - Immaculate Conception School Education Fund.

**Our Condolences to Sandra Whitworth on the loss of her Aunt Betty Dick, 87, of Evansville, Indiana. God's peace to her and her family!**

**PRAYERS:** Special Intention Harley Greer, Pat Whelan, Dennis Stork, Pete Riederer, Gary Greenfield, Dakota Schutt, Miles Patterson, Velma Taylor, Steve Killy, Larry Carrico, Joan Prigge, Joanna Prigge Ellner, Pat Smith, George Perry, Lynn Dugan, Gladys Williamson, Danielle Dorlac, Arlin Stechmesser, Karen Hornacek, Seth Watters, Glyn Raeber, Mike Drone, Geraldine McCoy, Kathy Neal, Logan Eichenseer, Ashley Burris, Ed Schaefer, Libby LoPorto, Tom Giovanni, Dion Scherr Miller, Donna Kania, Owen Jordan, Anthony Hendricks, Shawn Eichoff, Charlie Stockes, Angela Roepke, Jan Hoffmann, Bill West, Jennifer Nesser, Tom Kish, Patti Rottler, Mike Taylor

**ADVENT:** Say **No** to something so you can make space to say **Yes** to God. If nothing else, a "Covid gain" should be our reflection on what is really important in life, less is more, and God walks beside us!

**AND ALONG CAME JOHN,** the baptizer. John is Jesus cousin. Not sure how close. Not sure if they ever hung out together. But John is the pre-cursor. John brings hope. Forget his camel hair shirts and wild honey and locust(which might have been the carob bean---another name of locust at the time. Locusts were actually a source of protein consumed by the elite in Leviticus while the poor ate the carob bean.) Put all this together and we again have our counter cultural God picking the wrong man(according to our standards) for the right job. Until we realize that God works in mysterious ways, in whispers, in our dreams, in the face of Jesus in the person across the table, our Faith is as desirable as camel hair shirts and locusts.(I'll take the wild honey if you harvest it for me.) Advent is a time of waiting. Don't wait to come to the Table in Church or online. Do it now. Not being "under the obligation" makes your effort even more powerful! Prepare the Way of the Lord! (And prepare to get around the way of Quarry Road!)

*Mike Kish*

Principal

PS Happy Remote Birthday to **Kailey Walker** today as she teaches from home! Birthdays come and birthdays go and sometimes they are spent online!

PS Happy Birthday to **Alex Frenz** who brings so much joy to our cafeteria!

PS BISHOP McGovern liked our parish FB page this week! We "like" him back! He enjoyed Fr. Nick's homily last week on "Mystical Transportation". Fr. Nick can take us anywhere!

PS Be safe. A reminder. My rejoinder: *That's no fun.* Still, it's the morning goodbye I get from my wife Jeanne each day.

*Here is where we had to start using safe distance.*



"Everything, even sweeping,  
scrapping vegetables, weeding a  
garden and waiting on the sick  
could be a prayer, if it  
were offered to God."

Saint Martin de Porres

 saint mary's press  
nurturing hearts, nurturing minds

