



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 18, 2015

V. 41 #26



Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Teacher, Friend,

A GOOD TIME TO SAY THANKS FOR... *A God who cares about us so much that He sent his only Begotten Son---if we can believe this, all things are possible. Remember faith is believing in the unbelievable.*

A Pope who has brought the reason for being Christian to the forefront. Jesus started with mercy and compassion for all and showed us how to live.

A Pastor who leads by example, smells like the sheep, and knows where the water is.

Families who live out their faith. Be it Catholic or Evangelical, or Lutheran or other Christian traditions. Faith is "caught-not taught".

A Faculty and Staff that go beyond the normal duties of the classroom teacher in helping to live out "Mission-Community-Service", our watchwords and convince our students their God loves them no matter what and they have a future full of hope.

Students who want to learn, want to own their education, see the big picture of God in their world.

Committees who can build a new church in tough times, sell old school buildings, build a new school, serve as the board, and raise funds on the side so the school can be a school like no other.

Full Stewardship---a parish commitment saying to the world that we will give our time, our talent, and our treasure back to God through God's people in order to do Jesus work here on earth. \$27,629 to St. Raymond's, 2% of our annual Sunday collection to over a dozen additional charities, plus all our local good works through St. Vincent DePaul and community charities.

A group that calls itself The Tinkers who fear no broken valve, no door adjustment, no weekly list of repairs on the office wall. Mike Whelan-Wayne Franklin-Denis Ling-Ed Beck-Don Happy-Chris Sueme-Pete Cottom-Rich Toenjes-Cal Fries-Wayne Gallagher-Tom Swip- and our Volunteers---you are our Wise Men!

And a blessed country built on law that must always remember law is the ideal and compassion and justice must rule till we achieve the ideal.

Enjoy the break. January begins the real chaos here with the start of the academic competition season and new year. No school till January 4.

Advent Reconciliation: If you were not able to make the Communal Reconciliation Service last Sunday, there will be a communal celebration of the Sacrament Sunday evening, December 20, at St. Mary's Parish in Valmeyer at 7:00 p.m. In keeping with the spirit of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Fr. Carl will be available for the Sacrament this Tuesday, December 22, from 7–9 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE... Christmas Eve: 5 p.m. and 12 Midnight (carols begin at 11:30 p.m.); Christmas Day : 9 a.m. and 11a.m.

ICY Caroling...It is that time of year again! We will be Caroling to the Homebound again this year, but with a new twist. The time has changed and we will be "hosting" Youth Groups from other Columbia Churches. Each church will bring a list of homebound to go to and everyone will be split up to go to different places. Remember this is a family event so anyone from 2-100 is welcome. We will meet at ICS Cafeteria on Sunday December 20, at 2:45 p.m. and be ready to leave by 3 p.m. Afterwards, we will come back to the cafeteria and enjoy refreshments!

Thanks for the outpouring of support this holiday season: Canned goods by the thousands, 2,197 Funderwear items, funds coming in for Kids Against Hunger, 135 gifts for the Griffin Center, gifts for Fr. Carl and Teachers and Staff. Your generosity is amazing and we are humbled by it!

TERRIFIC KIDS FOR DECEMBER 2015 CONGRATULATIONS!

Mrs. Diewald: **Hope Schwartz** - Hope is a hard worker and always does more than expected on her school work. She is a good friend to her classmates and is always willing to help others.

Mrs. Meyer: **Keegan Thompson** - He works hard in the classroom and completes his homework assignments. He is also a good friend to his classmates and keeps his desk organized.

Mrs. Wilkerson: **Mariska Lyle** - She has transitioned to our school very well! She is a hard worker in class and always does her homework and turns it in on time.

Mrs. Matrisotto: **Hailey Wilkerson** - She has worked very hard on completing her assignments, filling out her agenda, following along in class, and participating. Hailey is a very sweet girl who is respectful and kind to everyone.

Mrs. Donjon: **Nate Stechmesser** - Nate has been proving that he is an extremely hard worker. His work is turned in on time and he keeps his materials organized. I appreciate the effort Nate has been putting into every aspect of his school day here at school, and at home.

Mrs. Ettlign: **Brock Murphy** – Brock is respectful to everyone he works with and is motivated to work hard. He always adds so much to our class discussions and is a positive person.

Mrs. Taylor: **Danny Repp** - Danny is a kind and caring toward his classmates. He has a positive attitude and always works hard. Danny also helps me out in the classroom.

Mrs. Schauster: **Ben Haney** – Ben is a young man who always tries his hardest in the classroom. He is a cheerful worker who has lots to add to classroom discussions. Ben is truly a Terrific Kid.

BUILDERS CLUB Candy Canes \$145.29 profit! 605 meals for Kids Against Hunger! Thanks to chairpersons Maggie Schulte and those who donated the candy canes!



THE BUILDERS CLUB IS GEARING UP FOR ITS KIDS AGAINST HUNGER PROGRAM.

Hannah Janson is our Director. The product in the bag they are holding tastes like chicken and rice, has a 3 year shelf life, and will feed 6 people at a cost of about \$1.45. We hope to do over 14,000 meals on February 6. Last year we raised over \$3,000 for this program and need your help again to feed children we will never meet in a land we may never go. Bless you for your help!

RESOURCE VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED 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.

Speech Meeting on January 5th for all interested in the Intermediate Speech Meet which will held on February 20th at ICS---HERE. Let's get a full team!

LUNCH PROGRAM Our lunch count is up 10 since last month and if you take out the new item “country fried steak/mashed potato” day, we would be up 16 a day. Many students requested we do this new one again. If we were a food court, we could put out the tooth pick samplers and that would help. Either way, I greatly appreciate your support of our program. We will be charting the more popular items for more frequent lunches. Thanks to Mrs. Fansher and our cooks for the labor of love in feeding the ICS army!

35th ANNUAL MAGAZINE DRIVE Christmas is coming and magazines make great gifts! ...order online anytime and your child will get credit during the drive! www.gaschoolstore.com I.D. 2710556 Booklets home yesterday! You can't sell if you don't ask! Promote reading and thinking!!! The drive starts on January 11 and as the single largest donor, we have placed \$482,518.34 into the **Eugene J. Schorb - Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education**. The Endowment Fund will provide us with \$160,000 in support this school year. Magazines make great gifts---gifts that give all year long. Take orders over the Christmas holidays!!

MAGAZINE DRIVE UPDATE The School Board voted we place this year's Magazine Drive profits in the new Catholic Education and Activities Fund as we work towards our future!

PARISH NEWS...Church envelopes for Young Stewards will be sent home in early January. 30-30-30-10 is a great plan for kids money and our lives. 30% for long term like college, 30% for emergencies, 30% for fun money, and 10% for God. If only I had taken this more seriously as a youth, many of my bad money habits would be so much easier to manage.

NOT SURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR DUPLICATE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OR THE AWESOME ITEM GREAT AUNT TILDA GAVE YOU? Donate it to the ICS Annual Dinner Auction! Yes, it's that time again, we are collecting for the Dinner Auction. If you have items to donate please fill out the Auction Donation form and send it into the school office. **Sat., Feb. 7, 2015!**

TIRED TEDDIES We passed on 200 gently used stuffed animals!

FULL STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT Number received from households which have students at ICS in K thru 8 65 of 159 (44%) Please turn in your commitment by January 4. Thank you!

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.

ASK ME ABOUT MY MERCY 2015 Charley Stewart-Aubry Thomas-Molly Tippen-Eli Garcia-Lilly Barnett-Ava Hake-Jane Whelan-Hope Pollman-Dominic Dalpoas-Josh Matthews-Kaylum Furlow-Avery Herrmann-Kyra Newton-Marisa McGill-Jessica Lambert-Owen Dill-Thomas Schaefer-Ava Langhans-Keegan Thompson-Nick Traiteur-Grant Monheiser-Gali Palicious-Goudey-Steven Schaefer- Shawn Stuart-Izzy Foutch-Sophia Schuette-Alex Bira-Glenn Powers-Owen Dalpoas-Ava - Lindsey Harget-Lila Griffin-Emma Tyler-Rhyan Ward-Noah Newton-Ryan Gallagher-Avery Melliere-Emily Rose-James Ramette-Constance Barnett-Genevieve Nadziejko-Katie Grawitch-Emma Schmidt-Carson Timmons-Gavin Kesler-Ally Curry-Emily Gillan-Audrey Randle-Jacob Whitworth-Audrey Sullivan-Andrew Donjon-Olivia Blaskiewicz-Kale Harrington-John Bollone-Julia Hoeflinger-Kate Adams-Mason Voegele-Cam Donjon-Summer Harrington-Charley Stewart-Mary Ann Imhoff-Drew Schmoll-Max Keeven-Maddie Swip- Gus Schmidt -Matthew Epplin

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,MO63128) www.rollercadeskating.com

THE SPORTING NEWS... Congratulations to ICS grads Dalton Scafe of Gibault who made BND All-Area First Team in Soccer, Ben Mueth who made Second Team and Jake Rueter who was Honorable Mention!

Good luck to our Parochial Boys in the SPPS Waterloo Holiday Tourney. Congratulations to our Girls program on a great year filled with growth and love for the best game on 10 feet!

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

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

2ND ANNUAL SOCCER CLINIC-4-A-CURE IN MEMORY OF ZAC EPPLIN will be held December 29 at O'Fallon Vetta- 590 Hartman Lane, O'Fallon. (K-3rd 9am -11am, 4th -6th 11:30am-1:30pm, 7th -8th 1:30-3:30) The cost is \$25, please contact Coach Reeb mreeb@gibaultonline.com with any questions. All proceeds to the American Cancer Society.

Gibault Baseball Camp December 28th -30th from 9:00am -11:30am in the Fr. Hustedde Gym. The cost is \$50, please contact Coach Skaer askaer@gibaultonline.com or 618-973-2707. Full flyer available at gibaultonline.com.

Gibault Band Alumni Save the date! On **January 8, 2016** GCHS will be hosting Band Alumni Night during the home basketball game. Bring your instrument and join the fun with the pep band. Contact Mr. Ruppel sruppel@gibaultonline.com with any questions.

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

Connie Huebner came home Saturday after lots of complications from removing a cyst on her pancreas. She may have taken things too fast too early and will have to slow down her recovery. Please keep up the prayers.

Marian Keim is not doing well again and has stopped eating. Please keep this faithful lady in your prayers. She was our first parish secretary and an important part of the history of our school and parish.

Hutch Schlafly Funeral services for Hutch will be tomorrow with visitation at 9:30 and Mass at 10:30. Tough loss for his family and our community. God's time is not our time and Hutch had a good lifetime. May he rest in peace!

PRAYERS: Dan Whelan, Katie Repp, Mary Giovanni, Steve Wilkerson, Denise Conner, Connie Huebner, Kevin Diehl, Roy Lansing, Josh Ritter, Christian Matrisotto, Sis Blaes, Brian Sherman, Arlin Stechmesser, Eve Dorshorst, Russell Sheddon, Dominic Matrisotto, 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**

JESUS CAME DURING A TIME WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS AT PEACE. They were talking about the known world...the Roman world...in Scripture. It seems we haven't been at peace since. Besides our wars and refugee crisis, we have people who are spiritually homeless. This is a great time of year to come home, reconnect, find that rightful place where our restless hearts will rest in God. This weekend, we hear Mary's story. The human connection is established directly to our God. Her soul magnifies the Lord. We rejoice in God our Savior!

Mike Kish

Principal

Band Schedule Week Jan 4-8

Monday

8:05-8:35 6th-8th Flute and Clarinet 1
8:35-9:05 6th-8th Clarinet 2
9:05-9:35 5th Flute
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 Saxophone and F Horn
9:25-9:55 6th-8th Trumpet
9:55-10:35 5th Clarinet
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

7:15-7:50 **Jazz Band**
8:55-9:25 6th-8th Low Brass
9:25-9:55 6th-8th Percussion
9:55-10:35 5th Saxophone
11:05-11:35 4th Low Brass
11:35-12:05 4th Percussion

Friday

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

Ps **PAPA JOHN'S HAS A GREAT DEAL FOR YOU!** 50% OFF PROMO CODE: DM50
OFFER VALID TILL: JANUARY 3, 2016

IT IS SO HARD TO FIND A GIFT FOR DAD OR GRANDPA OR UNCLE OR BROTHER...HERE IS ONE THEY WILL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL FOR...

Good Morning! My Name is Tom Swip

I'm here to talk to you this morning about **Inner Peace**. I know what you're thinking... most things in life don't provide it:

- Your job doesn't provide it.
- Your busy schedule doesn't provide it.
- Your kids' busy schedule doesn't provide it.
- Your mobile phone **certainly** doesn't provide it. Just when you think you have a moment to collect your thoughts, something steals it away from you. It's death of your spirit by a thousand paper cuts.

So how **DO** you find Inner Peace?

We all think about it..... when you're scrambling to get out of the house for the day ... on the drive into that meeting you don't want to attend ... or... on that long drive home after a frustrating day at work

You wonder what others' lives are like.

Are they as hectic and frantic as yours?

You envision your life with less chaos... and more control of your situation. You think about sitting on a beach or a mountain top without a care in the world. ... You wonder what the **version 2.0** of your life could be.

I believe each of us has to find our own path to Inner Peace. For some of us it takes months... years... even a lifetime. Sadly ... some of us may never find it at all.

Today, I'd like to share a shortcut with you...

I'd like to offer you a weekend to step away from...

- your crazy schedule
- your life commitments
- and the things that stop you from finding Inner Peace.

A chance to hit the pause button and take time for YOU.

A chance to know the love that surrounds YOU in your life.

A chance to reconnect with friends in the parish or form new bonds.

A chance to reconnect with God.

A chance... to FIND... Inner Peace. On January 28th we are hosting our next men's ACTS retreat.

Make all of the excuses you want. I know I did: - I'm too busy. - I don't want to take time away from the family.

- If I'm going to take a day off, it's not going to be for a retreat. - I want my wife to go first.

- You don't want ME singing in front of church. - My dog ate my registration form.

Make any excuse you want. You're only preventing yourself from reaching that next level in your life. You ... version 2.0.

There are a couple of things I can promise you about your weekend:

- First, we're not going to force you to hug anyone.
- Second, we're not going to replace you with a pod person to send back in place of you.
- You don't even have to sing at Mass when we return, you can just mouth the words.
- Lastly, the weekend will blow your socks off... - and show you things you have never witnessed before.

I realized on my weekend that instead of "getting around" to the retreat, it should have been the **FIRST** thing on my priority list. Just as a vacation provides an opportunity for rest, relaxation and reloading, this retreat is a spiritual vacation for your soul. You will **never** regret your decision to attend.

- One simple weekend. - Only .01% of an average lifetime. - Come and find version 2.0 of YOU.

Your shortcut to Inner Peace Soon and very soon, we are going on retreat.

Thank You and God Bless. Tom Swip

Francis

GOOD LORD.
WHAT A
RACKET!

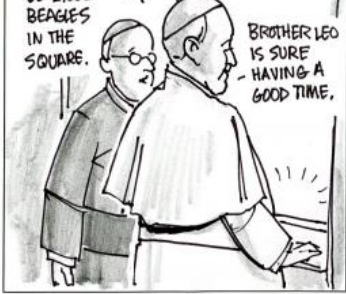
WHAT'S
GOING
ON DOWN
THERE?

DOGMA AND
THE PUPS ARE
HERE FOR A
VISIT. LEO
IS PLAYING
WITH THEM.



THERE MUST
BE 2,000
BEAGIES
IN THE
SQUARE.

BROTHER LEO
IS SURE
HAVING A
GOOD TIME.



IS THAT SOME SORT
OF TOY DISC HE'S
THROWING?

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IT USED
TO BE.

