

[Jesus said,] "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

MATTHEW 21:43

MARKUS SPIKE FROM / PEXELS

Caring for God's Vineyard

Today's readings are troubling texts. This is not because of what they say, but because of how they have been interpreted through the ages. In the first reading, despite everything the owner has done, the vineyard identified as Israel/Judah has brought forth wild grapes. In the Gospel the issue is with the trustworthiness of those who work and care for the vineyard. It is clear that Jesus is criticizing the leaders of his day with a failure of leadership. For this reason, leadership will be taken from them and given to others.

Both of these readings have been interpreted as condemnation of the Jewish people. This has sometimes resulted in anti-Semitism. We must remember that both readings reflect internal problems—something that all religious bodies experience. Despite their failure, the people of Judah

were still called God's "cherished plant" (Isaiah 5:7). In the Gospel, leadership was taken from some Jews and given to other Jews—not to outsiders. One religious tradition didn't replace another.

We experience similar struggles in today's Church. As the vineyard of God, what kind of fruit do we produce? After all God has done for us, how do we respond? How faithful are we in caring for God's vineyard? This is a difficult time with respect to religious leadership, but how supportive are we of genuine local Church leadership? You and I have been entrusted with the growth and health of the Church. How good have we been at caring for that vineyard?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

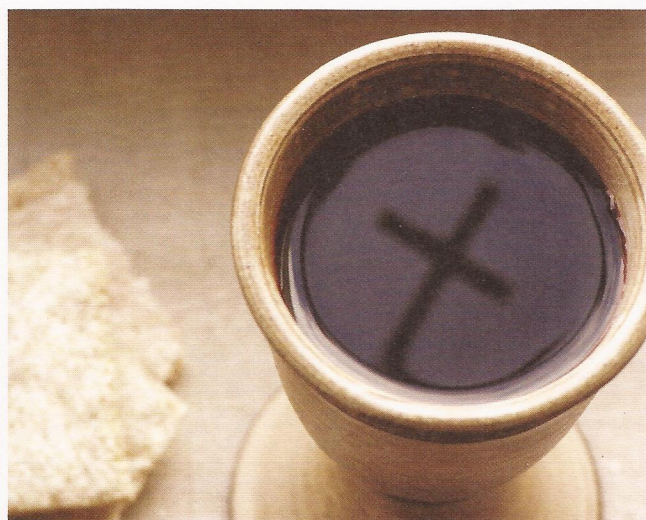
- ✱ *We are the Church. How do we handle some of its internal problems?*
- ✱ *We pray for the leaders of the Church at every liturgy. Make those prayers your own.*

Dear Padre,

Aren't we discriminating against other Christians when we don't celebrate the Eucharist with them?

You have to keep the Church's intentions in mind: Are we excluding to make people feel left out, or are we excluding to uphold the dignity and sanctity of the Eucharist?

Everyone is welcome to celebrate the Eucharist—there's only one part they can't participate in. That might sound like a cop-out, but Catholics believe that the Eucharist is the actual Body and Blood of Christ. For it to be true Communion, everyone who receives it must believe the same thing about it.



In its Guidelines for the Reception of Communion, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says, "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily

not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission" as outlined in canon law. "All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another" (GRC).

—Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table, as the concrete expression of full unity. We experience the pain of those who share their whole lives, but cannot share God's redeeming presence at the Eucharistic table....We long for this wound in the Body of Christ to be healed.

—JOINT STATEMENT, CATHOLIC-LUTHERAN
COMMEMORATION OF THE REFORMATION, OCTOBER 31, 2016



Calendar

Monday

OCTOBER 5

Weekday

Gal 1:6–12

Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday

OCTOBER 6

Weekday

Gal 1:13–24

Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday

OCTOBER 7

Our Lady of the Rosary

Gal 2:1–2, 7–14

Lk 11:1–4

Thursday

OCTOBER 8

Weekday

Gal 3:1–5

Lk 11:5–13

Friday

OCTOBER 9

Weekday

Gal 3:7–14

Lk 11:15–26

Saturday

OCTOBER 10

Weekday

Gal 3:22–29

Lk 11:27–28

Sunday

OCTOBER 11

*Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Is 25:6–10a

Phil 4:12–14,
19–20

Mt 22:1–14
or 22:1–10



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.mcciparish.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; Open-Vice-President; Secretary-Open, Dennis Benney, Laura Yelton, Vicki Parker, & Mary Pottebaum

October 4, 2020 - TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Monday, October 5th
Tuesday, October 6th
Wednesday, October 7th
Thursday, October 8th
Friday, October 9th
Saturday, October 10th
Sunday, October 11th

Mass Intentions

No Mass

No Mass - Wellsville

No Mass - Jonesburg

No Mass - Montgomery City

No Mass - Martinsburg

5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City +Mary Dryden

7:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg

9:00 AM Mass - Martinsburg

11:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City - Our Parish Family



July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Church/School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
August 2020	\$56,148.11	\$ 37,784.70	\$18,363.41
Fiscal Year July - Aug. 2020-21	\$113,624.01	\$ 91,049.68	\$22,574.33
Needed Weekly	\$ 11,835.50		
September 6 -	\$ 11,957.77		
September 13 -	\$ 6,864.74		
September 20 -	\$ 8,379.00		
September 27 -	\$ 19,204.50		

Last Week's Envelopes: 44 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 exist 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 10th & October 11th

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 5th	No Mass
Tuesday, October 6th	No Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, October 7th	No Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, October 8th	No Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, October 9th	No Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, October 10th	5:00 PM - Mass - Montgomery City
Sunday, October 11th	7:00 AM - Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM - Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM - Mass - Montgomery City

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, October 5th	
Tuesday, October 6th	
Wednesday, October 7th	7:30 PM - Knights of Columbus
Thursday, October 8th	9:30 AM - Ministerial Alliance 5:00 PM - Parish Council
Friday, October 9th	
Saturday, October 10th	1:30 PM - Wedding
Sunday, October 11th	9:30 AM - PSR - 3rd / 4th Grades 6:00 PM - 5th / 6th Grades 6:00 PM - Confirmation Class

Wedding Anniversary



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

*Mike & Jane Dorlac - 12 years of marriage on October 4th
David & Mary Falloon - 48 years of marriage on Oct. 7th*

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvement	\$ 60.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 125.00
Harvest BBQ	\$ 6,518.00
Special Collections:	
World Mission Sunday	\$ 40.00
Retirement for Religious	\$ 00.00
Donations	\$ 00.00



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.

Congratulations/Welcome

Welcome to Jackson Dale Owen who was baptized after Mass on September 27, 2020! He is the son of Katie (Queathem) & Lowell Owen of our Parish Family.



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 has been advised that the new roof installation will be started this week! We appreciate your patience in this process. 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



October 5, 2020 thru October 13, 2020 - Iowa Testing

Please see the attached communication from Ms. Schroeder, School Principal.



ECLC Happenings

The children are so excited to learn about why the weather is getting cooler and why the season is now called "Fall". Interesting fact: Generally in the United States we call this time of year "Fall" when it is really called Autumn. The United States calls it "Fall" because that is when the leaves begin falling off of the trees.

The children are creating crafts related to "Fall".



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.**

Ring of the Chimes

You've probably heard the chimes being played at the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. If you are interested in helping us with this addition to our Music Ministry, we practice on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. at church. The chimes are easy to play and there is no obligation to play every weekend. If you are interested, please call Dottie at 564-2183 or simply come to practice.



Rosary Rally



A Rosary Rally in honor of Our Lady of Fatima will be held at 12:00 noon on Saturday, October 10th at Immaculate Conception School Outdoor Garden. Please bring a lawn chair if you wish to sit during the prayers (which will take approximately 45 minutes) and arrive 10 to 15 minutes early. Social distancing will be practiced.

St. Mary's Cemetery Parish Event

Many parishioners may not be aware there is a beautiful new shelter and stone altar at St. Mary's Cemetery. On Monday, November 2, 2020 Fr. Austin will say Mass and bless the new shelter and stone altar at St. Mary's Cemetery. Mass will be at 9:00 a.m.

Covid 19 - Church Requirements

Abiding by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/s102920-covid-19-guidance), the use of face masks upon entering the church, during the celebration of Mass except when in place in the pew, during the Communion procession, and upon leaving the church is required. If social distancing cannot be maintained in the pew, then the wearing of face masks is obligatory even in the pew.

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 8, 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.



DIocese OF
Jefferson City

BETTER
TOGETHER

Employment Opportunity

The **Moderator of the Curia and Vicar General** are seeking an accomplished **Administrative Assistant** to support their clerical needs within the **Chancery Office**. This individual must have excellent skills with Microsoft Office and the ability to prioritize and switch tasks as needed. This position is also responsible for training others and holds the key position for coordinating maintenance on office equipment and will serve as a back-up administrative assistant to the Bishop as necessary. Professionalism and confidentiality are essential. Qualified candidates should email resume to HRDir@diojeffcity.org.

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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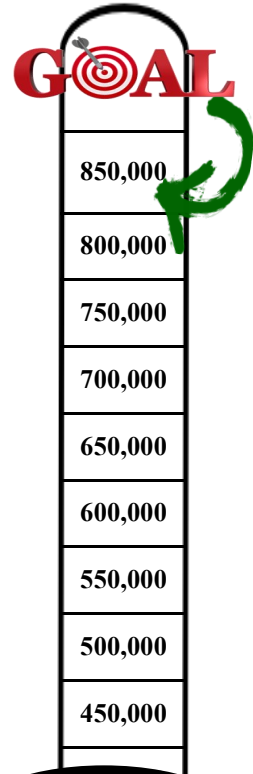
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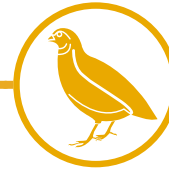
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MAKING CONNECTIONS

Bishop W. Shawn McKnight



THE TIMES THAT TRY OUR SOULS

During an historic pandemic, our country faces one of the most contentious presidential election campaigns in recent memory. Some of our fellow Americans may be wondering if they are living in the apocalypse, with fire, drought, hurricanes, flooding, riots and other stresses added to the mix. Just where is our country headed?

There is much at stake in the upcoming election. As Catholics, we are obliged to be informed of and to engage in the political process. Our society benefits when good Catholics run for office, participate in political parties, and fulfill their civic duty to vote. We each have an important role in creating a society in which every human life is respected and valued, and in which the freedom to practice religion is guaranteed.

What I see happening in our nation, unfortunately, is a strident, rancorous discord that tears not only at the fabric of our society but also at the communion of the Church. And this disharmony endangers the salvation of souls. I am more concerned about the aftermath of the upcoming presidential election than I am about the election itself. What kind of people are we becoming because of today's political climate?

As the bishop for this local church, the Diocese of Jefferson City, I have a particular responsibility to do everything I can to ensure the salvation of souls in my diocese. For this reason, I strongly encourage every Catholic and anyone of goodwill to read the statement of the U.S. bishops, "[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)." As the document explains, the Catholic social teachings we hold dearly have political implications, whether they concern the dignity of human life, marriage and family, racism, the environment or the economy. For this reason, I have and will continue to take positions on important ballot measures and issues that touch upon these teachings. However, the responsibility I carry as a bishop does not mean I tell people for whom they should vote. Let me explain.

The obligation to preserve the authentic teachings of our Catholic faith is not the same thing as making a prudential decision on how these teachings are best applied in the political process. The Church's responsibility in addressing political and social issues is to assist Catholics in forming their consciences. When we vote for candidates for public office, we are not directly voting for party platforms or issues, we vote for a person. This is an important nuance, which is considered in detail in "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," nos. 17-39. The individual Catholic voter bears responsibility for connecting the dots between what our faith teaches and which candidates will best serve the common good. For this reason, no bishop, priest, deacon, religious or lay ecclesial minister shall endorse or oppose a candidate in the name of the Church.



It is urgent that each of us enter these remaining weeks before the election with the end in mind – our place in eternity. In addition to voting in accord with a well-formed conscience, we are all obliged to be faithful to our Lord in how we treat one another, especially during this charged election season. I therefore encourage the following:

1. Always treat other people according to their dignity as fellow human beings, perhaps especially those who espouse contrary political opinions from us. People can disagree, even fervently, without losing decorum and respect. Unfortunately, the lack of civility now commonplace only feeds the culture of death and impedes a culture of life. Jesus instructed us to love our enemy and to pray for those who persecute us.
2. Remember frequently the teaching of our Lord: “How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,’ when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite!” (Luke 6:42). As Christians engaged in the political process, we are obliged to reflect first on the shortcomings of our own political party and candidates before casting aspersions on others. It is all too easy to point out how the other political party or other candidates fall short of our Catholic teachings. It is difficult, even humbling, to acknowledge the truth that our own political party and candidates also fall short in some way.
3. No matter who the electorate will choose on Nov. 3, many people will still be hurting from the effects of the pandemic – mentally, physically, emotionally and economically. The broken-hearted will still be with us, as will the neglected and marginalized. They will need our mercy and charity. We will need to find a way to heal our political divisions and to work side by side with all people of goodwill to “form a more perfect union.”

We can do none of this if we are not first paying attention to our own souls. As St. Paul wrote, it is impossible for God’s Love to be born from idolatry, hatred, rivalry, jealousy, fury, acts of selfishness, dissensions, and other selfish behavior (see Galatians 5:19-23).

Instead, St. Paul claims that our souls should bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Notice how each of these fruits of the Spirit are a virtue that affects other people. If we take care of the state of our own soul first, we can then relate well with others. But when we fail to live in accord with these perfections, it is an indication that something is wrong in our own soul.

In these trying days, when we are all somewhat fragile and feeling buffeted by the storms of life, those gifts of the Spirit are the best offerings we can bring to our families, our communities and our nation. May our participation in this year’s election be an opportunity for us to act in accord with our Catholic faith and to strengthen a more perfect union among us.



Immaculate Conception School

407 West Third

Montgomery City, MO 63361

www.icschool-mc.org 573.564.2679

September 30, 2020

Message from Ms. Schroeder

We are coming up on Iowa testing week. Please make sure your child is well-rested, has had breakfast and is ready to work hard. Also, check your child's classroom sign-up sheet to see if you are responsible for providing a snack. The snacks need to be a healthy snack and can be homemade. Please send it in a sealed container for safety purposes.

Please be watching out for more information on all of the Home & School fundraisers. Home & School is asking that each family donate two desserts (one being a pie) for the bake sale at Rustoberfest on October 10. Home & School will be hosting a BBQ on October 18 in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus's 1st Annual Poker Run. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out with these fundraisers, please contact Lisa Merz or myself. On October 24, Home & School is having a virtual scavenger hunt that is guaranteed fun for the entire family. Please support these amazing fundraisers!

Halloween is coming up which we all love! Our students can wear school-appropriate costumes on October 30, but please no masks, makeup, wigs or hair color. Please check your child's classroom sign-up sheet to see if you are responsible for any items for the Halloween party. At this time parents aren't allowed within the school building, and we are so sorry about that. The MOCO Health Department will reevaluate our restrictions after the first semester. Please pray that Covid-19 is on the downhill slide so we can welcome back parents and volunteers within our amazing school building.

Important Dates:

Oct. 1 - Prayer Partner Mass @ 10 am

Oct. 6-13 - Achievement Testing

Oct. 10 - Home & School Bake Sale at Rustoberfest

Oct. 12 - No School (Columbus Day)

Oct. 15 - End of 1st Quarter

Oct. 16 - No School (Staff Retreat)

Oct. 18 - Home & School BBQ

Oct. 24 - Home & School Scavenger Hunt

Oct. 27- Flu Shot Clinic @ ICS

Oct. 30 - Halloween Party @ 2pm

ICS is offering **dress down passes** for those who are willing to sell candy bars. Every \$10 sold equals 1 dress down pass for your ICS student. Please help us out!



We will be hosting Zoom Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. Be watching for a sign-up sheet from your child's teacher.

