

A House Divided

One of the heaviest burdens people are forced to carry is the distress of “a house divided.” When Abraham Lincoln said “a house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was referring to the division within the country during the Civil War. We experience a similar, though not as lethal, separation when our two-party system of government engenders obstinate division—not merely acceptable political diversity. Perhaps the most heartbreaking example of a house divided is a family in which members are alienated from each other.

There are as many reasons for family division as there are families. Reasons include the betrayal of one member by another, inheritance disparity, parental favoritism, sibling rivalry, to name a few. One might think that those involved should be able to resolve such differences—after all, isn’t blood thicker than water? On the other hand, how are serious family rifts to be repaired if the reason for division is one’s faith or commitment to God? That is the situation that Jesus describes today.

We might wonder how faith in God can tear families apart. It often happens when someone leaves the religion of one’s family and converts to another tradition. This might be judged as a betrayal of the family’s values. This may be what many of Jesus’ Jewish followers faced when they claimed that Jesus fulfilled their religious expectations while other family members did not share their belief. That was a terrible price to have to pay for fidelity to their faith, but they paid it.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

✦ *What steps might you take to heal a family rift? What’s keeping you from taking them?*



Dear Padre,

A friend told me not to worry about salvation because we're predestined to be saved or condemned. Why try to be a good person if God has already decided where I'll end up?

The idea that some people are predestined to be saved and others are damned is contrary to Catholic teaching.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that "when therefore [God] establishes his eternal plan of 'predestination,' he *includes in it each person's free response to his grace*" (600; emphasis added).

The *Catechism* (1038) also cites the parable of the separation of the sheep from the goats, in which the sheep and goats are separated not randomly, but based on their actions: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory...all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father'....And [those on the left] will go off to eternal punishment" (Matthew 25:31-46).

God wants to save all people. The way we respond to God's gift of salvation is called *free will*. Unfortunately, not everyone accepts that gift.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Jesus says, "I came to bring division." It is not that Jesus wishes to split people up....Following Jesus entails giving up evil and selfishness and choosing good, truth, and justice, even when this demands sacrifice and the renunciation of our own interests. And this indeed divides; as we know, it even cuts the closest ties.

ANGELUS, AUGUST 18, 2013

Calendar

Monday

AUGUST 15

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a;

12:1-6a, 10ab

1 Cor 15:20-27

Lk 1:39-56

Tuesday

AUGUST 16

Weekday

Ez 28:1-10

Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday

AUGUST 17

Weekday

Ez 34:1-11

Mt 20:1-16

Thursday

AUGUST 18

Weekday

Ez 36:23-28

Mt 22:1-14

Friday

AUGUST 19

Weekday

Ez 37:1-14

Mt 22:34-40

Saturday

AUGUST 20

St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Ez 43:1-7ab

Mt 23:1-12

Sunday

AUGUST 21

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

Lk 13:22-30



Immaculate Conception Parish Family



161st YEAR OF SERVICE

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

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

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; Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, and Dennis Cobb

AUGUST 14, 2022 - TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 15th **8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Robert

Merz

Tuesday, August 16th 6:30 PM Mass - Wellsville

Wednesday, August 17th 8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg

Thursday, August 18th **8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Evelyn Pool

Friday, August 19th **8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Lorraine Brower

Saturday, August 20th **5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City** - Our Parish Family

Sunday, August 21st 8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg

10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City +Delores Schmidt



July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

| Church & School Financial Report: | Income | Expenses | Difference |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| July 2022 | \$42,063.64 | \$49,080.85 | -\$7,017.21 |
| Fiscal Year July-June 2022-23 | \$42,063.64 | \$49,080.85 | -\$7,017.21 |
| Needed Weekly - \$ 13,232.95 | | | |
| August 7th - \$11,970.00 | | | |
| August 14th - \$ | | | |
| August 21st - \$ | | | |
| August 28th - \$ | | | |

Last Week's Envelopes: 62 of 189

Thank you!! With God all things are possible!

(No Mass if there is a funeral at any of the three parishes)

Parish Membership: Call the parish office to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM, or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism: 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: 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 August 20th & 21st

| Ministries | Saturday, 5:00 PM | Sunday, 10:00 AM |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Lector | Larry Brueggmann | Michael Readey |
| Children's Liturgy | None at this time | None at this time |
| Communion Minister | Ruth Ann O'Keefe | Jerry Witthaus |
| Ministers of Hospitality | Ty & Courtney Cothren Family | Jacob & Megan Hans Family |
| Servers | Jacob Roesner Malory Schulte | Natalie Beabout Owen Merz |
| Gift Bearers | Hospitality Ministers | Hospitality Ministers |
| Money Counters | Judy Cobb Don & Sandy Oakes | Megan Hans Steve Williams |

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

For a new commitment to building an America where children are welcomed, cherished and cared for; where mothers and fathers are encouraged and strengthened; and where marriage and the family are recognized and supported as the true foundations of a healthy and flourishing society.

Weekly Mass Schedule

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Monday, August 15th | 8:00 AM MASS - Montgomery City |
| Tuesday, August 16th | 6:30 PM Mass - Wellsville |
| Wednesday, August 17th | 8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg |
| Thursday, August 18th | 8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City |
| Friday, August 19th | 8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City |
| Saturday, August 20th | 5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City |
| Sunday, August 21st | 8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary @ 9:30 AM) |

Upcoming Events & Announcements

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Monday, August 15th | |
| Tuesday, August 16th | 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Adoration |
| Wednesday, August 17th | 7:30 PM-Knights of Columbus Mtg |
| Thursday, August 18th | |
| Friday, August 19th | |
| Saturday, August 20th | |
| Sunday, August 21st | |

Wedding Anniversary



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

Jerry & Kelli Neale - 27 years of marriage on August 15th

Additional Financial Information

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|-------|
| Harvest Picnic Donations & Vendor Fee | \$ | 25.00 |
| Capital Improvements/Maintenance | \$ | 65.00 |

Special Collections:

| | | |
|--------------------------|----|--------|
| Retirement for Religious | \$ | 115.00 |
| Holydays (Assumption) | \$ | 65.00 |
| Catholic Missourian | \$ | 14.00 |
| Diocesan Missions | \$ | 15.00 |

HARVEST PICNIC SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

The picnic is five weeks away! We have been receiving some donations from **Picnic Sponsors**. If you know an individual or business that would like to be a sponsor, please let Beth Cobb or Mary Pottebaum know. We could also use more vendors for the **Vendor Fair**. We have a few things for the Live Auction, including Dessert of the Month, Casserole/Soup of the Month, and a couple special events. We need more events and items for the **Live and Silent Auctions**. We will need many hands to **work at the picnic**. We will have a **special raffle** for all those who volunteer. Information packets with quilt raffle tickets were handed out last weekend and will be given out this weekend as well. If you did not get yours, it will be mailed to you. **Please think about what kinds of items you will donate as well as where your talents will best serve the parish for this event and turn in your slip from the bottom of the letter by Labor Day.** We need everyone's help to make this 6th Annual Harvest Picnic a success!



For donations or questions contact Beth Cobb, Judy Cobb, Megan Hans, Pat Korman, Mary Pottebaum, Gina Smith, Dottie Brueggen or Dianne Talley.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We like to think of Jesus bringing peace and joy, healing and inspiration as he traveled from village to village with his disciples. But at this point in Luke's Gospel he is making his way to Jerusalem, where he knows what he will face, and his message has become sobering. The road to redemption is difficult. Jesus knew that sin and evil must be confronted. Our own encounters with sin and evil can be divisive, as Jesus warned his disciples. Let us pray for the will and the courage to stand up for what is right and good and holy, no matter the consequences.

Anniversary of Ordination



A "little birdie" told us the anniversary of Fr. Ernest's ordination is Saturday, August 20th. It will be 17 years!

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In honor of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Fr. Ernest **will be celebrating Mass** here at Immaculate Conception on **Monday, August 15th at 8:00 AM**. "It is considered a Holy Day of Obligation, but if it falls on a Saturday or on a Monday, it is not obligatory by the church to attend Mass".



~Amended by United States bishops in 1991

Thank You! Thank you!

The Immaculate Conception Parish would like to send a HUGE **THANK YOU** to the crew of **Central Heating and Cooling** for their generous donation of materials and labor to repair the sewer line in the ECLC playground, east of the school. God loves a cheerful giver. **-2 Corinthians 9:7**

Thank You!



In memory of Diane's mother's Birthday, the flowers on the back altar were donated by Jerry & Diane Witthaus. We thank them for these beautiful flowers!

**Immaculate Conception School
News**



Meet the 2022-23 Faculty & Staff!

Dana Schroeder-Administrator
Judy Cobb- Administrative Assistant
Gina Smith- Lead Teacher /7th &8th Grade Teacher
Jennifer Bergmann- 5th & 6th Grade Teacher
Becky Houser- 3rd & 4th Grade Teacher
Corey Blackburn- 1st & 2nd Grade Teacher
Denise Kemmis-PK4 & Kindergarten Teacher
Amber Surls-PK3 & PK4 ECLC Instructor
Carol Oden- PE Instructor
Dottie Brueggen- Music Instructor
Melissa Horn- Art Instructor
Peggy Brower- ECLC Assistant Director & ECLC Instructor
Shirley Henke- ECLC Instructor
Kaitlyn Henke- ECLC Instructor
Zac Rodgers- Part-time ECLC Staff
Samuel Madrigal- Custodian

ICS will continue to run on a 4 day school week. ICS will be in session Tuesday-Friday. School will be in session from 7:30am -3:30pm. ECLC will remain 5 days a week to meet the growing need for daycare within our community. ECLC will be open from 6:30am-5:30pm.

Home and School Meetings will be held the 1st Thursday of each month at 6pm in the school cafeteria unless noted otherwise.



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.RaiseRight.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.**

Adoration Substitutes & Prayer Partners

We are looking for substitutes for **Adoration** on Tuesdays from 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

We are also needing **Prayer Partners** for the students at Immaculate Conception School. It would involve attending 8:00 AM Mass (which has typically been on a Thursday) once a month.

If you would like to volunteer for either of these two, please contact Ruth Ann O'Keefe at (573) 823-2676.

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

August 12th-KofC Drive-Thru Fish Fry-4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.
KC Hall in Montgomery City. \$13.00/meal.
Cod/Catfish, slaw, potato salad & hush puppies.

August 14th-Sacred Heart Picnic at Rich Fountain, 11:00AM to 7:00 PM. All-U-Can Eat (indoor & outdoor seating) and carry-outs of Fried Chicken dinner with all the trimmings. Quilt display & auction, Kiddie Tractor Pull, Country Store, Kettle Corn, Raffle, Auction, and games!

Thank You!

We appreciate receiving the beautiful rose for our 45th Wedding Anniversary. It's very thoughtful to honor parishioners' special anniversaries. Also thanks to Jeff and Julie Porter for the delivery of it.

May God Bless You!
Ed & Dorothy Torbeck

**Parish Council & Administration/Finance Commission
Vacancies**

We want to thank Bill Huston for agreeing to move from the Parish Council to the Administration/Finance Commission. This will leave us with one vacancy on the Parish Council and one vacancy on the Administration/Finance Commission. If you are interested in either position, please let Fr. Ernest or the Parish Office know. Thank for your time and talent in this consideration!

Retirement Fund for Religious

An abbot writes, "Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church." Donations to next week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection help hundreds of US religious communities to provide for their aging members. Please give generously.

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: Pat Klein, Nick Schneider, Lucille & Marvin Griesbauer, Pat Merz, Parker Calbreath (son of Chris & Stacy Calbreath), Al & Christine Barger, Barb Kliethermes, Marla Daniels, Valerie Readey Neudecker, John Rybacki (father of Sue Beck), and Kim Dryden.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Steve (Hip) Hill, Noah Richard, and Dylan Willis.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Pat Stumbaugh - 573.220.9441
Broker Associate
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Retirement Fund for Religious



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Elderly religious need your help. Like those pictured, nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have devoted their lives to prayer and ministry—educating the young, tending the sick, aiding the needy, and more. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left a profound shortage in retirement savings. Your support of the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish care, medicine, and other necessities. Please give generously.

Standing, from left: Fr. William Graham, OFM Cap, 75; Sr. Mary Lucille Stelly, SSF, 89; Sr. Angele Marie Sadlier, O Carm, 91; Fr. Bertrand Ebben, OP, 90.

Seated, from left: Sr. Joan Flores, SSF, 81; Sr. Denis Rodrigue, O Carm, 93; Sr. Ann Martinez, MSC, 82.

retiredreligious.org

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)

Amount: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100

To donate by mail: Make your check payable to Retirement Fund for Religious. Please do not mail cash.

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