



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL
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CELEBRATING 163 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 9, 2016

V. 42 #26

THE JOY OF LOVE

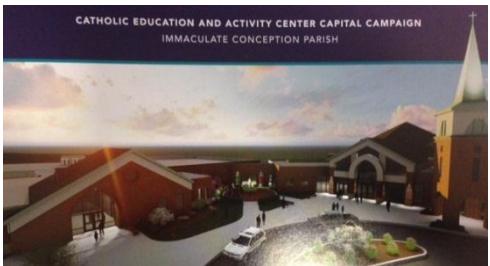
Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



ADVENT AND THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Mary, an ordinary village girl, born of Joachim and Ann, Mary, a human, just like us, gives us a great hope during the Advent Season of preparation for commemorating the birth of our Savior, Christ the King. How fitting that the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is right inside this Season! Her "yes" to the unknown is a reminder to us that we are not to be afraid as we face the challenges of life for *God is with us* too, which is just what Emmanuel means. She had no idea the wood of the manger would lead to the wood of the Cross, that the city of His birth, Bethlehem, means "house of bread" in Hebrew, and that He would become the Living Bread for all time. The bloody sacrifices in the Temple would be over upon His own bloody death. "Did she know?" is a great song for this time of year. We don't know what lies ahead but we do know God has a plan and Jesus is here.

Advent is a Season of waiting. Many of us do not really connect with Jesus until crisis hits. We "wait" for his coming until a crisis hits and then we fall back on our 2000 years of tradition and don't take a vote on what we should do. People who are spiritual but not religious are usually spiritual because of religion. They may have left or wandered off or changes but their roots have helped them through crisis. So we wait and worry and become afraid about being ready for Christmas and fail to remember that NOW is the Kingdom. This day. This moment. This time when we say yes! Come to the Table and build your faith life this weekend!



Capital Campaign---Catholic Education and Activity Center .

We are getting some rumors of a great push at the end of the year. Whether it is for tax purposes, or your heart is being touched, or you want to re-pay your debt to the past, please know we are grateful. Wouldn't it be great if we could have half our households visited by the end of the year? Yes, but maybe not realistic. Please be patient. We are giving it our best push right now and hope to finish in January and February. Be welcoming to the call. Offer our team members your hospitality. It only takes about 30 minutes for the presentation. Let us see what Faith can do. Say "yes" just like Mary!

December 14: We have been invited to Sr. Thea Bowman's Dress Rehearsal and will leave at 9:25. There program highlights the arts and brings prayer in motion. This is our 5th year! Get permission form in Grade 5-8. **Permission Form going out today.**



Happy Feast of St. Nicolaus Gifts are one thing but this Bishop was known for helping the ordinary, especially the poor. **What a masterful plan Fr. Carl gave our students. THE CHALLENGE** Fr. Carl tasked the Builders Club with donating his spare change jar this year to a needy cause. After much deliberation, the Club decided to donate the money to the victims of the recent fires in Gatlinburg, Tennessee through the Diocese of Knoxville. \$293.45 will surprise a family and provide some food for sure! Thanks for challenging and setting such a good example Fr. Carl! You are a gift to us from God!

The anniversary of Fr. Steve Gira's death was December 6. 2010. Can't believe it since it seems like yesterday. *We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.* (Dakota Sioux). Fr. Steve left us some tracks!

All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today. Indian Proverb.

IMPORTANT---LATCHKEY The last day of school for this calendar year is December 21. There will be **NO LATCHKEY** that day so the Staff can gather together as one for a party. I know there is no bus at 3:00 and no play practice, no chess, no scholastic bowl, no tutoring, and practices start at 5:00. Please make arrangements now to cover for your children. This is an inconvenience but we know you understand.

PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TEACHERS! The Parents & Friends Teacher Gift Program is well underway! Thanks to those who have already completed and returned their envelopes. In case you missed it, an information flyer and a contribution envelope were sent home to every family on Monday this week. If you would like to participate, please fill out the contribution envelope, enclose your monetary donation, and send it in with your child to school. *It is that easy!* If you have more than one child in school, just include that information on the envelope. Checks can be made out to Parents & Friends. Remember, this program is completely voluntary and for your convenience. If you choose to participate, your child's name will be on Christmas cards to all his/her teacher(s) and the school staff. All donations must be received by **Friday, December 16th**. Please email Lynetta Newton at Lsnewton@htc.net if you have any questions.

THE GRIFFIN CENTER We are committed to 100 gifts(we usually average 130-160) for a boy or girl with the age marked on it. If you can wrap it, that would be great. Otherwise, the Builders Club will be happy to wrap them. Delivery is December 16. Make sure the games and gifts are peaceful! We have **97 right now** but have had as high as 180 to share. Thanks for spreading the joy of the birth of the King!

HOUR OF CODE We joined thousands of schools in the nation through Computer Science Education's program this week. The global workforce realizes that this is one of the new basics. Our RobotICS program is built upon design and coding. Thanks Mrs. Lewis for the extra effort

PARENTS AND FRIENDS Meeting at Mokka at 7:00 on Monday night. Ornament exchange---legalized stealing from your neighbor might be a better name for it. I usually buy something I would want that tends to be "kitschy" and yet I seldom come home with it. Come join the fellowship and celebrate the fun year we have going on!

CRAFT FAIR Thanks to everyone who attended the ICS Craft Fair, Raffle, & Cookie Booth! Special thanks Sandra Whitworth for chairing the Cookie Booth, Christy Hornacek for chairing the Basket Raffle, and to all those who helped volunteer in all the planning, flyer distribution, setup, worked a shift, or cleaned up!!! **Your help was greatly appreciated!** We had 78 vendors participate in this year's event and overwhelming crowds filled every space they could!

- The Craft Fair table reservations & Vendor Raffle brought in \$3,340.
- Our Basket Raffle brought in \$872!
- The cookie booth brought in over \$2900!

Overall this event made **\$7,134** to help our kids at ICS! That's over a 24 % increase from last year's event. Thank you all again for your support and participation. We couldn't have done it without you! And Holly Blaskiewicz, you were a great chairperson! (Thanks to all your family too for sharing Mom and pitching in!)

COOKIE BOOTH 2016 Thank you to everyone who baked cookies/candy for the cookie booth. Success!. We exceeded last year and made over \$2,900 for ICS Parents and Friends. Thanks to volunteers who worked the booth- Laurie Conrad, Robyn Baker, Donna Frederick, Jamie Kish, Carrie and Mary Boser, Lisa Patton, Carrie Keller, Beth Johns, Robin Nadziejko, Tammy and Julia Hoeflinger, Kim Deisel, Julie Maul, Sandy Gains, Jacob Whitworth, Georgia Sasser, Ally Curry, Angela and Adrian Declue, Diane and Autumn Ramey, Trish and Kate Adams, Brad and Emily Everett, Tina and Briana Baldridge, Kerry Ott, Kara and Sadie Metz, Catherine Whitworth, John Whitworth, Beth Carrow, Kate Kienzle, Teresa Dorshorst, and anyone I might have missed. Laurie Conrad and Robyn Baker have stepped up and will be the new Cookie Booth Chairs next year. Thanks, Sandra Whitworth- Retiring Cookie Chair

ICS DINNER AUCTION February 11th --- The Falls --- You! Now is a great time to get your donation or re-gift something for our Auction---It is the main reason we can dream so big here at ICS!

MAGAZINE DRIVE Our drive kicks-off on Monday, January 9, 2017. But why wait? Magazines make great gifts---gifts that give all year long. To order online anytime---your child will get credit during the drive--- go to www.gaschoolstore.com I.D. 2710556 You can't sell if you don't ask!

NATIONAL SCHOOL BLOCK CHALLENGE We have completed our quilt blocks and sent them off to Paducah for judging at the National Quilt Museum. School Block competitors include returning Grand Prize winners Ally Curry, Noah Newton & Jacob Whitworth with "The Little Prince" 2016 3rd place winner Kyra Newton with Samantha Glasscock and "Musician's Haven", Katie Grawitch with "America's Heritage: Underground Railroad", Daylen Litke with "The Recovery", Holly Repp with "The Lone Wolf", Sydney Wahle & "The Universe", Allie Shuler & "Criss Cross", Maria Biske & "Yellowstone", Emma Melliere & "Death Conquers None", Olivia Blaskiewicz & "The Wonderful Hogwarts", Jessica Lambert & "Friends Across The Land", Georgia Sasser & "Never Forget", Stephen Johns, Emma Tippen & The Likes of Two.



18th Annual Immaculate Conception Parish Christmas Party

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus---**FOR ALL THE PARISH!**

*Saturday, December 10, 2016 in the ICS Gym

*Doors open at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:45 p.m., and Dancing until 10:30 p.m. Soda & Beer Included with meal! The ICS Jazz Band will perform at 6:00! Music and Dancing provided by "A Family Affair"

Visit from Santa Claus! ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Reservations are required! Please pay in advance. Please contact John Haubrich for reservations at [618-281-6021](tel:618-281-6021) or email John at [kcchristmasparty@gmail.com](mailto:kccchristmasparty@gmail.com)

*Ticket information: *Adults (13 and older): \$12 *Children (ages 7–12): \$6 *Kids 6 and under: FREE!

I hope you made your reservation!

LOOKING FOR A FUN THING TO DO OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK? ~~ 8th grade is having a roller skating party at Rollercade in South County on Wednesday, December 28th 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 in to the ICS Office marked Roller skating and if you have a specific 8th grader that you want the credit to go to, please mark in envelope. If you have any questions please contact Sue Dalpoas at 314.265.4263 or Ellen Sippel at 314.283.8310. Thank you!

Joy of love tee shirts this week--- Eli Thebeau, Sadie Metz, Reagan Kenner, Thomas Schaefer.

Chess 2016-2017 Practice Schedule:

Practices for Grades 1&2: Tues 1/10, Tues 1/31, Tues 2/21, Tues 3/14

Practices for Grades 3&4: WEDNESDAY 12/14 Tues 1/17, Tues 2/7, Tues 2/28, Tues 3/21

Practices for grades 5-8: Tues 12/20, Tues 1/24, Tues 2/14, Tues 3/7, Tues 3/28

THE SPORTING NEWS...Good luck to our Varsity and Junior Girls basketball teams this weekend at Olney for the Diocesan Tournament!. It was on my radar to attend Saturday's games but the funeral for Dennis Rickert and being there for cousin Sandy is at 10:00 tomorrow. Let's have a strong finish to our season! Say hi to Principal Carol Potter for me!

FUNDERWEAR We are now tied at 4 in the 8th year of the competition with SSPPCS, having lost 2,564 to our 1,902. Over 25,000 items have been donated to Day Star since Principal Lisa Buchheit came up with this idea! The game was close but we lost. Still, a great evening and Day Star won!

CROSS COUNTRY 2017? We are looking to gauge interest in the 2017 ICS Cross Country Team. Cross country is a popular sport in our area. Middle School aged kids run approximately 1.86 miles in the races. Training begins in late August and ends early October and can be done in conjunction with soccer. The Goal of CC is not to win races but to develop self confidence by focusing on individual improvement. **Please let Mrs. Tara Kennedy tkennedy@icsmail.org know if you think your child might be interested so we can plan for next year.**

BASKETBALL TEAM PICTURES will take place on Dec. 12.

5th Boys 4:45 (home game 5:30)

7th Girls 5:00 (no game)

5th Girls 5:15 (no game)

6th Boys 5:30 (home game 6:15?)

6th Girls 5:45 (no game)

8th Girls 6:00 (no game)

8th Boys 6:15 (home game 7:00?)

SEE Link ORDER FORM!

TASK FOR NOVEMBER - set your thermostat to at least 2 degrees cooler in the winter.

The following is excerpted from Energy.gov. You can easily save energy in the winter by setting the thermostat to 68°F while you're awake and setting it lower while you're asleep or away from home. By turning your thermostat back by 10° - 15° for 8 hours, you can save about 5% - 15% a year on your heating bill – a savings of as much as 1% for each degree if the setback period is 8 hours long.

A common misconception associated with thermostats is that a furnace works harder than normal to warm the space back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings. This misconception has been dispelled by years of research and numerous studies.

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...

Christmas Concert: Gibault Catholic proudly presents its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11, at 7PM featuring our concert band, jazz band, chorus and a cappella singers, The Hawkappellas. The concert is free and open to the public. Cheers!

Glo Dance : Gibault is hosting a dance for 7th / 8th grade students on Saturday, January 21, from 7-9PM in the Gibault cafeteria. Admission is \$3 or 3 canned goods for the Hope Christian food pantry.

DECEMBER FAMILY PROJECT Go to confession together as a family. **DECEMBER 11 AT 3:00 AT SACRED HEART IN DUPO.** Go as a family and then go out for ice cream and some family fun. Young children may need guidance in preparing for the sacrament; discuss with them how one might sin in regard to the Commandments and precepts of the Church. Older children might instead independently review A Guide to Confession (#2075) or a similar examination of conscience. Share with your children that although it's normal to feel some shame when preparing for confession, it should not be something to fear. Through reconciliation and penance, a person is released from the burden of sin and gifted with great graces.

PRAYERS PLEASE for

Bill Kesler, Brad's dad, (Angie, Gavin, Logan, Carter) is home recovering.

ICS supporter **Delores Deleveski** who has been in and out of the hospital for upper respiratory issues....

Pat Whelan, Great Grandma of Ben and Owen Haney who is hospitalized with bronchitis....

Jan Walsh, Great Aunt to Ben and Owen Haney who is hospitalized for tests....

WHEN WE MOURN WITH OTHERS ON THEIR LOSS WE ARE RESPECTFUL. WHEN WE REMEMBER THEM, IT IS HOLY.

OUR CONDOLENCES to the families of

Bob Tyler, Joe and Emma's grandfather(Ryand and Catie) has died too young at age 68. Visitation at Leesman funeral home in Dupo Friday 4-8 and Saturday 9-10 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Cahokia. Funeral mass at 10 followed by burial at Valhalla in Belleville. God's peace to his loved ones and all who knew him!

Dennis Rickert, my aunt's brother, died last night at 74. He was a former Deacon with the Diocese of Belleville. Cousin Sandy's family has gotten very small and is she is suffering from another loss. She lost her Dad at age 3 and her brother when he was 33. He will be laid to rest at St. Augustine in Belleville tomorrow.

Brad Kesler's grandma, **Stella Kesler**, (Angie, Gavin, Logan, Carter) passed away at 96 years old. God's peace to her family and a lifetime of memories going forward!

PRAVYERS: Special Intention Delores Deleveski, Jan Walsh, Pat Whelan, Bill Kesler, Dan Borisuk, Denise Conner, Leigh-Anne Feldker, Maggie Williamson, Dan Whelan, Patricia Steppig, Lauren Foran, Rich Cullen, Barb Winschel, Jessica Stemler Barcik, Josh Ritter, Stella Moll, Gertrude Scherrer, Henry Scott Dabbs, Carolyn Baker, Scott Schaefer, Katy Basinski, Chrissy Hoeflinger, Barbara Buchheit, Angie Rose, Ken Bolton, Nick Carron, Mary Giovanni, Roy Lansing, Sis Blaes, Arlin Stechmesser, Marcella Heinrichs, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure,

CANTS FORMS We have 275 forms out. The Diocese has over 15,000 volunteers to track. Please fill yours out and get them in so we can coach our teams and attend all the field trips coming up!

FULL STEWARDSHIP We have 368 in so far and would like 1,553. We have attached it again.
Page One Page Two We know many of you are good stewards but signing on the bottom line helps remind us of the commitment. We are not a tuition free school. We are a Full Stewardship parish and a Full Stewardship school for those completing the pledge between you and your God and meeting the guidelines. At this time, our budget for the year is \$11,000 down and it may just be a timing issue. We are doing amazing things and the more our parishioners buy-in, the more good we can do, and the more you let "God in" to your life. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Mike Kish, Principal

PS [Columbia Khouri League registration link](#)

PS Happy Birthday to Mrs. Jeanne Kish. Grandma Jeanne is special to the Pre-K and the oldest guy in the place!

PS If Santa rode around on a dragon with big teeth instead of a reindeer and sleigh, it would put some meaning into the "naughty or nice" campaign.

A BIG WELCOME TO KEITH HUELS who will be taking Mr. Stan Osterhage's place as Parish Business Manager. Keith recently joined our School Board and has been very active in our parish in many ways! Here is Fr. Carl's clip from the bulletin.

Announcement From Fr. Carl... Announcement From Fr. Carl... Announcement From Fr. Carl... I'm happy to announce that Keith Huels has accepted the position of our Parish Business Manager, replacing Stan Osterhage, who retired at the end of November after nearly 14 ½ years of dedicated service to our parish. After Stan announced his retirement plans in early September, I formed a search committee of parish leaders, who assisted me in reviewing the resumes we received from 15 applicants, 11 of whom were members of our parish. I am grateful to all our applicants, and appreciate the passion they have for service to the Church. Keith has been a member of our parish for 12 years, and he and his wife Cathy have two young boys, Daniel and David. Keith grew up in St. Clare Parish in O'Fallon, IL, and is a graduate of Althoff Catholic High School in Belleville. He is a Certified Public Accountant and has a Master's Degree in Business Administration, and until August of 2015 was employed at Mallinckrodt Corporation as Director of Finance, Science and Technology, where he worked for 33 years. He recently passed the Certified Financial Planner exam and is a licensed investment advisor, served for six years on our Parish Finance Council, is a member of our Parish Facilities and Property Task Force, and was recently appointed to fill an unexpired term on our ICS School Board. Keith will formally begin his duties as our Parish Business Manager on January 3, 2017. I hope you will join me in welcoming Keith to our parish staff.



The Cross Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM Friday, December 9, 2016

The cross is a perfect metaphor for what we mean by “Everything Belongs.” The rational, calculating mind can never fully understand the mystery of the cross. These insights can only be discovered through contemplative seeing:

God is to be found in *all things*, even and most especially in the painful, tragic, and sinful things, exactly where we do not want to look for God. The crucifixion of the God-Man is at the same moment the worst thing in human history and the best thing in human history.

Human existence is neither perfectly consistent (as rational and control-needy people usually demand it be), nor is it incoherent chaos (what cynics, agnostics, and unaware people expect it to be). Instead, *life has a cruciform pattern*. All of life is a “coincidence of opposites” (St. Bonaventure), a collision of cross-purposes; we are all filled with contradictions needing to be reconciled. This is the precise burden and tug of all human existence.

The price that we pay for holding together these opposites is invariably some form of “crucifixion.” Jesus himself was archetypally hung between a good thief and a bad thief, between heaven and earth, holding together both his humanity and his divinity, a male body with a feminine soul. He was a Jewish believer who forgave and loved everyone else. He “reconciled all things in himself” (Ephesians 2:14-18). Jesus really is an icon of what Carl Jung called the *whole-making instinct*.

The demand for the perfect is the enemy of the possible good. Be peace and do justice, but don’t expect perfection in yourself or the world. Perfectionism contributes to intolerance and judgmentalism and makes ordinary love largely impossible. Jesus was an absolute realist, patient with the ordinary, the broken, the weak, and those who failed. Following him is not a “salvation scheme” or a means of creating some ideal social order as much as it is a *vocation to share the fate of God for the life of the World, and to love the way that God loves—which we cannot do by ourselves*.

The doctrine, folly, and image of the cross is the great clarifier and truth-speaker for all of human history. We can rightly speak of being “saved” by it. Jesus crucified and resurrected is the whole pattern revealed, named, effected, and promised for human history. Jesus did not come to found a separate or new religion as much as he came to present a universal message of vulnerability and foundational unity that is necessary for all religions, the human soul, and history itself to survive. Thus Christians can rightly call Jesus “the Savior of the World” (John 4:42), but no longer in the competitive and imperialistic way that they have usually presented him. By very definition, vulnerability and unity do not compete or dominate. The cosmic Christ is no threat to anything but separateness, illusion, domination, and the imperial ego. In that sense, Jesus, the Christ, is the ultimate threat, but first of all to Christians themselves.

Exam Schedule
for First Semester
16-17

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6	7	8 Feast of Immaculate Conception Pre-Algebra C1 and C2 Math	9 Pre-Algebra Algebra C1 and C2 Math
12 English 6 Algebra	13 Science 8	14 Sr. Thea Bowman and Reconciliation	15	16
19 6 History 7 English	20 7 History 8 English	21 8 History Science 7 Science 6	22 No School	21 No School
January				
2 No School	3	4	5	6 Geog 8 Geog 7