



Immaculate Conception  
School 321 South Metter  
Avenue Columbia, Illinois  
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Principal

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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!**

December 7, 2018

*Bienvenido el parrochia!*

V. 44 #25

Dear Parent,

**THE 2018 PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY HOSTED BY THE KCs.** This Christmas Tradition should be yours. Yes the kids have the most fun but there is no age limit on being a kid! Call now and come and have a great time! I am sure there will be room for walk-ins but it helps if the Committee knows!

### ***The 2018 Parish Christmas Party***

**Our annual Christmas party hosted by the Knights of Columbus council 6165 swiftly approaching!**

**\*NEXT 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!**

**\*\*Beer and soda are included in the meal\*\***

**\*Special Visit From Santa Claus!!\* Contact John Haubrich: (314) 808-5171 or [kcchristmasparty@gmail.com](mailto:kcchristmasparty@gmail.com) Please make your check payable to Knights of Columbus 6165.**

**All Are Welcome!**

**CALENDAR** We will “re-set” and finalize at the Board meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>. We are working on dates for the move as well. Progress continues but it would be hard to have a new facility in the middle of a mud puddle too and we want to get it right. So our excitement continues and we want all families to pledge towards our new facility so we continue to make contacts.

**FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Vigil Mass tonight at 7:00 and tomorrow at 9:00** Come sing the praises of the Mother of God, our spiritual mother, and our Parish and School namesake. “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee”!



**“When you lose, say nothing. When you win, say even less.”**

We want to practice humility but you still have to fulfill obligations like accepting your **FOURTH CONSECUTIVE Vianney Tournament of Champions BANNER.** 24 Catholic schools competed! Tom Mulvihill presented to Jack Keeven, Maria Biske, Brock Murphy, Ben Haney, Mr. Dan Kassebaum, Sydney Wahle, Colin Mueth, Zach Gibson, Allison Stark, Tyler Wahle, Olivia Blaskiewicz and Mrs. Karen Weiler. We will stack this one up too!

**Parish Reconciliation is at 3:00 Sunday.** What the world needs---“I’m sorry” and “thank you”! Thanks be to God for this great Sacrament of Forgiveness! School Reconciliation on December 12 at 1:00 and 1:40 in chapel-gymna-auditorium.

**K-3 Christmas Program** is December 11 at 7:00. What an exciting night this will be!

**December 13 is our Band Concert/Art Show at 7:00.** Don’t miss this one. Plan on staying the whole time. The performance will be under an hour.

**ICS NEWS** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4nrns6E\\_Ic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4nrns6E_Ic)

**PARENTS AND FRIENDS CRAFT FAIR** What a great day! Details coming. In conjunction with the Craft Fair, Beth Johns chaired a “Santa’s Cottage” for inexpensive gifts for students to buy. Last Monday, one of the 4 year olds said to Mrs. Kish, “Do we get to go to Santa’s college today?”

Parents & Friends Meeting December 10, 2018 7 pm Joe’s Pizza - 117 N Main  
Agenda

Bring a wrapped ornament for our annual game of bad santa!

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. President Report: Holly Blaskiewicz
- III. Vice-President Report: Joyce Randle
- IV. Secretary Report: Christy Hornacek
- V. Treasurer's Report: Kate Kienzle
- VI. Public Relations Representative: Kara Boyd
- VII. Teacher's Report: Jenny Neff
- VIII. Principal's Report: Mr. Kish
- IX. Old Business
  - Square 1 Art: Jolene Sasser
  - ICS Spirit-wear: Jessi Gianino & Lauren Conner
  - ICS Craft Fair (Dec 1): Holly Blaskiewicz & Stephanie Roccasalva
  - Cookie Booth (Dec 1): Laurie Conrad & Robyn Baker
  - Basket Raffle (Dec 1): Christy Hornacek
  - Santa’s Cottage (Dec 1, 3,4): Beth Johns
  - Dining Out for ICS: Laurie Conrad, Jessi Gianino
- X. New Business
  - Dining Out for ICS: Laurie Conrad, Jessi Gianino
  - Teacher gift collection : Beth Johns
  - Dinner Auction (Feb 24): Mandy McGuire, Tricia Haywood, Jolene Sasser

## XI. Next Meetings

**January 14:** ICS Cafeteria

**February 11:** Bully's Smokehouse-1280 Columbia Center

**March 11:** West Park Bowl-1101 Valmeyer Rd.

**April 8:** ICS Cafeteria

**May 13:** Tiny's Pub & Grill (End of Year Celebration)- 602 N. Main St.

XII. Closing Prayer: 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.

**Kiwanis Club** Thanks to Allison Stark and Kristina Videmschek for helping with the Bowling Fun last Saturday for the Builders Club sponsor!



**FUNDERWEAR On December 10** for Day Star in Cairo. We enjoy winning the competition despite the creative trophy we hide for the next year when we win. SPPCS has been advertising to their parish for help. Good idea but we forgot this approach. Underwear, socks, scarves, glove, hats are used for Christmas gifts for clients. Please bring them in on Monday or to the game AT SPPCS in Waterloo that night and we'll count them up. Thanks for appreciating the little things in life that we take for granted.

**BUILDERS CLUB Griffin Center gifts** by December 20th. Buy a gift, wrap and tag it with boy/girl and age. 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! 21 so far!

**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!

### The Perfect Christmas Gift for Teachers!

**Please read the letter that came home today with the oldest child in the family, regarding the Christmas Teacher Collection.**

Parents & Friends has developed a program that has been very popular in the past. Finding just the right gifts for all your children's teachers can be challenging and the cost adds up quickly. If your family would like to participate, you simply send in a monetary contribution. Your contribution will be combined with those from other families and gifted to your children's primary teacher(s) with a portion also allocated to provide a gift to other staff like Mr. Kish and Mrs. Epplin, and the Band, Computer, PE, Spanish and Art teachers. Your child's name will be on the Christmas cards of all his/her teacher(s) and staff. This program is completely **VOLUNTARY**. An envelope (**1 per family**) was included with the letter. Please fill it out entirely to ensure the donation is correctly allocated. If writing a check, please only send one check per family. **Checks can be made out to ICS Parents & Friends.** \*\*\*\*The last day to turn in envelopes is Monday, December 17\*\*\*\*

**Any questions?** Please email **Beth Johns** at [kidRN74@hotmail.com](mailto:kidRN74@hotmail.com)

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

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



## Gibault Catholic Softball

### Winter Camp 2018

- **Where:** Gibault Catholic Gymnasium
- **Who:** Any Current 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders
- **When:** December 26,27,28
- **Time:** 12pm-2pm
- **Cost:** \$50.00 (includes t-shirt at the end)

Meet Gibault's Head Coach and players as they take you through skills and drills that will improve your game.

**Campers should bring their own equipment.**

Questions: Contact Coach Kathy Bernal; [kbernal1962@gmail.com](mailto:kbernal1962@gmail.com), or 618-540-8419

Please send form below with payment by December 20<sup>th</sup> to insure your t-shirt order. (Late entries accepted without t-shirt guarantee)

Athlete's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size: AS AM AL AXL

\*Please return form along with check payable to Kathy Bernal @ 806 Gilbert Street, Swansea , IL 62226

**GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...Placement Test:** If you missed it, contact Pat Herzing ([pherzing@gibalthawks.com](mailto:pherzing@gibalthawks.com)) The test is given free of charge.

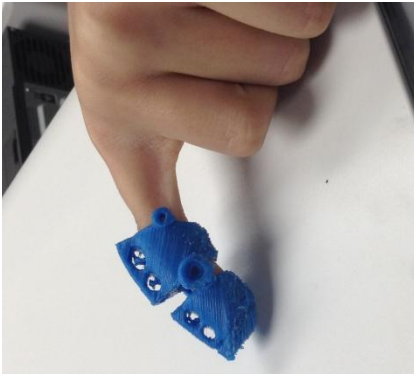
**Gibault March For Life Group** is taking Honey-Baked orders for your Christmas entertaining! Forms are available at the exits of church, or you can contact Beverly Epplin for more information ([bepplin@icsmail.org](mailto:bepplin@icsmail.org)). Please return to the parish or school office by Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be picked up from 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, 12/22/18 in the ICS cafeteria. Thanks!

**Gibault Raffle Tickets** are a great Christmas gift and are on sale now! For \$25, you get a chance to win \$25 every calendar day between January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 31<sup>st</sup>, with grand prizes of \$2000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250! A single ticket can win multiple times! To purchase your ticket, contact any Gibault student or Andrea Biske in the Development Office: [abiske@gibalthawks.com](mailto:abiske@gibalthawks.com) or 618-939-3883

**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!



Our 4<sup>th</sup> Graders study the Ten Commandments and annually create an "Ark of the Covenant" which becomes a work of art. Words to live by and a lesson reminding us that rules are made about the things we love. God loves us and tries to help!



**Touchstone Grant!** We just received word we have been awarded another \$500 grant towards our second 3-D printer---a better model even! How about downloading an app, tweaking the code, and have a pen holder for a finger amputee? Marisa McGill did this one! Dream it, do it, but you need the tools. Thanks to the Monroe County Electric Cooperative and grant writer Emily Brutton!

**YEAR END TAX TIP...** Tell Grandpa and Grandma. 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. 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)



**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!

### **Stewardship of Charity Meeting**

As part of our Full Stewardship plan, we will hold our annual parish Stewardship of Charity meeting on Sunday, February 10, at 12:30pm, in the Garden Level. Each year we designate 2% of our previous year's collections to be given to charities which help the poor. Charities eligible for nomination must serve the poor, their mission and work must be consistent with Catholic moral

teaching, and they must be charities not already regularly supported by our parish (for example, through envelopes or special events). Thus far we have given over \$161,000 to charities that our parishioners have chosen. Any parish family attending the event may nominate one charity. Charities nominated in previous years may be nominated again. We like to help as many as possible, so no one charity may receive more than 10% of the fund. Come make a difference for the charity of your choice! If you are unable to attend, ask a friend to come, nominate, and advocate for your favored charity. Please be prepared to provide the name, mailing address, email, and phone number of the charity you are nominating.

**THANKS!** St. Raymond's \$49.01 this week.

**THANKS** US Bank FrontStream did a \$145.44 match for us! We love matching grants!



On behalf of Danielle Dorlac and her entire family, we would like to thank our ICS family for their generosity and support on the Dress Down for Danielle day. Danielle has said so many times that the love and support that she feels from this wonderful "family" gives her strength each and every day. May God continue to bless our ICS Family.

**Frank Moxey**, Jean(Tom-Maddie-Zoe) Swip's Dad, passed away overnight. We will let you know arrangements when available. Please keep the family in your prayers.

**PRAYERS: Special Intention** Danielle Dorlac, Tom Johns, Michael Dorshorst, Ken Biske, Pat Morr, Charlie Stockes, George Perry, Angela Roepke, Joyce LaPrade, 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

Second Sunday of Advent In Paul's letter this week, he states "I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus." Sounds like a "patience" statement to me. Apply it to our new Catholic Education and Activity Center---God always speaks to us right where we are! In the Gospel we hear Jesus cousin John reminding the people of what Isaiah had written 800 years earlier.

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.  
Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.  
The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mankind has been asking God to level the playing field and give us an easy way through life since we have been able to reason. What we don't get is that this won't happen until we prepare ourselves. Deep stuff. Yet prophets show us the way. If only we would listen and act. Come to the Table and prepare for His coming!

*Mike Kish*

Principal

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.

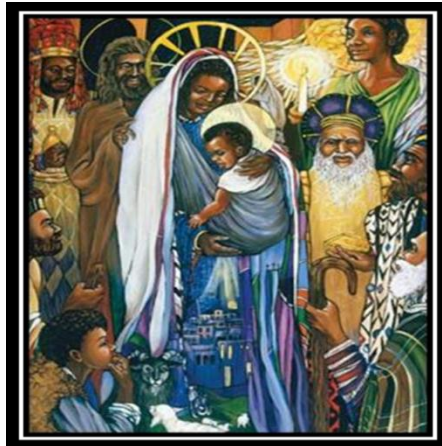
PS **GCHS winter baseball camp** is Dec 26-28! [See attached flyer](#) for information last week!

PS **Latchkey**---will not be available on December 21 so they can attend the Faculty-Staff Christmas party. Please plan ahead.

PS Monroe County YMCA has a youth basketball program for K-8. Flyers went home today with your child.

PS Be sure to read today's story in the blue books from church. It's about Pedro Arrupe, S.J.; directly connected to Pearl Harbor.

## **“Happy Easter”**



### **A Christmas Reflection** by His Excellency

The Most Reverend Edward K. Braxton, Ph.D., S.T.D.

Bishop of Belleville

Dear People of God:

There is a very close connection between Christmas and Easter but it is easy to overlook it. Yet the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the origin of many popular “Christmas” symbols. The Christmas tree itself originated in Germany as the “Tree of Life” which became the tree of the “life-giving cross.” Holly was adopted by Christians of England as a Christmas symbol because its thorns and red berries are a reminder of the suffering of Christ. Similarly, the ever popular tropical red poinsettia became the Christmas flower in Mexico because the green leaves symbolized Christ’s youth and the red bloom, His untimely death. The red and white peppermint candy cane may be based on the crosier or pastoral staff of St. Nicholas, 4th century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor, whose appearance and name have unfortunately been transformed into the secular, fictitious “Santa Claus.” The white of the cane represents the lifeless flesh of Christ and the red is the blood shed for us. The wreath, an ancient Roman and Greek symbol of victory in the amphitheater, came to be used at Christmastime in Italy as a symbol of Christ’s victory over death at Easter. All of these connections between Easter and Christmas are right before our eyes. However, most of us are probably unaware of them.

The Christmas scriptures are also filled with suggestions of Easter. When you are prayerfully reading the infancy narratives in Matthew and Luke (not found in Mark or John), remember that they were probably written last as a summary of the meaning of Christ’s life and redemptive work. Thus, the baby is placed in a manger, a feed box. Why? He is to become our spiritual food. The infant’s body is wrapped in cloth and laid in a manger just as the body of the crucified Christ is wrapped in cloth and laid in the tomb.

Christ the King reigns from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross. The Magi (not the “three kings”) came seeking the newborn “king of the Jews.” Above the cross Pilate wrote, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The gold, frankincense and myrrh



brought by the Magi suggest that He is God's Holy One deserving of our worship (incense) and the royal King of our hearts deserving of our homage (gold), a Divine King who was destined to die for us. Myrrh was used to anoint the dead.

Most pilgrims to Bethlehem are surprised to see that the sight venerated as the birthplace of Jesus is, in fact, a cave and not the wooden "stable" depicted in crèche or manger scenes first created by Saint Francis of Assisi in the 13th century. Saint Francis combined the distinct infancy stories of St. Luke (shepherds, angels, manger) and St. Matthew (Magi, star, three gifts) in his "Christmas crib." One reason Saint Francis did this was to remind Christians of the profound connection between the wood of the cross to the wood of the manger. All of these connections between Christmas images and the suffering of Jesus teach us that if you want to understand this birth you must understand this death. Without Easter, Christmas is meaningless!

As Catholics, our tradition urges us not to rush through Advent. We are discouraged from announcing our "Merry Christmas" in mid December, for that is still our time of waiting. Our first "Merry Christmas" is really uttered at the Mass on Christmas Eve, the Christ-Mass. Yet in the days after December 25th it is fitting for people of faith to continue saying "Merry Christmas," "Merry Christmas" for days and days. This is why we speak of the twelve days of Christmas leading to Epiphany, or Twelfth Night.

Did you know that the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was composed by Roman Catholics in England to teach the faith to their children when they were forbidden to practice their religion (1558-1829). Here are the meanings of the symbols of each "day." (1) The partridge in a pear tree is Christ, who gathers us under His wings. (2) The two turtledoves are the sacrifices that Mary and Joseph offered on the birth of their Son. (3) The three French hens are the gifts of the Magi, as well as the Three Persons of the Trinity. (4) The four calling birds are the four Evangelists. (5) The five golden rings are the first five books of the Old Testament, the Torah. (6) The six geese are the six days of Divine Creation and our six days of work before we rest on the Lord's Day. (7) The seven swans are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and the seven sacraments. (8) The eight maids are the eight beatitudes. (9) The nine ladies are the nine fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). (10) The ten lords are the Ten Commandments. (11) The eleven pipers are the eleven apostles who remained faithful to Christ. (12) The twelve drummers are the twelve articles of the Apostles Creed.

It is sad that this song is so popular, even among Catholics, but the true meaning of the lyrics has been all but forgotten. Yet the lyrics make no sense at all without knowing their origin. You might wish to save this reflection, read it to your children on Christmas Day, and share with others the true Christian meaning of the gifts given to us by our own "True Love" who is God. May we all understand that the Life of Jesus Christ on which we meditate at Christmas has unique meaning only because it was transformed by an Easter that was Happy indeed!

**Exams December/January 2018-2019**

<b>12/3</b> Alg 1	<b>12/4</b>	<b>12/5</b> PreAlg 7 Alg 1	<b>12/6</b>	<b>12/7</b> Pre-Alg 7
<b>12/10</b> Pre-Alg 8  C2 Math	<b>12/11</b>  C2 Math	<b>12/12</b> Pre-Alg 8  <b>Reconciliation in the aft.</b>	<b>12/13</b>  Eng 7 C1 Math Geog 8	<b>12/14</b> <b>No exams-day after band concert</b>
<b>12/17</b> <b>Sr. Thea in the morning</b>	<b>12/18</b> His 8 Part 1	<b>12/19</b> His 8 Part 2 His 7 Part 2	<b>12/20</b> His 6 Part 1	<b>12/21</b> His 6 Part 2



	His 7 Part 1 English 6		8 English Geog 7	Sci 6, 7, 8
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