



Our Parish COMMUNITY

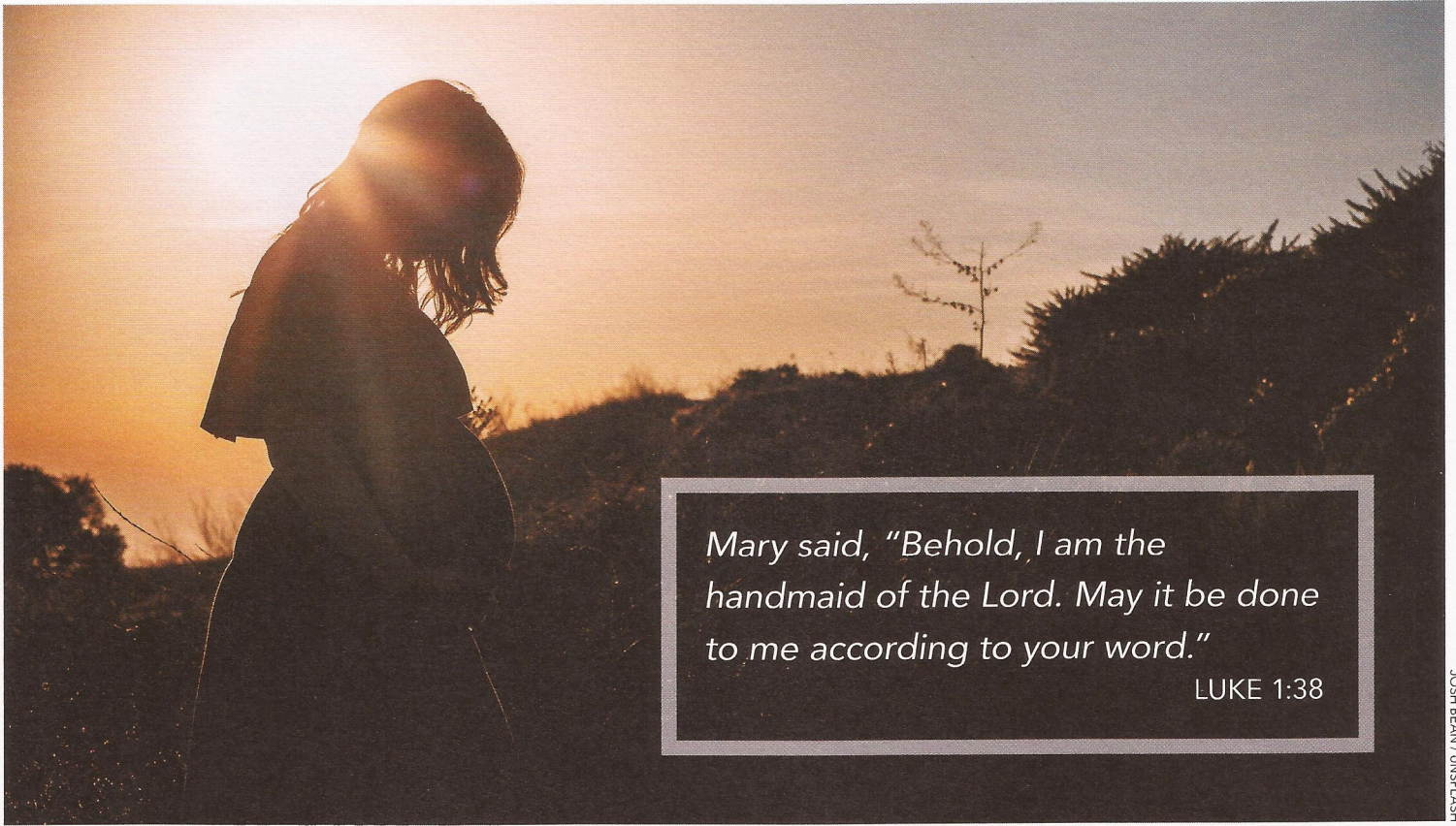
December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38



Mary said, "Behold, I am the
handmaid of the Lord. May it be done
to me according to your word."

LUKE 1:38

JOSH BEAN / UNSPLASH

How Can This Be?

The reading from Samuel assures us that the leader we are awaiting will be of the royal house of David. We presume this means personal power and political leadership, and recognition of this from others.

The Gospel turns us in a different direction. In it Mary asks, "How can this be?" (Luke 1:34) This question can be understood in two different ways. One means: How is it going to happen? The other suggests: You've got to be kidding! When told she will bear a child, this virgin asks: How is this going to happen? Her visitor

explains the unfolding of an unbelievable event. While stories in pagan religions described how gods took on human form, such wondrous events supposedly happened in royal families—not in the life of an unassuming girl promised to a modest carpenter. In the Incarnation, a singular historic event, Mary did not say: "You've got to be kidding!" She replied: "If that's what you want, I'm willing."

Advent readings have traced God leading the people to salvation and a new way of living, to an outline of an individual chosen by God to lead them, to the realization that this leader will be a descendant of David. However, none of this happens as we might expect. Rather, it unfolds in such an unpretentious way that many people did not even realize it was happening. Who could blame anyone for saying: You've got to be kidding! But God was not kidding.

Now we are ready for Christmas.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ Advent readings show God working in mysterious ways. Where is God working in your life?
- ✦ How prepared are you for the deeper meaning of Christmas?

Dear Padre,

Does God call me, like God called Mary? Can the angel Gabriel speak to me as he did to Mary?

Perhaps God has already spoken to you! In the great calls in Scripture, God doesn't seem to care about age. God doesn't care about gender, race, talents, poverty or wealth, strengths or weaknesses. God calls each of us because we are God's daughters and sons. God's call is personal (to you and no other!), and this call is to always be Christian and serve the Lord. Most often



THE ANNUNCIATION / PSALTER, VENICE

the call won't be dramatic, like it was for Moses. More likely, your call will be quiet and personal. Remember what God said: "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:11).

In these hectic days before Christmas, find a peaceful place and quiet time. Be still and say to God, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9). In this place, God will reveal your call to you, a call that was present long before your birth.

God has already spoken to us in our life's vocation. We are planted in friendships, relationships, marriages, jobs, families, a community, and a nation. In each place, we listen to hear what God is calling forth from us.

Then, like Mary, we say yes! We reach

into our most generous spirit and proclaim "yes" to even the most difficult, mundane, or boring aspects of our vocation.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The angel Gabriel calls Mary "full of grace": in her there is no room for sin, because God chose her from eternity to be the mother of Jesus and preserved her from original sin....We too are asked to listen to God who speaks to us, and to accept his will....The Lord is always speaking to us!

—SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8, 2014

Calendar

Monday

DECEMBER 21
Advent Weekday
Sg 2:8–14 or
Zep 3:14–18a
Lk 1:39–45

Tuesday

DECEMBER 22
Advent Weekday
1 Sm 1:24–28
Lk 1:46–56

Wednesday

DECEMBER 23
Advent Weekday
Mal 3:1–4, 23–24
Lk 1:57–66

Thursday

DECEMBER 24
Advent Weekday
2 Sm 7:1–5,
8b–12, 14a, 16
Lk 1:67–79

Friday

DECEMBER 25
Christmas
Is 52:7–10
Heb 1:1–6
Jn 1:1–18 or
Jn 1:1–5, 9–14

Saturday

DECEMBER 26
St. Stephen, First Martyr
Acts 6:8–10, 7:54–59
Mt 10:17–22

Sunday

DECEMBER 27
The Holy Family of
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or
Gn 15:1–6; 21:1–3
Col 3:12–21 or 3:12–17
or Heb 11:8, 11–12,
17–19
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22, 39–40



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

DECEMBER 20, 2020 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions



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

Monday, December 21st	NO MASS
Tuesday, December 22nd	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, December 23rd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, December 24th	3:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City +Delores Schmidt
Friday, December 25th	9:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Lorraine Brower
Saturday, December 26th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City - Our Parish Family
Sunday, December 27th	7:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Deceased of Schipper & Purler Family

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Church/School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
November 2020	\$39,508.62	\$41,463.34	-\$1,954.72
Fiscal Year July - Nov. 2020-21	\$237,783.24	\$231,118.93	\$6,664.31
Needed Weekly	- \$ 11,835.50		
December 6th -	\$ 19,941.22		
December 13th -	\$ 6,016.90		
December 20th -	\$		
December 27th -	\$		

Last Week's Envelopes: 49 of 179

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 December 26th & 27th

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
December
prayer intention
for our Local
Church is:**

For the sons and daughters of the Church: that we may be the light of God's love for the world by our sacrificial gifts for those in need, especially the children of our world.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, December 21st	NO MASS
Tuesday, December 22nd	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, December 23rd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, December 24th	3:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City 5:00 PM Mass - Martinsburg 7:00 PM - Jonesburg
Friday, December 25th	7:30 AM Mass - Martinsburg 9:00 AM - Montgomery City
Saturday, December 26th	5:00 PM - Mass - Montgomery City
Sunday, December 27th	7:00 AM - Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM - Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM - Mass - Montgomery City

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, December 21st	7:00 PM - Society of St. Vincent DePaul
Tuesday, December 22nd	6:15 PM - School Board
Wednesday, December 23rd	
Thursday, December 24th	The Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass
Friday, December 25th	The Nativity of the Lord
Saturday, December 26th	
Sunday, December 27th	

Wedding Anniversary



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

There are no anniversaries this week.

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvement	\$ 15.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 50.00
Special Collections:	
Donations (Christmas Flowers)	\$ 70.00
Holydays	\$ 210.00
Seminary	\$ 20.00

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve: 3:00 PM - Immaculate Conception - Mont. City
5:00 PM - St. Joseph - Martinsburg
7:00 PM - St. Patrick - Jonesburg

Christmas Day: 7:30 AM - St. Joseph - Martinsburg
9:00 AM - Immaculate Conception - Mont. City

Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God Masses

New Year's Eve: 5:00 PM - Immaculate Conception - Mont. City

New Year's Day: 8:00 AM - Jonesburg
10:00 AM - Montgomery City



Cornerstone Campaign
OUR COMMUNITY. OUR CHURCH.
OUR LEGACY.

Capital Campaign Committee Update

We are thankful for all of the prayerful consideration and look forward to continuing our work on the capital campaign. Our current total in donation and pledges \$200,000!

Pastor's Pen: Farewell Message A Heart Full of Gratitude



Thank you for your love
Thank you for accepting me these 5 years plus
Thank you for accommodating me
Thank you for listening to my "Alabama Accent"
Thank you for being you and allowing me to be me
Thank God for all we have achieved together
Thank God for making our paths cross
Thank God for bringing my ministry to an end here
Thank God for what the future holds for us
Thank God for His love.

Goodbye Father Austin



As most of you are already aware, Father Austin has been assigned to Martinsburg and Wellsville as their Pastor effective January 1, 2021. From the moment he came to our Parish, Father was upbeat and had a smile for everyone. He worked hard with the various committees to find ways to enhance and bring upgrades to our Parish community. He will be greatly missed. Good Luck Father Austin and God's blessings on you as you travel a new road in your life's journey.

Welcome Father Hartley



We are excited to announce Father Paul Hartley will be our new Pastor effective January 1, 2021. He was ordained in 1981 and was Pastor at St. Mary, Glasgow and St. Joseph, Slater. Some of you may know him from when he was at The Church of the Risen Savior Parish in Rhineland. Please take a few minutes after Mass to stop and give him a warm welcome while still observing the Covid-19 guidelines.

Seminarian Formation and Priest Retirement

There will be a special collection taken up on December 25, 2020, for the Seminarian Formation and Priest Retirement fund. This money is used to form and educate diocesan seminarians (candidates for priesthood) and to provide for the retirement needs of retired diocesan priests who offered their lives in priestly ministry and service. Our assessment is \$1,853.00. Please support this wonderful cause!!

Immaculate Conception School News



We had 46 participants for the St. Nick 5K run. The winners are Men's Division: Michael Barringhaus of Glasgow, Martin Cunningham of Montgomery City and Dale Anderson of Middletown. Women's Division: Janet Kelly of Wentzville, Joyce Bromley of Wentzville and Lily Merz of Columbia. Children Division: Jonah Barringhaus & Jacob Frazier and Julia Frazier of Moscow Mills

December 22nd-January 3rd - Christmas Break
January 4th—School Resumes
Have a safe and happy holiday season!

ECLC Happenings

Do you remember the time when you were little and were so excited about Christmas? The anticipation was ever present and at times overwhelming. If you cannot recall those glorious days, just peek in the ECLC window and see the eagerness on our littlest children's faces as they are busy making Christmas gifts for their parents. Their chatter makes one want to laugh as they describe what they are making.

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.**



NEW MASS SCHEDULE Effective January 1, 2021



Weekend Schedule

Saturdays: **5:00 PM in Montgomery City**
Sundays: **8:00 AM in Jonesburg**
10:00 AM in Montgomery City

Weekday Schedule

Monday – NO MASS
Tuesday – **5:30 PM in Montgomery City**
Wednesday – **8:30 AM in Jonesburg**
Thursday – **8:00 AM in Montgomery City**
Friday – **8:00 AM in Montgomery City**

Confession Schedule

Saturdays: **3:30 PM to 4:10 PM in Montgomery City**
Sundays: **7:15 AM to 7:50 AM in Jonesburg**



Catholic Stewardship Appeal Update

2021 - \$12,000.00 Parish Goal

<u>Committed</u>	<u>\$ Received</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>	<u>Over(Under)</u>
\$8,340.00	\$4,970.00	41.42	(\$7,030.00)

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

January 15-17, 2021 - ICS Home & School Crop (Scrapbooking/
Craft Event)



DIocese OF
Jefferson City

BETTER
TOGETHER

A Message from Bishop McKnight

Let us continue to pray for all affected by the pandemic, especially those who have died, those who are ill and their loved ones, our health care professionals, our school teachers and administrators, and all "essential workers." Please join Catholics throughout our diocese in praying to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our patroness, for protection.

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Protection from the Coronavirus

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, we entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross, you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

Patroness of the Diocese of Jefferson City, you know what we need.

We are certain of the power of your intercession, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who taught us to "love one another, as I have loved you" took our sufferings upon Himself and bore our sorrows

to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.

Bring under your mantle of protection all who provide care for the sick and

minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

V. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

R. Do not despise our pleas and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

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 Hageimer, 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 Vedder, Michel James, Michael Adams, and John Martin.



Pat Stumbaugh - 573.220.9441
Broker Associate
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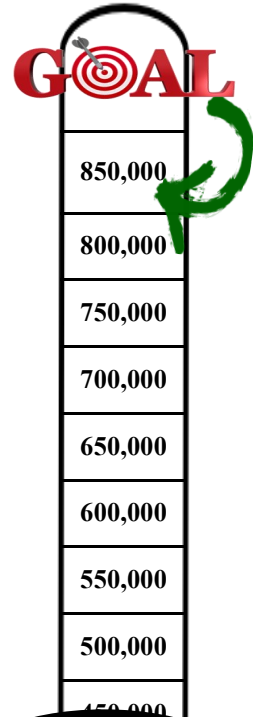
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Immaculate Conception Home & School
Hosting Its First Ever

Winter Weekend Crop

Friday, January 15, 2021 @ 2 pm - 9 pm
Saturday, January 16, 2021 @ 9 am - 9 pm
Sunday, January 17, 2021 @ 9 am - 2 pm

\$70 for Weekend
or
\$40 for Saturday Only

Knights of Columbus Hall
318 N. Sturgeon St.
Montgomery City, Missouri

Safe Social Distancing - 40 Spaces Available

Masks required everywhere in building unless
seated at your very own 8 foot table

Food included with registration:

Dinner Friday, Lunch and Dinner Saturday.

Checks made payable to:

ICS Home & School

407 West 3rd St.

Montgomery City, MO 63361

Or Venmo

Payment Due by December 15, 2020,
will accept until January 1, 2021
space permitting

For More Information Contact:

Lanie Gardner 573.823.5756

or homeandschool@icschool-mc.org

Attendance
Prizes



Goodie

Bags at your Table