



Immaculate Conception School
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Tammy Hoeflinger, School Board President

The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church.

*Merciful God, you are the Divine Builder, who calls us to build your Church. Guide us in building our new **Catholic Education & Activity Center**, so that we can build the Church of the future by passing on the treasure of our faith to future generations. Bless the work of our hands, and keep us strong in faith, hope and love, so that all we do might bring glory and honor to you, forever and ever. AMEN*



REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN THE LORD!

December 21, 2018

Bienvenido el parrochia!

V. 44 #27

Dear Parent,

FROM TODAY'S READINGS Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb.

Thomas Jefferson, who scrubbed every reference to Jesus' divinity from his Bible(I have seen it at The Smithsonian), would not be happy today! Elizabeth welcomes Mary as "the mother of my Lord," thus trumping Jefferson's enlightenment, which reduced any mystery to superstition. But let's not diminish Elizabeth's role as maybe the first female theologian, since it would be awhile before we get another woman to be a "doctor of the church." Recent popes cite the saints as worthy teachers of the faith, just by their lives. That would put Joan of Arc in the inner circle, and her faith would have burned up Jefferson's toy Bible! So blessed are those women who boldly go where no man has gone before!

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: Come save us, Lord our God. [Miguel Dulick](#)

CALENDAR IMPORTANT! TAKE OUT YOUR ICS CALENDAR---make these adjustments as set at the Board Meeting Tuesday evening:

Feb. 18 No School--- President's Day

March 11-15 SCHOOL IS BACK ON. Move Week in late May-June

April 17 School No Bus (gaining a day for an earlier out and packing at the end of the year.)

April 18 No School Holy Thursday-Easter Monday April 22

We understand some have set vacation schedules already within the old calendar. We have never had a year where vacations have not been taken during school. Work is caught up and adjustments made. Once again, we can point to the wet and cold weather for the change.

GRIFFIN CENTER



We had a great visit with Sr. Beth at the Griffin Center yesterday morning and delivered our 167 gifts (beat last year by 2!) The Griffin Center works an after-school program for over 300 children every day providing a snack, a safe place to play, and tutoring to provide a hope for these children living in the projects. They work closely with Catholic Urban Programs and Sr. Thea Bowman School. Thanks to our inspirational Chairperson Audrey Sullivan, President Maria Biske, Kids Against Hunger Director Emma Tippen, Kyra

Newton, Mrs. Jeanne Kish for driving, and Sam for helping unload. We had 2 full vehicles and a 2 ½ minute history lesson at Holy Family Church on the way home!

BUILDERS CLUB Thanks for supporting our Candy Canes for Kids Against Hunger! We did great! Anna Haubrich chaired.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER We hope to raise \$3,500 to again make over 15,000 meals on Saturday, February 9, 2019. Our hope is that you can again support us in our effort. And we do understand it if you are helping others instead. Our world is in great need and there are so many worthwhile causes but children need to eat! Donations can be mailed to The ICS Builders Club, Immaculate Conception School, 321 S. Metter Ave., Columbia, IL or put in an envelope and dropped into our Church Sunday envelope collection. Thank you for your generosity. May the New Year bring you great joy in serving God's people!

Gratefully, Emma Tippen and Emma Schmidt

DATES:

CHRISTMAS TOURNEYS Varsity boys in SPPCS Tourney and 5th Grade in St. Theresa tourney. Makes for a good, cheap, night out! Check the athletic website!

DIOCESAN GIRLS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT is the first week of January. Catch a game if you can! Check the athletic website Sunday evening as seedings were due in today.

January 7: Magazine Drive kick-off at 1:50.

January 8 : Ondessonk-8:45 Grades 2-8

January 9: Terrific Kids, end of Second Quarter

January 14: Last basketball game in gym

January 17: Sister Parish Night: 7:00

January 18-20 Boys Diocesan Basketball Tournament for Grades 8 and 6.

January 27 Open House. Catholic Schools Week begins.

January 28 Gibault Band here: 8:45-9:45

February 1: Book Fair!!!

February 9: Kids Against Hunger---why not come and try a shift for a couple hours? It is amazing. Donations are being sought. With Play profits coming in late this year, we have to hustle more to raise \$3500 to get around 15,000 meals.

SR. THEA BOWMAN SCHOOL ADVENT PROGRAM What an amazing display of talent and spirituality! We are so grateful for the invitation from our sister school. This week they helped us back too with some loaned space heaters(via Joe Koppeis) as our pump blew on the 1960 boiler. It is scheduled for repair next week. They were happy to help us since we help them! What goes around...



PARENTS AND FRIENDS

AUCTION TIME!!!! Site is up and you can now buy tickets!!! <http://bloom.givesmart.com>

Invitations with reservation forms, donation pledges, advertising forms and more grandparent honor roll forms will be coming home today. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the committee at icsauction@icsmail.org

Speaking of Honor Roll Forms....We had 26 forms tuned in with checks attached totaling \$1085!!! That's almost \$200 more than ALL of last year and we have 22 form to mail out to our grandparents and friends of ICS. I am blown away by all the generosity. AND the winner is.....Mrs. Tolans homeroom for the pizza party. More info will be coming out next week about the raffle tickets for the Designer Bag, Yeti, TRIP and the wine/liquor pull..... Stay tuned. If you would like to join the committee please email or call Mandy McGuire mlynmcguire@gmail.com. 618-558-1350

The Perfect Christmas Gift for Teachers! Thanks to Beth Johns for chairing this huge undertaking that is so greatly appreciated by our teachers!

THANKS TO HOLLY BLASKIEWICZ for all her work in our Kindergarten Program as she moves to a full time position with "Girls In The Know". Holly spoiled us and will spoil her new place of employment as well. Katie Hugger will be extending her hours.

THE 38th ANNUAL ICS MAGAZINE RENEWAL DRIVE has kicked off and runs to January 29, 2019 . At this time, students from Immaculate Conception School will be calling on the community for their support. Last year the school netted \$11,200 **towards the new Catholic Education and Activities Center which will replace the current school campus. Previously, the Eugene J. Schorb Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education** (Endowment Fund) has received **\$482,518.34 and the Catholic Education and Activity Center Fundraising Drive has received over \$22,000.** Help our school and experience great savings by either **renewing current subscriptions or ordering new ones now!** Thanks to our community for "Thinking Monroe County First" and keeping 40% of the price of your magazine in the community. **AND---Your order can be placed on-line at** www.gaschoolstore.com
The school I.D. # is 2710556. Search Immaculate Conception School, Columbia, IL. Shop---pick a student to give the credit.

ICS ANNUAL SKATE PARTY: POSTPONED till further notice.

Help support the annual 8th Grade Washington, DC field trip by purchasing St. Louis Blues Tickets. These are group tickets reserved for ICS. The game is Tuesday, Feb 12, 2019 at 7pm vs. New Jersey Devils. Please contact Tim Mueth @ 820611cards@gmail.com with any questions. **Please fill out the [attached flyer](#) to purchase tickets and return to school.**



Sadie had an idea to go caroling as a class and money was donated to the Prayer Garden at our new Catholic Education and Activity Center! Thank you Grade 6!

TEXT-TO-GIVE is now available at 618-323-3978

We are keeping up with technology! With 97% of smartphone users texting at least once a day, our parish has decided to add the option to give via text. You can text an amount and available fund to Immaculate Conception at **618-323-3978**. The text required format is amount_fund name (example: 20 Stewardship. Funds currently available are Stewardship, CEAC, Repairs, Guatemala, SVDP). If an amount and no fund name is entered, the default code is regular weekly stewardship. Your transaction will be processed through the Online Giving account associated with your phone number. If your phone number is not recognized, you can continue without an account, associate your number with an existing account, or create an account. Another option to give online is to download the OSV "**Online Giving**" app to your phone instead of logging into the IC website or app. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office or visit our website. Thanks for your support of Immaculate Conception Parish.

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL NEWS...Placement Test: If you missed it, contact Pat Herzing (pherzing@gibaulthawks.com) The test is given free of charge.

Junior High Glow Dance—The Gibault Catholic Ambassadors Club is sponsoring a Glow Dance for grades **6- 8 on Sunday, December 30 from 6:30-8:30PM** in the Gibault cafeteria. Admission is \$5. **Talk to 8th graders who went last year---they had a blast!**

Gibault Softball Camp Dec. 26-28, Noon-2:00. See last week's flyer!

Gibault Baseball camp Dec 26-28 See flyer from last week!

GRADS IN THE NEWS... Congratulations to **Alex Dickinson** (ICS '09) on earning his M.S.M.E. from SIUE last Saturday. Grandpa Curt Wiechert told me he has stated more than once how ICS impacted his education, life, work ethics, and study techniques. Alex works for Maverick Technology at AB-InBev. It was great visiting him on the phone last night!

Congratulations to **Spencer Biske** (ICS '16) of Gibault Catholic High School on taking 1st place in the 48th Excellence in Mathematics Competition at St. Louis Community College in the small school division out of 100 juniors. 40 schools participated with over 600 students testing.



Filling the basket was Fr. Carl's request for good deeds posted on candy corn sticker notes for the basket by the office. It was filled over Advent. Kindergarten and Santa filled the basket too!

Our condolences to Everett Darr and family on the loss of his great-grandfather **Sylvester Kleinschmidt**. Our annual bloom along our fence on Main Street came from his son Dennis and daughter-in-law Diana. Every spring I am reminded of their kindness. Sylvester lived a hill over from my grandparents and he was "salt of the earth". God's peace to him and his family.

Rachel Tuma Family friend of Kim and Steve Sullivan, passed away, leaving behind her husband Andy and 4 children. They were in each other's weddings. May she rest in peace and God's consolation be with her family!

Deacon Rich Bagby will be laid to rest tomorrow in Germantown. He served the Diocese of Bellville 10 years as a Deacon, much of it in hospital and prison work. It is hard to lose a high school and college classmate who was the glue of the Class of St. Henry's Prep Seminary '67. Like St. Paul said, the good one does live on. Rich will live on for years in his family Pat and his 3 sons' families, his students, his Boy Scout work, his Marriage Encounter work, and his Deaconate work, as well as his Classmates of '67! Rest in peace Rich. Say hi to my brother Jerry, Prof Pichotta, Bill Clossey, Wayne Anderson, and Tom LaCroix for me!

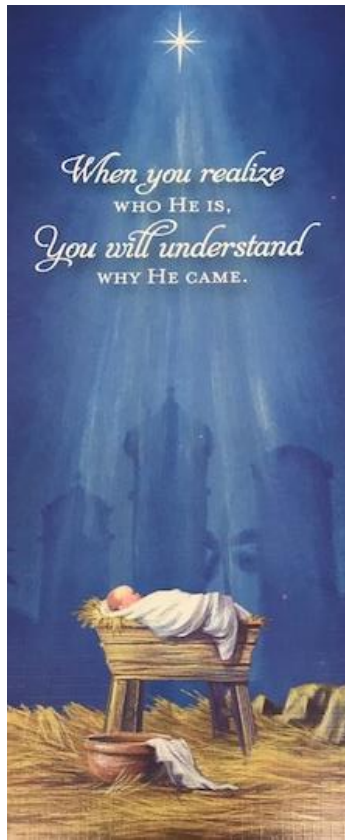
PRAYERS: Special Intention Danielle Dorlac, Tom Johns, Michael Dorshorst, Ken Biske, Pat Morr, Charlie Stockes, George Perry, Angela Roepke, Joyce LaPrade, Jan Hoffmann, Bill West, Jennifer Nesser, Bill Anderson, Patrick Kish, Owen Jordan, Patti Rottler, Mike Taylor, Richard Prater, Donna Kania, Libby LoPorto, Lindsey Herbeck, Marla Vogt, Judy Gundlach

There is nothing stranger than looking for God in a manger.

From the Sr. Thea Bowman School Advent Program

Mike Kish

Principal



The message of the season isn't "Let it snow" or even "Let us shop." The real message of Christmas is, "Let us worship".

Christmas Mass Schedule:

Christmas Eve ~ 5p.m. & 10p.m. Christmas Eve ~ Christmas Carols beginning at 9:30p.m.

Christmas Day 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.