

## **HISTORY of Immaculate Conception Parish:**

Immaculate Conception Parish is the parish home of Catholics residing in the Montgomery County area and beyond. Members include those who have long lines of membership and service in the parish and those who have moved to the community and enthusiastically become active in the life of the parish. Immaculate Conception began as a member parish of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and became part of the Diocese of Jefferson City when the Diocese was established in 1956. The Most Rev. Joseph Marling served as the first Bishop of the Diocese. He was succeeded by the Most Rev. Michael F. McAuliffe, who was succeeded by our current Bishop, the Most Rev. John R. Gaydos, in 1997.

The foundation of the parish began in 1842 when Mass was first celebrated in the home of Charles Worland. The first church was built in 1861 on the same parcel of land where the current church sits, and also served as the parish school. The first rectory was built in 1864. A two-story school was built between 1868 and 1873.

Today the parish buildings include the church, rectory, and school. The current church was blessed in 1885, completed in 1887, and was most recently remodeled between 1983 and 1987. The present school was built in 1950. The school closed in 1973 but reopened in 1991 and presently includes grades K-5 as well as daycare and pre-school programs. An addition to the school was completed in 1996.

The parish regularly participates in ecumenical activities and many parishioners are involved in their local communities in positions of leadership and service, making Immaculate Conception Parish a vital part of the Montgomery County area.

### **PASTORS of Immaculate Conception:**

1853 Fr. Turk  
1857 Fr. John Setters, S.J.  
1860 Fr. P.M. O'Neill  
1868 Fr. Michael McCabe  
1875 Fr. J.J. Head  
1885 Fr. Edward Casy  
1896 Fr. John Gadell  
1899 Fr. John Gross  
1908 Fr. Thomas Alward  
1916 Fr. Daniel O'Brien  
1945 Fr. O'Meara  
1946 Fr. Luke Naes  
1955 Fr. Michael Reagan  
1956 Fr. Robert Dwyer  
1968 Fr. Joseph O'Rourke  
1969 Fr. James Mohan  
1973 Fr. Fred Barnett  
1976 Fr. Norman Ahrens

1980 Fr. Hugh Behan  
1983 Fr. John Degan  
1987 Fr. Edward Doyle  
1992 Fr. Gerald Kaimann  
2002 Fr. Christopher Cordes  
2008 Fr. Donardo (Dandi) Bermejo  
2009 Fr. Frank Bussmann  
2011 Fr. Greg Oligschlaeger  
2012 Fr. Russell Judge  
2015 Fr. Austin Okoli