July 19, 2020

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule
Tuesday 7:30 am
Wednesday 7:30 am
Thursday 7:30 am
Friday 7:30 am
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 am
10:00 am
(Spanish) 12:00 pm

Available online at ICCSonline.org

Reconciliation
Saturday 3:00 - 4:45 pm
In the IC parking lot

Eucharistic Adoration
Weekdays 8:30 - 10:30 am
In the main church

"The Righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father."
- Matthew 13:43a

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**

**Good and Forgiving Is the Lord**

Psalm 86 acclaims the merciful nature of God. It is recognition of the sinful follies of our human condition while extolling the plentitude of forgiveness that comes from the LORD. And yet, it would not be entirely accurate to say that God is the only one who can forgive. When I served in Venezuela there was a saying among the people that, “Solo Dios perdona,” which literally translates into English as, “Only God forgives.” While that is certainly true at the metaphysical level in regards to healing the rupture caused by sin we also have the teaching of Jesus within the Lord’s Prayer that implores, “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us” (Matthew 6:12).

We have been made in God’s image and likeness and we are called to be good and forgiving towards others. That does not mean that we allow bad behavior to happen without saying something. And it does not mean that we say that personal affronts against our dignity—be they hurtful words, or unjust treatment, or violent actions—are good. And it does not even mean that we necessarily forget what has been done to us.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church goes so far as to say that, “It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession” (2843).

With the Grace of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit we can remember with mercy those offenses committed against us and strive to live like the LORD who is “good and forgiving.”

Peace in Christ,
Fr. James

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**This Week’s Readings and Observances**

**Sunday, July 19**, 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 [5a]/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

**Monday, July 20**, St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr  
Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 12:38-42

**Tuesday, July 21**, St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8a]/Mt 12:46-50

**Wednesday, July 22**, St. Mary Magdalene  
Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2]/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

**Thursday, July 23**, St. Bridget, Religious  
Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11 [10a]/Mt 13:10-17

**Friday, July 24**, St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest  
Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Mt 13:18-23

**Saturday, July 25**, St. James, Apostle  
2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [5]/Mt 20:20-28

**Sunday, July 26**, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46
Parish News

Parish and Finance Councils
The parish is seeking parishioners interested in serving as a member of the Parish Council or Finance Council. If you wish to be a candidate, or know of someone you would like to recommend, please submit your recommendations for Parish Council to Fr. James (jpeterson@immac-church.org) or Parish Council President, Stacy McVary (scmcv09@gmail.com). Recommendations for the Finance Council can be submitted to Michael Wilde, Parish Business Manager (mwilde@immac-church.org).

Recommendations must be submitted by July 31, 2020.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Mass Schedule
Tuesday - Friday ______________________ 7:30 am
Saturday ______________________________ 5:00 pm
Sunday ______________________________ 8:00 am and 10:00 am (en español) ________________ 12:00 pm

Reconciliation
Saturday (IC parking lot) ______________ 3:00 - 4:45 pm

Eucharistic Adoration
Monday - Friday (main church) ________ 8:30 - 10:30 am

Please note: An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists anywhere people are present. COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, senior citizens and people with underlying medical conditions are especially vulnerable to COVID-19. The Church of the Immaculate Conception has undertaken precautionary cleaning, disinfecting, and implemented social distancing guidelines to help reduce the risk of exposure. However, The Church of the Immaculate Conception cannot guarantee that visitors are 100% safe from exposure to COVID-19. Therefore, The Church of the Immaculate Conception recommends that people over 65 or with underlying health conditions not attend mass at this time and continue to worship online. Attendance at liturgies is at your own risk.

Stay in Touch With IC—Here’s How:
• Watch for daily video messages from Father James and IC Masses online (available on our website, Facebook and our MyParish App)
• Read our parish bulletin online—available on our website or sign up to have a bulletin delivered to your email inbox
• Sign up online for Father James’ weekly email and IC General Announcement emails
• Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
• Download our My Parish app

School News

Summer Challenge Grant
We have been blessed with the opportunity to participate in the Schulze Family Foundation Challenge Grant. Mr. Schulze is very generous to the Catholic schools and offered all of the schools to set a goal for fundraising for this summer. If we reach our goal, the Foundation will match the funds! Our goal is to raise $14,500.00, and of course, then, we will earn double that amount equaling $29,000.00!

Please consider a donation of any size to this challenge grant so we can assist the families who need tuition support to enroll in our parish school. You can donate on the website at iccsonline.org. Or, mail or drop off a donation marked "Challenge Grant".

We are doubly blessed many times over!
Blessed to Serve,
Jane Bona, Principal

NEVER GET TIRED OF DOING LITTLE THINGS FOR OTHERS. SOMETIMES THOSE LITTLE THINGS OCCUPY THE BIGGEST PART OF THEIR HEARTS.
—ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX
Pastoral Ministry

Anointing of the Sick
Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request—call the parish office at 763-788-9062.

In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.
To add a name to the Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call 763-788-9062. For private prayer (eight individuals offer confidential prayer for requested needs) call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray For Our Loved Ones Who Have Died
Especially all who have died from Covid-19 and all who have died as a result of violence. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

Pray For All the Sick
Especially: Bea Alain • Pat Alain • Paul Bona
Mary Fredenburg • Gerald Krawiecki • Steven Lauinger
Janet Mihalik • Danille Remarke • Teddy Miller
Shawn Moulzolf • Diane Redmann • 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

Due to concerns of COVID-19/Coronavirus and the cancellation of Masses, the “Feed My Starving Children” Lenten M&M tube fundraiser was put on hold. With the return to Mass we are able to complete the fundraiser. The collection for “Feed My Starving Children” will start the weekend of July 18-19 and continue through the weekend of August 1-2.

Ways to Help:

• Please drop all donations including the M&M tubes in the collection basket at Mass.
• Cash and Check donations should be placed in an envelope and clearly marked “Feed My Starving Children.”
• If writing a check, please make it payable to Immaculate Conception. Checks written to “Feed My Starving Children” will not go toward the fundraiser.
• Pray for all those who are hungry.

Prayer

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.

July 19 - Rev. Andrew Stueve
July 20 - Rev. Richard Sudlik, OMI
July 21 - Rev. Michael Sullivan
July 22 - Rev. Ralph Talbot
July 23 - Rev. Joseph Taphorn
July 24 - Rev. Harold Tasto
July 25 - Rev. Brandon Thesen

Please Join Us in Praying…
…for all those affected by the coronavirus.
Reflections

Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained

Fish on Friday

Question: Why do Catholics eat fish on Friday?

Answer: For centuries, meatless Fridays were the norm for Catholics throughout the world. Friday was chosen because that was the day on which Jesus died, and Christians wanted to find a way to honor that day with special prayers and acts of penance and self-denial. The practice of abstaining from meat on Fridays — under pain of sin — grew out of that desire, and it became an official part of Church teaching until the time of the Second Vatican Council.

In the 1960s, there was a shift in the Church’s thinking, in large part because there was a recognition that differences in cultures and economic realities meant that eating or not eating meat had different meanings for different peoples. For example, in cultures that were largely dependent on seafood or a vegetarian diet, abstaining from meat was no sacrifice at all. While in other places, eating fish and other kinds of seafood was actually something rare and special and not a sacrifice. This was all part of a basic reflection on “why we do what we do” among the Church’s pastors.

Today, Catholics throughout the world are still instructed to abstain from meat on the Fridays of Lent. The bishops of some countries, such as in England and Wales, ask Catholics to abstain from meat every Friday, continuing the older tradition. The Bishops of the United States have taken a slightly different approach, encouraging Catholics to honor Friday as a special day by abstaining from meat every Friday or by taking on some other work of penance or charity for the sake of others.

Regardless of what we choose to do, the real value in all of this is to see a reflection of Good Friday in each Friday, to remember the self-giving love of Jesus, and to honor that love through some sort of sacrifice or act of mercy.

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

Grace and sin are found together. As much as our hearts long for union with God, there is always that part of us that resists. As much as I wholeheartedly believe in God, there is a dimension of disbelief with which I also wrestle. Even though we may seek purity and integrity in all of our thoughts, words, and deeds, there is also the path toward weakness and sin that we find ourselves traversing. Just as weeds can easily overtake the best of gardens, so too can weakness and sin overtake and overwhelm a person. The call is to realize the power the weeds of sin have to choke us off from God’s presence. While God allows the wheat and the weeds to exist together, we must keep our eyes fixed on God’s mercy and forgiveness and resist the death that comes from giving way to sin and evil. In God’s time, the eternal harvest will come, and we will no longer have to worry about the weeds. For now, we must be vigilant and regularly seek the assistance of the Master Gardener.

©LPi
**Church Directory**

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

**PARISH**

Parish Office.......................... 763-788-9062
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 1:00 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,
Mary Beth Pfeifer.................................. 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.

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**Parish Support**

**received through July 12**

- Sunday Envelopes ....................... $ 3,666.00
- Plate .................................. 1,176.00
- Envelopes (mailed in).................. 2,381.00
- WeShare Online Giving .............. 357.50
- Total Collection ...................... $ 7,580.50

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**Gospel Meditation**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Grace and sin, belief and unbelief, good and evil all exist together.
While we wrestle with these two dimensions of reality inwardly, they
are also witnessed in the actions and words of others. Many, all too
often, beat themselves up because of their sin. We are also all too
quick to pass judgment on others whom we perceive to be in error
and walking down a wrong path. God does not make rash judgments, nor
should we. Patience is the order of the day as is an understanding that
God is ultimately the caller of the shots.

Our faith tells us that while God allows the wheat and the weeds to
cocist, the wheat will always triumph. As long as we can cultivate
even a little faith and a small measure of desire for God, He can pro-
cduce abundant blessings and good things. Even when the weeds seem
to have triumphed, there still may be a small measure of faith remain-
ing that can be cultivated and grown. It doesn’t take much! Unless a
person totally allows the weeds to reign, there is always to be found at
least a small measure of faith, good, light, and love. With even this
small portion, God can produce abundant growth.

Admittedly, it is easy to give into the weeds, and they grow very
quickly. Any gardener knows this to be true. Sometimes, the weeds
even seem more attractive and vibrant. Dealing with weeds can quick-
ly become a losing battle, and they can look healthier and grow faster
than the very plants we are trying to protect. It’s easy to give into
them and let them win. While God will deal with all things in due
time, we are responsible for keeping things in check in the short term.
It is our task to keep our eyes fixed on God’s presence and mercy. We
are asked to avoid judgment. And, it is not our responsibility to deal
with the weeds in someone else’s garden, only our own. One garden is
enough responsibility for anyone.

Weeds have power. We have to realize this. While they can appear
attractive and healthy, they can quickly choke us off from God’s pres-
ence. Our task is one of maintenance and cultivating a desire for God.
Even the smallest kernel of faith can grow into something wonderful.
In God’s time, the eternal harvest will come, and we will no longer
have to worry about the weeds.

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**Catholic App**

**Catholic Life Every Day with the Immaculate Conception App**

Download our app today!

Text **App** to phone number **88202**, or download at **myparishapp.com**.

*Available for Apple and Android devices.*
Discipleship

Do What Needs to Be Done
A friend recently confided in me that although he prayed frequently each day and was involved heavily in his parish, he did not sense much fruit coming from it all and was left feeling unsatisfied. I assured him he was not alone. I told him of a deceased pastor of mine who had spoken frequently about being in this type of situation. Even as a priest, he knew all too well of how we can feel like we are simply going through the motions. It is precisely at those times that continuing to pray and practicing good stewardship is most important, because it would be easier to simply take a break and risk never coming back. He liked to say, “Do the drill,” meaning just do what needs to be done.

We are all called to be mature disciples who answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We cannot choose when and where the call will come. We cannot schedule our stewardship in a way that is always most convenient for us. Even when the fruits of our faithful efforts seem hidden from us, we hold to the promise that we are never called to give of ourselves for nothing. God is working through us and in us. No matter how dry the land may seem, seeds are being planted to yield a harvest greater than we can ever realize. Stay strong and do the drill!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS | ©LPi

Word of Life

“Lord, you are GOOD and forgiving.”
(Ps 86)

“Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. … That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.”

—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
“Married Love and the Gift of Life”

The Way of Saint James
This documentary follows the journey of several pilgrims who differ in culture and religious faith, united only by a mysterious attraction towards the same spiritual destination.

THE WAY
OF SAINT JAMES

POWERED BY AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

FORCED
PICK OF THE WEEK

Sunday, July 19
8:00 am  +Jacque Bona
10:00 am  +Nattalie DeLarria

Tuesday, July 21
7:30 am  +Fr. Tom Kunnel

Wednesday, July 22
7:30 am  +Helen Bona

Thursday, July 23
7:30 am  +Robert Atkinson

Friday, July 24
7:30 am  +Birthday of Mickey Misik

Saturday, July 25
5:00 pm  +Andrew Ambrose

Sunday, July 26
8:00 am  +Marilyn Birkholz
10:00 am  IC Parish
12:00 pm  +Loila & Lida Velez
+Deceased