



THE CHURCH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Third Sunday of
Advent

*“A man named John
was sent from God.
He came for testimony,
to testify to the light,
so that all might
believe through him.
He was not the light,
but came to testify
to the light.”*

- JN 1:6-8

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

DECEMBER 17, 2017 | THIRD 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



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Visit FORMED.org with a web browser. Click on REGISTER (lower right of page). Enter our Parish Access Code: VKQPF9. Enter your email and create a password (you'll need this to login later). Enjoy and share with others in our local community!



Suggestions for December

Watch: "Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa", "Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe", "O Holy Night", "Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message", "The Story of the Nativity", "Christmas in Rome".

Listen: "Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego", "The True Meaning of Christmas", "The Gospel According to John".

Read: "Fire of Love: A Historical Novel about Saint John of the Cross"

Current Books Available On Our e-Readers



Catholicism for Dummies, Mini Edition
Father John Triglio & Kenneth Brighenti

Called To Be Holy
Cardinal Timothy Dolan

Chicken Soup for the Soul, Living the Catholic Faith
Canfield, Hansen, Thieman

Divine Mercy Explained
Father Michael Gaitley

Hail, Holy Queen
Scott Hahn

Mother Angelica: The Remarkable Story of a Nun
Raymond Arroyo

Mother Teresa, No Greater Love
Benenate and Durepos

My Sisters the Saints
Colleen Carroll Campbell

Rediscover Catholicism
Matthew Kelly

Rediscover Jesus
Matthew Kelly

Saints for Boys
Bart Tesoriero & Solveig Muus

Saints for Girls
Bart Tesoriero & Michael Adams

7 Secrets of the Eucharist
Vinny Flynn

The Centurion's Wife, (Acts of Faith, Book 1)
Davis Bunn and Janette Oke

The Divine Mercy Image Explained
Father Michael Gaitley

The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic
Matthew Kelly

The Francis Miracle
John Allen Jr.

The Lamb's Supper, The Mass as Heaven on Earth
Scott Hahn

The New American Bible

The Screwtape Letters
C.S. Lewis

The Story of a Soul, The Autobiography of St. Therese of Lisieux

Thirsting for God: Daily Meditations from Mother Teresa
Angela Scolorzi

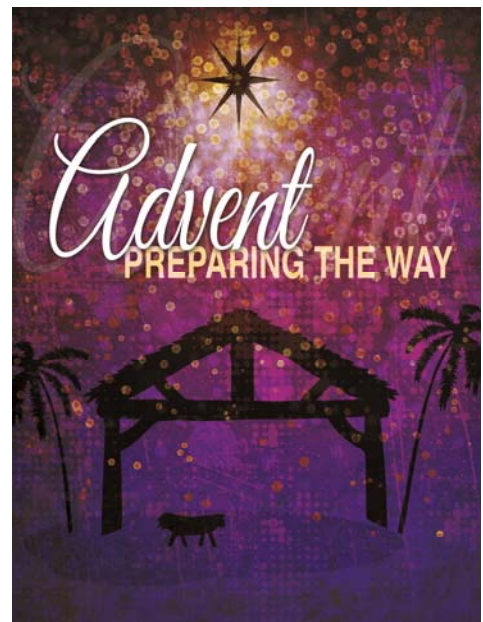
33 Days to Morning Glory: A Do-It Yourself Retreat
Rev. Michael Gaitley

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell



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Parish News

Share the Gift of Your Smile—Be a Greeter!

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

The Nut Sale

This is your last chance to purchase on-hand nuts or pick-up your orders. The Council of Catholic Women thanks everyone that purchased items at our nut sale. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas!

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 17 – Rev. Bob Schwartz
December 18 – Rev. Martin Shallbetter
December 19 – Rev. Chris Shofner
December 20 – Rev. Paul Shovelain
December 21 – Rev. John Siebenaler
December 22 – Rev. Leonard Siebenaler
December 23 – Rev. Martin Siebenaler

Readings and Observances

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/
1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/
Lk 1:39-45

Friday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday, December 23

St. John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/
Lk 1:57-66

Sunday, December 24

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/
Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

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School News

“I Know This Song!”

As I sat with a preschool student at Mass two weeks ago, the opening chords to *This Little Light of Mine* were played. He looked up at me with excitement and proclaimed, “I know this song!” What a pleasure it is to see the excitement in a 4 year old's eyes when he recognizes a song that we sing in church and in the classrooms. Having Religion class each day and faith integrated throughout our routines and in music class is truly a privilege. This same family (parents) shared with me that the two children that attend ICS are reminding them to pray before meals and to be thankful to God. This family and many others are true symbols of how the light shines in each child and from our school community.

Happy Advent as we continue the preparation for Christ's birth.

Blessed to Serve,
Jane Bona, Principal

Advent

In classrooms throughout the school, students experience the anticipation of Christ's birth by coloring pictures of Advent wreaths and opening Advent calendars as they study religion. We have an Advent calendar in the school office as well and the students come to open the little door for the day. Here is a photo of two Kindergartners with our office Advent calendar.



The Road to Discipleship



True Discipleship

“True discipleship is about inviting someone to the table, providing a feast, and then teaching them to feed themselves so they can prepare a meal for someone else.”

—*Making Better Disciples,*
A New Series @ Hive Resources

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thes 5:16-18

Social Justice

Thank You for the Socks!

Our recent sock drive was a huge success thanks to the wonderful generosity of our IC parishioners! Your donation of 282 pairs of children's socks, were donated to SACA (Southern Anoka Community Assistance) for the children of our community. Catholic Charities Opportunity Center was the recipient of 489 pairs of men's socks, 155 pairs of women's socks and many bags of personal hygiene items. These gifts help to provide comfort for others during our cold winter months. Please continue to pray for those in need and again, thank you for your help. May God bless and keep you always.

Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good!

Thank you for your generous support! **In November we received \$145.47!** Only the loose change or marked envelopes from this collection is designated for Social Justice. Donations made using bills or checks should be placed in an envelope marked "Social Justice". Small envelopes can be found on tables at all entrances of the church. The next collection will be the weekend of December 23 and 24.

Social Justice Meeting

We will meet on Tuesday, December 19 at 6:00 pm in the St. Francis room (second floor of the school).

Pastoral Ministry

Anointing Masses

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

New Perspective

3801 Hart Blvd. Columbia Heights
Thursday, January 4, 2018 at 3:15 pm

Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request—call the parish office 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 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:

Amanda Allen	Pat ElMBERG	Lukus Reynold
Pat Anton	Mary Fredenburg	Barbara Rocek
Marian Ashlin	Rev. James Klein	Paula Ross
Beverly Badaux	Gerald Krawiecki	Betty Schack
Claire Burgoyne	Tom Leight Jr.	Greg Sery
Barb Breen	Randy Mancuso	Irene Spensley
Michelle Cadieux	Janet Mihalik	Elaine Thunstrum
Nichole Castonguay	Mary Ann Miller	Lois Weyers
Margaret De Mars	Robert Prokott	Germaine Wolsfeld

and all those on our prayer chain

Beyond Our Parish

Feast of the Holy Name

The Feast of the Holy Name is January 3. A Mass and meal will be held at St. Boniface Catholic Church on January 3 at 6:00 pm. All men of the area are invited to attend. The cost of the meal will be \$15. If interested in attending please RSVP to Cain Pence at 612-384-2494 or email caino@cainpence.com.

Natural Family Planning Classes

A series of Natural Family Planning (NFP) classes taught by a qualified instructor will begin soon in or near your community. This Church approved method is scientific and marriage building. The classes teach couples how to achieve or postpone pregnancy, while embracing the beauty of God's gift of sexuality. For a complete list of classes offered throughout the Archdiocese, call 651-291-4489 or visit www.archspm.org/family.

Holy Hours for Vocations

Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Church of the Epiphany, Coon Rapids

All people of the Archdiocese are invited to participate in the Holy Hours for Vocations, a new program sponsored by the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. This year's seminarian posters show the calendar of the Holy Hours for Vocations that will be taking place at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Each month, the Holy Hour for Vocations will take place at another parish in the Archdiocese. Come spend an hour with Jesus each month to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, consecrated life and diaconate. For more information, please contact the Office of Vocations at 651-962-6890 or visit www.10000vocations.org.



Eucharistic Adoration

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing."

(1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel is open Monday through Friday beginning at 7:00 am. There are adorers continually praying in the chapel every weekday just as St. Paul requested. Come and spend some time in adoration this Advent and you too will rejoice with the peace of Jesus!

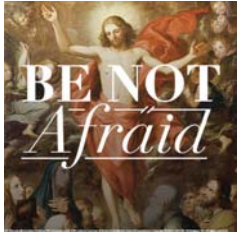
We continue to look for volunteers to cover the following times:

- 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.

Note: The chapel will be closed on Friday, December 22, Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.

Reflections



Word of Life

“He is *always* with us. Jesus promised this when he gave the disciples the same mission he gives to each of us: Go. . . . Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
2017-18 Respect Life Reflection,

Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Traditions Explained

Question: On many Sundays, especially during Advent and Lent, we hear a reading from one of the prophets. What is significant about them for us? Didn’t Jesus fulfill all their predictions?

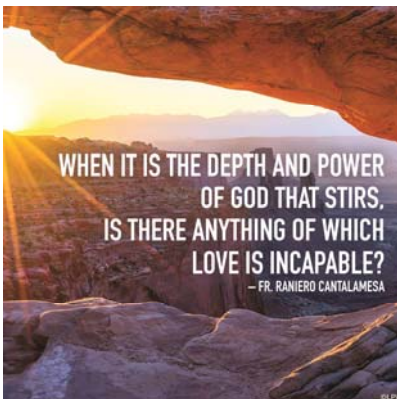
Answer: Lent and Advent are the times of the church year when the prophetic word forms an important part of the liturgical season. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Baruch, and Zephaniah are just some of the prophets who offer powerful and essential lessons for Christians of any era. Prophets do not predict the future—they are very much concerned about the present, calling Israel to follow once again the word of God.

The prophets witness to a life of faith. In the midst of an intense relationship with God, the prophets are very aware of their unworthiness to embrace this call from God, and struggle to accept the mission God entrusts to them.

The prophets speak on behalf of God. Each testifies that the word spoken is not from them, but from God. This lands them in trouble, at times, with their audience. Jeremiah, for example, felt betrayed by God as the prophetic message was delivered. People did not like the message because of their sin-filled lives and their displeasure was taken out on the prophet. While tempted at times to throw in the towel, the prophets remained true to the life of faith and persevered in the proclamation of God’s word. In modeling these virtues and calling us to greater fidelity, the prophets offer an example and message that are still important to us today.

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

John the Baptist came to testify to the light, who is Jesus Christ. Like John, we are called to testify to that same Light. We do so by living lives of faith and bringing the joy of the Gospel to everyone we meet. We are people of joy who rejoice at his birth and eagerly await his coming again. We share that joy by tending to the needs of the poor, helping those who are broken, and witnessing to the freedom that a life in God brings. May we take our task of being joyful witnesses to the good news seriously as the celebration of Christ’s birth fast approaches.



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 17

Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 8:00 am
Parish Pancake Breakfast _____ 8:30 am - 11:45 am
Mass, Intention, +Gene Geschwill _____ 10:00 am

Monday, December 18

RCIC II _____ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Boy Scouts Troop 119 _____ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, December 19

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Intention, JV Special Intention, +Jim Remarko
Social Justice Meeting _____ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Finance Council Meeting _____ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Cub Scouts, Pack 66 _____ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Charismatic Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, December 20

Mass, Intention, +Robert Miller _____ 7:30 am
Girl Scouts _____ 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
Intramurals _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Parish Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 21

Mass (School) _____ 8:30 am
Intention, +Agnes & Leonard Knoll
Communion Service, Royce Place _____ 3:15 pm
KC BVM Member Dinner _____ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Friday, December 22

Parish Office and School Closed
Mass, Intentions, +Sandra Wadzink, _____ 7:30 am
+James Malisheski, +LeeRoy Willman
Our Brothers Keeper _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 23

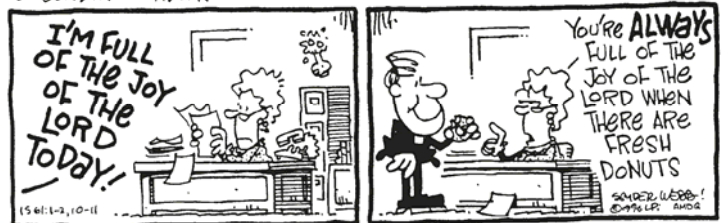
Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Mass, 4th Sunday of Advent _____ 5:00 pm
Intention, +Bonnie Crema
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve

Mass, 4th Sunday of Advent _____ 8:00 am
Intention, +John Sichak
Mass, 4th Sunday of Advent _____ 10:00 am
Intention, IC Parishioners
Mass, Vigil of Christmas _____ 5:00 pm
Intention, +Clyde & Jenny Ketelson

+Deceased

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Gospel Meditation



Third Sunday of Advent

“There is one ... coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

Untying sandal straps was no prestigious job. In the days of John the Baptist, those straps would have been especially un-

pleasant to deal with. Besides the usual odors that accompany sockless leather footwear, there would have been the grime and dirt from the sandy roads and paths that swirled around the people who went everywhere on foot. Taking off someone’s shoes upon their arrival was the task of the lowly servants. So when John says he’s unworthy of doing this task for the “one who is coming after me,” he is putting himself in a very humble position. And rightly so.

John realizes that the Christ—the Anointed One, the Messiah—is so far above him, so far above any of us, that we are truly unworthy of him. Indeed, the Son of God is not just the greatest of men; he is God-made-man and in his presence we most appropriately should bow in humble homage. Yet this God chose to stoop down to our human level and walk among us. He chose to get his sandals dirty. And still today he chooses to allow us to encounter him as a friend and companion.

But as John reminds us by his example, this encounter with the Lord is not the result of our own merits or accomplishments. We are sinners who stand in need of Christ’s help. But thanks be to God, he is always willing to extend this help to us. As St. Paul says in today’s epistle, “May the God of peace make you perfectly holy.” Indeed it is God who does the perfecting, not us by our own power. So let us approach the Lord this Advent season with a spirit of hopeful humility, trusting that God alone can make us worthy of welcoming his Son.

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Collections

Week 24—December 9/10, 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,
Mary Beth Pfeifer..... 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 Office763-788-9065
School Fax763-788-9066
Principal, Jane Bona (*jbona@immac-church.org*) 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.

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Catholic United Financial

Jim Suek, FICF

Life Insurance • Annuities • IRAs • Scholarships

612-788-8051 • jsuek@catholicunited.org

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

Immaculate Conception Church and School



Northeast

**S
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Fun Fest

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>GROSS INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>NET PROFIT</u>
Bake Shoppe	2,431.15	(\$217.56)	2,213.59
Bands*	0.00	(\$1,000.00)	(1,000.00)
Beer Tent	16,073.36	(\$2,847.22)	13,226.14
Bingo	1,186.25		1,186.25
Elvis Bingo	7,276.27	(\$2,000.00)	5,276.27
Books & Media Table	365.95		365.95
Bottle Mania	871.00		871.00
Buy it Now - St. Mary's Circle	439.00		439.00
Car Show*	370.00	(\$35.58)	334.42
Craft & Business Expo	305.00	(\$4.10)	300.90
Desserts (Grandpa's)	794.00		794.00
Donations	678.00		678.00
Dumpster	0.00	(\$219.60)	(219.60)
Entrance North	435.00		435.00
Food-Friday Italian	2,507.00	(\$67.19)	2,439.81
Food-OLG	4,627.15	(\$333.40)	4,293.75
Food-Outside Grill	7,587.26	(\$6,128.17)	1,459.09
Food - Stanleys	66.00		66.00
Grounds	0.00	(\$1,393.11)	(1,393.11)
Inflatables (tickets)	1,071.00	(\$1,692.20)	(621.20)
Jewelry	622.75		622.75
Kiddie Games (tickets)	1,565.00	(\$848.76)	716.24
Licenses/Permits	0.00	(\$525.00)	(525.00)
Marketing	0.00	(\$1,733.75)	(1,733.75)
Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	(\$58.21)	(58.21)
Pop & Water	1,128.06	(\$259.52)	868.54
Pop ET	793.50		793.50
Portables	0.00	(\$754.50)	(754.50)
Pull Tabs	3,077.00	(\$417.11)	2,659.89
Raffle - General	19,031.00	(\$3,485.00)	15,546.00
Security	0.00	(\$3,285.00)	(3,285.00)
Silent Auction	12,248.94	(\$28.06)	12,220.88
Sponsors	7,480.00	\$0.00	7,480.00
Tents, tables, chairs, stages	0.00	(\$10,998.72)	(10,998.72)
Thrift Sale	5,053.92	(\$419.22)	4,634.70
Tickets	44.32		44.32
T-Shirts	1,521.00	(\$1,283.00)	238.00
Wine Toss	1,497.00		1,497.00
Adjustments	-844.35		(844.35)
	100,301.53	-40,033.98	60,267.55

* WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR A \$2,000 CHECK FROM A SPONSOR.

2017 Financial Report

