



THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Nativity of the Lord

The Word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us.

John 1:14

Adoration of the Shepherds, Jusepe de Ribera[Public domain], via Wiki Art | Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

DECEMBER 23, 2018 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

7:30 am

Thursday

8:30 am

Saturday

5:00 pm

Sunday

8:00 and 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday

3:30 - 4:30 pm

San Damiano Adoration Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays

Mission Statement

The Mission of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is to proclaim and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ. We fulfill our mission as Christian disciples by intentionally responding to God's call to grow in holiness.

4030 JACKSON STREET NE | COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421 | 763-788-9062 | ICCSONLINE.ORG

From the Pastor's Desk

Merry Christmas!

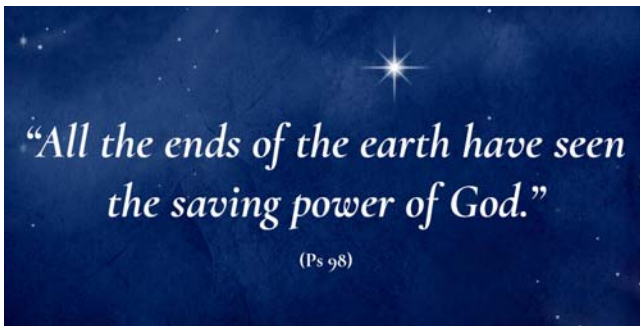
Dearest Friends in Christ,

Merry Christmas! Though you might be reading this on the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are also just a couple of days away from one of the most significant celebrations that we have in our life as Christians. The birth of Jesus, otherwise referred to as the Nativity of Our Lord, is such a tremendously important time for us to thank God and ask for His ongoing Grace in our lives.



May you and your loved ones experience an outpouring of the Lord's mercy in the final days of the Advent season and into the wonders of the Christmas season. On behalf of the entire staff of Immaculate Conception Parish (church and school) may God bless you with a very merry Christmas!

Joy in the Newborn King,
Fr. James



This Week's Readings and Observances

Sunday, December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord (holy day of obligation)

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday, December 26, St. Stephen, the First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Thursday, December 27, St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday, December 28, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Saturday, December 29, St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Sunday, December 30, The Holy Family

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

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**“How does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should
come to me? For at the moment
the sound of your greeting
reached my ears, the infant in
my womb leaped for joy.”**

(Lk 1:43-44)



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Eucharistic Adoration

*“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
for the Almighty has done great things for me.”*

(Luke 1:46, 49)

In Eucharistic adoration we can echo these same words. Each time an adorer comes to the adoration chapel for their holy hour, they offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to our Lord. May our Lord continue to bless our adorers, this prayer-filled ministry and our entire parish!

We urgently need additional adorers to cover the following hours:

- Mondays at noon, 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm
- Tuesdays at noon, 3:00 pm (partner) and 8:00 pm
- Wednesdays at noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm (partner), and 7:00 pm
- Thursdays at 11:00 am



We also need additional substitute adorers. If you would like information about adoration or to sign up for an hour, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246 or Fran at 763-788-0924.

Note: The chapel will be closed on December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday and will also be closed on December 31 and January 1 for the New Year holiday.

Parish News

Immaculate Conception Church
Christmas Mass Schedule

Monday, December 24:
5:00 pm

Tuesday, December 25:
8:00 am
10:00 am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Catholic Church

2018-2019 Tax Deduction Information

This is just a reminder that, regardless of the date on the check, we must record your donations by the date we receive them or the date on which they are postmarked. For example, if a check dated December 31, 2018 is received by us on January 1 or later, it must be recorded as a 2019 donation. If you send us a donation through the postal service and the envelope is postmarked December 31, 2018 or earlier, this will be recorded as a 2018 donation even if we receive the envelope in January. As these are IRS regulations, we have no flexibility in the matter.

Share the Gift of Your Smile—Be a Greeter!

Greeters are needed for the upcoming Christmas and New Year Masses. If you are interested in greeting at any of these liturgies, sign up sheets are available in the Lending Library. Thank you.



A Donation of Christmas Flowers Was Given In Memory Of/In Honor Of:

Theodore Alain & Family | Matt Amundsen
 Bob & Margaret Atkinson | Shirley Beers | Ervin Bernard
 Chuck Bernhagen | Georgiana Betzold | Paul & Helen Bona
 The Botzet Family | Herb, Irene & Jeff Breth | A. J. Breyer
 Charles & Mildred Brown | Mr & Mrs Armin Bruegger, Sr.
 Joseph and Magdalene Buganski | The Burbank Grandparents
 William Burgoyne | Marie Burkowski | Alice Caruthers
 George Cellette | Edward & Violet Chan | Dan & Anita Chartraw
 Amey & Ella Cherland | The Collodora Family
 R.J. & Alice Collopy | Clayton Cook | The Covaleski Family
 Harold H. De Laria | Wendy De Laria | Janina Dimants
 Connie Dirkes | Jay Dowdle | Tom Drews
 Don, Allen & Roger Dufault | Iolinda (Linda) Dupak
 Margaret Earley | Joan Fink | Gary R. Glaeser
 John Godava | Kathryn Godava | Alex Gonsalves
 Charles & Lola Gorman | Carl & Marie Grams
 The Guzik Family | Stanley Guzik, Sr. | Colleen Harrigan
 Clarence & Marie Harves | Ray & Regina Hauck | Rick Jackson
 Gen Jensen | Darlene Johnston | Mary Ann Kocon
 Mr & Mrs Alios Koetter, Sr. | Harriet & Peter Korzenowski
 Lloyd & Dorthy Kruse | The Kruszka Family
 The Kukielka Family | Opal Laegeler | Pete & Mark LaFontaine
 Gary Larson | The Lundeen Brothers | Frank & Bertha Mayer
 Joseph & Russell Murzyn | Leonard & Lucille Nalezny
 Veora Nance Houston | Harold & Trudy Netkow
 Dennis O'Brien | Barb O'Connor | Rita Patnode
 Rita Patterson & Family | Ray & Valeria Perkins
 Frank & Eleanor Perry | Doreen & Rolland Porter
 Joseph Rhode | George Rozek | Rodell Sandy | The Sandy Family
 Milada Saunders | Augustine & Theresa Schneibel
 Fr. Don Schwalm | The Schwartz Family | Bonnie Shutte
 Lillian, John & Tom Sichak | Robert Sikes | Marvin Sowada
 Edward Staniec | Helen & Ralph Steinke | Gene Thunstrom
 Tom Uecker | The Vasseur Family | Sandra Wadzink
 The Ward Family | Ray Wehlage | Lee & Marty Weyers
 Randal & Betty Lou Wilcox | Olga & Joseph Witkowski

School News

Help Immaculate Conception School raise our goal: **\$9,000**

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RAFFLE

\$5 each

ON SALE **Jan 11 - Feb 24**

Every dollar we raise stays with our school!

Social Justice

Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good! Thank you for generous donations in November, the total collected was \$210.29.

Sock Drive

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Sock Drive (included is a list of the socks collected). We also had a large quantity of personal hygiene items. Distribution took place at our December 8 breakfast at Catholic Charities Opportunity Center. The recipients appreciate the items they receive.

Donated to Catholic Charities Opportunity Center:

- Men's socks: 300 pair
- Women's socks: 88 pair
- Gloves: 8 pair

Donated to SACA

- Men's socks: 58 pair
- Women's socks: 100 pair
- Children's socks: 360 pair

The Road to Discipleship

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

When Elizabeth was visited by Mary, her joy was overwhelming. Elizabeth recognized that Mary was carrying inside her the Messiah. She was honored to receive Mary, not just because of who Mary was herself, but also because of the One she had inside her.

We meet people every day in our lives. Some we know well, some are acquaintances, and others we may have never seen before. Yet all of them are made in the image of God and carry within them the person of Jesus. If we considered this more frequently, would we act more graciously toward each other? Mary gave birth to the Son of God so that we might be able to be adopted sons and daughters of God. If we thought of this more often, would we be so quick to dismiss someone or ignore him or her?

This time of year is filled with gatherings and parties for many of us. We also find ourselves rushing about getting ready for Christmas. There are so many people who cross our paths. Will we allow the Jesus in us to greet with joy the Jesus in them? Will we pause to offer a greeting or kind word? Instead of looking at them with human eyes, will we try to see them through the eyes of faith like Elizabeth. If not, what is all of this celebration and preparation about anyway?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Bulletin Sponsor

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

St. Anthony Mobil

Quality and Service Come First

2801 Kenzie Terrace, St. Anthony
612-789-5148 • stanthonymobil.com

This advertiser, and the others on the back of the bulletin, make this bulletin possible, please support them when you can.

Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship

Join us this Sunday for fellowship, hosted by our Social Justice Committee. Enjoy donuts, oatmeal and beverages in Fellowship Hall (located in the lower level of the church) after the 8:00 and 10:00 am Masses.

In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the weekend Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212. For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray For Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially *William Dettman, Sebe Heintz, Mary Ann Miller* and all who have died from war. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

Pray For All the Sick—Especially:

Jack Anderson	Steven Lauinger	Irene Spensley
Edward Ardito	Tom Leight Jr.	Bruce Plochocki
Paul Bona	Roger Mack	Elaine Thunstrom
Michelle Cadieux	Johnnie Meyering	Lois Weyers
Nichole Castonguay	Janet Mihalik	Germaine Wolsfeld
Mary Fredenburg	Izzy Miller	<i>and all those on</i>
Gerald Krawiecki	Shawn Moulzolf	<i>our prayer chain</i>
Joan Landberg	Greg Sery	

If your name was removed and you would like to continue to be on the prayer list please call 763-788-9062 x 212.

As 2018 comes to a close...

Please remember Immaculate Conception Church in your year-end giving.



Your tax-deductable gift can be made by cash, check, stock transfer, or online via WeShare.

To donate via WeShare using your debit, credit card, checking, or savings account:

- 1 Visit ICCSonline.org and click Give Online.
- 2 Select your donation amount and frequency.
- 3 Enter your account and payment information.



ONLINE GIVING
By WeShare



To donate stock, contact Terri Glaeser at 763-788-9062 x 227 or tglaeser@immac-church.org



Reflections

Word of Life

“To couples who cannot have children of their own, you are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others.”

—Pope Saint John Paul II, February 13, 1982 Homily.
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Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Traditions Explained

Question:

Why do we celebrate Jesus’ birthday on December 25th?

Answer:

As you may notice from the Christmas stories, there is no calendar date listed for Jesus’ birth! The Christians in the East—Egypt, Syria, and Asia Minor—celebrated Christmas on January 6th. This was a calculation based on the estimated date of Jesus’ crucifixion. In the Western Church—centered in Rome—January 6th became celebrated as the feast of the Epiphany.

So why December 25th? A popular theory relates to the time period. The Roman Empire had lavish festivals for the winter solstice as light began to return to the earth. These festivals culminated with the day to celebrate the birth of the “Unconquered Sun.” The parallels are easy enough to see. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” With the birth of Jesus, a new light shines into the world. The unconquered Maker of the sun dwells among us! Some historians believe that Christians “baptized” this feast, in a sense, turning people’s attention away from worship of creatures towards worship of the Creator. This Christmas, celebrate the true Light of the World!

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Life is often unfair. Sadly, life’s inequity usually occurs at our hands. The world’s systems—economic, political, and environmental—do not always serve the best interests of the people. We create situations that tip the scales by profiting a few and reducing the quality of life for many. We look at all of the injustices in our world, people being hurt and exploited, and wonder why God has abandoned us or why He won’t fix what is happening. God did fix it. He sent his Son into the world as our just ruler and the one who will bring peace. The problem is we still turn away and think that we can do better. The Son of Justice has come into the world. We can work for change and be the voice of justice. We can dream and do things differently. Blessed are you who believe that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Pray for a Priest

Will You Pray for a Priest Each Day?

Prayer Suggestion: *Dear Jesus, hear my prayer on behalf of your priest, Father [N]. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life. Be his comfort, his joy, and his strength. Amen.*

- December 23 - Rev. Robert Monaghan
- December 24 - Rev. Michael Monogue
- December 25 - Rev. Rymond Monsour
- December 26 - Rev. Hugo Montero Pazmino
- December 27 - Rev. Paul Moudry
- December 28 - Rev. William Murtaugh
- December 29 - Rev. Robert Mutui

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 23

Mass, Intention, +John Sichak _____ 8:00 am
 Fellowship _____ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
 Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 10:00 am
 Children’s Liturgy of the Word _____ 10:00 am

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Parish Office and School Closed
 Vigil Mass of Christmas _____ 5:00 pm
 Intention, +LeRoy Willman

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas

Parish Office and School Closed
 Mass, Intention, +Elaine Haynes _____ 8:00 am
 Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 10:00 am

Wednesday, December 26,

No School
 Mass, Intention, +John Commers _____ 7:30 am

Thursday, December 27

No School
 Mass Intention, +Joan Graves _____ 8:30 am

Friday, December 28

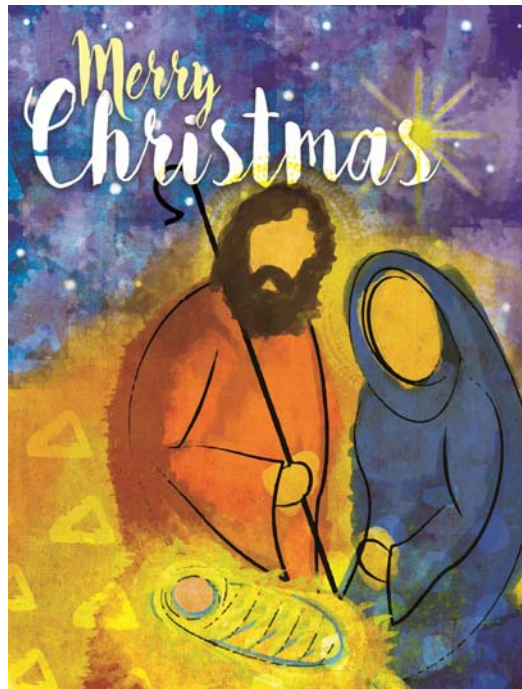
No School
 Mass, Intention, +Alexander Aguilera _____ 7:30 am
 Our Brothers Keeper _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 29

Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
 Mass, Intention, +Lillian Mitchell _____ 5:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 30

Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 8:00 am
 Mass, Intention, +Bertha Margotto _____ 10:00 am
 Children’s Liturgy of the Word _____ 10:00 am
 +Deceased



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Here we are, mere days from Christmas, and we hear a Gospel anticipating the birth of another child. Mary has received word that her cousin Elizabeth is with child. Pregnant as she is, Mary “set out and traveled to the hill country in haste.” She has recently received the greatest news of her life—that she is to be mother to the Messiah by the power of the Holy Spirit—but her concern is for her cousin in need. Through God’s grace, Elizabeth turns it into an opportunity to honor the coming Christ. “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Yet Mary’s example of selflessness should inspire us.

As Christmas draws near, there is plenty of goodness to anticipate for many of us. We’ll reunite with family and friends, uphold time-honored traditions, swap stories old and new, exchange gifts, and welcome Jesus at the Christmas liturgy. These are wonderful things! Of course, they probably all come with their own to-do list. Shop for last-minute gifts, pick up recipe ingredients, ready the guest room, or pack your own bags. Mary probably had things to do as well. She had a lot to consider, for one thing. How do you plan to tell your parents you’re pregnant, but no man was involved? When Joseph finds out, who will care for the practical needs of you and your child? Into what may have been a chaos of questions, Mary receives news that someone is in need. She goes immediately.

In these final days before Christmas, stay watchful and awake! You never know when God might invite you to welcome, hospitality, and compassion. It might be tempting to reject the opportunity for your own needs. Follow the example of Mary! If God is providing you an opportunity to love, He will provide the means to accomplish all your other tasks. This Christmas season, may you too hear, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”



The Nativity of the Lord

“I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all of the people.” Merry Christmas! This familiar story dances with new life and vigor today. We, too, have waited in darkness. We, too, have felt in the desert of the modern world. Our hearts lift

at the candles of midnight Mass. The Eucharist—that simple little host resting in the stable of our hearts—has new meaning. Our joy lifts at the sight of long-unseen family. The wonder of the season is here. Glory to God indeed!

But for some of us, perhaps the patterns feel too familiar, almost grating. Or someone is missing from our story this year. Unlike Mary and Joseph—who found refuge in a stable—perhaps we still feel like we’re searching for a place to rest. This Christmas season, let Jesus be that place. Let the Christmas story wash over you in all its human relevance. In the Holy Family, we see the fear of a first-time father trying to shelter and protect his family, a deeply vulnerable moment on a cold, uncomfortable night, and giving birth with little assistance. In the shepherds, we see an entirely unexpected encounter with wonder, a divine revelation none were expecting. We see the dazzling hope of a promise fulfilled.

In the celebration of Christmas, we celebrate the Incarnation. God becomes man because we humans need someone we can touch, see, and feel. Some of us may be especially sensitive to a lack of incarnate love in our lives. Whatever our experience, God invites us to receive HIM—His story, His presence, His love. And He invites us to give it away, to make His love a little more incarnate in the world by our actions. Look for someone to love today that they, too, might recognize Emmanuel, God with us!

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Emergency (Death or Anointing) 763-788-9062 (#9)

PARISH

Parish Office.....	763-788-9062
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)	
Parish Fax.....	763-788-0202
Reception Desk	x 201
Parochial Administrator, Fr. James Peterson	x 215
Accounting Specialist, Julie Mack	x 204
Director of Advancement and Discipleship,	
<i>Mary Beth Pfeifer</i>	x 203
Deacon, Larry Palkert	
Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashmore	x 205
Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser	x 227
Director of Marketing, Cathleen Cary	x 213
Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon	x 214
Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson	x 218
Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille	x 212
Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridgeman	x 221
Wedding Coordinator, Barb Hartwick	x 204
FAITH FORMATION	
Director of Faith Formation, Mary Nawrocki	x 210
Administrative Assistant, Mary Scott	x 208

SCHOOL

School Office.....	763-788-9065
School Fax.....	763-788-9066
Principal, Jane Bona (jbona@immac-church.org).....	x 220
Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko	x 219

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

<i>Dave Kellner</i>	<i>Kathy Johnson</i>
<i>Charles Karanja</i>	<i>Stacy McVary</i>
<i>Marcus Paulson</i>	<i>Sandy Sichak</i>
<i>Jane Bona</i> (School Principal)	
<i>Steve Smith</i> (Parish Trustee)	

Copies of the Parish Council meeting minutes are available in the pamphlet racks at the entrances to the church.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available. Come to the Sacristy before Mass to request one.

Collections

Week 22—December 15-16, 2018

Our weekly financial contributions will not publically available on our website. If you would like this information, please call The parish office at 763-788-9062. Thank you.



Immaculate Conception Church

CABARET



Dinner and Variety Show featuring Disney songs!

February 9, 2019
Fellowship Hall

6:00 - Social | 6:30 - Dinner | 8:00 - Show

Buffet dinner includes: Braised Beef, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Salad, Roasted Vegetables and Dessert

Tickets on sale beginning the weekend of January 5 & 6 after each Mass
and in the parish office during the week.

Reserved Seat Tickets \$35 (Buy a table of 8 in one transaction and get one seat free!)

Proceeds benefit the IC Liturgy Ministry