

Faith Formation

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

MERCY CONTINUES

Happy 2017! We hope your Christmas and New Year was a time of refreshment, love and rest. We pray that God's gift of hope is alive in your hearts, for He has wonderful plans in store for you this year (Jer 29:11).

The Year of Mercy ended on November 20th, and we hope the habits of spiritual and corporal works of mercy are taking root in our hearts and minds. In this year's newsletter, we will look at one element of mercy: forgiveness. There is

much to learn about the benefits of forgiveness, including the healing and hope it brings us, and how it makes light the burdens of life (Mat 11:28).

In the Faith Formation program, our students (along with their parents) will continue to learn the Bible through the new Gen2Rev program by Emily Cavins. For the adults, we are offering a new bible study and continue to prepare candidates for the sacraments and full communion with

the Catholic Church through the RCIA program. More information on these programs can be found in this newsletter.

May the power of God's mercy and forgiveness transform your hearts this year!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FAMILY/YOUTH FORMATION CALENDAR	2
RCIA	2
FIRST EUCHARIST	2
SAVE THE DATE	3
WHOLE PARISH CATECHESIS	3
THE PROPHETS	3
FORGIVENESS	4

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH FOR OUR FAMILY

Gracious St Joseph, protect my family and all other families from danger, as you did protect the baby Jesus and His mother from the wrath of king Herod.

Pray for us, that we respect, love and care for each other in our fami-

ly as you were with Mary and Jesus. Help us to be understanding and forgiving towards each other.

Most of all St Joseph, bring us closer to Jesus. St Joseph, please pray for our family. Amen.

www.family-prayer.org/prayer-to-st-joseph.html

© Copyright 2016 Family Prayer. All rights reserved. Used by permission. www.family-prayer.org

FAMILY AND YOUTH FORMATION, JANUARY-MARCH 2017

January 2016

Jan. 4 Wed. 6:30pm
Family Formation (K-6),
Grades 7 & 8, Confirmation I

Jan. 18 Wed. 6:30pm
Grades 7 & 8, Confirmation I
1st Eucharist Parents

February 2016

Feb. 1 Wed. 6:30pm
6:30-8:30pm Confirmation I

Feb. 8 Wed. 6:30pm
Family Formation, Grades 7 & 8

Feb. 15 Wed. 6:30pm
Grades 7 & 8, Confirmation I

Feb. 17-19 Fri.-Sun.
Confirmation I Retreat

Feb. 22 Wed. 6:30
Confirmation I and *Eucharistic Adoration*

March 2016

Mar. 1 *Ash Wednesday*

Mar. 8 Wed. 6:30pm
Family Formation (K-6),
Grades 7 & 8

Mar. 15 Wed 6:30pm
Grades 7 & 8, Confirmation I

Mar. 22 Wed 6:30pm
Confirmation I and
Parish Reconciliation



“... and he began to teach them many things.” — Mark 6:34

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

Classes Thurs. 7pm

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26
Feb. 2, 9, 16
Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Apr. 6, 20, 27
NO CLASS APR. 13:
HOLY THURSDAY
May 5, 12, 17

Special Dates

Mar. 4 Sat. 5pm Mass
Rite of Sending
Mar. 5 Sun. 10am Mass
Rite of Election
Mar. 12 Sun. 10am Mass
Penitential Rite
Mar. 19 Sun. 10am Mass
1st Scrutiny

Mar. 26 Sun. 10am Mass
2nd Scrutiny

Apr. 2 Sun. 10am Mass
3rd Scrutiny

Apr. 9 Sun. 10am Mass
RCIA Rehearsal

Apr. 16 Sat. 8:30pm Mass—
Easter Vigil



FIRST EUCHARIST

Jan. 18 Wed. 6:30pm
A Parents Meeting will
be held in the school au-
ditorium.

Apr. 19 Wed. 6:30pm
Breadmaking (pass ban-
ners), Fellowship Hall

May 17 6:30pm
First Eucharist Rehears-
al in the Church.

May 21 Sun. 10am Mass
First Eucharist

SAVE THE DATE

Eucharistic Adoration

Feb. 22 Wed. 7-8:00pm

Join us for a parish-wide evening of Eucharistic adoration. Families and youth are encouraged to attend.

Parish Reconciliation

Mar. 22 Wed. 7:00pm

Come and partake of the healing grace of forgiveness of our merciful God this Lent. Reconciliation will be held in the Church.

Graduation Mass

TBD June Sun. 10:00am

Join us to celebrate the graduation of our high school seniors. Graduating students, be watching for a mailing in May with details on the graduation mass.



Come, let us adore Him!

“For a child is born to us, a son is given us . . .” — Isaiah 9:5

WHOLE PARISH CATECHESIS

Bible Study: The Prophets

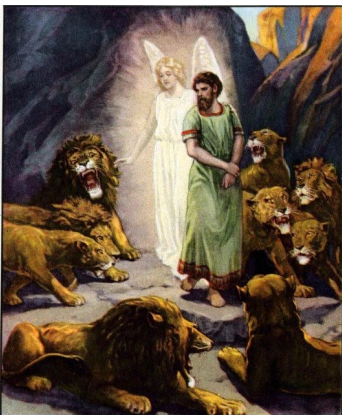
Immaculate Conception Parish offers Bible Study classes to members of this faith community, supporting personal faith formation through faith sharing, building households of faith, and engaging in active service and outreach.

We are offering a ten session bible study beginning this winter: Mondays, 7:00-8:30 pm beginning January 30 and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm beginning February 1. Come and see why the words of the prophets are relevant to our lives today. Contact Mary Scott at the

parish office, 763-788-9062 x 208 or msscott@immac-church.org, to register. Or go online to www.ascensionpress.com and click on “Join A Study”, and you will be prompted to sign in or create an account.

“... a prophet to the nations I appointed you.” — Jeremiah 1:5

GETTING TO KNOW THE PROPHETS



Who are the prophets? How are they relevant to us today?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

61 *The patriarchs, prophets and certain other Old Testament figures have been and always will be honored as saints in all the*

Church's liturgical traditions.

702 *... the joint mission of the Father's Word and Spirit remains hidden, but it is at work. God's Spirit prepares for the time of the Messiah. Neither is fully revealed but both are already promised, to be*

watched for and welcomed at their manifestation. So, for this reason, when the Church reads the Old Testament, she searches there for what the Spirit, "who has spoken through the prophets," wants to tell us about Christ.

[Emphases added.]



Church of the Immaculate Conception

Pastor John Mitchell

Faith Formation Office
4030 Jackson Street N.E.
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

Mary Nawrocki
Phone: 763-788-9062 ext. 210
Fax: 763-788-0202

Parish Mission Statement

The Mission of Immaculate Conception 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.

ICCSONLINE.ORG

ON FORGIVENESS ...

Whether we need to forgive or are in need of forgiveness, there is much we can learn from the Church and the saints.

Here is what some of the saints said about forgiveness:

“Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.” — *St. John Chrysostom*

“Pardon me, O mercy of my God, for having despised so long Thy mercy's voice.” — *St. Ignatius of Loyola*

“May we never risk the life of our souls by being resentful or by bearing grudges.” — *St. Gregory of Nyssa*

“We will either accuse ourselves or excuse ourselves.” — *St. John Vianney*

“He who knows how to forgive prepares for himself many graces from God. As often as I look upon the cross, so often will I forgive with all my heart.” — *St. Faustina*

“Keep close to the Catholic Church at all times, for the Church alone can give you true peace, since she alone possesses Jesus, the true Prince of Peace, in the Blessed Sacrament.” — *St. Padre Pio*

“God always forgives when you are totally repentant and you desire to change. He forgives...and He never gets tired of forgiving. Never. You may get tired asking. I hope not. He never, never tires of forgiving. Never.” — *Mother Mary Angelica*