

Our Invitation from the King

When people think of heaven, they often imagine a place up in the sky. Episodes of *Star Trek* should challenge that notion. The Bible usually speaks of heaven as an experience. According to our first reading, it is like a banquet, “a feast of rich food and choice wines” (Isaiah 25:6). Such a meal is an extraordinary event for hardworking people who seldom get to enjoy such luxury. According to today’s Gospel account, the kingdom of heaven is like a wedding banquet, a feast of “calves and fattened cattle” (Matthew 22:4), a celebration of love and new life.

Some people might prefer an image that thrills the ear rather than the palette, like a Handel concerto or a Beethoven symphony. Whatever image is favored, heaven is an incomparable phenomenon that cannot be described. It is an experience that will thrill us to the core of our being.

To be invited to such an astounding experience might well be the event of a lifetime. This is, after all, an invitation from the king. Who would possibly turn it down? And yet, some do. As the Gospel recounts, some are too busy with work. Others would rather watch “the game.” Still others who might accept the invitation minimize it by refusing to dress appropriately. How can people be so foolish? Yet, you and I often are.

God’s invitation to the heavenly feast simply asks that we realize the magnitude of the honor extended to us, that we accept it graciously, and that we enjoy the experience.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

✧ *So often our invitation to the heavenly banquet is shrouded. What keeps you from recognizing this invitation?*



[Jesus said,] “The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike.”

MATTHEW 22:10

Dear Padre,

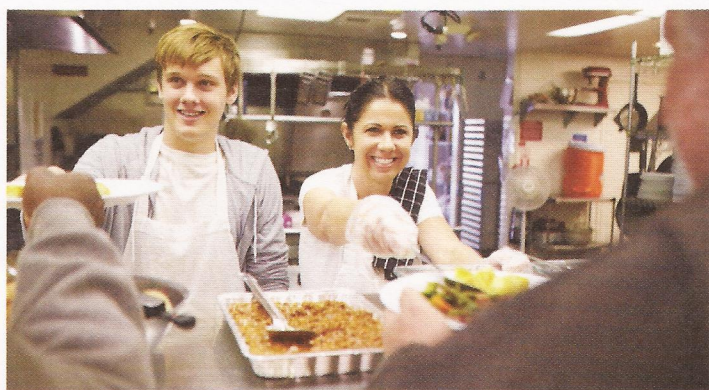
What is the Catholic Church's position on grace versus works?

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works" (Ephesians 2:8-9). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* attests that we have merit in God's sight only because "God has freely chosen to associate man with the work of his grace" (CCC 2008). After God acted first on his own initiative, it then follows that we're free to act through his collaboration, "so that the merit of good works is to be attributed in the first place to the grace of God, then to the faithful" (CCC 2008). In other words, it's only through God's empowering Spirit in each of us that makes our good works for salvation pleasing to the Lord!

Moreover, Catholics believe these good works "contribute to growth in grace, so that the righteousness that comes from God is preserved and communion with Christ is deepened. When Catholics affirm the 'meritorious' character of good works, they wish to say that...a reward in heaven is promised to these works. Their intention is to emphasize the responsibility of persons for their actions, not to contest the character of those works as gifts, or far less to deny that justification always remains the unmerited gift of grace" (*Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*, Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church, 38).

Christian prayer provides us with the grace that's needed for meritorious actions (CCC 2010).

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Do good works, don't just say words that are gone with the wind....Through the good works that we carry out with love and joy towards others, our faith emerges and bears fruit. Let us ask ourselves...Is our faith fruitful? Does our faith produce good works? Or is it sterile instead, and therefore more dead than alive?

—ANGELUS, JULY 10, 2016

Calendar

Monday

OCTOBER 12

Weekday

Gal 4:22-24, 26-27,
31-5:1

Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday

OCTOBER 13

Weekday

Gal 5:1-6

Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday

OCTOBER 14

Weekday

Gal 5:18-25

Lk 11:42-46

Thursday

OCTOBER 15

St. Teresa of Jesus,
Virgin and Doctor of
the Church

Eph 1:1-10

Lk 11:47-54

Friday

OCTOBER 16

Weekday

Eph 1:11-14

Lk 12:1-7

Saturday

OCTOBER 17

St. Ignatius of Antioch,
Bishop and Martyr

Eph 1:15-23

Lk 12:8-12

Sunday

OCTOBER 18

Twenty-ninth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6

1 Thes 1:1-5b

Mt 22:15-21



Immaculate Conception Parish Family



159th YEAR OF SERVICE

307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

Fr. Austin(Augustine) Okoli, Pastor | e-mail kesisi2@yahoo.com | Deacon Wayne Korte | Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office

imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org | Office Hours M-Th 9:00am-3pm **Bulletin Deadline: Wed. 9:00 AM**

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org | 573.564.2679 - School Office
Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

Parish Council Members: Beth Cobb- President; Dennis Benney-Vice-President; Secretary-Open, Laura Yelton, Vicki Parker, & Mary Pottebaum

October 11, 2020 - TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 12th	No Mass
Tuesday, October 13th	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, October 14th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, October 15th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City - +Bill & Helen Spodyak Family
Friday, October 16th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, October 17th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City-Our Parish Family
Sunday, October 18th	7:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM Mass -Montgomery City+Ignatius Busken



July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Church/School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
September 2020	\$47,246.63	\$ 42,587.36	\$4,659.27
Fiscal Year July - Sept. 2020-21	\$161,881.58	\$134,419.34	\$27,462.24
Needed Weekly - \$	11,835.50		
October 4 - \$	9,718.87		
October 11 - \$			
October 18 - \$			
October 25 - \$			

Last Week's Envelopes: 46 of 179

(No Mass if there is a funeral or school has been cancelled.)

With God all things are possible

Parish Membership: Call the parish office to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30 to 4:50 PM Saturday or call for an appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism: Celebrated during Mass or at another arranged time. Call the parish office to set up an appointment to meet with Fr. Austin.

Sacrament of Marriage: Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.

To Become a Catholic: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Call for details.

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exit in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

Who is an Active Parishioner?

- Registered in the parish
- Regularly participates in Mass and the sacraments
- Supports the parish financially
- Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form and fulfills that commitment

Liturgical Ministers for October 17th & October 18th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 11:00 AM
Lector	<u>No ministries will be assigned at this time.</u>	
Children's Liturgy		
Communion Ministers		
Ministers of Hospitality		
Servers		
Gift Bearers		
Money Counters		

Bishop McKnight's October prayer intention for our Local Church is:

For all citizens in our country, that our participation in the upcoming elections may lead to a world which places a preeminence on the dignity of all human life.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, October 12th	No Mass
Tuesday, October 13th	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, October 14th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, October 15th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, October 16th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, October 17th	5:00 PM - Mass - Montgomery City
Sunday, October 18th	7:00 AM - Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM - Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM - Mass - Montgomery City

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, October 12th	7:00 PM - RCIA 7:00 PM - St. Vincent DePaul Mtg.
Tuesday, October 13th	1:00 PM - KOC Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
Wednesday, October 14th	
Thursday, October 15th	
Friday, October 16th	
Saturday, October 17th	
Sunday, October 18th	9:30 AM - PSR 3rd/4th grades 11:00 AM - KOC Family Poker Run

Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!

*Tony & Betty Wessel, Jr. - 39 years of marriage on October 4th
Dennis & Judy Cobb - 40 years of marriage on Oct. 11th
Michael & Laura Yelton - 24 years of marriage on Oct. 12th*

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvement	\$ 30.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 400.00
Special Collections:	
World Mission Sunday	\$ 25.00
Donations	\$ 120.00
Holydays	\$ 10.00

Book of our Beloved Dead

The Book of our Beloved Dead has been placed in the church entrance as you pass through the vestibule into the church. You are invited to write the name(s) of those you cherished who have passed on to be with our Heavenly Father. On November 1st, the book will moved to the front of the Church while we celebrate the month of All Souls.



Thank You!



We want to thank everyone who supported our IC Harvest BBQ with prayers, donation of time and talent and the extra monetary donations for our parish event.

The raffle winners were:

1st place - \$500 - Larry & Charlene Jahner,
2nd place-Wooden Patio Cooler made by Stan Carroz-Diane Witthaus
3rd place - Personalized Wooden Sign made by Chris Talley's
Eleven:15 Designs - TinaSingleton

The out pouring response and donations shows our strong community support for one another. Please continue to pray so we may have the picnic next year.

May God Bless you,
IC Harvest Picnic Committee

Operation Christmas Child



Immaculate Conception Parish has been asked if we would be interested in participating in Operation Christmas Child. This is a fabulous way for the parish to reach out to children who do not have a lot. We will be filling small boxes (shoe box size) with small gifts/necessities for children. These boxes will be shipped to various locations like Mexico, Philippines, Dominican Republic, etc.

We are looking for donations of things like: combs, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, wash clothes, blankets, reusable plastic containers, band aids, underwear, flip flops, sunglasses, socks, hair bows, bar soap, non-liquid chap stick, stick deodorant, hats, scarfs, mittens, shoes, pencils, crayons, markers, pencil cases, playdough, stickers, coloring books, manual pencil sharpeners, blank index cards, glue sticks, rulers, blunt scissors, small toys, clothes, and stuffed animals. These are just a few ideas, there are others on the website at www.samaritanpurse.org/occ.

Items they ask that we DO NOT include are: candy, toothpaste, gum, war related toys, chocolate, food, lotion, liquids, vitamins, and anything breakable.

Once we have everything collected, we will pack the boxes. If you would like to help with packing, please let us know. The shipping for each box is \$9 so if you would prefer to give a cash donation, we could use that for the shipping or to purchase items. We will be collecting items thru October 30, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Roesner at 314-974-1087. Donations may be left in the church vestibule.

Capital Campaign Committee Update



Cornerstone Campaign
OUR COMMUNITY OUR CHURCH
OUR LEGACY.

NEW UPDATE: The Capital Campaign Committee is excited to report that work has begun on the new church roof! If you have a chance, drive by to see the progress of the installation! Our total in collections and pledges remains at \$196,316.

No Parking



Please remember to not park in the street facing the MFA gravel lot anytime during harvest season. Trucks hauling grain need room to maneuver on and off the scales.

Immaculate Conception School News



URGENT!! Survey - 4-Day School Week

The last day to turn in your 4-Day School Week survey is **October 18th**.

October 5th-9th - Achievement Testing
October 10th - Home & School Bake Sale at Rustoberfest
October 12th - No School - Columbus Day
October 15th - End of Quarter
October 16th - No School - Staff Retreat
October 18th - Home & School BBQ

ECLC Happenings

ECLC has a job opening for the 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM shift to help with the after-school program. Applicants must be 18 years or older. If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested, please contact Peggy Brower at (573) 564-2679.



IC Scrip Program - Whenever you purchase a gift card from the IC School Scrip Program, the school receives a percentage of the purchase price. The percentage will vary from one company to another but there is no extra charge to you. A \$25 card costs you \$25. Why not let some of your money that you would spend anyway go to a good cause? There are a few ways to obtain the cards. You may purchase physical cards at the school or after Masses on the first full weekend of the month. **You may also go online to www.ShopWithScrip.com to create an account to purchase e-cards, reload select cards, or place a large order for physical cards. If you have any questions, call Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.**

World Mission Sunday

Next weekend we will celebrate World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis invites the entire Church to support mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe, where priests, religious and lay leaders serve the world's most vulnerable communities. Please keep the Pope's missions in your prayers and be generous in next week's collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.



Fearless Women - Coffee With Christy

What: Fearless women's goal is to educate and empower **women** to use the tools they are given to find victory over their struggles.

This event is being sponsored by Austin's Angels and hosted by Mary Pottebaum and Beth Cobb. It will be held on Friday, October 16, 2020, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Montgomery City from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM.

Seating is limited to fifty (50) people. This is a free event. Free will offering is appreciated. For ticket information, please call Mary Pottebaum at (573) 252-4289 or Beth Cobb at (573) 999-0337.

Dessert and coffee will be served.

Events Around the Community (See Flyers if available in the church vestibule.)

Family Fun Poker Run

Do you want to laugh until your sides hurt? Do you want to watch people acting silly? Do you want to just have some plan 'ol' fun? Well then, you need to come and participate in the Family Fun Poker Run. This is not a race to see who comes in first. There is no trophy or courtly reignition for finishing first. This is a time for you!

The Knights of Columbus is the sponsors of this fun event.

It will be held on October 18, 2020, in Montgomery City. Registration begins at 11:00 AM with the First Heat at 12:30 PM. You will be starting at Immaculate Conception School. You must be 16 years or older to drive a vehicle. You may use a golf cart, side by side or lawn mower. The entry fee is \$10.00 per rider.

If you do not want to participate, just come and enjoy watching and eating. Lunch will be available.



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Jefferson City

BETTER
TOGETHER

Employment Opportunity

St. Joseph in Fayette is hiring a part time **DRE (Director of Religious Education) and community/campus outreach person**. This person will be responsible to run our PSR, confirmation, and adult education programs. You will also need to have the skills to develop our electronic footprint (web page and social media), with a special focus on Central Methodist University students. All applicants must be Catholic and in good standing with the church. This position is 20 hours a week with starting pay \$13.50 to \$15.00 an hour, depending on qualifications. Contact Fr. Bill Peckman 573-338-0061.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

Forming a Conscience for Faithful Citizenship continues to present to the Catholic faithful, and all those of good will, an up-to-date guide to help form consciences as they participate in the civil order and public life. *No bishop, priest, deacon, religious or lay ecclesial minister shall endorse or oppose a candidate in the name of the Church.* Instead, we must assist the faithful to approach the election with a fully formed conscience. My [full statement](#) on this is online and will be in the Oct. 2 issue of The Catholic Missourian. The diocese is providing social media graphics and messages on its [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts related to the election process which can be shared on parish and school accounts. For more information, please email us at communication@diojeffcity.org.

Please see the attached letter from the Bishop titled, "The Times That Try Our Souls."

Please keep in your prayers the following people:

Residents of St. Andrews New Florence Nursing & Care Center, Hwy 19 & Picnic Road, New Florence, MO 63363 - Susan Ryan
Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for: Nick Schneider, John Goodwin, Marlene Cunningham, Mackenzie Hagemeier, Julie Thielmeier, Don Benney, Susan Schipper, Valerie Readey Neudecker, Angela Witthaus Keller, Karen Clark, Gina Smith, Virginia Cochran, Jo Scott, Bobby Cochran, Mary Hertel, Joshua Cochran, Anita Jones, Jim Cochran, Jr., Jim Cochran, Sr., and Lynn Cunningham Duncan.



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Travis Thebeau, Jacob Merz, Daniel Lohmann, Jared Korman, Tom Kraust, Tim O'Fallon, Brandon Benney, Gary Frey, John Burce, Chris Burce, Jacob Jones, Matt Veder, Michel James, Michael Adams, and John Martin.



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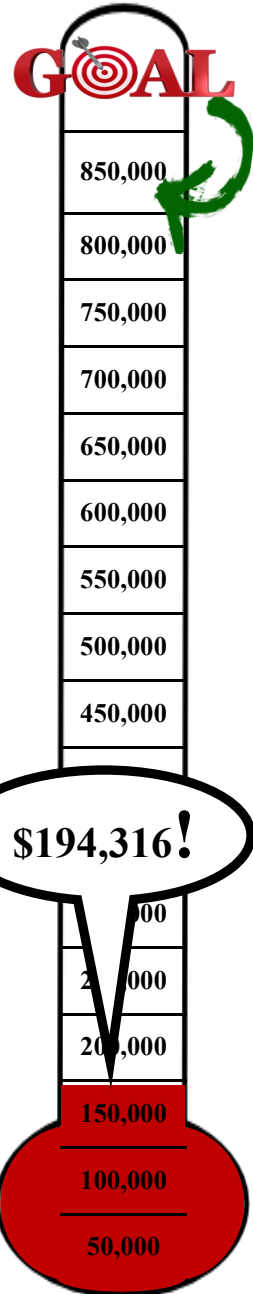
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