



Immaculate Conception School
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Celebrating 167 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 18, 2020

Bienvenido el parrochia!

V. 46 #19



Dear Parents, Guardians, and Friends,

The Christmas Band Concert

Hit www.icscolumbia.org to start off our break (minus two asynchronous days Monday and Tuesday). 9 separate performances! A Cohort Christmas delight! (AC/CD) Thank you Mr. Hake and our students for the gift of music! Also check out the Pre-School Christmas Story and Go Tell it on the Mountain by the Pre-K!

A message from our Diocesan Superintendent Jonathan Birdsong and Director of Religious Education Jaime Gil: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqhqltapKJU>.



Mrs. Murphy's KiNDERS attending mass remotely with Fr. Nick #icsproud
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From the homily on the 14 generations X 3 and Blessing of the Bambino.

The Geneology of Jesus Every family has some dead branches and unproductive limbs in it. Our God proclaims that to be okay in delineating Jesus paternal family tree. There are some good guys and some rascals in it. This whole season is a reminder of dependency. There is nothing stranger than a baby in a manger. That baby is so dependent on his mother and father, born on the road due to a census, and maybe even reliant on the support of the gifts of the Magi. Our families and parish and school and nation is dependent upon each other. We don't want to admit it and think everything we have, came from our personal hard work or inherited wealth or marriage but admit it we must. We are dependent. Just like the early insecurity of holding a newborn baby for fear of "breaking" the child, we are fearful of holding hands and working in community. That's why our God says it is ok to have roots and limbs that may not be strong everywhere. The tree of life, our faith community, stands strong and united when we work together and care for each other. (Thanks Fr. Nick!)

A FULL STEWARDSHIP PARISH Please go to our website and complete your Full Stewardship Pledge. We need 100% compliance from school parishioners by January 7. This does not cover Sister Parish families or tuition families. Full Stewardship is about getting attached to God's people, not things. Open hands can give AND receive! We all know that God will provide. Usually, that's us, working for God for God's people.

RE: Two important announcements

- 1) Due to the convergence of the Christmas Season break, surge of Covid-19, and family holiday plans, our School Board decided to move to **asynchronous learning for Monday, December 21, and Tuesday, December 22.**
- 2) Our application for Free Lunches from the CARES ACT has been approved retroactive to September 1. Please stop making lunch payments till further notice. **ALL students may eat lunch free.** Please take advantage and grow our count and help our profit line. Credit will be applied for past paid lunches.



Terrific Kids – December 2020

Mrs. Diewald: **Olivia Unterseh** is a Terrific Kid! Olivia shows a true love for learning on a daily basis. I can always count on her to be prepared for class and strive to do her best work. Olivia is never afraid to lend a helping hand or be a good friend to her classmates. Keep up the good work.

Mrs. Meyer: **Jack Hunt** is a Terrific Kid because he makes strong choices in the classroom and on the playground. He takes his time to complete work and is a good friend to others.

Ms. Kennedy: **Evan Sheehan** is a Terrific Kid! Evan is a hard worker and is motivated to learn each day. He comes to class prepared and stays in control of his five tools. I

can count on Evan to set a good example for his classmates. He is also kind and respectful which shows in his interactions with his peers. Keep up the great work!!

Ms. Wright: **Lizzie Funk**. Lizzie is a hard worker with a great attitude. She always makes sure she is doing the right thing and helps others stay on track too. On the playground, she shows kindness and equality to everyone. I have also witnessed Lizzie put others' needs before her own. I am so proud of Lizzie for always leading by example!

Mrs. Donjon: **Amelia Blaskiewicz** - Amelia is a Terrific Kid. She is always willing to help in the classroom. Amelia does her best to get her work done on time and strives to do her best. Amelia brings cheer whenever she enters a room, says hello to someone, or smiles (even through her mask.) Thank You Amelia!

Mrs. Ettling: **Nick Juengling** - Nick is a Terrific Kid because he is always participating in class and focused on the task at hand. He is a model for student behavior in the classroom. Keep up the good work, Nick!

Mrs. Schauster: **Isabel Roche** is a Terrific Kid! Isabel is a hard working student who I can count on to try her best. She is a friend to all of her classmates and is always willing to lend a helping hand. I know she is smiling at me under that mask!

Ms. Dillon: **Sam Bollone** is a Terrific Kid! Sam does a great job at doing his best on all of his classwork and his assignments. I really enjoy his classroom participation, conversations, and questions. He is always willing to help around the classroom and is a friend to all! Way to go Sam!

PARENTS AND FRIENDS Meeting: Thanks for funding the balance of the cost (\$150) of the African Children's Choir for Catholic Schools Week (Fr. Carl had a \$500 grant) and a \$50 memorial for former ICS custodian Bill Kilian.

Our winners of the **Virtual Craft Fair Raffles** are:
50/50: Sara Guarino Salger--- wins \$145!
Outdoor Basket: Mike Kish
Family Game Night: Danielle Lynn Goedecke Taylor
Lego Master: Sara Salger
Home for the Holiday's: Doug Epplin
Little Artist: Bethany Coons Unterseh
Mani's and Moscato: Jolene Sasser
Columbia Proud: Julie Ann Maul

Congratulations to all! Thank you for your support.



You ought to hear these angels sing!
Round John Virgin didn't make the picture.
Go to our website!

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY this holiday season to our Faculty and Staff and Fr. Carl and Fr. Nick. Bigger thanks for all your cooperation with remote learning, quarantines, and asynchronous learning. It doesn't take a virus to get the village to raise the child. You have always been this way and when we count our blessings, we think of you!

THANKS TOO for your support of Caritas-the Secret Santa Program, The Griffin Center-187 toys, Funderwear-476 items for DayStar in Cairo, and Blankets for Babies at Cardinal Glennon. I talked with Sr. Beth Ruder, D.C. of The Griffin Center, and DeLesia Washington of the East St. Louis Housing Authority this morning. This gratitude is so humbling. You have given many children the only gift they will receive this season!

AND NOW THE CHRISTMAS TEST We have had a lot of struggles but our families have been so cooperative! I hate quarantining a cohort but have not had one parent complaint. I wish you knew how much it means to me. We are just about through the Thanksgiving Test but now we start planning for the Christmas test. Be safe in all your planning. Santa has his mask on! Let's all come back healthy on January 4, 2021!

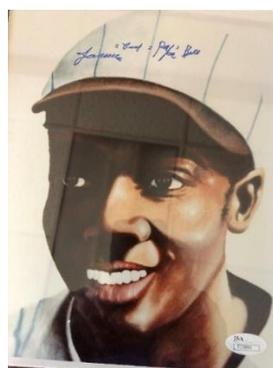
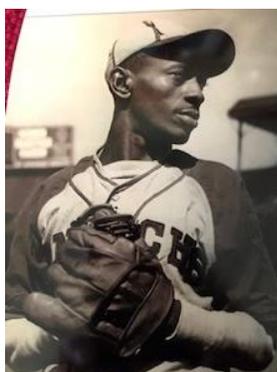
FYI: Grades 8 and 7 Iowa Test and GPA review(4 left-remote) are nearly complete. Each student has been asked to sit down with Mom or Dad, have a nice glass of Kool-Aid, and explain their meeting with me. (One student mentioned they still had their Iowa scores in their back pack.) Grade 6 will sit down with me in January. On an interesting note, a student's Iowa scores took a nice jump especially in Reading. The student claimed that the March Covid shut-down made her more independent and responsible as a learner and she feels all the better for it. She owns her education! Prepare the child for the path, not the path for the child!

Days to support DC funding.

- January 8th = Pajama Day to promote an end to the hectic-ness of the **holidays**
- February 5th = Sport Jersey Day to promote **Teamwork/upcoming Superbowl**
- March 5th = Dr. Suess Day to promote **Reading**
- April 9th = Hat day to promote "**Thinking cap**" & **Father Carl's favorite activity**
- May 7th = Hawaiian Day to promote **Goodwill**, with all proceeds going to next year's 8th grade DC Trip.

THE SPORTING NEWS... Still no decisions on sports. The impression right now is that basketball, a high contact sport, would not be held but there is a chance for volleyball. We must wait and be hopeful.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL has added the official records of the Negro Leagues and recognized the League as a professional organization. The Hall of Fame recognition has been there recently(implicitly) but this recognition undoes the injustice of the past. This is a great day for social justice! Many are already in Cooperstown but more should be on the way. Little by little we can **Open Wide Our Hearts**. This was a great Christmas gift to the nation. The Negro Leagues Hall of Fame is in Kansas City right next to the National Jazz Museum. Put it on your travel itinerary and recognize these greats.



Satchel Paige was one of the early players to break the color barrier after Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby. Satch was probably 48 or so when he was signed. He always felt he should have been first but like all great movements and "test cases", it was felt he might not have the right disposition. Jackie's contract included a clause that he was not to react to racial slurs, prejudice, housing, eating, and coping with racist teammates and opponents. Satch pitched twice against our local boys in 1933 on the diamond cata-corner to Farmer's Inn on Rt. 158. My Uncle Omar Harris got the only RBI off him in the two games and was presented the game ball. The late Tony Range of our Parish was hit by a pitch by Satchel. "I'm sorry I hit you, son" said Satch. "Sir, I am sorry I was hit" said Tony.

James 'Cool Papa' Bell was so fast the story goes he could turn off the lights and be under the covers before the lights went out. He lived in St. Louis and Columbia's legendary Social Studies teacher and baseball memorabilia dealer Barry Krizan(Marge Krizan was our legendary Geography teacher and my first hire) connected with Cool Papa who was having hard financial times. Barry gave me this autographed picture. He would sell these to make money for Cool Papa. Barry was honored to be a pall- bearer for him at his funeral.

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS:

Gibault's Raffle-Mania time! With a purchase of a \$25 ticket, you are entered for:

- \$30 Daily Drawings on Monday-Friday from January 1 - May 31, 2021
- \$100 Bonus Winner the last day of each month (January - April)
- GRAND PRIZES in May for \$2,000, \$1,000, \$500, and \$250!

If your ticket is pulled it goes right back in. www.GibaultRaffle.givesmart.com or 939-3883.

Enrollment News Applications for 2021-2022 are being processed. If you did not receive one, but would like to apply, contact our enrollment office at 939-3883. **Enrollment News:** Our placement exam for the Class of 2025 is rescheduled for Saturday, January 16, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Susan Mackin at smackin@gibalthawks.com.

Bill Kilian, former custodian for our parish and member of the Men's Choir, died December 8. He will be laid to rest tomorrow.

William P. Kilian Sr., 88 years, of Columbia, IL, passed away on December 8, 2020 at Mercy Hospital South, St. Louis, MO. He was born September 30, 1932, in Columbia, IL. He was married to the late Marie, nee Hankammer, Kilian. They were married May 21, 1955, in Columbia, IL. She passed away on December 24, 2012.

Bill was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Columbia, IL where he was a member of the men's choir and the Holy Name Society. He was also a member of Knights of Columbus Council 6165 and a past president of the CK L of I. Bill was an original member of the Columbia Strassenfest Singers and Dancers. He loved playing Kloepper, and was an avid bowler at the Columbia Lanes. He also enjoyed gardening, and fishing with friends.

Surviving are his children, Karen (Paul) LeSaulnier of Waterloo, IL, William (Mary) Kilian Jr. of Columbia, IL, Robert Kilian of Fountain, IL, Mary (Alan) Brellinger of Waterloo, IL, Michelle (Steven) Darden of St. Louis, MO; 12 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; brother, Donald (Pat) Kilian of Sun City, AZ; son-in-law, John Parker Sr., along with other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by infant triplet sons, Larry, Gary, and Gerry Kilian; daughter, Donna Parker; great-granddaughter, Madelynn Brooke Kilian; parents, William A., and Clara, nee Eckert, Kilian.

Visitation will be Saturday, December 19, 2020, 10:00 am - 11:45 am, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Columbia, IL. Funeral mass will follow visitation at 12:00 pm at church, with Fr. Carl Scherrer officiating. Interment will follow in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Columbia, IL. In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests with gratitude that memorial contributions be directed to: Immaculate Conception Education and Activities Center Building Fund, 411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL, 62236.

From our little Blue Books: from a French carol adapted by St. John de Brebeuf--patron saint of Canada---North American martyr---Camp Ondessonk honoree "Huron Carol" <https://youtu.be/qOs6ZH7Yoyk>

ONE MORE WEEK OF ADVENT. Don't waste it. Get ready. Private prayer. Spiritual reading. Scripture. Mass this weekend on-site or on-line. I have never heard anyone say they wish they hadn't gone to Church or thought practiced their religion when they near the end of life. Spiritual but not religious is an affiliation many claim. Be both.

Emma Blaskiewicz had a lengthy surgery last night but is doing better now. Prayer is what we can do for her. Please join in lifting our voices to God for Emma!

My sister **Maggie Burns** is home and doing well after joining me in the Stent Club. Thanks for the prayers!

Kay Wylder, mother of Heather Garcia, has been hospitalized due to Covid. Heather has asked for our prayers. Let's deliver!

Lou Kissing My sister Susie's fiancé succumbed to the disease of suicide last Sunday. Lou had a lot of tough luck in this world and was a kind hearted man who suffered the ups and downs of depression and anxiety. He was always the guy you loved to talk to and was a finish carpenter. I'm reeling over this one and am broken hearted for Susie who lost her husband Kenny Settle during a heart cath 6 years ago this week. God's peace to Lou and all who loved him. He is in gentler hands now, free of life's worries.

PRAYERS: Special Intention Emma Blaskiewicz, Pat Smith, Kay Wylder, Maggie Burns, Harley Greer, Pat Whelan, Dennis Stork, Pete Riederer, Gary Greenfield, Dakota Schutt, Velma Taylor, Steve Killy, Larry Carrico, Joan Prigge, Joanna Prigge Ellner, George Perry, Lynn Dugan, Gladys Williamson, Danielle Dorlac, Arlin Stechmesser, Karen Hornacek, Seth Watters, Glyn Raeber, Mike Drone, Geraldine McCoy, Kathy Neal, Logan Eichenseer, Ashley Burris, Ed Schaefer, Libby LoPorto, Tom Giovanni, Dion Scherr Miller, Donna Kania, Owen Jordan, Anthony Hendricks, Shawn Eichoff, Charlie Stockes, Angela Roepke, Jan Hoffmann, Bill West, Jennifer Nesser, Tom Kish, Patti Rottler, Mike Taylor



THE SHOW GOES ON by Caroline Roche

This reminds me of the report from Scotland where they name each of their 40+ snowplows.(Gritters)
One is Snow-Be-Gone-Kenobi and another is Buzz-Ice-Clear!

PS **Highly Suggested:** Over the holidays, make a commitment to get the daily readings from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. As I pick songs for the day that aren't from the Children's lectionary, this is the place I go. But I also have the regular readings sent to me. God always speaks to us right where we are. This could be a real easy New Year's Resolution that will last all year. Be selfish. Do it for yourself and let God talk to you. www.usccb.org



Popcorn, ornaments, chocolate, Pringles, scented soap---from a Secret Santa...and I don't have a Ring...

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR GIFTS TO ME AND OUR FACULTY AND STAFF!

Christmas 2020 *God's birth is an act of faith in all mankind. No other religion has God coming down and staying with them. No other religion has a God who is "scandalous" in the eyes of men----yes, he caused so much scandal---coming from ordinary people, causing the witch-hunt death of many children, spending time with sinners and tax collectors, turning over the money tables in the Temple that was the source of the Pharisees funding, paying attention to women, children, lepers, beggars, short people, even a Roman centurion and Samaritans and other foreigners. Our scandalous God taught us how to live. Taught us we are all God's children. Taught us we all count! His Mother was the first to say yes to Him. His father wasn't the first to raise someone else's child and won't be the last. The Christmas Gospel is the most human of stories from a God who loved us so much that He sent His Son! Welcome to the party for the birth of our King.*

Mike Kish

Principal

PS ICS Christmas stocking: We received a \$6,000 donation today(chromebooks are already being ordered) from some beloved Grandparents and a \$35,000 pledge to CEAC from a parish family! The stocking may be red but the inside was GREEN!

250th anniversary of the birth of Beethoven! (In tribute to my brother Tom's 70th today, I retell his joke. "Why did Beethoven kill his chicken?" It kept going "Bach-Bach-Bach!"

PS **DAY 80** Did you ever doubt we would get this far? As we celebrate our successes so far, remember the obstacles we had to overcome. Life is a journey and this past year reminds us of the resilience and grit we all have to get through inconvenient and threatening times.

God is good. All the time. And all the time, God is good!