



Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent (B)

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

1 Cor 1:3-9

Mk 13:33-37



*Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know
when the time will come.
MARK 13:33*

ONYX / SHUTTERSTOCK

Hurry Up and Wait!

We've all had this experience. We rush to get ready...and then we wait: at the doctor's office, for a train, at a restaurant. For what do we hurry up and wait this Sunday? Some might say we are waiting for the birth of Jesus. But today's readings don't say this. The first reading describes people waiting for relief from the guilt of their sinfulness. Paul talks about waiting for "the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" at the end time (1 Corinthians 1:7). The people in the Gospel are waiting for the return of the householder to settle accounts. There's no waiting for Christmas—yet.

For what should we wait if not Christmas? Isaiah tells us to hurry up and change our lives of pettiness, selfishness, and arrogance, and then to wait for the graciousness of God to "rend the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 63:19). Paul tells us to hurry up and

embrace "the grace of God bestowed on [us] in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4), and then to wait for the final revelation of his glory. The Gospel tells us to hurry up, be alert and ready for Christ's return, and then to wait for it to happen.

If we don't prepare ourselves for the coming of God in the reality of our own lives, we might not recognize this salvation when it comes. We're not waiting for an event that happened in the past; we are waiting for the grace of God that is calling us into the future. So, hurry up and wait!

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *If you are waiting for salvation, from what weakness or sin must you be saved?*
- ★ *How are you readying yourself for that salvation to take root in your life?*

Dear Padre,

My husband of fifty years has no medical issues with his hearing, but he still doesn't listen to me in conversation. How can I feel heard?

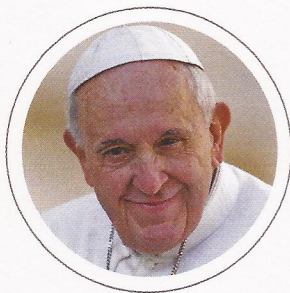
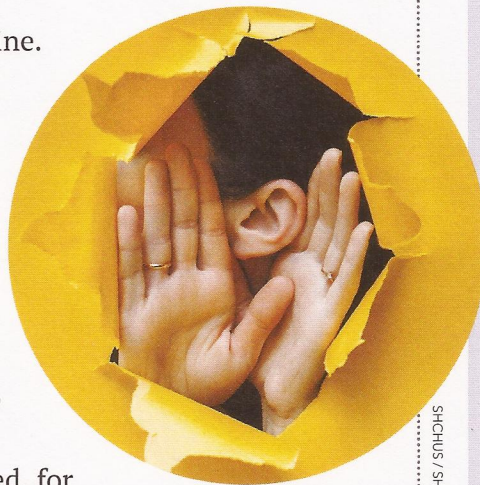
I humbly suggest that your husband read this edition of "Dear Padre." You might leave this bulletin someplace where he will see it.

"Give every man thine ear, but few thy voice," wrote Shakespeare in *Hamlet*. Likewise, the Bible reads, "Everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak" (James 1:19).

Good listening skills require effort and discipline. Researchers say that only about 10 percent of us listen effectively. Generally, people hear only a fraction of what someone says. Moreover, during an emotional conflict, we tend to hear even less of what another is saying. Nevertheless, Pope Francis said, "We are called to meet others and listen to their life, their cry for help." He called listening "an act of love!" In other words, being available to listen to someone in need is an expression of charity, and being present to others—a spouse, a friend, the bereaved, for example—may actually speak louder than words.

In conversations, people feel heard when their feelings are validated and restated by the listener. But often the listener finds it easier to give advice, fix the problem, or win an argument, than to actively hear what the speaker is trying to communicate. It's advisable to eliminate distractions when someone wants to engage in an important conversation. People don't feel heard when a listener's short attention span wants to resume watching television. Nor do they feel respected during a serious phone conversation while the click of a computer mouse or yawning is overheard!

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Take time, quality time. This means being ready to listen patiently and attentively to everything the other person wants to say....Often the other spouse does not need a solution to his or her problems, but simply to be heard, to feel that someone has acknowledged their pain, their disappointment, their fear, their anger.

—AMORIS LAETITIA, MARCH 19, 2016

Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 30

St. Andrew,
Apostle

Rom 10:9–18

Mt 4:18–22

Tuesday

DECEMBER 1

Advent Weekday

Is 11:1–10

Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday

DECEMBER 2

Advent Weekday

Is 25:6–10a

Mt 15:29–37

Thursday

DECEMBER 3

St. Francis Xavier,
Priest

Is 26:1–6

Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday

DECEMBER 4

Advent Weekday

Is 29:17–24

Mt 9:27–31

Saturday

DECEMBER 5

Advent Weekday

Is 30:19–21, 23–26

Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8

Sunday

DECEMBER 6

Second Sunday
of Advent

Is 40:1–5, 9–11

2 Pt 3:8–14

Mk 1:1–8



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

NOVEMBER 29, 2020 - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	Mass Intentions
Monday, November 30th	NO MASS
Tuesday, December 1st	No Mass
Wednesday, December 2nd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, December 3rd	10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +John & Zita Welter
Friday, December 4th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, December 5th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City - Jennifer Dubbert
Sunday, December 6th	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
October 2020	\$36,633.04	\$61,673.54	-\$25,040.50
Fiscal Year July - Oct. 2020-21	\$198,274.62	\$192,271.25	\$6,003.37
Needed Weekly	- \$ 11,835.50		
November 1st -	\$11,338.59		
November 8th -	\$ 6,132.54		
November 15th -	\$ 7,568.05		
November 22nd -	\$12,006.50		
November 29th -	\$		

Last Week's Envelopes: 43 of 179

With God all things are possible

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

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 5th & 6th

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, November 30th	NO MASS
Tuesday, December 1st	No Mass
Wednesday, December 2nd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, December 3rd	10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, December 4th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, December 5th	5:00 PM - Mass - Montgomery City
Sunday, December 6th	7:00 AM - Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM - Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM - Mass - Montgomery City

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, November 30th	7:00 PM - RCIA
Tuesday, December 1st	
Wednesday, December 2nd	6:00 PM - Home & School Meeting 7:30 PM - Knights of Columbus Mtg.
Thursday, December 3rd	10:00 AM - Prayer Partner Mass
Friday, December 4th	
Saturday, December 5th	
Sunday, December 6th	9:30 AM - 3rd/4th Grade PSR Class 6:00 OM - 5th/6th Grade PSR Class 6:00 PM - Confirmation Class

Wedding Anniversary



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

Steve & Debbie Williams - 45 years of marriage on Nov. 29th

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvement	\$ 645.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 0.00
Special Collections:	
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	\$ 345.00
Donation from ICS Home & School	\$ 5,000.00
Donations (Christmas Flowers)	\$ 20.00
Holydays	\$ 195.00
Seminary	\$ 50.00

All Souls

In the month of November, we remember those who have passed away in the past year: Lorraine Brower, Ignatius Busken, Marian Busken, Dorothy Conner, Doris Grillion, Ruth Reagan Huenefeld, Shery'll Schierhoff, Scott Schulte, and John (Jack) Scott.



Christmas Poinsettias



Advent is here and that means we are preparing to celebrate the coming of our Lord! Instead of having people bring in poinsettias, we are going to purchase them all at once from a single source. If you want to have one or more of the poinsettias dedicated to the memory of a loved one, or if you want to help with the cost of the plants in general, we ask that you make a donation to Immaculate Conception in the amount of \$10 per plant. You should have received an envelopment with your monthly ones. There are also envelopes in the vestibule for your convenience. You may take or send your donation to the parish office. Or, you may put your contribution in the collection basket. Please make sure you indicate that it is for poinsettias and if it is in memory of someone, please note that as well. A mass will be held later for of all those who have a poinsettia purchased in their memory. We truly appreciate the donation of poinsettias in the past and hope you will consider this an easier and help us make our church beautiful for our Christmas celebration!

Capital Campaign Committee Update



The roof is finished! We will be looking for our next projects to happen in the spring. Thank you for any pledges or donations and your prayerful consideration. Our current total in donation and pledges is \$198,666.

Christmas Giving Tree

The Social Concerns Commission will have the Christmas Giving Tree up from November 14 thru December 6. Youth in Need (YIN) will take delivery of the gifts, the gifts need to be YIN no later than **Dec 7**. YIN is located next to Dominos Pizza and they are open from 8am to 4pm Monday thru Friday. The Montgomery County Christmas Club recommends each gift be in the range of \$15 - \$20. 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. 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. When you return the gifts to YIN, please have the gifts wrapped and the ornament attached. The Social Concerns Commission and the Montgomery County Christmas Club thank all of you that participate in this program.



Catholic Stewardship Appeal



We are near the end of this year's Catholic Stewardship Appeal. For each one of you who chose to give back gratefully to God through a contribution to the CSA, we are deeply appreciative. Each gift, when combined with the gifts of thousands of other parishioners throughout the diocese, makes a very real difference. For those who have not yet joined your fellow Catholics in support of the CSA, we urge you to pray about it. You can also make a pledge by going online to diojeffcity.org and clicking the "Donate Now" button.

2021 - \$12,000.00 Parish Goal

<u>\$ Received</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>	<u>Over(Under)</u>
\$4,700.00	39.167%	(\$7,300.00)

Immaculate Conception School News



November 25th-30th - Thanksgiving Break
December 1st - School Resumes
December 1st-8th - Book Fair
December 2nd - Spirit Day

Please see attached/enclosed newsletter from Ms. Schroeder, School Principal.



IC Scrip Program - CHRISTMAS ORDERS

Are you planning on giving gift cards for Christmas? Or maybe shopping online for gifts? Why not let some of your money that you would spend anyway go to a good cause?

You can purchase gift cards at face value and the businesses give our program a percentage of the sale. There are some order forms and lists in the vestibule. **To have gift cards before Christmas, please turn in your order by December 9.** We have some cards in stock that will be available after mass on December 5-6 or at the school throughout the week. You may also go online to www.ShopWithScrip.com to create an account to purchase e-cards, reload select cards, or place an order for physical cards. After you create an account, you can use the RaiseRight app to purchase cards and use your e-cards in brick and mortar stores. Please contact Gina for the enrollment code. If you have any questions, call or text Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.



DIocese OF
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Decree Extended After November 27th

Whereas the case numbers of COVID-19 infections remain at their highest levels for many counties of Mid-Missouri; and

Whereas the common good demands that the public health requirements and recommendations of the state are to be observed whenever possible; and

Whereas the Presbyteral Council has provided their advice with regard to the ongoing reality of the pandemic; and

Whereas the current DECREE governing pastoral activities during the pandemic expires on the 27th day of November 2020;

I therefore declare, as the diocesan bishop, the following:

All dispensations, obligations and guidance of the previous DECREE of 21 August 2020, originally effective until 27 November 2020, shall now be extended until further notice.

(The entire decree may be viewed at:

<https://diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/11/13/decree-extended-after-27-november>)

Advent Penance Services Cancelled

Due to COVID, there will be no Penance Services during Advent. Fr. Austin will be available to hear confessions on Saturdays from 4:30 to 4:50 p.m. or call (573) 564-2375 for an appointment.

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

Saturday, December 12, 2020 - SSVD Craft & Gift Show
Saturday, December 12, 2020 - Saint Nick 5K Run/Walk



DIocese OF
Jefferson City

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Totus Tuus applications

Are you a Catholic young adult interested in bringing the Gospel to kids and teens across our diocese? Please consider applying to be a Totus Tuus missionary. Download the materials at diojeffcity.org/totus-tuus/ and return your application to khartman@diojeffcity.org. We do hire on a rolling basis, so the earlier the better! The application packet includes a job description, application, and instructions for a letter of recommendation. Totus Tuus Missionaries serve from May 27 – Aug 1. This is a full-time, paid position.

2020 No Hunger Holiday Montgomery City Knights of Columbus



To the Immaculate Conception Parish family. We, the Knights of Columbus Council # 2044, wish to thank the parish for your support of the No Hunger Holiday. We raised enough in donations to purchase 45 boxes of food. These donations go to the Youth In Need of Montgomery County.

Richard Bainbridge, Chairperson



Catholic Campaign for Human Development

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, we raised \$445.00 to support those on the margins who are living in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give! Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections.

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 Hagemeyer, 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.



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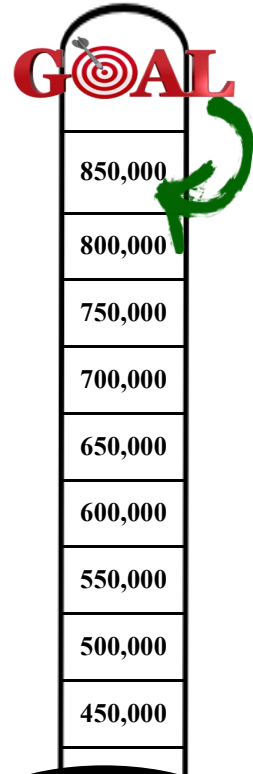
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An Advent Message from Bishop W. Shawn McKnight

This Advent promises to be like none other. With the pandemic raging, it is important to find ways to nurture our faith as we look forward to the great feast of the Incarnation, the Son of God becoming one of us.

Many of us will miss being with loved ones in person. Many will also miss the beautiful traditions of small faith groups, penance services, and in-person parish retreats held during Advent.

But perhaps God can use the effects of the pandemic, even the isolating effect of social distancing, for good. What if we were able to take advantage of this shuttering of our busy lives to observe Advent as our Church has always encouraged us to do: a time of reflection, a time of quieting, a time of stillness, to make room for Christ in our daily lives?

Many parishes in our diocese have a beautiful tradition of forming small faith groups and parish retreats during Advent. This year, you are encouraged to consider meeting virtually or using your immediate household – what we Catholics call the “domestic church” – as a small faith group.

During Advent many will have their children home – even college students. Take advantage of this closeness to pray together, to celebrate the rich traditions of our Church! Get out that family Advent wreath – light the candles in the evening at dinnertime. Bless your Christmas tree. Spend time as a family together in prayer in front of your Nativity scene.

To support you in this, the Diocese recommends using a spiritual journal, such as the Jesse Tree Advent Journal, published by the Dominican Sisters of Mary. It can be ordered from their [website](#) or [Amazon](#).

All are also invited to join an online Advent retreat, led by Redemptorist Father Michael McAndrew. The Spanish-language retreat will be livestreamed at facebook.com/MinisterioHispanoJC/ at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Nov. 23-25.

The English-language retreat will be livestreamed at facebook.com/diojeffcity/ at 7:30 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 7-9.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops' page for [Advent](#) has more resources, including prayers from the prayer book commissioned by the bishops, [Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers](#).

Furthermore, in recognition of how so many of us must focus on caring for those who are ill, supporting our health care professionals and being particularly supportive of our immediate family, the launch of the diocesan pastoral plan will have to be delayed. A new date for the issuance of the diocesan plan will be provided in early 2021. Be assured your priests, parish leadership and diocesan staff are continuing to work on the various elements of their individual parish plan. However, we believe a formal issuance of a pastoral letter and diocesan plan should be postponed until we can give the proper attention to this important moment in the life of our local Church.

Many parishes have organized volunteers to assist those in need. If you know of someone who could use assistance, please reach out to your local parish.

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. The prayer is given below.

**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.

Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D.

Bishop of Jefferson City



Immaculate Conception School

407 West Third

Montgomery City, MO 63361

www.icschool-mc.org 573.564.2679

November 24, 2020

Message from Ms. Schroeder

I am very excited to announce that Immaculate Conception School has been awarded \$80,803.50 from the 2020 Bridge the Gap Technology Grant. The purpose of this grant is to ensure the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Jefferson City are on par with local public schools. We are all very excited about the new technology possibilities and what this can do to ensure the best education for our ICS students. God is Good!

Spirit Day will be changed to the first Wednesday of every month. Your child may wear an ICS shirt with jeans for a \$1 donation. The proceeds will go to help support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please support our community service cause every first Wednesday of the month!

A big THANK YOU to all of those who provided Halloween candy for all ICS & ECLC students! We appreciate all your support!

Our school will be donating 488 items to the food pantry at the First Baptist Church. The students enjoyed their classroom Thanksgiving meals. Thank you for supplying side dishes for your child's classroom!

Please remember to keep your child home if they are not feeling well. Also, if your child is a running fever, or has symptoms of any illness, they must be symptom-free without the aid of medication for THREE days unless they have been diagnosed from a doctor. If your child is home and well enough to do schoolwork, 3rd-8th graders need to connect with their teachers on Google Meet & Classroom to receive instruction and keep up with assignments. We all need to work together to ensure the safety of all students, teachers and staff.



Important Dates:

**Nov. 25-30-
Thanksgiving Break**

Dec. 1- School Resumes

**Dec. 1-8- Book Fair
Open**

Dec. 2- Spirit Day

**Dec. 7- Scrip Orders
Due**

**Dec. 12- St. Nick
Run/Walk**

Dec. 18- Noon Dismissal

**Dec. 18- Christmas
Parties 9am-11am**

**Dec. 18- End of the 2nd
Quarter**

**Dec. 21-Jan 3-
Christmas Break**

Jan. 4- School Resumes

Our book fair will be Dec. 1- Dec. 8. No parents will be allowed in the school to purchase books, but a link will be provided to purchase online. Your child will be making a wish list and they can purchase daily at school. So sorry about this inconvenience!

We still have candy bars! Send in money and we will send home candy bars. Every \$10 = 1 dress down pass.

ICS 1st Annual St. Nick 5K Run/Walk will be on December 12, 2020. Grab your running/walking shoes and plan to attend! See attached flyer for more details.

