

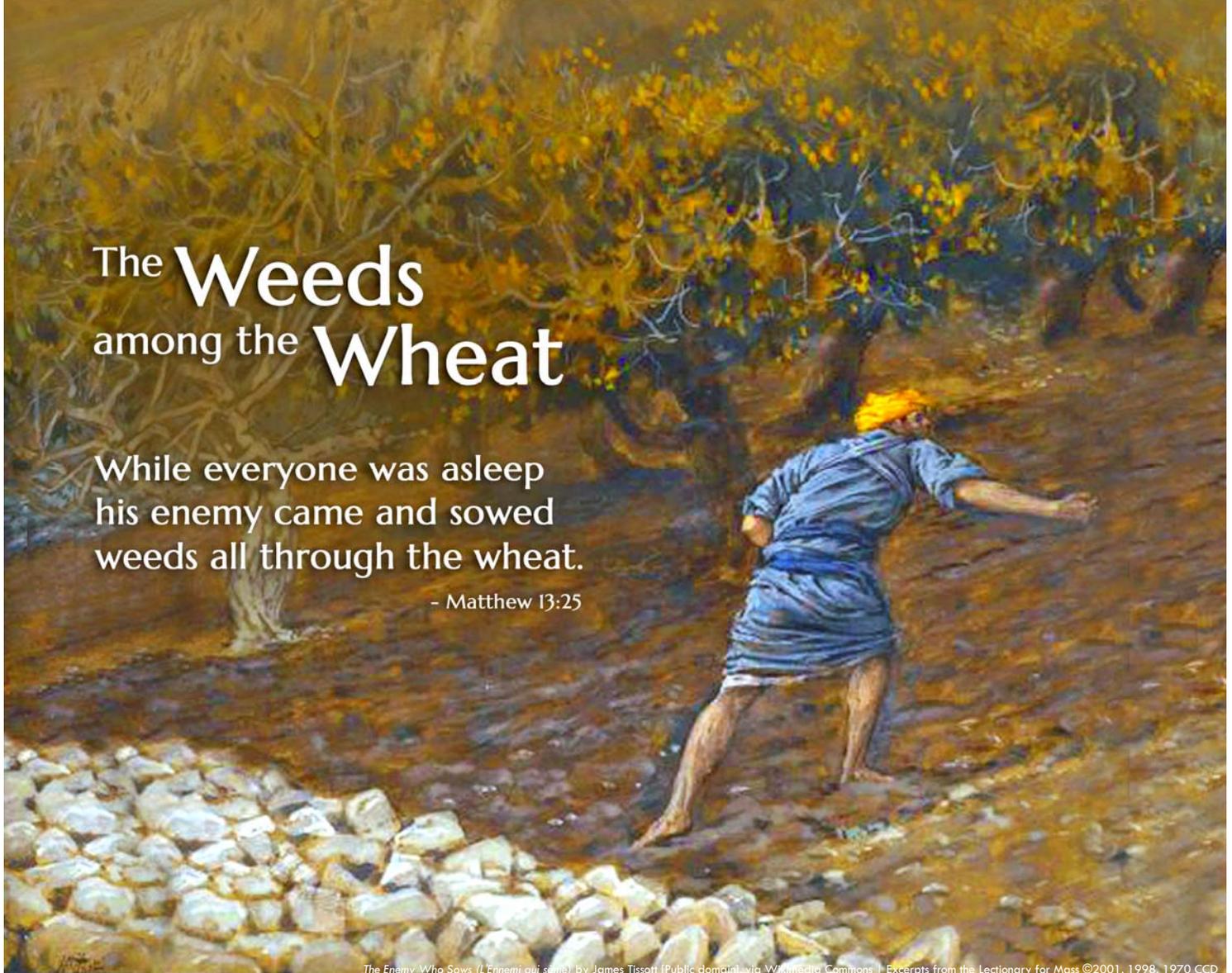


THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Weeds among the Wheat

While everyone was asleep
his enemy came and sowed
weeds all through the wheat.

- Matthew 13:25



The Enemy Who Sows (L'Enemi qui sème) by James Tissot [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons | Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

JULY 23, 2017 | SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Weekday Mass Schedule

Tuesday - Friday 7:30 am

Weekend Mass Schedule

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



Don't Be Burdened Any Longer

If you or someone you love is grieving the loss of a child or children to abortion, come and experience the healing mercy of Jesus Christ on a Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat which is open to anyone impacted by abortion—women, men, grandparents, siblings, and health care professionals. The next retreat is August 4-6 in the Twin Cities area. For more information contact Nancy at rachels@rvineyardmn.org, call 763-250-9313, or see www.rvineyardmn.org.



I.C. Men's Group, Bar-b-q and Cookout, Wednesday, July 26

All men are invited to our I.C. Men's Group event on Wednesday, July 26, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm at the Rectory Garage and Driveway (Father John's house) at 4059 Quincy Street NE. Beverages, beer (must be age 21), food, and fun. Send RSVP and questions to Mike Bridgeman (612-770-1169) or Patrick McVary (612-803-3020).

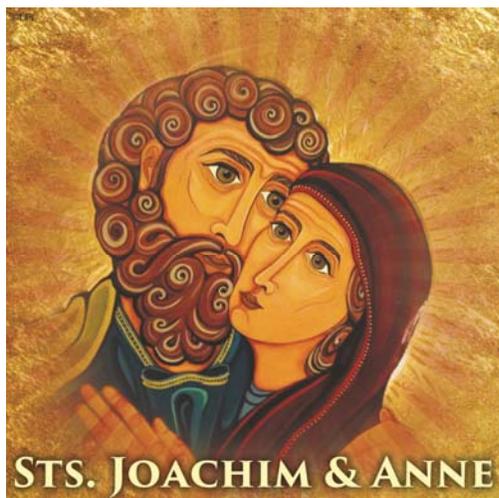
I.C. Men's Group, Saint Paul Saints Tailgating and Game, Tuesday, August 29

All men are invited to join us for tailgating and the St. Paul Saints game at CHS Field on Tuesday, August 29. Our group's bar-b-q starts at 5:30 pm in the Saints Tailgating Lot at the corner of Kellogg Blvd. and Lafayette Street. The game starts at 7:05 pm. Please RSVP soon so that we can order group tickets. We can add more tickets the day of the game, if needed. Please send RSVP to Mike Bridgeman (612-770-1169) or Patrick McVary (612-803-3020).

Get Formed!

We are excited to announce that our parish has subscribed to a dynamic new online platform called FORMED. Using your access to the internet, every parishioner now has access to inspiring Catholic movies, videos, audios and books on your computer, smartphone and tablet free of charge. To get started, go to www.FORMED.org and enter the parish code: VKQPF9. Set up a username and a password, and then start exploring! Lately, I have been listening to an audiobook entitled "He Leadeth Me" by Father Walter Ciszek who was captured by a Russian army during World War II and convicted of being a Vatican spy. Ciszek spent 23 agonizing years in Soviet prisons and the labor camps of Siberia. Only through an utter reliance on God's will did he manage to endure the extreme hardship. He tells of the courage he found in prayer—a courage that eased his loneliness, pain and fear.

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell



Readings and Observances

Sunday, July 23

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Monday, July 24

St. Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-6/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday, July 25

St. James, Apostle

2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-6/Mt 20:20-28

Wednesday, July 26

Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-28/Mt 13:1-9

Thursday, July 27

Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dn 3:52-56/Mt 13:10-17

Friday, July 28

Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 13:18-23

Saturday, July 29

St. Martha

Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Sunday, July 30

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130/Rom 8:28-30/
Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

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We Need Your Help!

The following events at our Nordeast Summer Jam-Fun Fest are in need of a chair to oversee and lead them. If you're interested in chairing one of these events and would like information on what is required, time commitment, etc., please contact Jami at 763-788-9062 or jbridgeman@immac-church.org. Thank you!

- Information Booth
- Outdoor Market
- Co-Chair for Raffle
- Co-Chair for Bingo

Raffle Tickets

Pre-assigned Nordeast Summer Jam general raffle tickets are available for pick up in the back of church or in the parish office during the week. If we missed your name or you would like to buy/sell additional tickets, please call the parish office. State regulations require that all tickets be accounted for, so please return all purchased ticket stubs with payment and un-purchased tickets to the Mass collection baskets or the parish office.

Spiritual Gift Basket

The 12th Annual Spiritual Gift Basket features a sterling silver deluxe glass bead Rosary, complete Audio CD set of the New Testament Bible, chaplets, books and much more. The drawing is free to enter. Register at the Nordeast Summer Jam Fun Fest information booth or at the parish office.

CCW Summer Jam News

St. Michael Circle—Bottlemania Booth

The members of St. Michael Circle are requesting donations of two-liter bottles of pop for their booth at the Nordeast Summer Jam Fun Fest. There will be boxes for your donations at all church entrances. We appreciate and thank you for your generosity and support.

St. Jude's Circle Bake Shoppe

A variety of breads, muffins, bars and cookies are needed for our booth at the Summer Jam – Fun Fest on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Your baked goods will be accepted and greatly appreciated. Questions: call Mary Lou at 763-788-3178.

Please note: In order to comply with Minnesota Health Regulations, we ask that all baked goods donated for our booth be labeled with the name of the person who baked them. Thank you!

The Road to Discipleship

Living Out Loud

“Our faith comes alive as we live it each day in service to others.”

—Excerpt from the Mission Statement of Holy Spirit Church, San Jose, CA



Youth News

Mission Trip Report

On June 24, our group of five from Immaculate Conception Parish, along with six others began our Mission trip to Mandaree and New Town, ND. After a blessing by Fr. John, we began our 10-12 hour trek to the beautiful state of plains, buttes, prairies, farmlands and the green badlands. Inevitably, we encountered the infamous oil rigs which pepper the land and became a constant topic of conversation throughout the week.

St. Anthony of Padua, our host parish, has two sites. We slept in Mandaree and traveled daily for mission to their other church in New Town, a half hour away. Our mission was:

- To put on a Catholic day camp—similar to a Vacation Bible school—for the children of New Town and surrounding areas. Families have come to expect these day camps which provide a great source of evangelization and connection with the Church.
- To plan lessons and activities highlighting “The Fruits of the Spirit” and to teach the children.
- To assist the pastor, Fr. Roger Synek, in planning daily Mass, including teaching songs, reading, and helping the children engage in the liturgy.
- To be available to serve the parish community in whatever way was needed.

We experienced the fruit of these day camps in that a couple of the native missionaries who joined the group were the product of past day camps and they came back to serve!

It was a blessing to see our missionaries appreciate and learn about the native community which welcomed us so generously. We attended and participated in a pow wow, visited an earth lodge village, ate delicious Indian fry bread—and fried bread tacos, of course! This was a wonderful time of making new friends, life-long memories and serving Christ. To Him be the Glory!

Make sure to visit the Photo Gallery our website, ICCSonline.org for pictures of our trip.

Parish News

Life in the Spirit

Did you know you can have a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit? What could that look like and what could it mean for you? Imagine a life with a clearer understanding of who God is and what His plan is for you. Imagine a life of hope, peace and JOY! The Life in the Spirit seminar could be what you need! The seminar will be offered Friday, July 28 through Saturday, July 29 at Immaculate Conception Church in Fellowship Hall—beginning Friday from 6:30 - 9:30 pm and continuing on Saturday, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Lunch and snacks will be provided. There is no charge to attend. *All are welcome—invite a friend!* For more details and/or to register call Mary Nawrocki at 763-788-9062 x 210 or email mnawrocki@immac-church.org

Help Needed

Our Morning Journeys program needs a person to work three mornings per week from 6:30 am - 7:45 am. The position welcomes children to school, reads with them, plays games, and sends them to their classrooms at 7:45 am. Please contact Jane Bona or Mary Beth Pfeifer if you are interested. Thank you.

Meals on Wheels

We will be driving for Meals on Wheels the week of July 31 - August 4. Thank you to all our dedicated drivers!

School News

Serra Club Field Trip

The North Minneapolis Serra Club sponsors a vocations field trip for our 8th grade students each year in which they visit a convent or the seminary. We invited them to visit our school for a luncheon to conduct their business meeting in late April. At that time, five of our recently graduated students read their vocations essay to the club members. We are grateful to the Serrans for their support of our students and for their commitments to prayer for vocations. Pictured are five of our students with Serran John Lacina and Fr. John Mitchell.



We received a beautiful thank you from the Serra Club:

A huge Serran Thank You for your hospitality in hosting us from the awards to your essay writers. It was wonderful for our members to put faces to the essay stories. I think you have started a new tradition for us to visit schools...but you have set the bar very high with the tasty meal, the school tour and your generous gift of personal time and attention. Again, our sincere thanks!

Judy Makowske, North Mpls Serra President

Another one of the Serra members wrote to the school as well:

Thank you for your wonderful hospitality in hosting a meeting of the North Mpls Serra Club. . . The school is very beautifully decorated with holy and saintly reminders everywhere. May God bless you as you endeavor to enhance and encourage our Catholic schools.

We are blessed with a beautiful school and generous friends who want students to grow in their faith—please come visit!

Jane Bona, Principal

Social Justice

Coins for Social Justice This Weekend

Small Change Can Do a World of Good!



Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship

Join us this Sunday, July 23 for fellowship hosted by our Maintenance Committee.

Anointing Mass

Crest View on 42nd

(located at the corner of Central and 42nd Avenues)

August 10, 2017, 3:15 pm

Presider, Rev. John Mitchell

All are welcome!

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 Donna Kenyon, Theresa Mancuso, Ella Verbrugge 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	Barbara Eagan	Robert Prokott
Sabrina Anderson	Mary Fredenburg	Lukus Reynold
Pat Anton	Mary Lou Goodman	Barbara Rocek
Marian Ashlin	Katherine Hoefs	Paula Ross
Shari Backman	Rev. James Klein	Greg Sery
Debra Braak	Gerald Krawiecki	Betty Schack
Michelle Cadieux	Tom Leight Jr.	Irene Spensley
Nichole Castonguay	Randy Mancuso	Mary Ann Steenburg
Marie Couillard	Janet Mihalik	Germaine Wolsfeld
Margaret De Mars	Mary Ann Miller	<i>and all those on</i>
Nick Dickson	Lavern Nelson	<i>our prayer chain</i>

Eucharistic Adoration

“Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.”

(Matthew 11:25)

Adorers who enter our Eucharistic adoration chapel come face to face with one of the mysteries in this Gospel passage. It is the real presence of Jesus in the Host displayed in the monstrance on the chapel altar. We know Jesus is there waiting for adorers to come and pray and that He listens to our prayers. We are so blessed to have Eucharistic adoration available to our parishioners each day during the week. Everyone is invited to come and experience the blessings and peace received through Eucharistic adoration.

In order to continue to have our chapel open each day, we are looking for adorers for many hours but especially need volunteers for **Thursdays at noon**, and partner adorers for **Mondays at 10:00 am, Tuesdays at 8:00 pm and Wednesdays at 9:00 am and 4:00 pm**. We are also looking for additional substitute adorers to fill in for daytime and evening hours as needed. If you would be available to cover an hour, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246 or Fran at 763-788-0924.

Note: Adorers if you have vacation plans and will not be attending your adoration hour, please find a substitute or call your hourly coordinator so they can help find a substitute. Please remember we cannot leave the Blessed Sacrament unattended.

Reflections

Word of Life

“A society will be judged on the basis of how it treats its weakest members; and among the most vulnerable are surely the unborn and the dying.”

—Pope John Paul II, “Address to the New Ambassador of New Zealand to the Holy See”, © 2000 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission.

Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Traditions Explained

Question: *July 26 is the feast of Joachim and Anna. Who are they and what do we know about them?*

Joachim and Anna are the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus, yet there is absolutely no biblical reference to them whatsoever. So where do we get their names, and what is their story? Their names are found in an apocryphal gospel known as “The Infancy Gospel of James.” Apocryphal, or hidden, gospels consist of accounts of Jesus’ life that were ultimately not accepted as inspired works, and thus were not included in the Bible. However, they sometimes captured the Christian imagination, spilling into the devotional dimension of the community.

James’ infancy gospel begins with the parents of Mary and their desire for a child. In their prayer and petitions to God, they are heard and given the blessings of a child, whom they named Mary. The fact that we celebrate the feast of Joachim and Anna indicates that the bond of family love is important in the Christian life. Long before Grandparents’ Day was established, the church had a feast that honored the presumed grandparents of Jesus. While their names are part of non-inspired apocryphal legends, the Savior’s human ancestry is not. Christ, the incarnate Word, dwelt among us in the flesh in a human family. In honoring the grandparents of Jesus we really proclaim our faith in the Incarnation—God becoming human!

Live The Liturgy—Inspiration For The Week

Today we are presented with the parable of the weeds and the wheat. We struggle with the imperfection that exists in our world. This imperfection shows itself in human sinfulness with its consequences—disease, natural disasters, suffering, and even death. We wonder why God did not simply make everything perfect right from the beginning so that harmony, peace, and tranquility would be the norm. God builds free will into us and into our world so that we can learn to freely love him. Anything less than this would not provide the freedom to choose to acknowledge and develop our relationship with our Creator. For now, the weeds and the wheat must coexist. Our faith teaches us that we live and walk in hope that when the harvest comes only the wheat of God’s love will remain.

Words to Inspire the Faithful

“The word of God is a light to the mind and a fire to the will.”

—St. Lawrence of Brindisi

Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Psalm 86

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 23

Mass, *Intention, IC Parishioners* _____ 8:00 am
Fellowship _____ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Mass _____ 10:00 am

Monday, July 24

Summer Intramurals _____ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Tuesday, July 25

Mass, *Intention, +Archie Black* _____ 7:30 am
Summer Intramurals _____ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Charismatic Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, July 26

Mass, *Intention, +Marvin Sowada* _____ 7:30 am
Summer Intramurals _____ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Men’s Group Barbecue _____ 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Thursday, July 27

Mass, *Intention, +Mickey Misik* _____ 7:30 am
Summer Intramurals _____ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Friday, July 28

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Intentions, +Joe Goodman, +Ervin Bernard
Life in the Spirit Seminar _____ 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, July 29

Life in the Spirit Seminar _____ 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Mass, *Intention, +Jeffrey Plaster* _____ 5:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, July 30

Mass, *Intention, IC Parishioners* _____ 8:00 am
Mass, *Intention, +Rick Jackson* _____ 10:00 am
+Deceased

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.*

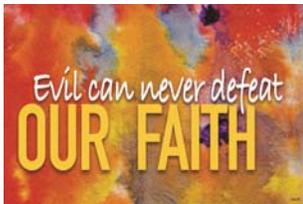
July 23 - Rev. James Livingston
July 24 - Rev. Jack Long
July 25 - Rev. Ken Ludescher
July 26 - Rev. Erik Lundgren
July 27 - Rev. Curtis Lybarger
July 28 - Rev. Brian Lynch
July 29 - Rev. Stan Mader

Gospel Meditation

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.” This is not a pretty picture. Jesus shares a parable in today’s Gospel that reminds us of a truth we would rather forget: evil is real, and the devil is at work. The bountiful harvest of our faith is something that Satan wants to destroy. And he has a host of diabolical tactics to help him carry out his wicked plans. But there is one strategy in particular that we must be on guard against.

As the French poet Charles Baudelaire put it, “The devil’s finest trick is to persuade you that he does not exist.” Sneaky as it may be, this approach is effective! And, unfortunately, the attitude of our modern era is very conducive to buying the lie. Too often we dismiss the idea of the invisible spiritual reality of angels and demons. It doesn’t seem “scientific” enough for us because it can’t be seen or “proven.” But neither can our faith! We believe in a host of invisible realities starting with God himself. We should not be fooled into thinking that the devil is a make-believe cartoon character with red horns and a pitchfork on his shoulder. Alas, no. As the “Catechism of the Catholic Church” reminds us, “Scripture witnesses to the disastrous influence of the one Jesus calls ‘a murderer from the beginning’” (CCC 394) and, as we read in the Bible, “Indeed, the Son of God was revealed to destroy the works of the Devil” (1 Jn 3:8). This is not pretend, and so it must be taken seriously. But so too, the reality of Satan must be situated within the broader context of God’s supreme power. The devil “cannot prevent the building up of God’s reign” (CCC 395). The influence of evil can never defeat the power of our faith, unless we let it do so.



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Brothers and sisters: The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

Romans 8:26

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

Advertiser of the Week

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Vernon S. Hoium
Attorney At Law

4111 Central Avenue NE, Suite 206 S
763-788-1605 • www.hoiumlaw.com

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

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 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

Dave Kellner
Stacy McVary
Sandy Sichak

Kathy Johnson
Marcus Paulson
Veronica Velez

Kathy Fraser (Business Administrator)

Jane Bona (School Principal)

Steve Smith (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 3—July 15/16, 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.

GOD

will be with

YOU

“When Moses was called to lead the people out of Egypt God told him, “I will be with you.” When Joshua was called to lead Israel into the Promised Land, God said to him “I will be with you.” In each case the person was commissioned to take on a difficult task with many risks and challenges. Often they felt inadequate and ill-prepared. Nevertheless, God challenged them to step outside their comfort zones and rely on him as never before. While they may not have felt ready for the job, they were given the one thing they needed most to carry out their task. The Lord would be with them. We need to hear that message too. How might God be asking you to rely on him more, to trust that the Lord is truly with you in whatever you might face in your life right now?”

—Minute Meditations: Franciscan Media
from *Praying the Rosary Like Never Before* by Edward Sri

*I command you: be strong and steadfast!
Do not fear nor be dismayed, for the
LORD, your God, is with you wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

