



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
– Catholic Church –

4030 Jackson Street NE | Columbia Heights, MN 55421 | 763-788-9062 | ICCSonline.org

“So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”

- MT 24:44

December 1, 2019

1st Sunday of
ADVENT

Mass Schedule

Tuesday	7:30 am
Wednesday	7:30 am
Thursday	8:30 am
Friday	7:30 am
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am (Spanish) 11:30 am

Reconciliation

Saturday	3:30 - 4:30 pm
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San Damiano Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration - weekdays



First Sunday of
ADVENT

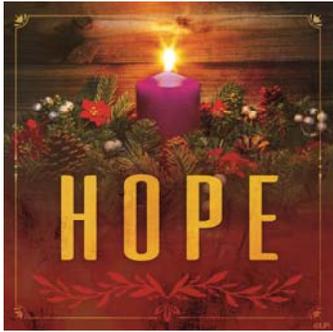
Our Mission

The Mission of The Church of the Immaculate Conception 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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Advent is Upon Us!

Happy New Year to you, dear Friends in Christ! With this Advent Season we begin a new liturgical year and it is a time of joyful anticipation. As we prayerfully await the birth of Christ, the entry of Emmanuel (“God with us” in Hebrew) into human history we will begin a new lectionary cycle on Sundays. While we were previously in Year C—wherein we heard extensively from the Gospel according to St. Luke on Sundays—we’ll now move to Year A and listen to the Gospel according to St. Matthew.



As a Catholic Christian family we’ll spend the next four Sundays preparing our hearts and our minds for the Incarnation; the profound Mystery of God becoming human so that we could become more like God. The color for this season will be predominately purple with rose making a cameo appearance on the Third Sunday of Advent which has traditionally been referred to as “Gaudete” (“Rejoice!” in Latin) Sunday.

We’ll see the green Advent wreath with the four candles as visual reminders of our hope that shines out in the darkness of the world. Many families will put out a Nativity scene or crèche to showcase the humble

descent of the Lord into our human condition. Some might choose to put up lights or a tree in anticipation of the 24th and 25th of this month. While not a bad thing in and of itself, I would gently recommend waiting as long as you are able until Christmas Eve to put out the majority of decorations.

We are in a new liturgical year and we start it off by practicing the virtue of waiting. As was said not too long ago in a homily at this church, “Good things come to those who wait” and “Patience is a virtue.” May the longing of our hearts find its fulfillment at the end of this Advent Season when we will celebrate the triumphant birth of Jesus Christ, the wellspring of our worship, and the long-awaited Savior of the world.

Peace in Christ
Fr. James

This Week’s Readings and Observances

Sunday, December 1, *First Sunday of Advent*

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday, December 2

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday, December 3, *St. Francis Xavier, Priest*

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 [cf. 7]/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday, December 4, *St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [6cd]/Mt 15:29-37

Thursday, December 5

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118: 1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a [26a]/Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday, December 6, *St. Nicholas, Bishop*

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [1a]/Mt 9:27-31

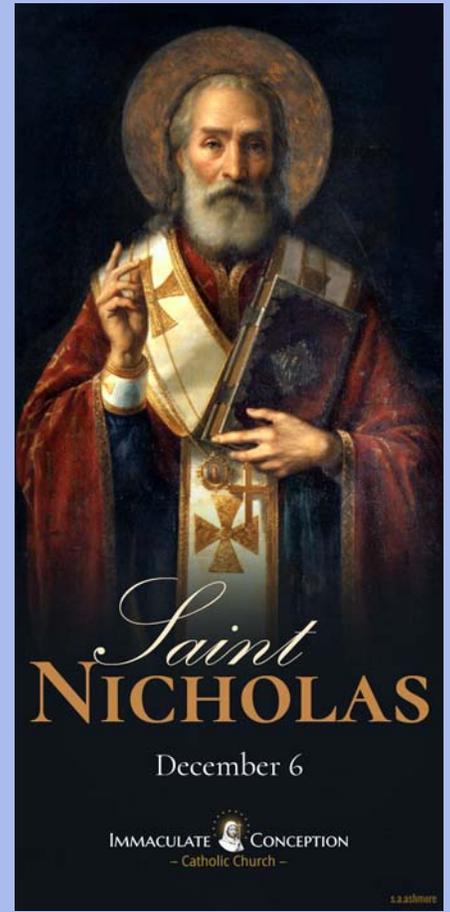
Saturday, December 7, *St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 8, *Second Sunday of Advent*

Is 11:1-10/ Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 19 [cf. 7]/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

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Dear Visitor

We are glad to see you today! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Know that we are here for you and we welcome new members! For more information about ICC or to become a member contact Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212.

“
Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
(Ps 122)
”

Council of Catholic Women

Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale

The CCW annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale will be held *next weekend* December 7 - 8, 2019 in Fellowship Hall after all Masses. Please stop down after Mass to browse the many tables of homemade baked goods, crafts, and Home Holiday Décor. We'll also have the freshly packaged nuts available for purchase; these make great hostess gifts or stocking stuffers or just a healthy snack. Sunday morning only, we will have freshly baked caramel rolls for sale.

Please bring your donated baked goods and any handmade crafts you wish to donate for the sale to Fellowship Hall after 10:00 am on Saturday, December 7. Someone will be there to accept your items until after Mass Saturday evening, or a 1/2 hour prior to each Mass on Saturday or Sunday. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Nuts Are Here!

The Nut Sale starts this weekend after all Masses, in the church narthex, at Fellowship and the pancake breakfast. Make your selections now or place an order for a later pick-up. You may use the regular yellow order form for items we have on-hand. Use the white order form for a larger selection of roasted, raw, dipped in chocolate nuts, coconut, dates, glazed and dried fruits which will be available for pick-up the following weekend. For your convenience, we have decorative gift tins of nuts, boxed and ready to be mailed.

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Tasty Pizza

875 45th Ave NE, Columbia Heights
763-571-2722 • tastypizzatogo.com

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

KC Christmas Card Sale

The Knights of Columbus will sell Christmas cards after all Sunday Masses through the month of December. The cards are available in both English and Spanish.

Discipleship

Wide-Open Eyes

When my first child was born, we had a nursery created for him that featured images from “The Beginner’s Bible” painted on all the walls. (You may have seen this Bible before, where the Biblical figures in the book all had large wide-open eyes.) Images of Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, and Jesus were displayed on all four walls. On the largest wall was a big picture of Noah’s Ark with lots of animals. As our son got older, we would point to images on the wall as we read bedtime stories to him. Our son is now in his 20’s and living several hours from us, so those days are far behind in our rearview mirror of life.

We prepared quite a lot for his birth. When our next two children were born, the preparation time had decreased significantly. Most parents know what I am talking about. The newness of your first-born brings with it so much emotion that you are compelled to spend countless hours preparing. When the next children are born, you are certainly excited, but you act differently and with a little more reserve.

For most readers, this is not your first Advent. It probably won’t be your last. If you approach these December days simply as a way to prepare for Christmas, you may find yourself just doing the same old thing as last year. However, if you spend this time reflecting on the time when Jesus returns or when you shall see him face-to-face, you might be able to stir up some of that emotion of anticipation within you. Jesus is coming again. When people of all ages understand that reality, it can be a cause for large, wide-open eyes indeed.

—Tracy Earl Welliver

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Prayer for
ADVENT

Dear God, as an Advent candle is lit in joyous anticipation of your Son’s nativity, remind us always of the reason for our joy. As the purple of the candles stand for both penance and atonement for sin, give us the grace to do penance for our wrongs, and to love Christ, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of the whole world. But just as the rose candle stands for joy in the midst of suffering and expectation, give us the joy of your Son, Jesus Christ, who came into a world that had so longed for its Savior, and made the angels themselves sing with joy at this birth. Amen.

Eucharistic Adoration

“So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”
(Matthew 24:44)

Today we begin the holy season of Advent and look forward to the celebration of Christmas. This is a time of prayer, reflection, anticipation and preparation. Make time to prepare for our Lord by coming to our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. The chapel is available to everyone each weekday from 7:00 am until 9:00 pm. Come and spend some time in adoration!

We have many hours to cover and are looking to fill the following:

- Mondays at 1:00 pm (partner)
- Tuesdays at 10:00 am and noon (partner)
- Wednesdays at noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- Thursdays 11:00 am and 5:00 pm
- Fridays at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm

We also are in need of additional partner adorers and substitute adorers. If you would like more information or are interested in signing up for an hour, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246.

Prayer

Monthly Prayer Intention

Please join the Intercessory Prayer Ministry in praying for this month's prayer intention: *Inspiration for parishioners to attend Archdiocesan Synod Prayer and Listening Events.*

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 1 - Pope Francis
- December 2 - Rev. James Peterson
- December 3 - Rev. Jeffrey Huard
- December 4 - Rev. Michael Hughes
- December 5 - Rev. Thomas Hunstiger
- December 6 - Rev. Joseph Hurtuk
- December 7 - Rev. Gregory Hyde

Beyond Our Parish

Archdiocesan Synod

Upcoming Prayer and Listening Events—What's working and what's not in the Archdiocese? Archbishop Hebda wants to hear from you! Please prayerfully consider attending an upcoming Prayer and Listening Event, as part of the Pre-Synod Process and make your voice heard. Your input will help guide the Archdiocese over the next 5-10 years. There are 20 Prayer and Listening Events. The next three are: *Sunday, January 5, 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Holy Cross, Minneapolis; Saturday, January 25, 9:00 am - noon at St. Peter Claver, St. Paul; Tuesday, January 28, 6:00 - 9:00 pm at Pax Christi, Eden Prairie.* Learn more about the Synod and see a full listing of Prayer and Listening Events at archspm.org/synod.

Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship Sunday

Join us next Sunday, December 8 after the 8:00 and 10:00 am Masses for fellowship, donuts, oatmeal, beverages, and the *CCW Bake Sale and Boutique* in Fellowship Hall, (located in the lower level of the church). Hosted by the Council of Catholic Women.

Anointing Mass at Crest View

Join us on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 3:15 pm for an Anointing Mass at Crest View Senior Community, 4444 Reservoir Boulevard (Rev. James Peterson will preside). All are welcome.

Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request—call the Parish Office at 763-788-9062 x 212.

Funeral Volunteers Christmas Luncheon

Friday, December 6, 2019. Please RSVP with your Funeral Lunch Leader. If you volunteer in another capacity for funerals, please contact Vicki Bazille at 763-788-9062 x 212 to RSVP. All who volunteer or have volunteered and retired are welcome.



Pastoral Ministry Visitors Christmas Pot Luck

Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 12:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. All who volunteer or have volunteered are welcome. Our retirees need not bring anything but themselves. Please call Vicki if you need transportation at 763-788-9062 x 212.

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 Lawler, Gloria Schafranski*, 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: Mary Boatwright • Paul Bona
Michelle Cadieux • Nichole Castonguay • Lauvan Cramble
Robin Crisp • Mary Fredenburg • Justine Grow
Barbara Kaminski • Gerald Krawiecki • Steven Lauinger
Roger Mack • Johnnie Meyering • Janet Mihalik
Shawn Moulzolf • Danille Remarke • Steven Murphy Rogers
Greg Sery • Tammy Swedzinski • Sandra Tabor
Elaine Thunstrom • Lois Weyers • Germaine Wolsfeld
and all those on our prayer chain

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

Social Justice



The Giving Tree

There is still time to participate in The Giving Tree. Containers will be in the church narthex for the return of your **unwrapped gifts** until December 8. If you purchase gift cards please attach the ornament and give them to the ushers or place them in the collection basket at the time of the Offering.

Reflections

Word of Life

“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“How to Build a Culture of Life”

Why Do We Do That? — Catholic Life Explained

Question: *What’s the story behind the Advent wreath?*



Answer: Each season in the liturgical calendar comes with its own local and regional rituals. During the Advent season, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and

his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn’t falter with the changing seasons. It remains always fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God’s love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who “shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent.

On the third Sunday of Advent, however, we light a rose color. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means “rejoice” in Latin. On the third Sunday of Advent, we’re roughly halfway through the season. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ’s coming at Christmas.

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Stay awake! With so many things competing for our attention and so many details to attend to, it is very easy to fall into a slumber. We can find ourselves simply going through the motions of life and losing a sense of purpose and direction. Busy with many things, we lose touch with the things of God, especially the gentle stirrings of His presence. Advent calls us to the challenge of living a wakeful life. Awake from the sleep that life’s demands can put on us, and allow God’s word to transform our hearts. Being ready for the coming of the Lord is life’s priority for the Christian. Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

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“
You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.
”
(Rom 13:11)

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 1

CCW Nut Sale _____ 7:30 am - 1:00 pm
Mass _____ 8:00 am
Mass (Liturgy of the Word for Children) _____ 10:00 am
Mass (Spanish) _____ 11:30 am

Monday, December 2

RCIC I _____ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
4th Degree KC Mass and Dinner _____ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Boy Scouts Troop 119 _____ 6:45 pm - 8:15 pm

Tuesday, December 3

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Preschool Concert _____ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Charismatic Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, December 4

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Anointing Mass, Crest View _____ 3:15 pm
Faith Formation Dinner _____ 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm
Faith Formation, Pre K - Grade 8 _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Intramurals _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Confirmation I, Grade 9 _____ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Parish Choir _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 5

Mass (School) _____ 9:00 am
James Rak Funeral (*Visitation - 9:30*) _____ 10:30 am
Communion Service, New Perspectives _____ 3:15 pm
KC Officers Meeting _____ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Bell Choir _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
RCIA _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Friday, December 6

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Funeral Volunteers Christmas Party _____ 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
RCIC I _____ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 7

First Reconciliation _____ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
CCW Nut/Bake Sale and Boutique _____ 4:30 pm - 6:45 pm
Mass _____ 5:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 8

CCW Nut/Bake Sale and Boutique _____ 7:30 am - 1:00 pm
Mass _____ 8:00 am
Fellowship _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Mass (Liturgy of the Word for Children) _____ 10:00 am
Mass (Spanish) _____ 11:30 am

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 1: *IC Parishioners* (8 am),
+*Matt Nixon* (10 am)

Tuesday, December 3: +*CCW Deceased Members*,
+*Isaias Morales, Cornelio & Javier Hernandez* (7³⁰ am)

Wednesday, December 4: *Glafira Jaimes, Anahi & Magdaleno Hernandez* (7³⁰ am)

Thursday, December 5: +*Peter & Carol Geier* (8³⁰ am)

Friday, December 6: +*Michael Lunney*,
+*Mary Kawung Foretia, +James Malisheski* (7³⁰ am)

Saturday, December 7: *IC Parishioners* (5 pm)

Sunday, December 8: +*John Sichak* (8 am),
+*John Maniak* (10 am)

+*Deceased*

Church Directory

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
Pastor, Fr. James Peterson.....	x 215
Accounting Specialist, Julie Mack.....	x 204
Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashmore.....	x 205
Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon.....	x 214
Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson.....	x 218
Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille.....	x 212
Parish Business Manager, Michael Wilde.....	x 202
Reception Desk.....	x 201
Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser.....	x 227
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
Director of Advancement/School Business Manager,	
<i>Mary Beth Pfeifer.....</i>	x 203
Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko.....	x 219

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

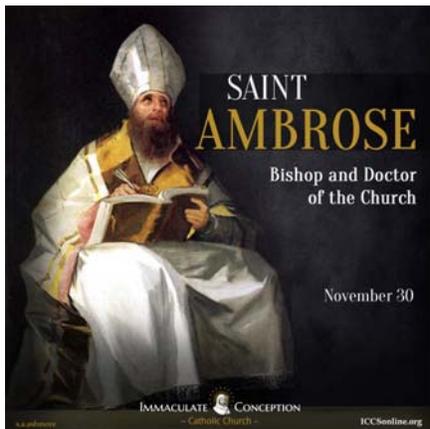
Dave Kellner Kathy Johnson Charles Karanja
 Stacy McVary Marcus Paulson

Jane Bona (School Principal)
 Steve Smith (Parish Trustee)

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

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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



Gospel Meditation

First Sunday of Advent



“I’m never getting enough rest! How can I possibly be ‘asleep’?” In a world of jam-packed schedules and high anxiety levels, physical rest may be hard to come by. Yet relentless pursuit of our to-do lists and social calendars may keep our minds off of the things that really matter. Jesus knows all too well a pattern of busy, harried ignorance. “In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage ... they did not know until the flood came and carried them all away ... two men will be out in the field ... two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.” When it comes to the spiritual life, we can be at work or at relaxation and still be spiritually asleep.

Each year, we are called back to remember the essential things. God comes to save His people. He becomes flesh to dwell among us. Supernatural light pierces the world’s darkness and our own. Advent wakes us up. “Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Every Advent, we prepare to celebrate Christ’s first coming at Christmas, and we anticipate his second coming at the end of time.

“At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” There’s another hour, too, both known and unknown. It’s the present moment. Whether it’s a lazy Saturday morning or a major business proposal, whether it’s attending a kindergarten play or an elderly relative’s bedside, at every moment the Lord wants to enter into our hearts. This Advent, let’s pray for the grace to stay alert. Christ is coming soon.

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Catholic Life Every Day with the Immaculate Conception App

Parish App Feature of the Week: **Catholic TV**

- Video of daily Mass
- Great for homebound parishioners and others
- Produced by Catholic TV



Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com



Search for myParish on the App Store or Google Play to download our app today!

Collections

Weekend of November 16/17

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$ 4,196.00
Plate Collection.....	1,789.19
WeShare Online Giving.....	1,542.50
Automatic Withdrawal.....	4,158.00
Total Weekly Collection.....	\$ 11,685.69

Weekend of November 23/24

Due to an early bulletin deadline, the collection report for the weekend of November 23/24 will be printed in next week’s bulletin.



'tis the season... Join us at Immaculate Conception School for our

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Immaculate Conception School Auditorium

Preschool Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 pm

4th - 8th Grade and Band & Chorus Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm

K - 3rd Grade Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 19, 7:00 pm



Admission is free
all are welcome!

Enjoy an evening of both sacred and secular Christmas classics performed by Immaculate Conception students.

IMMACULATE  CONCEPTION
- Catholic School -

4030 Jackson St NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 • 763-788-9065 • ICCSonline.org



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