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163rd YEAR OF SERVICE
Immaculate Conception
307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

573.564.2375 Parish Office | Office Hours M-Th 9am-3pm
Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org
Parish Council Members: Dennis Benney-President, Jack Wells-Vice-President
Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, Dennis Cobb, and Michael Smith



155th YEAR OF SERVICE
St. Patrick Parish
505 First St. | Jonesburg | Missouri | 63351

636.488.5623 Parish Office | Office Hours T—Th 9am-1pm
Debbie Enger, Secretary | stpats@centurytel.net | www.stpatricksjonesburg.org
Parish Council Members: Dan Schwartz-President, Barb Turpin-Vice-President
Katherine Stroot-Secretary, Michael Van Beek & Jocelyn Schluss

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

Fr. Ernest Dike, Parochial Administrator, edike@diojeffcity.org

Bulletin Deadline is Wednesday at 9am!

December 1, 2024 - First Sunday of Advent

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.

St. Patrick Parish Mission
As a church community here at St. Patrick, we want to know, love and serve Jesus in our efforts in: Christian formation/faith development; worship; social services; and stewardship of resources.

MONDAY
December 2
Advent Weekday
Is 2:1-5
Mt 8:5-11

TUESDAY
December 3
St. Francis Xavier,
Priest
Is 11:1-10
Lk 10:21-24

WEDNESDAY
December 4
Advent Weekday
Is 25:6-10a
Mt 15:29-37

THURSDAY
December 5
Advent Weekday
Is 26:1-6
Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY
December 6
Advent Weekday
Is 29:17-24
Mt 9:27-31

SATURDAY
December 7
St. Ambrose,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Is 30:19-21,
23-26
Mt 9:35-10:1,
5a, 6-8

SUNDAY
December 8
Second Sunday
of Advent
Bar 5:1-9
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Lk 3:1-6

The Waiting Time

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Advent is a time of hope but also a time of waiting. Different than wishing, hope is the belief that, one day, all will be well. Teenagers eagerly wait to be out on their own, believing then all will be well. Students are eager to graduate and get away from papers to write, books to read, and exams to take—then all will be well. Some singles long to find a partner, marry, and settle down, believing—then—all will be well. Always there is the faith that, although life may not now be what we wish, the future will bring a time when all will be well. We are inveterate people of hope.

Yet life is a process that cannot be rushed. Author Annie Dillard once watched a butterfly hatch from a cocoon. A bit impatient, she decided to gently warm

the cocoon and so hasten the process. It worked, except by rushing the process the butterfly's wings were undeveloped, too weak to fly. All that we hope and long for in life must happen at its own pace, faithful to the process.

How, then, do we negotiate the waiting? The Gospel's encouragement is to pray, but not for what we want. Rather, we are to pray for the strength to stand with hope before the Son of Man, trusting that God will bring forth the goodness we need. Though it may be different than what we seek, it will be what we need. ●

Reflect

How can you better enjoy times of waiting?



May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all... to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12-13

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick

Mon	December 2nd	NO Mass		
Tue	December 3rd	5:30 PM	Montgomery City	+Judy Cunningham
Wed	December 4th	8:30 AM	Jonesburg	+Joseph Betz
Thur	December 5th	8:00 AM	Montgomery City	+Don Benney
Fri	December 6th	8:00 AM	Montgomery City	-Educational Personnel
Sat	December 7th	5:00 PM	Montgomery City	-Our Parish Family
Sun	December 8th	8:00 AM	Jonesburg	+Joe Lenzenhuber
		10:00 AM	Montgomery City	-Prayers for those in need

A reminder: If there is a funeral at any of the two parishes or a school cancellation due to weather, there will be **no** scheduled Mass

Sacraments & Information

Parish Membership: Please call the parish office to register.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: IC Sat 4:15PM-4:45PM, SP Sun 7:15AM or by appointment.
Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation: Call the parish office to set up an appointment.
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: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Please call for details.
Hospitalization: If you are hospitalized or have a family member who is home-bound, please call the parish office.

Immaculate Conception Parish & School

	Income	Expenses	Difference
Fiscal Jul 24-Oct 24, YTD	\$234,792.73	\$256,413.87	-\$21,621.14
October	\$52,341.80	\$51,613.26	\$728.54
	Church	ICS/Daycare	Total
November 3rd	\$5,164.00	\$3,997.50	\$9,161.50
November 10th	\$3,396.10	5,338.00	\$8,734.10
November 17th	\$9,900.29	\$5,383.00	\$15,283.29
November 24th	\$3,812.00	\$8,315.00	\$12,127.00
Weekly Goal	\$13,233.00	Wkly Avg	\$11,326.47

Your Gifts to God! Thank You!



St. Patrick Parish

	Income	Expenses	Difference
Budget Goal FY 25	\$76,000.00		
Total Collected YTD	\$21,501.00		
	Church		Total
November 3rd	\$1,216.00		
November 10th	\$1,692.00		
November 17th	\$1,029.00		
November 24th			
Weekly Goal	\$1,365.39	Wkly Avg	\$1,312.33

Additional Financial Information

Donations for Christmas Flowers - \$50.00

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.

Mass Ministries	November 30th & December 1st	December 7th & 8th	December 14th & 15th	December 21st & 22nd
Lector	Beckham Cothren	Beth Cobb	Dennis Benney	Beth Roesner
Children's Liturgy				
Eucharistic Minister	Mary Pottebaum	Gary Hoette	Beth Cobb	Megan Hans
Ministers of Hospitality	Don & Lile Broz Steve & Beth Cobb	Jacob & Megan Hans Family	Daryl & Nancy Cobb Bob Dryden	Cothren Family
Servers	Reed Pottebaum & Beth Roesner	Lila Broz & Malorie Schulte	Mercer Cothren & Emelia Hans	Ella Hans & Reed Pottebaum
Money Counters	John & Aggie Baldetti & Daryl Rhoads	John/Aggie Baldetti & Darryl Rhoads	Don /Sandy Oakes & Megan Hans	Dottie Brueggen & Debbie Heidelberger
Lector	Mark Brower	Pat Stumbaugh	Michael Readey	Amanda Arens
Children's Liturgy	Geri Park	Bonnie Walker	Anna Harrell	Dianne Talley
Eucharistic Minister	Jenidean Readey	Jack Wells	Dennis Cobb	Jacob Lotton
Ministers of Hospitality	Melissa & Justin Beabout Dana Schneider & Brady Craven	Jeff & Amanda Arens Steve Williams & Julie Worsham	Pat & Janet Stumbaugh Dave & Janet Cobb	Charlie & Pat Korman Ron & Dianne Talley
Servers	Paisley & Steele Anderson	Tinley Anderson & Leyla Beabout	Alena & Natalie Beabout	Elizabeth Schierhoff & Kendra Rakers
Money Counters	Vicki Parker & Elaine Winford	Cathy McCormack & Pam Schwartz	Vickie Parker & Dave Teeter	Mark Brower & Steve Williams
Hospitality/Usher	Volunteer	Ellis Family	Farrar Family	Lenzenhuber//Dothage
Altar Clean Up Only	Laurie Dothage	Laurie Dothage	Jan Milzark	Jan Milzark
Lector	Jan Milzark	Laurie Gilbert	Donna Cobb	Bridget Cobb
Servers	Carl Johnson & Emma Cobb	Anna Johnson & Luke Farrar	Emma Cobb & Cark Johnson	
Eucharistic Minister	Vicki Duenke	Bridget Cobb	Nancy Cobb	John Cobb, Sr.
Money Counters	Brad Ellis & Derrick Cobb	Gracie Cobb & Jan Milzark	Brad Ellis & Derrick Cobb	Katherine Stroot & Laurie Dothage

Remember, if you are unable to complete your assigned time, you are responsible for finding a replacement! Thank you for your service!

Dear Padre,

I've been Catholic all my life, but I don't understand Advent. It's too much like Lent and seems an odd way to prepare for the birth of a baby.



In a society that is primarily secular, one skill of the believing Christian is the ability to balance competing realities. From a secular perspective, Christmas is part of the period identified as the "holidays," beginning with Thanksgiving until New Year's Day, when it abruptly ends and stores begin advertising Valentine's Day.

For Christians, Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the great promise fulfilled after centuries of waiting and expectation. The creative energy of the Father is displayed in wonder and awe as the angels sing and people of good faith gather to celebrate. We join our ancestors in anticipation of this event through the liturgical season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation.

The Christian holy day is a singular day, the feast of the Nativity of the Lord—Christmas—but the Church continues the celebration of God's life and love through the days that follow, culminating in the Baptism of the Lord, the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus.

We are invited to hold the secular and the liturgical experiences in an integrated balance. We can celebrate the secular holidays and we can enter the liturgical season that helps us contemplate something much grander and more spectacular. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Bishop McKnight's November prayer intention for our Local Church

For a spirit of unity and Thanksgiving to be cultivated in our lives and in our nation. That we may see God's light reflected in the blessings of our family, friends and community.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians"—and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness.... This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 28, 2021



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**Christmas
Craft & Gift Show**

At Hometown Christmas
Friday, December 13, 2024 6pm-8pm
Saturday, December 14, 2024 9am-2pm

Knights of Columbus Hall
Highway 19
Montgomery City, MO

Sponsored by
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Society of St. Vincent dePaul
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rtalley@alsatwireless.com

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vegetable soup & desserts

Breaking the Silence of Abuse - As a diocese, we are committed to breaking the silence of abuse. When someone is reporting abuse, we must acknowledge their pain and how difficult it is to talk about it. False allegations are very rare. Our initial response to someone who is disclosing abuse for the first time must be compassionate. For those who need to report abuse, encourage them to contact our Victims Assistance Coordinator, Jacqueline Baldwin, (573-694-3199) and to make use of the appropriate State of Missouri hotline (1-800-392-3738) or the [Attorney General's clergy abuse online form](#). All of this information is also on our website, under the 'report abuse' tab. For those who want information or want to convey a message to Bishop McKnight, please encourage them to write to us at reportabuse@diojeffcity.org.

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen

I Thessalonians 3:12-13

Let us enter this season of advent reflecting in thanksgiving for the most precious gift of love to nourish our hearts in holiness for God and one another.



**Decree Dispensing the Faithful
from the Obligation to Attend Mass
on December 9, 2024**

Bishop McKnight has dispensed the faithful in our diocese from the obligation to attend Mass on Monday, Dec. 9. The faithful are still obliged to attend Mass on Sunday, Dec. 8 to celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent.



The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation, is typically celebrated on December 8.



This year, the holy day falls on a Sunday. When this happens, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is moved to Monday (Dec. 9).



However, incorrect guidance was widely published and distributed nationally stating that Monday, Dec. 9 is not a holy day of obligation. In addition, there is added difficulty in scheduling a sufficient number of Masses on a regular workday in parishes sharing one priest.



Therefore, the faithful in our diocese are only obliged to attend Mass on Sunday, Dec. 8 to celebrate the Second Sunday of Advent.

Bishop McKnight is asking all priests to offer a Mass in their parishes on Dec. 9 in honor of our national patroness under the title of the Immaculate Conception, even if a Mass is not typically scheduled that day.



Nativity at the Capitol on December 5, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Full-size Nativity Scenes and Music in the Capitol Rotunda AND on the South Lawn Steps. Local Schools will be participating. For more information, contact Judy Bax at 573 690 1218. Come celebrate our 10th annual "Reason for the Season" with local schools and citizens. Organized by St. Andrew's Parish in Holt Summit.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Monday	Dec. 2nd		
Tuesday	Dec. 3rd	IC IC SP	6:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Adoration 5:00 PM - Benediction & Devotion to Divine Mercy 6:30 PM - Small Group Study @ Parish House
Wednesday	Dec. 4th	IC IC SP SP	6:00 PM - Home & School 7:00 PM - Knights of Columbus Following 8:30 AM Mass - Breakfast @ The Warehouse - all are welcome! 9:00 AM - Small Group Study @ Parish Hall
Thursday	Dec. 5th	IC SP	10:00 AM - Prayer Partner Mass 11:30 AM - Ladies Luncheon - Parish Hall
Friday	Dec. 6th		
Saturday	Dec. 7th	SP	10:00-11:30 AM - Grief Class at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Jonesburg
Sunday	Dec. 8th	SP	After 8:00 AM Mass - Coffee & Donuts in Parish Hall - all are welcome



See!
I will not forget you, I have carved you on the palm of my hand.
Isaiah 49:15
Welcome everyone.
On Tuesdays starting at 6:00 AM we have Eucharistic Adoration: a special time to worship and praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and to deepen your intimate friendship and be nourished and strengthened by His presence and love.
At 5:00 PM Adoration will close with Devotion to the Divine Mercy and Benediction. Mass will start at 5:30 PM.

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
Jeremiah 29:12

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
Susie Ryan, Bill & Lucille Muenz, and Mike Busken

Resident of Victorian Manor
2120 Village Lane, Hermann, MO 65041
Peggy Gardner

Residents of Stonebridge in Hermann
1800 Wein St, Hermann, MO 65041
Tony & Laverne Wessel, Sr.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE STRUGGLING, SICK AND INFIRMED:

Al & Christine Barger, Beau Boschenreither, Geoff Brueggen, Elizabeth Brueggen, Molly Brueggen, Larry Brueggemann, Marion Bullerdick, Parker Calbreath, Robert Carillo, Becky Cothren, Clint Cunningham, Marla Daniels, Tom Eggering, Jean Fishback, Sheryl Gibbs, Lucille Griesbauer, Anna Gross, Ed Grillo, Henry Hamill, Michael & Grace Hanneken, Ken Hocke, Antoinette Hoing, Ingrid Keller, Genevieve Kelly, Pat Kline, Pat Merz, Jan Milzark, Kathleen Mohrmann, Ida Mosley, Lyndsey O'Bryan, Alice O'Donnell, Margaret O'Donnell, Terry Parker, Peatross Family, Avery Penn, Rae Jean Rhoads, Shirley Rose, Susie Ryan, John Rybacki, Nick Schneider, Ruth Schneider, Evelyn Strauss, Katherine Stroot, Londa Swoboda, Ed Torbeck, Barb Turpin, Margaret Van Beek, Tony Wessel, Sr., Jim Wortmann, Don Zerr

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES.

Brandon Wells, Noah Richard, Dylan Willis, Daniel Lohmann, and Donnie Wisdom



**Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church
And gave himself up for her. ~Ephesians 5:25**



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

Tom & Kay Benney - 44 years of marriage on December 6th
James & Christine Futhy - 28 years of marriage on December 7th

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating in December

3rd - Mike Claussen
8th - Karen Stenger
9th - Alice O'Donnell
10th - Pauline Horstdaniel
12th - Elizabeth Barclay
12th - Terri Lenzenhuber
20th - John Woods

29th - Christina Poggas
29th - Alan Schluss
30th - Makenzie Woods



Holiday Mass & Penance Service Schedule

Penance Service:

December 12th - 6:00 PM at St. Patrick
December 19th - 6:00 PM at Immaculate Conception

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day:

Dec. 24th - 5:00 PM Vigil Mass at Immaculate Con.
Dec. 24th - 10:30 PM Midnight Mass at St. Patrick
Dec. 25th - 10:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

New Year's Day (January 1, 2025)

8:00 AM Mass at St. Patrick
10:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Movie Night Date Changes



We just want everyone to know there will be no "Movie Night" on December 25th. In January "The Chosen" will be shown three nights: January 8th, 22nd, and 29th, at 6:00 PM. We hope you can join us!

St. Vincent dePaul Gift Shop

Advent is coming soon! The SVDP Gift Shop at Immaculate Conception Church has Advent Wreaths and candles for sale. We also have an assortment of ornaments - 2 for \$1.00. They would make great stocking stuffers! Stop by after Mass to check out what else we have in the Gift Shop. Contact Dianne Talley (573) 590-3158 or Debbie Heidelberger at (573) 289-0047 for more information.



St. Patrick Parish Christmas Party

Parish Christmas party will be Sunday December 15th at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be served at Noon.



KOC Ladies Auxiliary Meeting

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary meeting on December 10th will be held at the KOC building at noon and not at 1:00 at Kim's house.

Prayer Partner Mass Date Change

December Prayer Partner mass will be on Thursday, Dec. 5th at 10 a.m. followed by a meal at ICS provided by ICS Home and School.

Thank You for Your Support!

The ICS 6th and 8th graders would like to thank the parishioners for the overwhelming support of our Bake Sale. We were so pleased with how it turned out! We are planning to do another one March 1-2, just before Lent.

St. Patrick's Upcoming Events Preparation Help

We need everyone's help trimming the parish Christmas Tree and help moving tables and chairs in preparation for the blood drive on Tuesday 12/3. Thanks in advance for your help.

We need help setting up tables and chairs this Wednesday 12/4 after Mass in preparation for the Ladies Luncheon on Thursday 12/5. Thanks in advance for your help

Blood Drive

There will be a Blood Drive at St. Patrick's in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, December 3rd, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Please help save lives by donating!

St. Patrick's Ladies Luncheon

December Ladies Luncheon will be held at the Parish Hall on December 5th at 11:30 AM. We will have a meat and cheese tray from Moser's, and ask everyone to provide a soup, a salad, or a dessert to share.



All women of the parish and community are welcome to attend. As in the past we want to support a local charity. This year we will support the Back Pack (NRG) program.

Your financial support is greatly needed and appreciated instead of food items. Nancy is willing to shop for what is needed in order to get enough of the same items in the proper containers. These are the items she usually buys: breakfast items; cereal and oatmeal, lunch items; macaroni and cheese, Vienna sausages, crackers, peanut butter, ravioli, SpaghettiOs, soups, and vegetables, snack items; granola bars, and fruits. The NRG program provides milk each week to the kids.

Christmas Tree Giving Notice

The Immaculate Conception Social Concerns Commission will have the Christmas Giving Tree up starting November 16. Youth in Need (YIN) will take delivery of the gifts anytime until Dec 6th. YIN is located next to Dominos Pizza and they are open from 7:30am to 4:00pm Tuesday thru Friday. The Montgomery County Christmas Club recommends each gift be in the range of \$25. Keep in mind that each child that we are helping has 3 ornaments on the tree, so you only need to buy one item per gift tag in the \$25 range. If you would rather give a cash donation instead of shopping, please send Beth Roesner or Debbie Heidelberger the money by no later than December 1. You can return the gift wrapped with the ornament attached or unwrapped with the ornament. The Social Concerns Commission and the Montgomery County Christmas Club thank all of you that participate in this program.



Immaculate Conception School News

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | 573.564.2679 - School Office | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org



Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your membership at Immaculate Conception Parish.

I invite you to consider learning about our parish school (Immaculate Conception) and possibly sending your Child (ren) to our parish school.

Pope Francis emphasizes that Catholic Schools, are the most valuable resource for evangelization. Catholic schools aim "to help youth grow according to the new creatures they were made through Baptism." The Church has a duty to educate. In response to the gospel the Catholic school seeks to become a community. Catholic schools teach Christ core values to children; to be responsible good people who care for their community and try to imitate Christ.

School choice refers to programs offering alternatives to assigned local public school education. Choosing one's school can boost a child's engagement and motivation, allow them to capitalize on their strengths, and enable them to meet their individual learning needs.

Immaculate Conception School provides such a choice. ICS incorporates spirituality into every aspect of the curriculum. Students will have smaller classes with more personalized attention. Their education is tailored to the need of the student. ICS has an enriching environment that encourages learning and exploration. This is contrary to a traditional approach that teaches them the basics of reading, writing and math.

ICS aims at providing an environment in which Christian faith affects personal growth (mental, moral, spiritual and physical) citizenship and preparation for further education.

Please consider visiting with me regarding Immaculate Conception School.

Fr. Ernest Dike

9 Powerful and Practical Ways to Celebrate Advent Adapted from Ascension Articles

By: Julia Morgensai

Visit the lonely. Throughout Advent, there are plenty of opportunities for volunteering in our parish and community. But service doesn't have to be organized. Saint Mother Teresa said, "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." Reach out to someone who is lonely in your neighborhood, your church, or your extended family. Ask them to coffee, invite them for dinner, drop off some cookies, or have a phone conversation. Ask them questions about their lives. This type of simple connection is a tremendously powerful way to see Jesus in another person and help them realize the dignity within themselves.

Grow closer to the saints. The liturgical calendar dedicates saints to each day of the week, and this is a beautiful way to connect with our community in heaven. Each day throughout Advent, read about the saint of the day and ask for their intercession for someone or something close to your heart. By Christmas time, you will have a whole group of saints cheering you on.

Pray with an Advent devotional. It is easy for the Christmas story to feel far away from our lives—like a fairy tale that starts with "Once upon a time in a faraway land." By using a guided Advent journal or program, you can be guided with meditations and prayers that will provide a manageable portion to pray through each day.

Use Christmas cards as prayer reminders. As Christmas cards arrive during December, place them in a basket in a noticeable area. Once a day, pull out one card and pray for that person. You can write the person a note signed by your family or send them a text that says, "We prayed for you today."

Begin an evening practice of expectant prayer. If you feel rushed and out of control, this is a profound step towards a prayer rhythm. At the beginning of Advent, set a daily reminder on your phone, your watch, or a note on your bathroom mirror—however it works in your daily rhythm. Sit in a quiet place and don't feel pressure to come up with words to pray or to read Scripture. Allow yourself to wait for God's presence to break through in the middle of the crazy.

Write notes of encouragement. The world is waiting for the promises of God to be fulfilled. Buy a stack of beautiful holiday cards and take a little time each evening to write a note of encouragement and gratitude to the people in your life. Include in this list both the people you know are struggling and those who seem to be doing just fine. We all need reminders that we're seen, loved, and known.

Visit a live Nativity. In a live Nativity, real people dress up as the characters from the Christmas story. By seeing the characters as live people, it reminds us that Mary, Joseph, and the animals were real, too. When we see the tangible nature of the Christmas story, the beautiful truths it reveals become tangible, too. Many churches put these live presentations on—find one in your community.

Fast. In our society, it is very difficult to fast from all treats during Advent, since anticipatory Christmas goodies are served everywhere you go. The most effective fasting during this season would be to fast from noise, franticness, and media. Try to cut back on news, sports, entertainment, politics, frantic errands, and other avoidable distractions, opening up more space for prayer in your day.

Be patient with yourself. St. Francis de Sales said, "Be patient with all things, but first of all with yourself." As we approach various Advent practices, remember that God wants your heart more than anything. He wants your imperfect efforts. He wants more for us and not more from us.

May the peace of Christ dwell richly in your heart this season.



Immaculate Conception School

407 West Third
Montgomery City, MO 63361
www.icschool-mc.org 573.564.2679

November 22, 2024

Message from Ms. Schroeder

ICS has received all IOWA and CogAT testing scores for the 2024-25 school year. I have reviewed them all, and I am SO VERY HAPPY with the results of our students' progress. This is NOT a full representation of any child, but it will give the school areas on which we will focus on to help all students. Thank you to all the parents who sent in snacks and encouraged their children to do their very best on these long intense tests!

Prayer Partner Mass will be at 10am on Dec. 5. Home and School will be providing lunch for Prayer Partners and students following Mass. Thank you, Home and School!

December 11 is "Treat With My Peeps" at 7:15am! All students and their parents/special adults are invited to breakfast at ICS. We will be serving donuts, coffee, milk, and orange juice. Please join us!

If your child is needing picture retakes, please send them in their regular uniform on Dec. 16. If you purchased a picture package and need retakes, please send the package back to school for your child to get their pictures retaken.

Wednesday, Dec. 18 is the ICS Advent/Christmas Program at Immaculate Conception Church at 6pm. Please have your children there by 5:45pm. Students need to wear nice Christmas clothes - dresses (shoulders covered), dress shirts, dress pants, NO blue jeans.

Christmas parties will be held on Dec. 19 from 9-11am. Thank you to all the parents who volunteer their time and talent to make these parties a success! Dec. 19 will also be a 12pm dismissal for K-8th grade.

Christmas Break will be Dec. 20-Jan. 3 for ICS K-8th grade students. School resumes on Jan. 7. ICS ECLC-PK4 will be open for their regular students and extended care students for those who have signed up with Peggy. ICS ECLC-PK4 will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Important Dates:

- Nov. 25- School In Session**
- Nov. 26- Thanksgiving Feast**
- Nov. 27-29- Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec 3-12- Book Fair**
- Dec. 4- Home & School Meeting, 6pm**
- Dec. 5- Prayer Partner Mass, 10am & Lunch following**
- Dec. 11- Treats With My Peeps, 7:15am**
- Dec. 16-School IN Session**
- Dec. 17- Picture Retakes**
- Dec. 18- Advent/Christmas Program, 6pm**
- Dec. 19- Early Dismissal, 12pm**
- Christmas Parties 9-11am**
- End of 2nd Quarter**
- Dec. 20-Jan. 3- Christmas Break**
- Jan. 7- School Resumes**
- Jan. 9- Prayer Partner Mass**
- Jan. 17- Regional Speech Meet**

Please support the 6th & 8th graders by purchasing items from their bake sale after Mass this weekend (Nov. 23 & 24). Proceeds go toward their 8th grade trips.