



THE CHURCH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

First Sunday of **Advent**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Be watchful! Be alert!

*You do not know when
the time will come.*

*What I say to you,
I say to all: ‘Watch!’”*

- MK 13:33, 37

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

DECEMBER 3, 2017 | FIRST 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

San Damiano Adoration Chapel

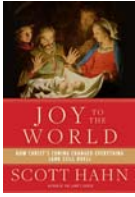
Open weekdays 7:00 am - 4:00 pm
Door code needed after 4:00 pm | Questions? Call 763-789-3246
Reconciliation
Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm

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



Early Christmas Gift For You

We have an early Christmas gift from our parish to you: a free copy of Scott Hahn's book, *Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything (and Still Does)*. You can pick up a free copy of the book by the church entrances starting this weekend. Scott Hahn makes Christmas familiar all over again as you read a family story of a father, a mother and a child. Join this family on their journey to Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Egypt. You will read about the angels, the manger, the swaddling bands, the Magi, the star and the shepherds. This book will help you discover anew the joy of Christmas.

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, December 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation and our parish feast day. Please join us for Mass at one of the times listed below:

- 7:30 am – Parish Mass
- 8:30 am – School Mass (visitors welcome)
- 7:00 pm – Parish Mass



Special Envelope for Retirement Fund for Religious, December 9-10

In the bulletin next weekend, there will be a special envelope attached to an insert describing the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation to the retirement fund helps religious communities provide for brothers, sisters and priests who served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals and parishes, often for little or no pay. You can make a donation using the special envelope and place it in the collection basket at Mass or send it to our parish office. Thank you.

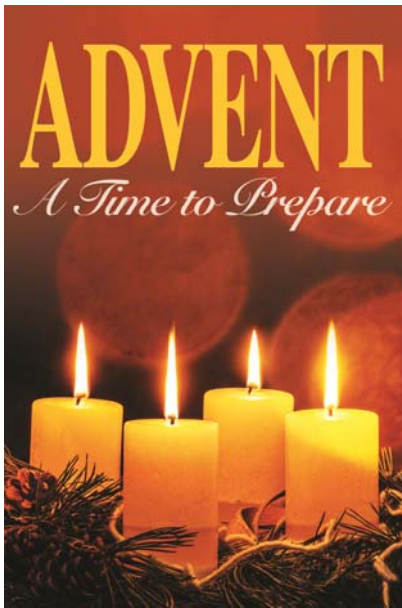
Tuesday, December 12: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mass and Dinner

You are invited to join us for a bi-lingual Spanish-English Mass at 6:00 pm followed by a "free will offering" traditional Latino dinner in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

God Bless You,

Father John Mitchell

Readings and Observances



Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/
1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday, December 4

St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

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

Tuesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop

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

Thursday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

Friday, December 8

The Immaculate Conception (holy day of obligation)

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [1a]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday, December 9

St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. Is 30:18d]/
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

Inside this Issue

Parish News _____	3	Pastoral Ministry _____	4
Bulletin Sponsor _____	3	Reflections _____	5
Music News _____	3	Weekly Calendar _____	5
Adoration _____	3	Gospel Meditation _____	6
Advent Prayer _____	4	Collections _____	6
Road to Discipleship _____	4	Church Directory _____	6
Pray for a Priest _____	4	Collections _____	6
Social Justice _____	4	Our Lady of Guadalupe _____	7

©Liturgical Publications Inc.

Parish News

A Note From Sr. Ruth Margaret

Dear ICC Friends,

Thank you for your heartfelt greetings and loving presence at my 60th Jubilee celebration. I've been celebrating the whole year of 2017; however, it is so appropriate that I end the celebrations at ICC since our family became members in 1938. I am deeply grateful to Mary Nawrocki, Vicki Bazille and their faithful helpers for making this joyous event possible. I wish each and every one of you a blessing of peace and happiness.

Sister Ruth Margaret Peterson

Christmas Bake Sale Next Weekend!

The CCW annual Christmas bake sale and craft sale will be held next weekend, December 9 and 10 in Fellowship Hall after all Masses. Please stop down after Mass to pick up some homemade baked goods, and browse the craft tables to help you with some of your holiday shopping. We also have freshly packaged nuts available for purchase; these make great hostess gifts or stocking stuffers or just a healthy snack. *Sunday morning only—we'll have freshly baked caramel rolls for sale as well.*

Please bring your donated baked goods and any handmade crafts you wish to donate for the sale to Fellowship Hall after 2:00 pm on Saturday or on Sunday, one half hour prior to each Mass. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Nut Sale

We have the nuts for your holiday baking and gifting! Check out the white order form for a larger selection of nuts, coconut, dates, glazed and dried fruits. Because we are not able to return items at the end of our sale, our on-hand selections will be limited. We encourage you to place your orders using the yellow or white order form to be sure you'll have your favorites for Christmas. Orders placed on the weekend will be available for pick up the next weekend. We will be in the narthex before and after all Masses, at fellowship, and at the pancake breakfast.

Thank You!

To all the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church:

On behalf of Fr. Jerry Rogers and the staff of St. Mary's Mission and School, thank you for your gift for school needs. It was put to good use. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps us continue our ministry in Red Lake. You are in our prayers.

A blessed Thanksgiving!

Blessings of peace,

Fr. Jerry Rogers
Sr. Patrice Eblen
Patti Spry



Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Choice Cremation

7398 University Ave NE • Fridley
763-571-5030

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

Music News

—Cabaret 2018—

The Immaculate Conception Music and Liturgy department will be presenting a musical Cabaret dinner and show with a theme of *Mardi Gras* on the evenings of February 9 and 10, 2017. The theme this year is focused on music about New Orleans, partying, baubles, bangles, bright shiny beads, masks, jazz etc.

To let us know about your act, please fill out and return the form below. We are asking that your performance be no longer than 3 to 4 minutes long. For more information, contact Ray Bannon, Music and Liturgy Director. Please consider adding you talent to this great parish tradition!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preferred method of communication: (circle one)
Phone / Email / Both

Type of Act: _____

If vocal, will an accompanist be required? _____



Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80

Eucharistic Adoration

"Peace be with you."
(Luke 24:36)

Advent is here! Please remember to make time for prayer and if possible, stop in to pray in our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. You will find the peace only Jesus can give. All are welcome. Our chapel is open Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am until 11:00 pm.

We are in need of volunteers to cover the following times:

- Mondays: 3:00 pm (partner)
- Tuesdays: 1:00 pm (partner) and 3:00 pm (partner)
- Wednesdays: 9:00 am (partner), 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm (partner), 5:00 pm (partner) and 7:00 pm
- Thursdays: 11:00 am and noon
- Fridays: 7:00 pm (partner) and 10:00 pm

If you are available to cover any of the hours listed above, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246 or Fran at 763-788-0924.

The Road to Discipleship

The Gift of Ourselves



“God calls every one of us into a relationship of intimate, personal, loving, and life-giving communion. He is inviting us to share his life and the life of his whole family. Our response to God’s invitation to intimacy and communion is to be the person he created and calls us to be—to make a gift of ourselves—because when we give ourselves away in love, we truly find ourselves.”

—Franciscan Media, November 25, 2017
From the book, *Ignite: Read the Bible Like Never Before*
by Sonja Corbitt and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers



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 2 – Rev. John Mitchell
- December 3 – Rev. Michael Rudolph
- December 4 – Rev. Timothy Rudolphi
- December 5 – Rev. Erich Rutten
- December 6 – Rev. Patrick Ryan
- December 7 – Rev. Ivan Sant
- December 8 – Rev. Thomas Santa
- December 9 – Rev. Arnold Sauber

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.

Social Justice

The Giving Tree

Next Sunday, December 10 is the final day for drop off. There are containers in the narthex for the return of your unwrapped gifts. *If you, or an IC parishioner that you know, are in need of help from our Giving Tree Program this Christmas, please contact the parish office at 763-788-9062 x 212.*



Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship

Join us next Sunday, December 10 for Fellowship, hosted by the CCW. Remember to be prepared for the Christmas Bake, Craft and Nut Sale! Thank you to all the women of the CCW who give so much of their time, treasure and talent to IC.

Anointing Masses

There will be an opportunity to attend an Anointing Mass (presided by Father John Mitchell) at the following location:

Crest View on Reservoir Boulevard
Wednesday, December 6, 3:15 pm

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 8, 2017. All who volunteer or have volunteered for funerals and retired are welcome.

Pastoral Ministry Visitors Christmas Pot Luck

Thursday, December 14, 2017. All who volunteer or have volunteered and retired are welcome. Our retirees need not bring anything but themselves. Please call Vicki if you need transportation 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 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:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Amanda Allen | Pat Elmberg | Barbara Rocek |
| Pat Anton | Mary Fredenburg | Paula Ross |
| Marian Ashlin | Rev. James Klein | Betty Schack |
| Beverly Badeaux | Gerald Krawiecki | Greg Sery |
| Claire Burgoyne | Tom Leight Jr. | Irene Spensley |
| Chuck Bernhagen | Randy Mancuso | Elaine Thunstrum |
| Barb Breen | Janet Mihalik | Lois Weyers |
| Michelle Cadieux | Mary Ann Miller | Germaine Wolsfeld |
| Nichole Castonguay | Robert Prokott | <i>and all those on our</i> |
| Margaret De Mars | Lukus Reynold | <i>prayer chain</i> |

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,” www.goo.gl/yAt6Gk

Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Traditions Explained

Question: With Christmas fast approaching, can you give me some practical tips to prepare myself and my family that will help us stay grounded in what this holiday is really about? With all the commercialism, it’s easy to stray...

Answer: Happy times and events bring fond memories and a renewed sense of love and kinship with others. The anticipation is half the joy of the event itself. The coming of the Lord is that kind of event that people have been looking forward to for generations with fervent hope and desire. It gave them strength and courage as they waited for the coming of the Lord.

We know that Christmas is rushed. Sales begin in August and carols blare long before the season begins. Everyone laments the commercial aspects of the season, but as Advent begins, do something to help you be more mindful of the Lord’s coming. Use an Advent wreath, or enthrone the Bible prominently, or read the readings from the Bible assigned to each day. Postpone the tree and decorations until closer to Christmas. Establish new family rituals, customs and prayers that help remind everyone that we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Fasting, daily Mass, a special celebration of reconciliation, reaching out to those alienated from family or society, and visiting the homebound manifest the love of the Christ Child and the Holy Family. Resist the temptation to rush the season. In his own time and in his own way, God will come. Our task is simply to be watchful and ready.

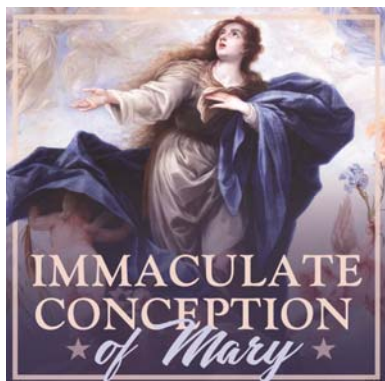
Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

On this First Sunday of Advent, we are asked to be watchful and alert. Because of our baptism we are called to be gatekeepers of God’s house and God’s servants. We have been put in charge of caring for what God has made—the earth around us and our brothers and sisters. Being responsible means being attentive to what is within our care. Are we responsible and attentive stewards or does our attention and focus often wander to things that are not important to the kingdom of God?

Catholic Quotes—Words to Inspire the Faithful

“In thee, O Lord, have I put my hope. Let me never be confounded.”

—St. Francis Xavier



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 3

Mass, Intention, +John Sichak _____ 8:00 am
 Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 10:00 am

Monday, December 4

RCIC II _____ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
 Boy Scouts Troop 119 _____ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Bible Study, “Peter” _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 5

Mass _____ 7:30 am
 Intention, +Anderson & Wilwerding Families
 Poinsettia Pick-up _____ 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm
 Open House & Preschool Concert _____ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Charismatic Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, December 6

Mass, Intention, +Robert Miller _____ 7:30 am
 Poinsettia Pick-up _____ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Bible Study, “Peter” _____ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
 Girl Scouts _____ 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
 Anointing Mass, Crest View _____ 3:15 pm
 Faith Formation Family Dinner _____ 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm
 Faith Formation, Preschool - Grade 6 _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
 Faith Formation, Grades 7 - 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 Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 7

Poinsettia Pick up _____ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Mass, Intention, +Delores Lach-Powers _____ 8:30 am
 Funeral Schola Rehearsal _____ 10:00 am - 11:00 am
 Girl Scouts _____ 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
 Communion Service, New Perspectives _____ 3:15 pm
 Parish Pastoral Council _____ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 KC BVM Council Officer Meeting _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 Bell Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Friday, December 8

*Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Holy Day of Obligation*

Mass, Intentions, +James Malisheski _____ 7:30 am
 +Lawrence & Margaret Wodziak
 Poinsettia Pick up _____ 8:00 am - 4:30 pm
 Mass, Intention, JV Special Intention _____ 8:30 am
 Our Brothers Keeper _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Funeral Volunteers Christmas Party _____ 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
 Intercessory Prayer Ministry _____ 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 7:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 9

RCIA _____ 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Baptism Class _____ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 CCW Bake & Craft Sale _____ 2:00 pm - 6:30 pm
 Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
 Mass, Intention, +Jay Dowdle _____ 5:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 10

ICCW Bake & Craft Sale _____ 7:30 am - 12:00 pm
 Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 8:00 am
 Fellowship _____ 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Mass, Intention, +Randal Wilcox _____ 10:00 am
 +Deceased

Gospel Meditation



First Sunday of Advent

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” On this First Sunday of Advent, Jesus gives us a wakeup call. This is no time for slumber. Now is the time to be on our

toes, alert, attentive, ready. But for what? For the coming of “the Lord of the house.”

During Advent, the Church does her best to help us get ready for the second coming of Christ. We don’t know precisely WHEN he will return, but we know that he will. And the fact is, even if it doesn’t happen in our lifetime, each and every one of us will still have to face the Lord at an unknown hour—namely, the hour of our death.

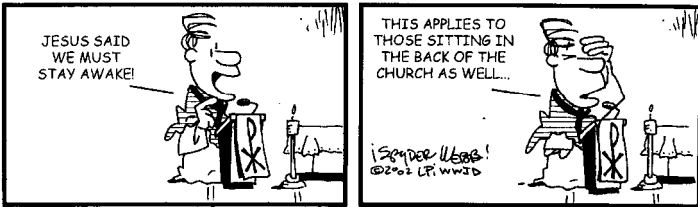
So let us be prepared! Let us be on the watch for anything that would threaten this most important of all encounters. We want to recognize the Lord as a friend and master, so that on seeing him we don’t cower in fear at his awesome power and strength. Instead, we hope to rejoice in finally being able to behold him face-to-face. This of course is the result of a healthy and holy relationship with Christ.

To nurture such a relationship this Advent season the Church urges us to recommit to a life of prayer, worthy reception of the sacraments, and a commitment to following God’s loving laws through a life of virtue. With these priorities in order, we can wait for the second coming with joyful anticipation, just as we joyfully await the celebration of Christmas.

During these weeks as we prepare our homes for the festive holiday season, may we also set aside some time and effort to prepare our hearts. Then, not only will we appreciate the yuletide wonders around us, but we can also look forward to the eternal wonders that lie in store.

©Liturgical Publications Inc.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Collections

Week 21—November 18/19, 2017

Week 22—November 25/26, 2017

Our weekly financial contributions will not publically available on our website. If you would like this information, please call Kathy Fraser, Parish Business Administrator. She can be reached at x 207. Thank you.

Church Directory

Emergency (Death or Anointing).....763-788-9062 (#2)

PARISH

Parish Office.....	763-788-9062
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)	
Parish Fax.....	763-788-0202
Reception Desk	x 201
Pastor, Fr. John Mitchell	x 215
Accounting Specialist, Lekenka Beja	x 202
Director of Advancement and Discipleship,	
<i>Mary Beth Pfeifer</i>	x 203
Deacon, Larry Palkert	
Business Administrator, Kathy Fraser	x 207
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, Bob Hoisington	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 (<i>jbona@immac-church.org</i>).....	x 220
Administrative Assistant, Barbara Breza	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>Kathy Fraser</i> (Business Administrator)	
<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.



Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands.

Is 64:7



The Immaculate Conception Church
Our Lady of Guadalupe Council invites you to the



Feast of
Our Lady of
Guadalupe
Celebration
Tuesday,
December 12, 2017

Join us for...

- ◆ **Mass at 6:00 pm** (Bilingual)
- ◆ Followed by a “Free Will Offering”
Traditional Latino Dinner
in Fellowship Hall

All Are Welcome!

Immaculate Conception Church & School
4030 Jackson St NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421
763-788-9062 • ICCSonline.org



ICChurchandSchool



IC.Church.School

