



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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CELEBRATING 162 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.

OPEN THE DOORS OF MERCY!

December 11, 2015

V. 41 #25

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,



Pope Francis opens the door for the Holy Year... "Be merciful as your Father is merciful."

The **17TH ANNUAL PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY** is tomorrow and hosted by our Knights of Columbus (you don't have to be a member to come!) Doors open at 5:30 p.m., our Jazz Band plays at 6:00 and Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m., Soda & Beer included with meal. Music and Dancing provided by "A Family Affair"---expect a visit from Santa Claus! *Reservations required. Contact John Haubrich at [618.281.6021](tel:618.281.6021) or email John at kcchristmasparty@gmail.com

THE I.C.S. CRAFT FAIR AND CHRISTMAS COOKIE & CANDY BOOTH What a day! Holly Balskiewicz and crew led the way and Desiree Frasure and the Cookie Booth set a new record! More info coming but till then---THANK YOU!

BAND AND ART Another great evening last night! Thanks to Mr. Hake and Mrs. Fetcho, Mrs. Whelan for set-up, Mrs. Prindiville for tune-up, the Faculty for supervision, Fr. Carl for his seasonal prayer, our students for bringing us culture, and to you for filling the house and honoring Jesus "Carpenter"

2015 K—3 Christmas Play **December 14- 15 at 7:00.** Arrive in costume no later than 6:30pm.
The Night That Changed the World



FUNDERWEAR: WE WON 3,475 to 2,683! We also won the game in a thriller by 2! And Day Star was the big winner! Thanks to Lexi Hennes and Spencer Biske and Jack Burke and the Builders Club and our school for this great work of charity! Kudos to SPPCS Principal Lisa Buchheit for the 7th annual event. We are up 4-3!

ICS student artists are competing in the School Block Challenge competition held at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky and sponsored by Moda Fabrics. Students from around the country compete in this competition every year. Mrs. Fetcho and Mrs. Weiler have high hopes for another win this year. Our student quilts will be on display for the first quarter of 2016 at the National Quilt Museum in Kentucky. Students competing are:



Spencer Biske and Noah Chism with "A Piece of Pi"
 Ally Curry, Jacob Whitworth and Noah Newton with "Patriotic Elvis"
 Kyra Newton with "Wonderland"
 Stephen Johns with "Starburst"
 Holly Repp with "Spring Time Color Burst"
 Jessica Lambert and Katie Grawitch with "Tree of Converse"
 Emma Melliere with "A Day in the Jungle"
 Isabella Frasure and Maria Biske with "Growing in Faith"
 Jacqie Gogolek with "Fall Scene"
 Emma Tippen with "Emoji's Galore"
 Allison Shuler with "Twisted"
 Marie Prindiville with "The Infinity Square"
 Georgia Sasser with "Bears in the Air"

Schools are sent 3 fabrics which must be used in the 16"x16" quilt block of any design. They can be traditional or of your own creative design. Mrs. Fetcho and Mrs. Weiler help them along with their ideas and guide them through, but they must do their own piecing, pattern making, fusing and sewing. We are very proud of them and wish them all good luck.

BUILDERS CLUB *"Well done good and faithful servants. Because you have been faithful in a few things, I will place you over many."* We won Funderwear. The **Griffin Center has called** and asked us for **75 gifts for next Friday** to present to the children they serve...over 500 students in an after-school program. Students should pick a gift they would like to receive, wrap it, and label it boy/girl and age. Giving a gift to someone you might never meet is a spiritual work of mercy. We usually double their request. Please have them in Thursday. If you can't wrap, we will. God bless you!



Tom Muhlvilve, Admissions Director of St. John Vianney High School in St. Louis, presented us our banner last week and provided a faculty meal for us. 25 schools---250 students---quite an accomplishment over 5 academic areas!

CONGRATULATIONS to these ICS grads who are **ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS:**

Jackie Merkel-Notre Dame, Hope Drennan-Columbia, Andrew Freyman-Columbia, Lauren Schmidt-Gibault, Monica Shuler-Gibault We are proud of you!

RESOURCE AT ICS We have a great program here that helps students "demystify" why they are having troubles and helping them "cope" their way around it to the point that many become independent and do not need services as they age---just the way it ought to be! We would like to expand the power of this program. Mrs. Zika is really spread too thin. In January, we would like to broaden our reach to students and we could use some extra help. We are looking for a volunteer(s) to help read tests to students. This would involve scheduling test-reading time with participating teachers on a weekly basis. If you are interested, please contact Diane Zika at dzika@icsmail.org or by calling ICS (281-5353). Thank you.



HOW DO YOU TAKE A PICTURE OF A LANGUAGE? You can't. The language of the Internet is coding. Apps, web pages, texting, gaming, all things we do through computers comes from code. **Immaculate Conception School in Columbia is hosting a school-wide Hour of Code event December 7-11** to expose its students to computer science in a deeper way. Students in Grades 1-8 will receive one hour of coding instruction during the week, joining over 100 million students worldwide who have already tried an Hour of Code. Thanks to the Hour of Code, computer science was on the homepages of Google, MSN, Yahoo! and Disney.

HOUR OF CODE AT CODE.ORG is a non-profit organization and eponymous website led by [Hadi Partovi](#) that aims to encourage people, particularly school students in the United States, to learn computer science. The website includes free coding lessons, and the initiative also targets schools in an attempt to encourage them to include more computer science classes in the curriculum.



The **HOUR OF CODE** is gateway toward providing all students with access to high-quality computer science education. America needs to encourage and embrace students' interest in computer science. Every student deserves the chance to learn computer science to access the best careers of the 21st century. So if your broadband slows down a little this week during school hours, we hope it is due to an **HOUR OF CODE!**

BEATING HOMEWORK HASSLES

1. Pick a location at home
2. Focus
3. Supplies ready
4. No distractions
5. Set regular time
6. Stick to routine
7. Praise the effort, not the result

And always, analyze the product or result---did I only get one section of the test wrong? Did I follow directions? Did I give the right answer to the wrong question? Did I study the right material? Would paying better attention in class have led me to a better outcome?

TIRED TEDDIES We passed on 143 gently used stuffed animals for redistribution to local First Responders through your generosity via Angie Mertz at Strano! Thanks!

FULL STEWARDSHIP Please turn in your commitment by January 4. Thank you!

MENU UPDATE: Dec. 17: Mini Corn dogs, broccoli, pretzels, pears
Dec. 18: Papa Johns-Pepperoni, Romaine salad, pineapple, chocolate chip cookies

In case of snow and changes to the school day, you will get a robo-call from Mr. Kish. There is a possibility we could have a "Late" Start to school. This would be a 2 hour delay to the school day, buses will run on that schedule. If roads are bad we could also have "snow routes" which means the routes are condensed. If you have signed up with the transportation office, these were listed on your sheet. If you have questions regarding the condensed route, call Patty or Brenda at 281-6555.

ICS PARENTS & FRIENDS DECEMBER MEETING DATE has been changed to accommodate the Christmas play. We will be meeting on DECEMBER 16 at 7 at Mokka in Columbia. Buffet dinner---our annual ornament exchange---lots of laughs!

We have Entertainment books for \$25 each(11 months left.) Great gifts that keep on giving!

Perfect Christmas Gifts for Teachers! The Parents & Friends Teacher Gift Program is underway! Thanks to all those who have returned envelopes so far. An information flyer and a contribution envelope were sent home to each family on Tuesday. The final day for the program is Tuesday, Dec. 15. 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 **Tuesday, December 15th**. Please email Lynetta Newton at Lsnewton@htc.net if you have any questions.

UPDATE ON DAN WHELAN

Dear ICS Family,

Dan and I want to thank you all for your continued support and prayers. At this time, and for the immediate future, Dan and I will be traveling to Houston, Texas to work with the doctors there for a treatment of his cancer. We were encouraged by Dan's team of doctors here to get another opinion from MD Anderson Cancer Hospital. The doctors there are very encouraging and hopeful something can be done to help Dan. His cancer is so rare that even at this special hospital, they have never seen it. Dan will be undergoing immunotherapy as well as a few other trial things they are considering. At some point in time, he may have to have surgery, but that is a future discussion. We have family in the Houston area, so we are surrounded by love on that front. And since Dan is still an employee of Southwest Airlines, we are able to travel between the cities with ease and at no expense. Our children are doing well, and appreciate all the prayers and kind words. Please keep praying for Dan and for all who are sick as well as their caretakers. When we can think of nothing else to do, praying is what will get us through. Dan and I are blessed because of all of you --Sincerely -- Laura and Dan Whelan

CHESS NEWS-

The remaining practice schedule will be as follows: Important Chess News: Please note due to the date change for the K-3 Christmas Program next week, there will be NO CHESS PRACTICE for grades 1-3 on Tuesday, December 15th.

Lower Grades (1-3):- Jan. 12, Jan. 26, Feb. 9, Feb. 23, March 8, March 22

Upper Grades (4-8): Jan. 5, Jan. 19, Feb. 2, Feb. 16, March 1, March 15

ASK ME ABOUT MY MERCY SHIRT This week: Mason Voegel-Cam Donjon-Summer Harrington-Charley Stewart-Mary Ann Imhoff

ADVENT RECONCILIATION is scheduled for December 15 at 1:00 and 1:45.

1:00-Grades 3,5,7

1:45-Grades 4,6,8 Feel welcome to join us!

FR. BOB'S OUTREACH Jack Burke and Family have annually participated in this outreach and they need help assembling Christmas meals for 4500 families. Maybe this could be some service hours for Confirmation or a family seasonal good deed tomorrow.

WHO: 7th and 8th graders and parents--boxes get somewhat heavy once everything gets in them

WHEN: the next date to help is Saturday, Dec 12 from 9am - 1pm

WHERE: 5017 Maffitt at Kingshighway

ROLLERCADE FUNDRAISER

Price: \$8.00 per skater w/regular skate rental \$3.00 extra for inline skate

DECEMBER 29, 2015 Time: 4:15-6:30

Rollercade, [11703 Baptist Church Rd, Saint Louis, MO 63128](http://11703BaptistChurchRd.SaintLouis.MO.63128) www.rollercadeskating.com

I love "God-winks" and human interest stories. We all have them. Dan Kassebaum ran smack into one after the Blues game Tuesday night...you won't believe where it ends up...

Howdy, neighbor,

Tuesday evening on the way home from the Blues game I had an amazing experience. I like to ride the Metro-Link, as there is a station in Belleville about two minutes from my room. During my ride, I noticed a young nurse in scrubs trying to get the attention of the conductor of the train. After a while and in frustration she sat down. As the train emptied along its route, we finally got to the Belleville station and this same person exited the train with most of the rest of the passengers. As we made our way down the platform, we had to wait at the crossing as the train departed. While waiting I could hear the nurse speaking to the attendant about the bus schedule. As I overheard, it was now after 10:30 and the few busses running were on extended routes that required much longer waits.

In my car and leaving the parking lot, I was to pass directly in the path of the nurse as she waited at the bus stop. Having witnessed several Blues fans a half-hour earlier making rude comments such as, "get a job", to a homeless person trying to collect enough money to buy food and/or shelter for the evening, I felt bad that I walked passed and avoided placing myself in the storm that may have ensued had I intervened. At this present situation, I did not balk. Noticing the weary body language of the nurse and seeing her turn her collar and tighten her hood against the cold, I stopped and rolled down my window and asked if she was stranded and did she live close by? She eagerly accepted my ride and asked if I knew the location of the skating rink in Belleville.

If you are not so familiar with Belleville, Fun-Spot Roller Rink is just down the street from Belleville East High School and two minutes from St. Theresa, my family's alma mater and parish. Before I continue, I need to fill you in on growing up in suburban Belleville in the late sixties. My neighborhood had eleven young families with kids all enrolled at either, St. Theresa, Zion Lutheran or Whiteside and by my count 30 of us all in grade school at the same time. This meant giving rides and doing favors for neighbors on a daily basis the norm and the boundaries between siblings and the extended families of neighbor kids a blur. The dinner table at any of these houses likely had an additional mouth or two to feed with regularity. This went as far as my mom to include in her grocery shopping items that some of the neighbor kids liked. Jeff A. a grade school and high school friend of mine was the greatest benefactor of this practice.

Another aside to the story is an addition to my neighborhood, which took place in the late seventies. Rental property was the investment boom at the time and developers had plans to build apartments and extend our dead-end street all the way to West Boulevard. The neighbors and my dad were not at all happy. Property values were not a concern of mine at the time and I guess ours had gone up, but I can recall in 1977 when my parents bought a brand new Monte Carlo; the car cost more than our house, a three, bedroom ranch, which was purchased new in 1961. How soon for my neighbors and dad, a thirty-year union employee of the Alton & Southern Railroad in East St. Louis, to forget that like they; of the newer young families needing affordable housing.

With that mind, I proceeded to drive towards Fun-Spot and in the car, we began to exchange information. She mentioned she worked in south St. Louis as a nurse's assistant and I then noticed she had a southern accent. She said she was from northern Florida, near Mobile, AL, pronouncing it Mo-bil and not Mo-beel, as I would have done. She mentioned her oldest son was here for special needs concerning his speech and that there were two younger brothers of school age. Since Fun-Spot is very near my old neighborhood, I asked if they went to Whiteside, which they did. I told her I went to school

at Whiteside from 1968-1977.

At this my mind began to race; she's taking the train home from St. Louis; she almost certainly took a bus from her workplace in south St. Louis to downtown; rode the Metro-Link into Belleville; then would need another bus ride to get her in walking distance to her house. When stranded at the train station in Belleville, she did not call anyone for a ride; she has three school age boys at home; and those geniuses back at the Blues game are taunting the homeless to get a job, and this poor creature, tired, weary and having to endure a 90-minute commute. What taunts might those same Blues fans give to the working poor?

She asked me my name and noticed that the Beatles were playing on the radio, made a pleasant comment about the song and indicated as to where I needed to turn. Just past Fun-Spot we turned east onto the street of my childhood, of my old house sold years ago after my dad died and I thought for sure she would ask me to stop at 20 Eastland Drive, my old address. We did not; we stopped at those hated (now glorious) apartments where three young boys slept waiting for their mom to get home from work.

In 1968, it would have been unthinkable for my mom or dad to leave stranded at a game or at school one of the neighbor kids (Annette, Cathy, Craig, Duane, Daryl, David, Bobby, Jimmy, Terry, Steve ...) without offering a ride. So in 2015, what signals are at play that this should happen? I like to think my dad was sitting shotgun and nudging me to notice one of the newer neighbor kids from the apartments needing a ride.

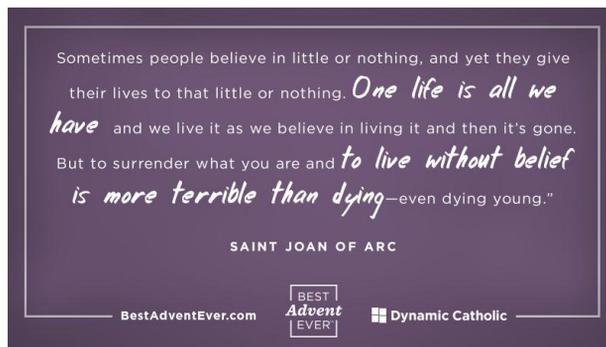
John Steinbeck might add, "What pillow can one have like a good conscience".

THE SPORTING NEWS... Marie Prindiville's team place 4th and she placed 72nd of 147 in the **AAU Cross Country National Championship Race**. She ran a very respectable 12:33 which was only a little off her best time even though she hadn't been able to practice due to illness the week prior. Good going Marie!

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

7th & 8th Grade Students... **Gibault Junior High Glow Dance---** Monday, **Dec. 28th**, from 7pm-9pm in the **Gibault Cafeteria**. Admission is 2 canned goods or \$3. Dress casual-jeans/tops.

FRESHMAN REGISTRATION Mar 14 & 16 from 5PM – 8PM.



Francis opens Jubilee year with call for church that puts mercy before judgment

Pope Francis celebrates the opening Mass of the Holy Year of Mercy in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Dec
VATICAN CITY

Pope Francis has launched his yearlong push for a global Catholic church of mercy and forgiveness, starting the Jubilee year focused on the subject by opening the holy door at St. Peter's Basilica and calling for a church that always puts mercy before judgment.

"This Extraordinary Holy Year is itself a gift of grace," Francis said during the homily at the Mass. "To enter through the Holy Door means to rediscover the deepness of the mercy of the Father who welcomes all and goes out to meet everyone personally." The pontiff was speaking in the Mass opening the Jubilee year of mercy, which will continue from Tuesday through Nov. 20, the day celebrated next year as the feast of Christ the King. A Jubilee year is a special year called by the Catholic church to receive blessing and pardon from God and remission of sins. While most Jubilees have been focused on calling pilgrims to Rome to receive such pardon, Francis has widely expanded his Jubilee, asking that dioceses throughout the world open their own holy door at a cathedral or other church to expand the practice globally. Francis opened the holy door in St. Peter's Basilica towards the end of the Mass Tuesday. Standing in front of the door, located at the northeast corner of the Vatican basilica, the pontiff asked God to grant "a year of grace, a favorable time to love you and our brothers and sisters in the joy of the Gospel." Calling Jesus "the shining face of your infinite mercy, safe refuge for us sinners, needing of forgiveness and peace" and saying that Christ is the door "through which we come to [God]," the pope pushed through the door open slowly with both hands while walking through. Both Francis' homily at the Mass and the ceremony itself also paid tribute to the Second Vatican Council, which officially closed its work on Dec. 8, 1965. The Council, known colloquially as Vatican II, has been a hot point for conversation in Catholic circles over the past 40 years, with some praising its work to reform certain aspects of the church's teachings and others saying those reforms may have gone too far or have been misinterpreted. In a special Angelus prayer following the Mass Tuesday with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square for the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Francis said the celebration of Mary's birth becomes a celebration for all through a daily "yes" to let go of selfishness and to make the lives of our brothers and sisters in the world happier. "Today's feast of the Immaculate Conception has a specific message to communicate to us: It reminds us that in our life all is gift, all is mercy," said the pontiff. "The Holy Virgin ... helps us to rediscover always more divine mercy as the distinctive characteristic of the Christian." "It is the synthesis-word of the Gospel, mercy," he said. "It is the fundamental trait of the face of Christ: that face that we recognize in the diverse aspects of his existence: when he goes out to meet all, when he heals the sick, when he sits at table with sinners, and most of all when, nailed to the cross, he pardons; there we see the face of divine mercy." The closing of the Mass Tuesday emphasized that while the Jubilee year is oriented towards evincing God's immeasurable mercy towards us, it also is meant as a forceful push to show Catholics around the world to be merciful to one another -- and to everyone else.

"Be merciful as your Father is merciful," a deacon intoned, ending the liturgy.

ADVENT AWAITS THE NATIVITY. As a school, we await the birth of Baby Meyer and Baby Taylor. New life reminds us of all we have in common as God's people. All the best to Emily and Jon and Baby Meyer and our prayers for a successful delivery(due December 28)! Kelsey Dinges will be filling the maternity leave. She did her student teaching in grade 2 and is a Cathedral Grade School, Althoff High School, and Miami of Ohio graduate. In college, she led the Division I soccer team in goals AND assists her sophomore, junior and senior year. She has glowing recommendations from her cooperating teacher and high school Principal Dave Harris. (And she has subbed here and was great!) Welcome to the team Kelsey!

SILENT HIDDEN GESTATION FR. RON ROLHEISER, OMI

Some years ago, I visited the Holy Land. It's a strangely different place. Nobody doubts that. Virtually every inch of its soil has been soaked in blood, including the blood of Christ himself, and history leaps out at you from every rock. Ancient things from beyond our time seem to come to surface there and mix with the things of today. When you stand in its sacred

spots, you begin to understand why Moses was told to take his shoes off and why, through the centuries, so many wars have been fought over this small strip of desert.

It is aptly named the Holy Land. I walked its ground, barefoot in soul, for several weeks.

Of all the things I saw there, however, including the tomb of Christ itself, none touched me as deeply as did the Church of the Visitation. It stands in sharp contrast to many of the other churches there which mark the key events in Christ's life. Unlike these other churches, the Church of the Visitation is a very modest building and is basically unadorned. You don't see any gold or marble there. Its wooden walls and oak ceiling are plain and mostly bare. However, on the front wall, behind the altar, there is a painting that depicts the scene of the Visitation. It was this painting of Elizabeth and Mary that struck me so deeply. It's a picture of two peasant women, both pregnant, greeting each other. Everything about it suggests smallness, littleness, obscurity, dust, small-town, insignificance. What you see is two rather plain-looking women, standing in the dust of an unknown village. Nothing suggests that either of them, or anything they are doing or carrying, is out of the ordinary or of much significance. Yet, and this is the genius of the painting, all that littleness, obscurity, seeming barrenness, and small-town insignificance makes you automatically ask the question: "Who would have thought it? Who could ever have imagined that these two women, in this obscure town, in this obscure place, in this obscure time, were carrying inside of themselves something that would radically and forever change the world?"

Who would have thought it? Yet, it's true. *What these obscure peasant women were gestating and carrying inside of themselves would one day change history more than any army, any philosopher, any artist, any King or Queen, or any entertainment star ever would.* Inside of themselves, they were gestating the Christ and the Prophet. These births changed the world radically. Today we even measure time by the event of those births. We live in the year 2015 AD, that is, after that event. There is a lesson in that: Never underrate, in terms of world importance, someone living in obscurity who is pregnant with promise. Never underestimate the impact in history of silent, hidden gestation. We might well meditate this image: Insofar as we have real significance all of us live in obscurity, pregnant with promise, silently, in away hidden to the world, gestating that which will change time and history. If we understood this, there would be more peace in our lives, one of the raging fires inside of us would torment us much less.

There is a deep restlessness in all of us that can only be stilled by understanding this for all of us live that martyrdom of obscurity, the martyrdom of a life within which we do not have adequate self-expression.

There is a relentless pressure inside of each of us that pushes us to be known, to make a difference, to make our lives count in terms of the big picture. Thus, we yearn to do great things, big things, things that affect beyond the boundaries of the small towns we all live in. Invariably then we sit inside of our own lives and we feel unknown, small-time, undistinguished and frustrated because almost all of our riches are still unknown to others. We have so much to give to the world, but the world doesn't know about us. What we need to bring us some peace is what is expressed in that painting in the Church of the Visitation, namely, that what changes the world is what we give birth to when, in the obscurity and dust of our small towns and within the frustration of lives that will always seem too small for us, we become pregnant with hope and, after a long, humble gestation process, a process which is not advertised or known to the world, we bring that hope to full term.

A songwriter once said: "Many's the bottle of wine that's never been drunk—and many's the thought that's never been thunk!" I look at what hope did when it was gestated in obscurity and ask: "Who would have thunk it?"

DIOCESAN INFO: St. Clare is the largest of the 27 schools in the Diocese with 492 student followed by St. Theresa and SPPCS with 319 and ICS with 314. Some schools have very large PreS-PreK-K numbers which is a good sign if they matriculate in. 771 Pre-K 4140 K-8 1027 High School
Gibault has 245 Mater Dei 412 Althoff 370

VOCATIONS: The Vocation Office is holding a discernment retreat for young men, juniors in high school through age 35. The retreat is being held at Our Lady of the Snows December 19-21. ***Will you please help by personally inviting at least one young man in your parish to attend?*** Mass, Confession, spiritual direction, camaraderie, and plenty of time for prayer and reflection. Note that men don't need to want to become priests to attend - just open to God's call! We'll be talking about how to discover where God is calling, whether to marriage, priesthood, or religious life. Register: www.bellevillevocations.com. In Christ, Fr. Nick Junker, *Vocation Director*

Monroe County is celebrating its 200th anniversary and the folks are having a gathering on January 16 at the Hecker- Dome to help start the party. This will be a good time and tickets are going fast I hear. Gather your family and friends and celebrate 1816! Do it today. 939-8925 **Louis "Hutch" Schlafly**, longtime Columbia Chamber of Commerce President and Columbia National Bank Chairman, 71, died yesterday at St. Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis. He had been hospitalized for several days. Funeral arrangements are pending. Hutch was a former ICS School Board President, a parish usher, and very active in our community. We are going to miss this good man. Our prayers to his wife Gracia, ICS grads Aaron and Jane and their spouses and grandchildren Brian and Zelda. The family is planning a Memorial Mass here on Sat., Dec. 19, with a funeral lunch to follow (exact time to be determined). Lou had requested that his body be donated to Washington University Medical School. Funeral arrangements are pending at this time.

Mike Wisneski is our 11:00 Sunday drummer every week . He lovingly brought his mom **Florence Wisneski** to sit behind him quite often. She passed away last Sunday. Please say a prayer for the family. Thanks!

Mrs. Stechmesser's husband Arlin is responding well to his cancer treatment and the hormone treatment is working. His numbers and other symptoms are down. He's feeling great! He will continue this treatment for "the duration" adding other things if/as needed. The long term prognosis is still 3 – 5 years, but that's a lot better than months. And a lot can happen in that time frame. Thank you so much for your prayers, support, jokes, good vibes, etc. We really appreciate it! Diane

PRAYERS: Steve Wilkerson, Denise Conner, Connie Huebner, Kevin Diehl, Roy Lansing, Dan Whelan, Josh Ritter, Christian Matrisotto, Sis Blaes, Brian Sherman, Arlin Stechmesser, Eve Dorshorst, Russell Sheddon, Marcella Heinrichs, Rick Abrahamson, Josephine Chapman, Florence Dorshorst, Bill Pennock, Patty Juengling, Marian Keim, Pat Weber, Ed Hengel, Vince Webb, George Stein, Desiree Frasure, **Special Intention**

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? John the Baptizer gets asked this question a lot in Luke's Gospel this weekend. The human response is "*we know what we should do. We just can't get ourselves to do it.*" I don't know what you should do but as for me, I will believe that God said "enough of this slaughter. I am sending my only beloved Son and there will be one Sacrifice for all and it is done with." No more slaughter. No more bloodshed. Mercy---compassion---following His way as best I can. Let us rejoice. It is "Guadete Sunday". A Pink Candle will be lit to remind us our journey is half over.

Mike Kish
Principal

PS Happy Birthday to Jeanne Kish on December 9. I know she had a fun day! She lives with a fungi!

Ps **MERCY!** May everyone remember compassion year long! Mandy Borgmeyer's acronym.

PS **Welcome to Kelsey Dinges today. Please make her feel welcome!**

[PS-Soccer Clinic in Memory of Zac Epplin-see attached flyer](#)

Upper Grade Exam Schedule

December Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
14 English 6 Course 2 math Weiler Algebra	15 History 6 History 7 History 8	16 Science 6 (Weiler and Taylor) Geography 8	17 History 6 vocabulary History 7 vocabulary History 8 vocabulary English 7 Course 2 Tolan	18 Course 2 Tolan Science 8 Science 7

January	January	January	January	January
4	5	6	7	8 Geography 7
11	12 English 8	13 End of Quarter 2		

SCHOLASTIC BOWL SCHEDULE(only 4 schools are smaller than us)

Monday, January 25th @ Queen of Peace
 Tuesday, January 26th Waterloo Jr. High School
 Monday, February 1st @ St. Teresa
 Thursday, February 4th Blessed Sacrament
 Tuesday, February 9th Queen of Peace
 Thursday, February 11th @ St. James
 Saturday, February 13th Mater Dei Tournament @ Mater Dei High
 Wednesday, February 17th St. Teresa
 Thursday, February 18th @ Blessed Sacrament
 Tuesday, February 23rd Columbia Middle School
 Thursday, February 25th St. James
 Wednesday, March 2nd @ St. Clare
 Monday, March 14th @ Triad
 Tuesday, March 15th Amelia Carriel Jr. High – O’Fallon
 Monday, March 21st Bl. Sacrament Tournament @ Bl. Sacrament
 Tuesday, March 22nd @ Edward Fulton Jr. High – O’Fallon
 Wednesday, March 30th Aviston
 Tuesday, April 5th Edward Fulton Jr. High – O’Fallon
 Thursday, April 7th Lincoln Middle School – Edwardsville
 Tuesday, April 12th @ Amelia Carriel Jr. High – O’Fallon
 Monday, April 18th Triad
 Wednesday, April 20th @ Aviston
 Wednesday, April 27th Regional
 Monday, May 2nd Sectional
 Friday, May 6th State



Band Schedule Week of Dec 14-18

Monday
 8:05-8:35 6th-8th Clarinet 2
 8:35-9:05 5th Flute
 9:05-9:35 6th-8th Flute and Clarinet 1
 10:35-11:05 4th Flutes
 11:05-11:35 4th Clarinet
Tuesday
 7:15-7:50 **Jazz Band**
 8:55-9:25 6th-8th Trumpet
 9:25-9:55 5th Clarinet

9:55-10:35 6th-8th Saxophone and F Horn
 11:05-11:35 4th Saxophone
 11:35-12:05 4th Trumpet
Wednesday
 8:05-9:05 **Concert Band Full Band**
 9:05-9:35 Percussion Ensemble
 10:35-11:35 **Beginning Band Full Band**
 1:15-2:15 **Intermediate Band Full Band**
Thursday
 8:55-9:25 6th-8th Percussion
 9:25-9:55 5th Saxophone
 9:55-10:35 6th-8th Low Brass
 11:05-11:35 4th Low Brass
 11:35-12:05 4th Percussion
Friday
 8:05-8:35 5th Low Brass

8:35-9:05 5th Percussion
9:05-9:35 5th Trumpet
10:35-11:05 Jazz Band Sectionals
11:05-11:35 Smart Music Lab