



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

321 South Metter Avenue

Columbia, Illinois 62236

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Bob Wachtel, 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*

December 08, 2017

Bienvenido el parrochia!

V. 43 #21

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

MASS IN HONOR OF MARY UNDER THE TITLE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT 7:00 PM tonight. Holy Day of Obligation! SISTER ACT MOVIE TO FOLLOW with treats. From our Parish Centennial Memory Book of 1946:

"In 1846, the Sixth Provincial Council at Baltimore signed a petition to the Holy See, asking that Mary, under her title of the Immaculate Conception be made the heavenly patroness of the United States. This petition being granted by the Holy Father, what could be more fitting than that this new parish, founded in 1846, the very same year, be dedicated to Mary Immaculate."

So what is the meaning of the Immaculate Conception?

- A) Mary is a model of faith.
- B) Mary was conceived without original sin.
- C) Mary was taken up into heaven.
- D) Jesus Christ did not have a human father.

Pick B and be correct even though the other three choices are the right answers for other questions.

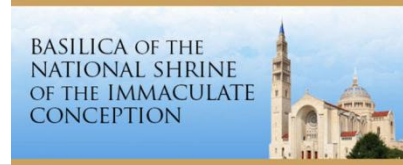
So in our human nature, it is difficult to conceive of anyone being free from sin. Yet how could the Mother of our God not be so? And in our human nature it is easy to place Mary on a pedestal as the Ideal woman and a counterpart to a patriarchal theocracy.

Mary is not the maternal face of God, she is not the ideal feminine since that would be unattainable and subject her to behind-the-scenes roles. She is a main player in our Scripture She is a Jewish village Woman of Faith, a Friend of God, a Prophet and a member of the Communion of Saints. Next to Jesus Christ, Mary is our ultimate human thread to our God. Most people relate easily to their mother and mothers find a way to take care of our needs.

So what would a picture of the Immaculate Conception look like? Realistically, there is none. When we built our new church, we tried to figure a way to depict Mary as the Immaculate Conception. We came to a consensus that a statue of her with her Mom and Dad would be as close to realistic as we could get. We don't have one.

During apparitions to St. Catherine Laboure in 1830, Mary taught the prayer we lovingly call the Miraculous Medal prayer " "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee". This prayer graces our Old Church on Main above the exterior entrance.

Mary is a woman for all time, places, genders, cultures, and life struggle. Mary's "heart" was always where it ought to be---not in her brain but in life's struggles. We are proud to be named in her honor!



Dedication of Trinity Dome Mosaic to Mark Completion of Basilica

December 8th at 12 Noon

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the largest Catholic church in the United States and North America and one of the ten largest churches in the world, has been a work in progress since the laying of its foundation stone in 1920. On Friday, December 8, 2017, with the dedication of the newly completed Trinity Dome in mosaic, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, often referred to as America's Catholic Church, will be completed according to its original architectural and iconographic plans of nearly a century ago. The dedication of the Trinity Dome will take place in the Basilica's Great Upper Church during the celebration of the 12 noon Mass on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast day of the National Shrine and the United States.

Our Builders Club made a donation to the Dome last year. We will visit on March 4!



Maybe there is still room for the party! Call **John Haubrich at 618-281-6021** or kcchristmasparty@gmail.com. This is the Parish Christmas Party---but we have to know how many chickens to catch! **Saturday, December 9th. Doors open at 5:30. Dinner at 6:45. Come hear our Jazz Band!**

FUNDERWEAR This is "check your funderwear" time. We can still take your donations at the game tomorrow at Gibault and will add them to the count. Kathy Conrad Kruse and crew will take them to Day Star on Monday. Our Builders Club sorted them and this will be a big help. Thanks to Reece Ward for a great job chairing! Our varsity boys play at Gibault at **3:30 on Dec. 9th**. During half-time, winner is proclaimed.

THE END OF THE YEAR IS NEAR! Please catch up on all your bills or take advantage of capital gains from the stock market and donate back. Full Stewardship is a commitment. Honor what you have pledged so we can pay our fine faculty and bills. **CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS FOR TUITION, PRE-K, BOOK FEES. BAND AND LATCHKEY** through DiamondMind will end over the Christmas break. Any future invoice payments by credit card should be made through the email invoicing process, and the **new credit card payment link** seen here will replace DiamondMind on the school website over the Christmas break.

<http://cloud.accountedge.com/immaculateconception/webpay>

Sheryl or Keith if you have any questions. **New Stewardship forms for all ICS full-stewardship families are due by January 7.** Copy of the stewardship form is [attached](#). Please give to Bev or send in to the parish office/Sunday collection.

MAGAZINE DRIVE www.gaschoolstore.com --order on-line. ID #2710556. We get 40%! Terrific Christmas gifts that give all year long! January 8 is kick-off for this year!

GRIFFIN CENTER We are committed to 75 gifts and have 10 so far. They need to be gift wrapped, marked boy or girl, and age. We need them by December 19 for transport. Students should choose something they would like to receive and make it personal. Thanks for blessing others!

THE CRAFT FAIR A huge thank you to everyone that helped in any way towards the 2017 cookie booth this year! Our cookie sale was a great success and we could not have done it without everyone helping bake all of these fantastic cookies. Special thanks to all of the volunteers and student volunteers that helped work! We were especially proud of the student volunteers! We had so many compliments on the students and we really could not have done it without them! So proud of the fantastic ICS kids always willing to help. Early figures show we surpassed last year's profit and were able to raise over \$3000. Congratulations also to Mrs. Weiler's class on winning the class contest bringing in 66 dozen cookies. It was a close contest with 6 different classes bringing in over 50 dozen cookies each. Thanks, Laurie Conrad and Robyn Baker

Thank you to everyone who helped volunteer for the ICS Craft Fair & Cookie Booth 2017. We had such a great turnout for a beautiful day of shopping and good fun. It takes a village to put this event on. So thank you so much to everyone who bought a booth, attended, or helped in any way!

Special thanks to our Cookie & Candy Booth Chairs: Laurie Conrad & Robyn Baker, Raffle Chair: Christy Hornacek, Santa's Kottage Chairs: Beth Johns & Holly Blaskiewicz, and 8th Grade Concession Stand: Jean Shuler & Matt Blaskiewicz, Set-up/Clean-up/Special Task Volunteers: Laura Whalen, 8th Grade Class, 6th Grade Class, Erin & Derek Pechecek, Jessica & Greg Sheehan, Andy Kish, Shannon Howard, Colleen Harrington, Jessi Gianino, Chris Vidmecheck, Andrea & Lindsay Harget

Parents & Friends

December 11, 2017 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. Teacher's Report:
- VII. Principal's Report: Mr. Kish
- IX. Next Meetings

January 8th:

Our Coffee House & Cafe
new location: Main Street Abby
Or if not opened yet then
ICS Cafeteria

ROLLARCADE: Rollercoaster Fundraiser

Looking for a fun thing to do over Christmas break?

8th grade is having a rollerskating party at Rollercoaster in South County on Wednesday,

December 27th from 2-4. Tickets are \$10.00 per person and that includes roller skates. If you want inline skates it is an additional \$3.00.

If you are interested in tickets, please send money into Bev marked Rollerskating. If you have a specific 8th grader that you want the credit to go to for D.C. Trip, please mark their name on the envelope.

If you have a questions please contact Holly Blaskiewicz at 314.707.1045. Mom's and dads are welcome to skate. It is a lot of fun for all!

The ICS 8th Grade Class is hosting a PARENTS NIGHT OUT FUNDRAISER on Saturday, December 16th in the ICS Gym/Cafeteria from 6 pm - 10 pm.

Drop your kiddos off for fun, games, popcorn snack and a movie while you complete your shopping or have a date night! Reserve your spot early!

The cost is \$10/child (age 3 and up), \$15/child (age 2 and under) - per session (Please provide a nut-free sack dinner per child).

The 8th Grade Class thanks you in advance for supporting our efforts to raise money for our trip to Washington D.C. [See attached flyer.](#)

OOOPPS...Typo---from last week--- **Eighteen** water sources were tested(not 16). Three came back above 5.5 ppb. All have been decommissioned and filters are coming in on Monday. We will get them installed and re-tested to be 100% back up. No fountains were affected but the sinks were sources for potable water to some extent. Regardless, safety is our concern.

Parish Work Day---here is a chance to give some time back. Projects for December 9. Families are welcome!

- Church (consider bringing ladder)
- Put up Christmas tree in Fr. Carl's office
- Put up outdoor manger scene on hill (located in back stairwell)
- Clean spots off church tile floor
- Check and replace any church kneeler bottoms
- Place Pictorial directories in gathering space
- Clean front door glass, gathering space glass, office door glass and exterior glass doors in gathering space
- Dust gathering space furniture including the grouping near the elevator. Dust cabinets and counter tops in Father's vesting room.
- Clean lower garden level windows including those in the elevator area. Wipe down the elevator interior walls.
- Clean windows in main stair well as high as can be reached.
- Dust the office area, Father's office, conference room and hallway ledges. Clean glass in these areas also.
- Dust cabinets in warming kitchen and clean counter tops.

- Clean windows in the music storage room and confessional
- Clean west side high windows. This takes a 10 or 12 foot ladder
- Clean upper windows on the east side. This will take a 10 to 12 foot ladder.
- Clean wood roof behind altar. 10-12 foot ladder-long pole with dusting attachment. Vacuum flat roof area.
- Dust for cobwebs in church, hall and back stairwell.
- Clean lower windows and ledges in hallway to garden area.
- Clean high windows and ledges in hallway to garden area.
- Clean lower windows and ledges in Garden Level
- Clean windows in Kitchen and back stairs
- Clean black drop box outside office exterior doors

Coffee and donuts to be furnished by A.C.T.S.

GRADS IN THE NEWS...

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS FROM THE ICS CLASS OF 2014:

Columbia High School: **Mitch Huebner, Faustina Mulnik**

Cor Jesu: **Hannah Gibson**

Gibault: **Elena Biske, Andy Loless**

St. Louis U. High: **Jacob Hennes**

Ursuline Academy: **Brooke Schwartz**

And a salute to Illinois State Scholar **Isaiah Brower** from CHS who works in our latchkey! Our "magnificent 7" and Ike were near the top of their high school classes and scored high on the ACT of SAT. About 10% of their class made it. 26% of our Class of 2014 were honored!

ICS JAZZ BAND Come Saturday night to the Parish Christmas Party and enjoy our Jazz Band under the direction of Mr. Matt Hake!

Flute: Ava Hake, Marisa McGill

Clarinet: Autumn Ramey

Tenor Sax: Adelynn Murphy

Percussion: Colin Mueth, Sydney Wahle

Alto Sax: Ben Haney, Lindsay Harget, Brock Murphy, Collin Schmidt, Jordan Smugala

Low Brass: Owen Dalpoas, Noah Newton, Hope Pollmann, Drew Roche

Trumpet: Andrew Epplin, Isabella Foutch, Jack Keeven, Gavin Kesler, Emma Schmidt, Sydney Wahle

Christmas Teacher Collection Dear Parents,

A letter was sent home regarding the Christmas Teacher Collection. This is not a mandatory program. It is provided as a convenience for you. Depending on what grade your children are in, the money will be allocated to the various teachers and administrative staff members. If you wish to participate please fill out the information on the envelope stapled to the letter and return it no later than Friday, December 15 to ICS. Questions? kidRN74@hotmail.com. Thank you, Beth Johns

SAVE THE DATE: The Daddy/Daughter Dance will be held in the ICS gym on Feb. 3, 2018 from 7-10 p.m. This is for all grades and girls can bring their favorite guy (dad, grandpa, uncle, family friend) with them as their date for the night. More to come.

SCRIP ---last day to order scrip to guarantee delivery before Christmas is Dec. 19th! These make great gifts for fellow employees! ALSO---**Volunteers needed:** to sell Scrip at Mass on weekends. It's a great way to fulfill your time, talent and treasure! We will schedule you for a Mass you already attend. Email Catie Tyler at rcjetyler@gmail.com if interested in helping.

GIBAULT NEWS...

Junior High Glow Dance – Gibault Ambassadors Club is sponsoring a Glow Dance for grades 7 & 8 on **Tuesday, Dec 26, from 7-9PM** in the school cafeteria. Admission is \$3 or 3 canned goods for a local food pantry. White or bright colored clothing is suggested. See you then!

GIBAULT RAFFLE TICKETS are great Christmas gifts and are now for sale! For only \$25, you get a chance to win \$25 every calendar day between January 1st and May 31st, with grand prizes of \$2000, \$1000, \$500, and \$250 drawn on May 6th, 2018. A single ticket can win multiple times! To purchase your chance, contact any Gibault student or contact Andrea at the Gibault office, abiske@gibaulthawks.com or [618-939-3883](tel:618-939-3883). Thank you for your support!

SCHNUCKS - BAGS 4 MY CAUSE PROGRAM! We are happy to share with you that during the month of November, Immaculate Conception School sold 25 Giving bags. Check for \$25 is coming and you have helped recycle!

Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Opportunity for Donors

Why pay taxes to Illinois, when you can make a donation to Gibault for scholarships and get a state tax credit equaling 75% of your contribution?

The new Invest in Kids Act allows individuals in Illinois to donate and receive tax **credits** reserved on a first-come, first serve basis (starting January 2, 2018). Individual donors can **designate Gibault** as the recipient! **Interested?**

Step 1 (critical): Mid-December go to <https://mytax.illinois.gov>, click on INDIVIDUALS at the top of the page. Under Miscellaneous, click “Request a Letter ID”. This is a number that you need to create a MyTax Illinois account to input to the IL Dept. of Revenue website when the tax credit application opens on January 2. This is sent via US Postal Service and can take up to 10 days to arrive, so don't delay!

Step 2: VERY EARLY, at 12:01 AM on January 2, 2018, taxpayers will be able to reserve a tax credit on the Illinois Department of Revenue website. To reserve your credit, you will need to list a name, code number, and region specific to Gibault that has yet to be determined. Contact Andrea for updates. These credits may be gone quickly, so the earlier you apply the better chance you have of receiving the credit.

Step 3: After receiving approval of your credit, you have 60 days to submit the donation.

****You must have a letter ID and a MyTax Illinois account in order to apply to benefit Gibault. Create the account ASAP to avoid delays when the application goes live.****

Please speak to your tax professional about whether this program is right for you. Watch the Gibault website for updates as most of this information is not finalized yet with the State of Illinois.

Tomorrow night is the Funderwear game-ICS vs. SPPS at 3:30 in the Gibault gym. **Gibault Seniors will be selling Chick Fillet** during the game to support their trip to Peru for Senior Project

LOOKING AHEAD:

THERE WILL NO AFTERNOON LATCHKEY ON DECEMBER 20TH, THE LAST DAY BEFORE BREAK. MORNING LATCHKEY WILL BE OPEN. Please make arrangements now.

Advent Program at Sr. Thea Bowman School--- December 13. Leave here at 9:25.

ICS RECONCILIATION Wednesday, December 13 starting at 1:00.

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest: Sat., Jan. 20th, start time of 8:00am

Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee: Sat., Jan. 20th at 10:00am. .

PARISH RECONCILIATION This Sunday at 3:00 in Church.

DIOCESAN ENROLLMENT St. Clair in O'Fallon is the largest school in the Diocese with 501 students followed by ICS with 347, St. Theresa with 289, All Saints Breese with 280, Our Lady Mt. Carmel Herrin with 274, SPPS Waterloo with 266, St. Joe Olney with 251, and Blessed Sacrament with 207. The Catholic High Schools have 991.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY---DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE Voice of the Faithful ranked the Diocese of Belleville at 55 of 60 for financial transparency. 3 Dioceses came in at 10. Something to feel good about and something to work on a little. Your CMSA money is well spent and attention is paid to Diocesan Stewardship!

VATICAN CITY — FROM OUR HOLY FATHER, POPE FRANCIS

God is knocking to come into people's lives, so be attentive, humble and courageous to let him in, Pope Francis said.

"When we feel in our heart: 'I want to be good, to be better ... I feel sorry for what I've done ...' This is Christ who is knocking," he said before praying the Angelus with those gathered Sunday in St. Peter's Square.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis talked about Mary showing the way to be ready, humble, generous and courageous when God calls people in their lives.

Christmas is a time when Jesus returns again, "to knock once more on the heart of every Christian: He comes and knocks," the pope said.

"Each one of us is called to answer, like Mary, with a personal and sincere 'yes,' putting oneself fully at God's disposal, mercy and love.

"How many times Jesus comes by in our lives, and how many times he sends us an angel and how many times we don't realize it because we are too occupied, too wrapped up in our thoughts, our affairs and even -- in this period, in getting ready for Christmas -- and we do not realize that it is him who comes by and knocks on the door of our heart, asking to be welcomed inside," the pope said.

When people feel the desire to be better, nicer and closer to God and to others, "if you feel this, stop. It's the Lord who is there.

"Go pray and perhaps go to confession to clean up a bit, this is good for you," the pope said, but no matter what, do not miss the chance to open one's heart up to God.

"The precious gift of Christmas is peace, and Christ is our true peace. And Christ knocks on our hearts to give us peace, peace in our souls.

Let us open the doors to Christ."

TRIVIA NIGHT ON DEC. 16TH FOR GRADES 4-8. Queen of Peace Youth Ministry It might be something fun for our kids - especially the scholar bowlers. [See the flyer](#)---get a team together.

Dariia Aitkulova has volunteered to help with chess on Tuesdays and will also tutor anyone who needs help on Tuesdays. She is also interested in babysitting, please email her. Let Bev or her know. She will be the states till May 16.

Dariia.ditkulova@gmail.com

BUILD UP THE KINGDOM OF YOUR LOVE daily shirts Mason Homeyer, Addison Sanker, Alaina Patton, Nicholas Holdener, Summer Harrington, Sean Frederick, Brynn Moore, Wiley Sasser, Daniel Huels, Nicholas Wahle, Poppy Haywood, Emma Schmidt, Hogan Story, Eli Thebeau, Aiden Howard-Maul

THANKS We received a \$500 donation this week for our scholarship fund. Thank you!

OUR CONDOLENCES to Mrs. Karen Weiler on the loss of her father's sister Carol Hammond this week. She will be laid to rest over the weekend.

PRAYERS: Special Intention Donna Kania, Barbara Thompson, Susie McClenahan Mantz, Paul Thode, Tom Giovanni, Jim Vogt, Norman Waterman, Pat Schwartz, George Perry, Pearl Mueller, Dennis Kish, Kaylee Fogarty, Larry Pelker, Danielle Barnett, Brandon Martin, Susan Adams, Laurie Austin, Donna Barton, Lydia Boyer, Alicia Cohen, Denise Conner, Kenny Hamontree, Susie Kish Settle, Rachel Warden, Bill Kesler, Dan Borisuk, Lauren Foran, Rich Cullen, Jessica Stemler Barcik, Gertrude Scherrer, Carolyn Baker, Scott Schaefer, Katy Basinski, Chrissy Hoeflinger, Barbara Buchheit, Angie Rose, Ken Bolton, Nick Carron, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Marcella Heinrichs, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Pat Weber, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure

ADVENT HAPPENS FAST... Yet we find readings of comfort, being ready, and a voice crying out in the wilderness in the form of Isaiah's prophecy and John's fulfillment. Comfort is not defined by the giver but by what is needed for the receiver. When God asks us to comfort His people, we need to do it with food for the body sometimes and food for the soul at others. We are all spiritually hungry whether we know it or not. We may not believe in spiritual comfort but spiritual comfort believes in us. Come and comfort each other and be comforted yourself. Nothing makes a community happier than a full house! Don't forget the greatest underutilized Sacrament of the Church, Reconciliation, is available at 3:00 Sunday. Multiple priests available for long or short lists. More comfort!

Mike Kish

Principal

PS Happy Birthday to Angie Ettling on 11-26, **Katie Repp** on 11-29, **Mehgan Friedrich** on 12-2, **Jeanne Kish** on 12-09, **Holly Blaskiewicz** on 12-14 and **Connie Huebner** on 12-15! Birthdays are good. The more you have the more you've lived! We thank God for you and the Ides of March!!

PS Builder's Club--- **Griffin Center gifts---** December 20---please wrap and mark boy or girl and age. No toys depicting violence please.

PS THERE WILL NO AFTERNOON LATCHKEY ON DECEMBER 20TH, THE LAST DAY BEFORE BREAK. MORNING LATCHKEY WILL BE OPEN.

Exams December/January 2017-2018

12/11	12/12 Algebra 2 English 7	12/13	12/14 Algebra 2 English 8 Course 2	12/15
12/18 History 8, part 1 Pre-Algebra Course 1	12/19 History 8, part 2 Pre-Algebra Course 1 History 6, part 1	12/20 History 6, part 2 Geography 8 Geography 7		

We poured 72 linear feet of wall Monday---and more this week.



