

*And [immediately] the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.*

MARK 7:35

## He Has Done All Things Well

**D**eep in the heart of each of us is a desire for a perfect world—a world of peace and harmony, where life flourishes and people care for one another. From beginning to end, our religious tradition promises that such a world is just ahead of us. Today's readings assure us that physical obstacles will not prevent its accomplishment, because the graciousness of God is stronger than any other power.

Today's reading from Isaiah instructs us: "Be strong, do not fear!" (35:4). It encourages us to believe in this promise of ultimate fulfillment and to trust that God will see it through. Our focus changes slightly in the Gospel passage. What was a promise of the future for Isaiah bursts forth as a reality in the Gospel, where the healing of broken bodies and troubled lives is realized by the warm words and gentle touch of Jesus.

Do such miracles really happen? Or are these fanciful stories that provide hope for people with little scientific understanding? Are miracles real? Of course they are. However, their true meaning might be much more profound than we realize. A miracle is a manifestation of divine power far beyond human control or comprehension. It is an experience of being made whole again, an occurrence in which peace and harmony are reestablished. Sometimes a miracle is spectacular; at other times it is far too deep to be seen. But always it is God working in our lives to create us anew.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Where does your life need healing? What are you doing about it?*
- ★ *How might you be a source of healing in the lives of others?*



# Dear Padre,

**Martyrs and people who commit suicide willingly sacrifice their lives, so how are they different? If I deliberately put myself in a position to be killed—even for a worthy cause— isn't that a form of suicide?**

**L**ife is a gift from God. While both martyrdom and suicide contradict the natural human disposition to preserve and perpetuate life, the former is a totally self-giving act; the latter, a self-inflicted one.

The early Church believed that martyrs went directly to heaven because their sacrifice of life was the ultimate Christlike expression. Their courageous endurance of indignities and tortures—their heroic willingness to die in defense of the faith or to save another's life—demonstrates a supreme love of God and neighbor over love for life itself (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2473).

Those who take their own lives to end personal suffering or despair make a decision that belongs to God alone. It's an action that can revolve totally around the "self," often with little thought given to its consequences. It's a sin against hope (CCC 2091) that reveals a lack of faith and trust in God.

Conversely, martyrdom is a profound expression of faith, trust, and hope in God. Nevertheless, our compassionate God fully knows the intensity of suffering that triggers suicide and "can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance" (CCC 2283).

*Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*

**Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Remember that story about the poor widow lady...Her husband had committed suicide; he jumped from the bridge into the river. And she wept. She said, "I am a sinner, a poor woman. But my poor husband! He is in hell."...And the Curé of Ars said, "But wait a moment, ma'am, because between the bridge and the river, there is the mercy of God."*

HOMILY, MARCH 18, 2019

## Calendar

**Monday**

SEPTEMBER 6

Weekday

Col 1:24—2:3

Lk 6:6—11

**Tuesday**

SEPTEMBER 7

Weekday

Col 2:6—15

Lk 6:12—19

**Wednesday**

SEPTEMBER 8

*The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

Mi 5:1—4a or

Rom 8:28—30

Mt 1:1—16, 18—23, or  
1:18—23

**Thursday**

SEPTEMBER 9

*St. Peter Claver,  
Priest*

Col 3:12—17

Lk 6:27—38

**Friday**

SEPTEMBER 10

Weekday

1 Tm 1:1—2, 12—14

Lk 6:39—42

**Saturday**

SEPTEMBER 11

Weekday

1 Tm 1:15—17

Lk 6:43—49

**Sunday**

SEPTEMBER 12

*Twenty-fourth*

*Sunday in*

*Ordinary Time*

Is 50:4c—9a

Jas 2:14—18

Mk 8:27—35



# Immaculate Conception Parish Family

**160th YEAR OF SERVICE**

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

**Fr. Paul Hartley, Pastor** | 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-Mary Pottebaum, Laura Yelton, & Vicki Parker

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 - TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

## Mass Intentions

Monday, September 6th	<b>NO MASS</b> - Montgomery City
Tuesday, September 7th	<b>NO MASS</b> - Montgomery City
Wednesday, September 8th	No Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, September 9th	<b>NO MASS</b> - Montgomery City
Friday, September 10th	<b>NO MASS</b> - Montgomery City
Saturday, September 11th	<b>5:30 PM Mass</b> - Montgomery City +Susan Schipper
Sunday, September 12th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg <b>10:00 AM Mass</b> - Montgomery City -Our Parish Family



**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

Church/School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
<b>July 2021</b>	\$39,951.48	\$48,593.73	-\$8,642.25
<b>Fiscal Year July-July 2021-22</b>	\$39,951.48	\$48,593.73	-\$8,642.25
<b>Needed Weekly</b> - \$ 11,835.50			
August 1st - \$ 9,278.00			
August 8th - \$ 7,221.02			
August 15th - \$10,412.80			
August 22nd - \$12,760.21			
August 29th - \$16,444.25			

Last Week's Envelopes: 63 of 182

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

*Thank you!! With God all things are possible!*

**Parish Membership:** Call the parish office to register.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Before Mass

**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 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 September 11th & 12th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:30 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
<b>Lector</b>	Landon Pottebaum	Richard Schierhoff
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Not assigned at this time	Not assigned at this time
<b>Communion Minister</b>	Dennis Cobb	Megan Hans
<b>Ministers of Hospitality</b>	Daryl & Nancy Cobb Kasey & Mary Pottebaum	Pat & Charlie Korman Dana & Brady Schneider
<b>Servers</b>	Jacob Roesner Malory Schulte	Owen Merz Carl Smith
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
<b>Money Counters</b>	Rae Jean & Daryl Rhoads	Cathy McCormack Pam Schwartz

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

For a greater appreciation for the gift of friendship; that bonds of friendship may strengthen our resolve to be a people of communion in divisive times.



## Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, September 6th	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday, September 7th	<b>NO MASS</b>
Wednesday, September 8th	<b>NO MASS</b>
Thursday, September 9th	<b>NO MASS</b>
Friday, September 10th	<b>NO MASS</b>
Saturday, September 11th	4:00 PM Mass - Wellsville 5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary @ 5:00 PM)
Sunday, September 12th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary @ 9:30 AM)

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, September 6th	Holiday - Labor Day
Tuesday, September 7th	
Wednesday, September 8th	
Thursday, September 9th	10:00 AM Ministerial Alliance Mtg
Friday, September 10th	
Saturday, September 11th	
Sunday, September 12th	8:30 AM - PSR 3rd/4th/5th grades 6:00 PM - PSR 6th/7th/8th grades

### *Wedding Anniversary*



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

*Jim & Bonnie Walker -45 years of marriage on September 11th*

### **Additional Financial Information**

Capital Improvements	\$ 60.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 425.00
Special Collections:	
Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary	\$ 10.00
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 20.00
Harvest Picnic Donations	\$ 430.00

### **RCIA Inquiry Night**

An inquiry night for RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is being planned for Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the church. Anyone who is interested to learning more about the Catholic Faith is invited to attend. Parishioners are encouraged to invite family, co-workers, etc. who have indicated that they are interested. Sometimes all it takes is a personal invitation for someone to come forward and find out about Catholicism. For more information call or text Sue Kyle at 636-288-0080.

Sue is also seeking "helpers" for the RCIA program. In the past few years, Deacon Wayne Korte and Sue Kyle worked together. Deacon Wayne has since moved to another parish and Sue is seeking assistance from parishioners...anyone interested, please contact Sue Kyle.

### **Weekend Mass Celebrants**

We welcome back Fr. Lou Dorn the weekends of September 4th & 5th and September 11th & 12th. On September 18th & 19th, we welcome, Fr. Rich Frank from Jefferson City, who will be here to celebrate Mass for us. **Thank you** Fr. Dorn and Fr. Frank for making the trip over here. We appreciate you!!!

### **Update On The Rectory**

Father Hartley was busy packing and settling into a new home this week. He did want to update everyone on the ceiling/mold issue in the rectory.

Most of you probably already know, but the ceiling in Father's living room "fell" last Thursday, and it was quite a mess!!!! The insurance adjuster was in this week to assess the damages. He is arranging for a water restoration company to come in and do the water/mold clean-up and check over the rest of the rectory for possible damage. Once that is completed, the ceiling will have to be replaced as well new flooring, painting, etc. That is where things "stand" right now. We will keep you all posted as the project progresses.

We want to thank Gary Hoette & Richard Bainbridge, and to Central Heating & Cooling who came and checked out the air conditioner and cleaned up the mess on the floor!

### **Back Seat Drivers' Contest**



An anonymous donor has offered to pay the \$10.00 entry fee for any adult (21 yrs. or older)/child (3rd grade on up) team to compete in the Back Seat Driver Contest at the Harvest Picnic on September 26th. The student has to be able to easily distinguish between "right" and "left". Just arrive at the fairgrounds and register at the table telling them, "an anonymous donor is paying the entry fee". The winning team receives 10% of the money collected for the competition. Further instructions will be given that day.

### **Harvest Picnic Update**



Now that letters have been distributed with information about the Harvest Picnic, we hope you are considering to volunteer your time, talent, and treasury helping in the areas listed. Please remember to fill out the bottom portion of the back of your letter indicating how you will help and return it to the church in the Harvest Picnic box by next weekend. "Many hands make for light work".

Thanking you in advance,  
The Harvest Picnic Committee

## Immaculate Conception School News



September 20th - Schoon IN session  
September 22nd - See You At The Pole @ 7:15 AM  
September 23rd - Grandparents' Day  
September 24th - NO school - Diocesan PD Day

ICS students are leading a prayer service on Thursdays at Church and Rosary on Fridays in the Prayer Garden at 8 am until Father can resume his Mass schedule. All are welcome to attend!

### ECLC Happenings

ECLC asks for prayers for Mrs. Shirley who had surgery on September 1. We pray for a speedy recovery.



### 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](http://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.**

### School Board Members Retiring

We want to thank retiring school board members Ty Cothren, Molly Taylor, and Monica Wisdom for serving on the School Board. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone in the parish or school family, please contact Ms. Dana Schroeder, principal, at ICS.



### Employment Opportunity

**The Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC) is seeking a communications director.** MCC is the public policy agency of the Catholic Church in Missouri. The MCC is actively involved in all levels of government, especially state and federal issues. The MCC promotes the common good by advocating for public policy that upholds the sanctity and dignity of all human life. The MCC communications director oversees the conference's various methods of communications, including designing its publications: a weekly email newsletter, two printed publications (one quarterly, one bimonthly), and producing the podcast, MCC from the Capitol. He or she is also responsible for managing the MCC's social media accounts, website, writing and photography needs. This position is best suited for a creative thinker interested in promoting the mission of the MCC in an engaging, thoughtful manner. The ideal candidate is familiar with/or open to learning Facebook, Twitter, Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Google Business Suite, and Audacity. Please contact [mocatholic@mocatholic.org](mailto:mocatholic@mocatholic.org) or [communications@mocatholic.org](mailto:communications@mocatholic.org) with further inquiries.

**The Parish Office will be closed on September 6th in observance of Labor Day.**

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

**Sept. 10th** - Fried Chicken Dinner - 5 to 8 PM KofC in Martinsburg  
**Sept. 26th** - Harvest Picnic at the Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds  
**October 3rd** - Octoberfest at St. Joseph Parish in Martinsburg

### Capital Campaign Update



Dear parishioners,

Our current total in pledges and donations stands at \$247,962.16. The projects currently underway include:

- Finishing the railing for the sidewalks on the north side of the church
- Replacement vents for the steeple have been picked up and will be installed when the work on the steeple is being done
- We have accepted a bid for the remaining work to be done to our entrance
- We are looking at new front doors and hope to have them ordered soon

The front of our church will have a complete makeover soon and we are so excited. Thank you for every donation and we hope more parishioners will continue to donate and/or pledge toward this Capital Campaign. We need your help and our church needs your help. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.



### Capital Campaign Donations

We are grateful to the loved ones whose generosity will move our capital campaign forward and will do so in remembrance of the following people:

Tom, Sr and Mary Anna Cobb	\$1,000.00
Helen Henderson Colbert	\$1,000.00
Barb Miller	\$1,500.00
LE (Jack) and Julia Robertson	\$300.00
Don and Claire Benney	\$20,000.00
Robert & Doris Webber	\$1,775.00

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

### 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:** Karen Clark, Alex Clark (granddaughter of Karen Clark), Nick Schneider, Lucille Griesbauer, Marvin Griesbauer, Pat (Cobb) Hunn, Charlee Kate (niece of Sue Beck), Jim Walker, Fr. Hartley, Tim Stumbaugh, Carolyn Steinmetz, Jim Wisdom, Mark Gerke (friend of Fr. Hartley), Baby Corinth (Corie) Farrell, and Tracy Ravencraft (Amanda Aren's sister).

*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, Michel James, Daniel Lohmann, and Donnie Wisdom.

*Contact the parish office to have someone added!*





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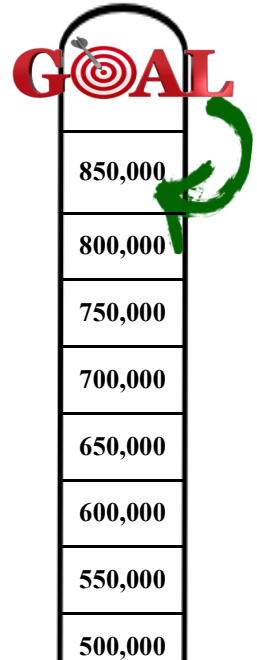
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