



THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fifth Sunday of **LENT**

“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”

—JOHN 12:4

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

MARCH 18, 2018 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Stations of the Cross Fridays during Lent at 2:00 and 7:00 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



Communal Reconciliation, Wednesday, March 21

Join us for Communal Reconciliation this upcoming Wednesday evening, **March 21 at 7:00 pm**. In addition to me, there will be three visiting priests here (Fr. Przybilla from St. Charles Borromeo, Fr. Rask from St. Odilia, Fr. Ostrowski from St. William), so you can have your choice of which priest to meet with for your one-on-one Confession. It is a gift to receive this wonderful Sacrament of Reconciliation, so come join us. Maybe you know someone who has not been to Reconciliation in a long time, and you could invite them to come along with you.

A Lent to Remember

Our Lenten journey has two weeks left, but that is still enough time for you to participate in our parish-wide study called *A Lent to Remember* which focuses on the transforming power of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Confession. There are five videos (plus a bonus episode for children) to watch and discuss. The videos are found online at FORMED.org. To register for FREE with FORMED, go to www.FORMED.org, enter our parish access code **VKQPF9**, then enter your email and create a password. You can participate in *A Lent to Remember* with your family, co-workers, neighbors, friends or by yourself. The groups that are meeting here at church on Monday evenings and Wednesday afternoons will have their last meeting this week, and they are watching "Biblical Foundations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation". To find that video, go to FORMED.org, click on the *Forgiven* study, and then go to Session #4, "Biblical Foundations: Sin, Mercy, and the Sacrament of Confession."

Video 1: *Forgiven* - Where Are You?

Video 2: *Forgiven* - An Encounter with Mercy

Video 3: *Forgiven* - Embraced in Mercy, The Rite Explained

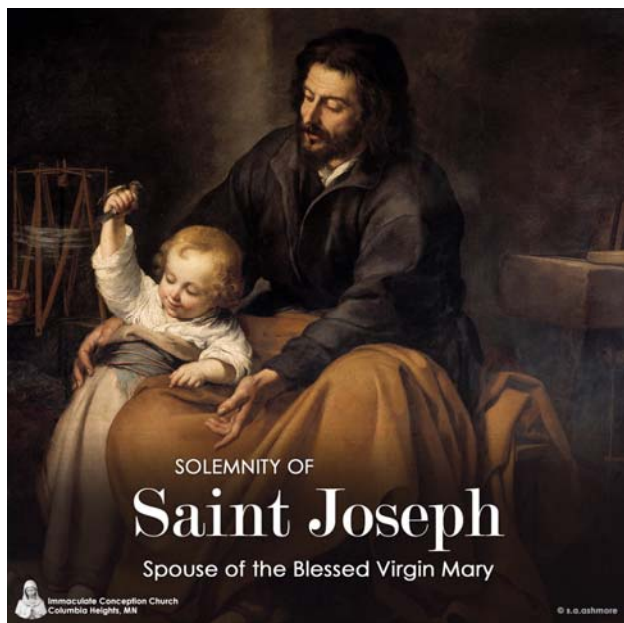
Video 4: *Symbolon* - The Paschal Mystery

Video 5: *Forgiven* - Biblical Foundations: Sin, Mercy and the Sacrament of Confession

Bonus Episode: *Forgiven* - For Children, How to Make a Good Confession



God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell



Readings and Observances

Sunday, March 18

5th Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/
Jn 12:20-33

Monday, March 19

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday, March 20

Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday, March 21

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/
Jn 8:31-42

Thursday, March 22

Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Jn 8:51-59

Friday, March 23

St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop; Day of abstinence

Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday, March 24

Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56

Sunday, March 25

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion; Holy Week Begins

Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18,
19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

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Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship

Join us next Sunday, March 25 in Fellowship Hall (lower level of the church), for fellowship, hosted by our School Advisory Committee.

Anointing Mass

All are welcome to attend an Anointing Mass (presided by Father John Mitchell) at the following location:

New Perspective Senior Living
3801 Hart Boulevard • Columbia Heights
April 5, 2018 at 3:15 pm

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

Lenten Soup Lunch

Join us on Friday, March 23 from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm for our last Soup Lunch followed by Stations of the Cross at 2:00 pm. This week, we will be serving all you can eat homemade Northern Bean, Clam Chowder and Tomato Basil soup. Free will offerings are accepted.



Growing Through Loss

The spring series begins on Thursday, April 12 from 6:45 - 9:00 pm at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 6180 Highway 65 NE, Fridley. Join speaker Judy Connolly, Chaplain, University of MN Medical Center, as she speaks on *Understanding Grief and Loss*. The series runs six consecutive Thursdays from April 12 - May 17. Each session is complete in itself. Brochures are available at all entrances of the church. For more information contact Vicki 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 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:

Paul Bona	Joan Graves	Greg Sery
Claire Burgoyne	Rev. James Klein	Irene Spensley
Barb Breen	Gerald Krawiecki	Elaine Thunstrom
Michelle Cadieux	Tom Leight Jr.	Lois Weyers
Nichole Castonguay	Randy Mancuso	Germaine Wolsfeld
Pat Elmberg	Janet Mihalik	<i>and all those on our</i>
Mary Fredenburg	Leon Reinarts	<i>prayer chain</i>

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

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Chet's Shoe Store

Open M - F, 9 - 8 / Sat, 9 - 5

4357 Central Ave. NE, Columbia Heights
763-788-5476

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

Upcoming Events at IC!



Bingo and Ham Raffle

This Sunday, March 18, 2018, 12:30 - 3:30 pm. Four, 10 game bingo sessions with a cover-all at the end of the 4th session. Snacks and beverages available for purchase. Win a ham in a raffle!

Lenten Fish Dinner

March 23 in Fellowship Hall, 4:30 - 6:30 pm. Fish, mac and cheese, baked beans, baked potato, coleslaw, bread roll, dessert and beverage. Adults and seniors, \$10, ages 6 - 11, \$5, ages 5 and under free. All are welcome!

For more information visit ICCSonline.org.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus News

The Knights of Columbus hosted a Mass and dinner for four seminarians from our Archdiocese on February 15 at Immaculate Conception. The event was co-sponsored with the Serra Club of Minneapolis. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Mitchell and Fr. Ostrowski from the Church of St. William, Fridley. The four seminarians assisted as altar servers. Fr. Ostrowski was the guest speaker after dinner. Each of the seminarians was given a financial assistance check to help defray some of their expenses. The seminarians were Tim Tran, Tyler Ferry, Nathaniel Whipple and Jonathan Liedl. Each gave a short talk about how they made the decision to join the priesthood. A big thank you to Mike Hattenberger and Bonnie Conroy for coordinating this activity. The next Knights activity will be hosting the nuns in the Twin City area to an afternoon of socializing, games, prizes and a lunch on Palm Sunday, March 25, starting at noon at Immaculate Conception. Knights and wives are invited to attend and help serve and wait on these fine ladies who have dedicated their lives to serving and helping others. Please call 651-636-2382 if you plan to attend.

Eucharistic Adoration

*"Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
O Lord; they never cease to praise you."*

(Psalm 84:5)

Many adorers look forward to their hour of Eucharistic adoration each week. They come with prayers of praise and petition, and leave with the peace only Jesus can give. Come and spend some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in our adoration chapel.

Adorers are urgently needed for the following hours:

- Mondays at 3:00 pm
- Wednesdays at 2:00 pm
- Thursdays at 11:00 am and noon
- Fridays at 8am

Partner adorers are needed for the following hours:

- Mondays at 1:00 pm
- Tuesdays at 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm
- Wednesdays at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm
- Fridays at 7:00 pm

If you would like to volunteer for one of the hours listed above, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246 or Fran at 763-788-0924.



Social Justice



Please Return By Palm Sunday

March 25, Palm Sunday—return M&M tubes filled with \$14 in quarters. Baskets will be provided in the narthex for returns. Cash contributions will also be accepted. If

you're writing a check, please make it payable to Immaculate Conception. Please drop in the collection basket at Mass in an envelope clearly marked "Feed My Starving Children".

Pray for all those who are hungry.

For more information contact Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212.

Social Justice Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 20 at 6:00 pm in the St. Francis room (second floor of the school).

Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good!

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. Only the loose change or marked envelopes from this collection are designated for Social Justice.

Next collection: Sunday March 24-25.

The Road to Discipleship

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

During the Lenten season we observe certain practices of sacrifice and self-denial as an offering to God and as good spiritual training for this race we are engaged in called life. These things are good for us but they should not remain only in Lent. In fact, we should always be about working towards a complete surrender of ourselves to the will of God.

Jesus taught that unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot bear fruit. It will remain the same always and will not lead to any type of growth. We are the grains of wheat that need to die to ourselves in order to be born again. However, many of us are the same today as last Lent and the many Lents before that. We have not moved forward to a more mature faith that makes it possible for us to be transformed.

Surrender is not easy. But we need to see our observance of Lent as a way to move forward. No athlete lifts the same weight forever. No dieter finds satisfaction in losing the same 5 pounds year after year. We must work to always be moving toward holiness. This is the commitment of an everyday steward. We are called to pray more today than yesterday. We are called to give more today



than yesterday. We are called to love more today than yesterday. Standing still is not an option. Our God is calling us to grow in our discipleship and stewardship for the benefit of our souls and the health of the Body of Christ. May this Lent be a time of moving forward and may we all draw ever closer to our God who calls us to leave it all behind and follow Him.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

School News



Feed My Starving Children

School students, parents and a teacher went to *Feed My Starving Children* again this school year. These activities along with many other events during the school year provide service opportunities for our students. They were part of a team that packed enough meals to feed 49 kids for one year!

Parish News

It Won't Be Long...until spring is here and it's time to clean! As you do your spring cleaning please remember to *Save the Good Stuff* for the IC Thrift Sale - **June 14, 15, 16.**

Donation drop off dates and times will be announced soon.

Mary's Way of the Cross

On Thursday, March 22 at 9:15 am (after the 8:30 am Mass) join us for *Mary's Way of the Cross*, This is the Stations of the Cross presented from the Blessed Virgin Mary's perspective. It is a prayerful reflection on our Lord's Passion and the reaction of His mother to the events of His suffering and death.

Butter Braid Pastry Pick Up

Butter Braid frozen pastries will be available for pick up after all Masses next weekend (Palm Sunday weekend). If you need to make special arrangements or more information call Kathy at 651-633-6577.

Beyond Our Parish

Pro-Life Banquet

Pro-Life Across America Culture of Life Banquet

Speaker: Father Rocky from Relevant Radio—Thursday April 5, 5:45 pm at St. John the Baptist, 835 Second Avenue NW, New Brighton. Cost is \$60 per person. Please call Christine at 612-782-9434 to make a reservation or go to our website: prolifeacrossamerica.org.

Questions? Contact Kim Doyle at 651-332-2266 or Susanna Parent at parents@archspm.org, 651-291-4411.

Reflections

Word of Life

“When God created each of us, He did so with precision and purpose... let us treat each person as the masterpiece that he or she is.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Flyer:
 “Each of Us is a Masterpiece of God’s Creation”
www.bit.ly/GodsMasterpieces

Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Traditions Explained

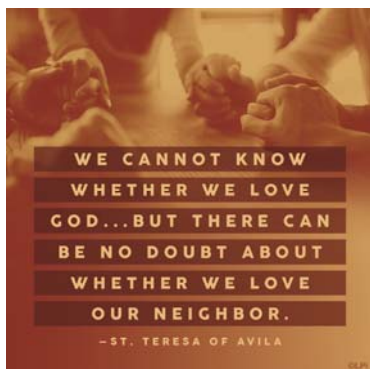
Question: *Lent always seems to help me renew my relationship with God and strengthen my religious practice. Do you have any suggestions as to what I could do to achieve that the rest of the year?*

Answer: The obvious answer may seem to be to do whatever you do during Lent all year round. But part of the power of Lent is that we focus as a community on renewing our faith and preparing for Easter. Our Lenten practices have a purpose and a goal. Therein lies the secret. When we focus our efforts on one virtue, or try to change one bad habit, or seek to deepen our understanding of one aspect of faith, we focus our efforts and give our full attention to what we are trying to accomplish. We tend to be more successful achieving our goals. More importantly, it has a ripple effect in our lives: one thing changes or is added to the spiritual mix of our lives and many aspects are changed.

All too often we leave our spiritual growth to chance and the practice of faith to habit, and then wonder why we have no sense of growth or progress. Think of it in terms of exercise. We walk, lift weights, bend and stretch to attain the maximum benefit from what we do. In addition, to keep those benefits, we eat healthful food and get enough vitamins and rest. Spirituality requires the same kind of attention: we pray, fast, read the Bible, receive sacraments, and do charitable work to maximize the benefits of practicing faith. Keeping Lent year round keeps us in spiritual shape!

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

We all fear losing that which is familiar. We fear dying. When our securities and familiarities are threatened, the anxiety of uncertainty can lead us into fear and despair. We have difficulty believing that new life comes from death. This is the basis of what it means to hope. There are no dead ends or final endings with God. Through his passion and death, Jesus opens up the possibility for new life and new beginnings for all believers. “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” As our journey of Lent hastens to an end, the mystery of Christ’s passion and death come before us to teach us valuable lessons both for this life and the next.



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 18

ICS Chocolate Bar Sale _____ 7:30 am - 11:30 am
Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 8:00 am
 Queen of May Ticket Sale _____ 8:00 am - 11:30 am
 Parish Pancake Breakfast _____ 8:30 am - 11:45 am
Mass _____ 10:00 am
Intention, +Agnes & Leonard Knoll
 Spring Bingo _____ 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Monday, March 19

St. Jude Circle _____ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 RCIC I _____ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
A Lent to Remember Study _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, March 20

Mass, Intention, +Vincent Guzik Family _____ 7:30 am
 Social Justice Committee _____ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Finance Council _____ 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, March 21

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Intention, +Lucille Skrief, +Gloria Grosch
A Lent to Remember Study _____ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
 CORE Group (Catechists) _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
 Intramurals _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
 Confirmation I - Grade 9 _____ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 Parish Reconciliation _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 Parish Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, March 22

Mass (School), Intention, +Chuck Bernhagen _____ 8:30 am
 Mary’s Way of the Cross _____ 9:15 am - 10:00 am
 Parish Council Meeting _____ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 IC Summer Jam Meeting _____ 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
 Bell Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Friday, March 23

Mass, Intention, +Clarence & Richard Emon _____ 7:30 am
 Our Brothers Keeper _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Lenten Soup Lunch _____ 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
 Stations of the Cross _____ 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm
 Lenten Fish Dinner _____ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
 Stations of the Cross _____ 7:00 pm - 7:30 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, March 24

Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Mass, Intention, +Joe Goodman _____ 5:00 pm
 Butter Braid Pick-Up _____ 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, March 25

Mass, Intention, IC Parishioners _____ 8:00 am
 Butter Braid pick-up _____ 8:00 am - 11:30 am
 Fellowship _____ 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Mass, Intention, +Jim Clemens _____ 10:00 am
 Annual Nun’s Appreciation Day _____ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

+Deceased

Gospel Meditation



Fifth Sunday of Lent

“Now there were some Greeks among those who had come to worship at the feast. They came to Philip and asked him, ‘Sir, we would like to see Jesus.’” It has begun. News of Jesus has spread beyond

native-born, Aramaic-speaking Jews. We don’t know if the Greeks mentioned here heard of Jesus from fellow travelers or if news of this intriguing rabbi had reached all the way to their home. What we do know is that this interaction spurred an interesting comment from Jesus: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” In other words, it has begun. The time has come for the message to move beyond the geographic bounds of Israel.

But what does this message require? The Gospel is clear: “he said this indicating the kind of death he would die.” A grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies to its life as only a seed. A caterpillar takes on the appearance of temporary death in order to transform into a butterfly. In the Gospels, sacrifice and death are a way of becoming something more than you were before.

This Lent, new life can come from our sacrifices. When we enter into the season with Jesus, our difficulties can transform our perspective. “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”

As we abstain from meat and fast from eating between meals, we can grow in compassion for the hungry. We can give alms of our time, sacrificially spending time with the lonely, the sick, and the marginalized. Our little Lenten “deaths”—death to unnecessary preferences, death to selfish living, death to ignorance of other’s pain—can bring new life to the world long after the season is over. This is the invitation this Sunday and every Lenten season, to begin anew from death to life.

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A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
(Psalm 51)

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.*

- March 18 – Rev. Greg Abbott
- March 19 – Rev. James Adams
- March 20 – Rev. Steve Adrian
- March 21 – Rev. Peter Ali
- March 22 – Rev. Robert Altier
- March 23 – Rev. Jake Anderson
- March 24 – Rev. Michael Anderson

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** x 202
- Director of Advancement and Discipleship,**
Mary Beth Pfeifer x 203
- Deacon, Larry Palkert**
- Business Administrator, Alan Savage** 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** 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, 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>Alan Savage</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.

Collections

Week 37—March 10/11, 2018

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



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Catholic School

Faith † Academics † Service



Saturday, April 14, 2018

OPEN HOUSE

9:30 am—Noon

- ✓ Tour our multiple award winning
Preschool - Grade 8 school
- ✓ Meet teachers, current parents and
Principal Jane Bona
- ✓ Learn about *Personalized Learning* and
the individual education plan each
student receives so they thrive & succeed!

Tuition Assistance Available

Preschool & Kindergarten PLAY DATE

Enjoy a morning of fun with your preschool or kindergarten student and get to know other parents and the staff at ICS. We'll have crafts, gym time and snacks. No charge to attend.

Every child attending the open house or play date will receive a special gift! All are welcome at ICS!

ICCSonline.org • 763-788-9065

4030 Jackson St NE, Columbia Heights



ICChurchandSchool



ic.church.school

