



THE CHURCH OF THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Second Sunday of
Advent

*“A voice of one crying out
in the desert, ‘Prepare the
way of the Lord, make
straight his paths.’”*

- MK 1:3

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

DECEMBER 10, 2017 | SECOND 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
<i>Door code needed after 4:00 pm Questions? Call 763-789-3246</i>	
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



Retirement Fund for Religious, December 9-10

In the bulletin this weekend, there is a special envelope and 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. Thank you for your support.

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

Come 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!

Retreat for Families

I hope to see you at our Retreat for Families, next Saturday, December 16, 8:30 am – 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall (lower level of church). The retreat is open to all families and ages. No charge to attend; free will offerings accepted. Experience the peace and joy of spending time with your family and recapture the true reason for the Christmas season at this inspiring day of activities. We will hear a presentation by Patrick Conley, Director of Faith Formation, Cathedral of Saint Paul, on the history and meaning of the O Antiphons. We will also celebrate Mass, pray the Rosary, have fun family activities, and enjoy a continental breakfast and lunch. See more information on our parish website, ICCSonline.org, or call the parish office at 763-788-9062.

Immaculate Conception Church Has Purchased a Gift For You!

Enjoy a free subscription to FORMED.org which provides amazing online videos, audios and books 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. It's EASY and FREE to register!

- 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!

God Bless You,
Father John Mitchell

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

Guadalupe

The Miracle and the Message

Explore the Marian Event that Transformed the World

Over the course of four days in 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to an indigenous convert named Juan Diego and ignited an extraordinary transformation of the Americas. This gripping film explores the beautiful mystery and ongoing relevance of Our Lady's apparition at Guadalupe.

Watch on formed.org



Also available in Spanish!

★★★★★

"So much of this documentary has helped me understand Our Lady of Guadalupe. I was moved to pray the rosary after watching this."
—Letty M., Virginia Beach, VA





Readings and Observances

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

Monday, December 11

St. Damasus I, Pope

Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/

Jdt 13:18bcde, 19[15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday, December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 15

Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 16

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/

Mt 17:9a, 10-13

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

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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.

Christmas Bake Sale is Here!

As promised *The Annual Christmas Bake & Craft Sale* is this weekend! Please, stop down to fellowship hall after all Masses to pick up some homemade baked goods, freshly packaged nuts, and browse the craft tables. *Freshly baked caramel rolls will also be available for purchase on Sunday morning.*

The Nut Sale

Nuts are nutritious, delicious and make great Christmas gifts. Make your selection early—place an order this weekend to be sure you'll have your favorites. Next weekend will be our last sale and our selection will be limited, all orders need to be placed before December 12. For more information contact: Kathy 651-633-6577.

Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus Council 4381 held a Mass and dinner on November 16 to honor their deceased members. Seven brother knights were honored this past year. 48 people attended this event.

The December dinner will be held on the 21st at Immaculate Conception, starting at 6:00 pm. Entertainment after the dinner will be White Elephant Bingo. Please call 763-789-8362 or 651-636-2382 for a dinner reservation if you plan to attend.

Faith Formation

First Reconciliation

On Saturday, December 2, children from our parish celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We ask you to pray for these children and their parents that they will always be open to receive God's unconditional love and forgiveness.

Mia Alvarado	Sheryn Narvaez-Piza
Justin Alvares	Alondra Pérez-Rivera
Iraiz Alvarez	Camila Pérez-Rivera
Ava Arseneau	Simon Peters
Chase Arthurs	Ariany Quetel-Rodriguez
Alex Baumgardt	Christopher Quizhpi-Gutierrez
Lucas Boufford	Luz Ariana Quizhpi-Yupangui
Alexis-Grace Chege	Freddy Riera-Lazo
Gianna Chiodo	Bella Roche
John Chiodo	Phoebe Schwankl
Elizabeth Chiqui	Ava Sturdevant
Lila Cox	Joseph Sturdevant
Tatiana Guaman	Peter Tran
Karina Gutierrez	Tina Tran
Ashley Inanmagua	Lexis Traviss
Jeremy Juarez-Damazo	Logan Traviss
Kayla Jeanelle Lopez-Flores	Angel Velez
Jonathan Maigua	Xavier Vital-Schwartz
Mara Narvaez-Piza	

Eucharistic Adoration

“Prepare the way of the Lord”

(Luke 3:4)

The Advent season is all about preparing. We prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the birth of Jesus. The adoration chapel is available to everyone to aid in this preparation. It is a quiet, prayer-filled place to come and pray, while leaving the hectic pace of the world behind for a little while. All are invited and encouraged to come and pray in Eucharistic adoration.

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.

Immaculate Conception Parish
Retreat For Families
Led by Patrick Conley
Director of Faith Formation - Cathedral of Saint Paul

Holy Family Retreat
O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Saturday, December 16, 2017
8:30 am - 2:00 pm

Experience the peace and joy of spending time with your family and recapture the true reason for the Christmas season at this inspiring and fun day of activities!

Retreat includes: Presentations on the history and meaning of the O' Antiphons (listed below) • Mass • Decade of the Rosary in English and Spanish • Family activity • Continental breakfast and lunch

The retreat is open to all families and ages.
No charge to attend, free will offerings accepted.

RSVP appreciated but not required. Please call 763-788-9062 with number attending.

Immaculate Conception Church and School
4030 Jackson Street NE | Columbia Heights, MN 55421 | ICCSonline.org

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Harrison Electric Inc.

24 Hour Express Service

3440 Kilmer Lane North • Plymouth, MN
763-544-3300 • Harrison-Electric.com

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

Social Justice



The Giving Tree

This Sunday, December 10 is the final day to drop off Christmas gifts—the distribution will be this week. There are containers in the narthex for the return of your *unwrapped gifts*.

Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good!

Thank you for your generous support! In October we received \$70.39 and in November we received \$145.47! 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 is designated for Social Justice. The next collection will be the weekend of December 23 and 24.

Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship

Join us this Sunday, December 10 for Fellowship, hosted by the CCW. Come and enjoy the Christmas Bake, Craft and Nut Sale!

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!

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 Chuck Bernhagen 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 Badeaux	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

The Road to Discipleship

Building Up the Body of Christ



“Saint Francis could have become a carnival side-show all by himself if he had failed to foster an attitude of humility. Whatever good we accomplish is due much more to God’s grace and mercy than to our talents and cleverness. This spirit prompted

Francis to keep his stigmata a secret as best he could. Many people probably would have given Francis too much credit and God too little credit for this unique gift.

Every spiritual gift is given in order to build up the Body of Christ. Refer every blessing back to God and pray to use it for God’s glory and for building up the Body of Christ.”

— Franciscan Media, December 2, 2017, from the book, “Peace and Good: Through the Year with Francis of Assisi” by Pat McCloskey, OFM

School News

Poster Contest

ICS Students participate in the Lions Club Drug Awareness Poster Contest each year. Our students are always selected to receive honors in this contest. And, as you can see from the photo, students of varying ages participate! Thank you to our local Lions Club chapter for raising awareness of the dangers of drugs!



Exxon Mobil Educational Grant



Immaculate Conception School was presented with a \$500 Exxon Mobil Educational Grant check by St. Anthony Mobil. The money will be used to help the Middle School Math and Science classes by purchasing Zometool kits and Keva Planks. Presenting the check is Tom Archambault of St. Anthony Mobil, Principal Jane Bona, Katherine Wall, Middle School Math Teacher, and 6th grade students.

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 10 – Rev. Edwin Savundra
 December 11 – Rev. Warren Sazama
 December 12 – Rev. Greg Schaffer
 December 13 – Rev. Damien Schill
 December 14 – Rev. Leo Schneider
 December 15 – Rev. James Schoenberger
 December 16 – Rev. Donald Schwalm

Reflections

Word of Life

“If you know someone who has had an abortion, express your sympathy for her loss. Assure her of God’s unconditional love, and encourage her to seek healing and forgiveness.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Bridges of Mercy for Post-Abortion Healing,”

Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Traditions Explained

Question: What is the Hispanic Advent custom of “Las Posadas”?

Answer: “Posada” is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. “Las Posadas” refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our “posada.” As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.

Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

John the Baptist announced, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” Does preparing a way for the Lord have priority in our lives? Often we spend more time preparing paths for ourselves rather than a path for God. Advent calls us to take the focus off ourselves and put it on God. We prepare a path for God by practicing and living the virtues, being holy and devoted, patient and repentant, and attentive and humble. We are asked to bring comfort and healing to people and to show others by the way we live our lives that we have a higher calling and purpose.

Catholic Quotes—Words to Inspire the Faithful

“In the evening of life, we will be judged on love alone.”

—St. John of the Cross



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 10

CCW 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

Monday, December 11

St. Jude Circle _____ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
 RCIC I _____ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
 4th Degree KC Mass _____ 6:00 pm
 Boy Scouts Troop 119 _____ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 4th Degree KC Dinner _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Tuesday, December 12

Mass, Intention, +Michael Lunney _____ 7:30 am
 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass _____ 6:00 pm
 School Advisory Council _____ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 Christmas Concert, Gr. 4-8 _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 Charismatic Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner _____ 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Wednesday, December 13

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Intention, +John, Hedwig & Raymond Krokus
 Bible Study, “Peter” _____ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
 Discipleship Committee _____ 6:00 pm - 7:00 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 Reconciliation _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 Parish Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 14

Mass (School), Intention, +George Rozek _____ 8:30 am
 Pastoral Ministry Visitors Potluck _____ 11:30 am - 3:30 pm
Communion Service, Crest View on 42nd _____ 3:15 pm
 Christmas Concert, Gr. K - 3 _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
 Bell Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Friday, December 15

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Intentions, +Rodell Sandy / JV Special Intention
 School Reconciliation _____ 8:30 am - 10:30 am
 Our Brothers Keeper _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 16

Holy Family Retreat _____ 8:00 am - 2:00 pm
 Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Mass, Intention, +Rosemary Soukop _____ 5:00 pm
 Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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
 +Deceased

Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.

Psalms 85

Gospel Meditation



Second Sunday of Advent

“People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him.” John the Baptist commanded quite a crowd. What was the attraction? Was it his unusual appearance—clothed in camel’s hair? Perhaps it was his bizarre eating habits—feeding on locusts and wild honey. Or maybe people were captivated by the Baptist’s remarkable humility in the face of such huge popularity—“I am not worthy.”

Unlike our modern fascination with standing in the presence of superstars, the crowds who flocked to John weren’t looking for a thrill. They weren’t lining up for autographs. They were lining up for baptism. And they were acknowledging their sins at the same time. John was proclaiming “a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” And people came because they were longing to experience the freedom of that forgiveness.

John called them to conversion. To convert means to turn, in this case to turn away from sin. And the crowds were anxious to do so in order to “prepare the way of the Lord.” For these first-century Jews, the imminent approach of the Messiah came with a call for conversion and they took this call very seriously.

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Now, for us, as twenty-first century Christians, the Church, like John the Baptist, calls us to prepare and repent during this season of Advent. Will we take the call seriously? Will we examine the areas of our lives that need to change? Will we pray for God’s help to overcome our habitual sin and to make choices based on generosity instead of selfishness? Now is the time to heed the message. Now is the time to “prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

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A voice cries out: In the desert
prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland
a highway for our God!

Is 40:3

Collections

Week 23—December 2/3, 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

Dave Kellner

Kathy Johnson

Charles Karanja

Stacy McVary

Marcus Paulson

Sandy Sichak

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.



As 2017 comes to a close...

Please remember Immaculate Conception Church
in your year-end giving.



Your tax-deductable gift can be made by cash,
check, stock transfer, or online via WeShare.

To donate via WeShare using your debit,
credit card, checking, or savings account:

- 1** Visit ICCSonline.org
and click Give Online.
- 2** Select your donation
amount and frequency.
- 3** Enter your account and
payment information.



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kfraser@immac-church.org

