

Immaculate Conception, Mattoon
St. Columcille, Sullivan
Merry Christmas!



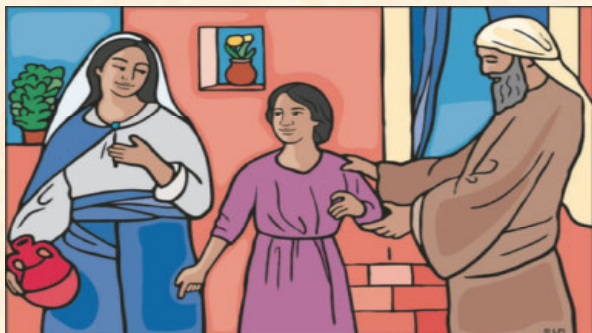
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Mattoon, Illinois

ST. COLUMCILLE CHURCH

Sullivan, Illinois

DECEMBER 26, 2021



“His parents found Jesus sitting in the midst of the teachers.”

Luke 2:41-52

Prepare For Next Sunday’s Readings

In next Sunday’s Gospel, (January 2) the Epiphany of the Lord, our Gospel reading tells us that we know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus’ role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus’ kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus’ death. The word Epiphany means “manifestation” or “showing forth.” Historically several moments in Christ’s early life and ministry have been celebrated as “epiphanies,” including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6: *Jerusalem shall be a light to all nations.*

Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6: *Gentiles are coheirs in the promise of Christ*

Matthew 2:1-12: *The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.*



DECEMBER 27-JANUARY 2

MONDAY– St. John

7:00AM– Mack Smith

TUESDAY– The Holy Innocents

5:30PM– Harold Tarter

WEDNESDAY– St. Thomas Becket

7:00AM– Mary Tillman

THURSDAY

5:30PM– Arlet Hertel

FRIDAY– St. Sylvester I, New Year’s Eve

7:00AM– Richard Conlin

Vigil for Mary, Holy Mother of God Solemnity

4:00PM– Frank & Lucy Kovack

SATURDAY– Mary, Holy Mother of God Solemnity

8:00AM– Mike Nichols

The Epiphany of the Lord Vigil

4:00PM– Ben Kane

SUNDAY– The Epiphany of the Lord

8:00AM– Sharon Kuhns

10:30AM– Liz Jacobsson

5:00PM– People of Our Parish

Readings for the Week of December 26, 2021

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21



A Pilgrim's Progress....

A Blessed Christmas to you and yours ! Our Advent journey has brought us once again to the Masses of Christmas and Sunday's Feast of the Holy Family.

At the mass of midnight we hear from St. Paul's Letter to Titus (always well received). Paul affirms the reality of Christ as God and Savior. "This is truly the Reason for the Season!" St. Paul also reminds his understudy Titus and all of us what effect God wants his presence among us to have: "to reject Godless ways" and to "live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age," as "a people as His own, eager to do what is good."

Sam Guzman in his book, *The Catholic Gentleman*, offers some good (potential new year's resolutions?) ways to fulfill the Lord's desire for us. They are good rules for life or principles for every disciple (not just grown men) to strive to live by.

1. Fear, Honor, and Love God above all things even at the cost of my own life. This radical commitment would include rejecting "entertainment" that rejects our Christian morality. It means believing everything Christ teaches and striving to live His direction. Otherwise we build "our house on the sand" and have life's storms wash it away.
2. Honor holy things and treat them with respect. Fear of the Lord, understood as Awe and wonder in God's presence is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit we receive at Confirmation. Maybe we have felt a sense of awe amidst the beauty of nature or the birth of a child. Would this describe our experience in Church? Do we trivialize God's presence there by a lack of respect. Do our external actions reflect our internal devotion in the presence of God?
3. I will begin to pray as if my eternal salvation depends upon it (it does). Prayer is simply raising our hearts and minds to God. It is a conversation with someone we know really loves us. Prayer is all about relationship. It is communication that leads to communion with God. If we have no interest in talking with God now, why would we want to spend eternity with Him in heaven?

4. I will strive for self-mastery and virtue (good habits) no matter how challenging. I will not accept mediocrity and my own excuses. I will embrace self-denial replacing what is not pleasing to God with what is.
5. I will chose the Beatitudes over the things the world values: finding God's blessing in poverty of spirit, mourning, meekness, thirst for righteousness, mercifulness, purity of heart, peacemaking, accepting persecution for righteousness sake. Meditating on the Beatitudes every day will change who we are. Guaranteed. We may know the starting line-up for our favorite sports team. Do we know all the Beatitudes? (Matt. 5:1-12)
6. I will treat all other people made in the image and likeness of God (that's everybody) with dignity and respect, especially the poor, the weak, and the neglected. Every saint who served those in need taught us that in doing so they were serving Christ Himself. Therein lies the unity of the two "great commandments," the love of God and the love of neighbor.

Every week of the new year our parish bulletin and each of our lives will give us opportunities to live these life principles. Chesterton once said, "the Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting, it has been found difficult and left untried." May each of us do our best to prove Chesterton wrong this year. That would be a tremendous gift to Christ, our families, and our communities.

A Blessed Christmas to you and yours,
Sail On, fr john

**Catholic Radio for
Mattoon
102.5 FM**

St. Columcille:

St. Thomas Becket
Wed., Dec. 29th at 5:30 pm: Mary Reynolds

Mary, Holy Mother of God Vigil Mass
Fri., Dec. 31st at 6:00 pm: Jim & Ruth Matthews

Epiphany of the Lord Vigil Mass
Sat. Jan. 1st at 6:00pm: Danny Robinson

Thank you to McMullin –Young Funeral Home for providing calendars!

David Walker will be “retiring” after the mass of Christmas day. You may leave your personal note of appreciation to David in the offering basket at mass or mail it to him at Mr. David Walker, 234 N. Missouri, Atwood, 61913. Mr. Brock Hammond will be playing as available in the new year.

Daytime Bible study at St. Columcille will start up again on Wednesday, January 5th. We will be studying Pivotal Players from Word on Fire. This is a four-week session examining the lives and accomplishments of Fulton Sheen, Flannery O'connor, St Augustine and St Benedict and how they affect the Catholic church.

Classes will meet at the parish hall at 1:00 pm and last about an hour. Workbooks are not required. Please contact Gail Loveall if you have questions at 217-254-4185.

Sullivan Prayer List: Chuck Woodworth, Dan & Leslie Guillory, Vaughn DeVorse, Michael English, Sam Slaughter, Dave Hudspath, Ron & Gayle Moody, Geri Lanham, Carole Blasche, Fr. Sohm, Donna Walker, Toby Howard, Kathy Frier, Kelly Sullivan, Fritz New, the Cook Family, Marvene Walker, Art Welsh, Gary Smith, Ron & Marylyn Crnich and Rebecca.

Immaculate Conception Calendar of Events:

Wed., Dec. 29: Adoration from 5:30—6:30 AM and 7:00 —8:00 PM in Church
Fri., Dec. 31: Adoration begins after 7:00 AM Mass until Sat., Dec. 1st 8:00 AM Mass

St. Vincent de Paul News:

St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the Immaculate Conception and St. Columcille parishioners for their generous donations to our Thanksgiving collection. Your generosity will allow us “to do a little good” for those who are struggling in our community.

A special thank you is also extended to the Knights of Columbus for their donation gift. This year 32 families received Christmas food baskets loaded with a ham, eggs, fresh and canned foods, milk, and other items.

We are so grateful for your support and prayers throughout the year.

Please Note:

Our next Adult Faith Formation class, “Wisdom: God’s Vision for Life,” begins at 9:30 AM, Thursday, January 6, 2022, in the Parish Center. Please send an email to carlajanewill@yahoo.com or leave a voice message at 217-235-0431 to register.



Please Note: The KC Meeting for Monday, December 27th has been cancelled. See you on the New Year!

KC Bingo returns on Jan. 13 and 27th!

Rural King “December Church Week”



Register receipts from December 10th through December 24th online at www.ruralking.com/churchweek **before January 7th.** Receipts may also be placed in the collection and the parish office will do it for you!

Upcoming Mass schedule at IC:

Dec. 31st: Vigil Mass for Mary, Holy Mother of God Solemnity at 4:00 PM

Jan. 1st: Mass for Mary, Holy Mother of God Solemnity at 8:00 AM

Jan. 1st: Vigil Mass for the Epiphany of the Lord at 4:00 PM

REGIFTING FOR ST. MARY HOUSE

Receive some treasures for Christmas you are ready to share? We can use them for our bucket raffle at the January Soup Supper. Drop them off at the IC Rectory or on the table in the vestibule. Thank you! Every donation helps women and children move forward in faith and in life!

PEACE MEAL DELIVERY:

Immaculate Conception will be delivering Peace Meal the week of January 10-14th. If you can give 1 hour of one day please sign the calendar located on the bulletin board in the back of Church. Thank you!

Tornado Relief:

Our Diocesan Catholic Charities has an online giving option available at www.cc.dio.org under the Tornado Relief Option. Funds collected will be forwarded to the Diocese of Owensboro for Relief efforts.



Keep collecting your "Change for Choices!" Thank you!

**NEW YEAR'S EVE AND DAY
IC EUCHARISTIC EXPOSITION**

As we prepare to enter a new calendar year and celebrate the holy day of MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD, our monthly 24 Hour Eucharistic Exposition leading to our First Saturday mass continues!

THANK YOU to those whose participation continues to make this opportunity the great font of Grace that it is for our parish and the world. We have an amazingly generous group of faithful who commit to keep watch with the Lord each month. I am especially awed by those who cover the "third shift" hours month after month. Every prayer and every sacrifice is received and makes a difference in the Providence of God.

It is the discipline of the Church that when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the monstrance someone must be present at all times. That is why the sign-up sheet is available near the Reconciliation Room all month long. It is preferable, of course, that we have multiple commitments for each hour. If you are present before the Lord and no one has come to replace you please call the # on the sign up sheet.

All are welcome to come and pray at every hour but unless someone has signed the COMMITMENT SHEET for a specific time Exposition cannot continue.

The church is typically locked on Exposition nights about 9 PM. There is a keypad at the NE door to allow admission. To obtain the code please call the parish during regular office hours.

All Knights of Columbus are encouraged to pray especially during the 7:00 – 8:00 PM hour on Friday evening.

Why not welcome the new calendar year by spending some Quality time with the Lord?

Natural Family Planning Classes:

Sat. Jan. 15th 9:30-11:00am on WebEx

Sat. Feb. 26th 2:00-3:30pm at St. Francis

To register call or text Kate Pruemmer at 217-821-1840 or email: kpruemmer@gmail.com



Immaculate Conception:

Fr. John Sohm, Michael English, Michelle Simpson, Connie Harris, John Lawson, Bonnie Kinney, Ryan Hardin, the Cook Family, Christopher Kermis, Patty Lawson, Geri Lanham, Max Rose, Liz Slater, Sunny Henne, Mike Kunch, Pat and Guy Levingston, Michael Brinza, Jared Brown, Mary O'Dell, Ruby Anne Kovack, Mary Ann White, Kent Metzger, Chris Bugle, Zack Davisson, Michael Grady, Angie Fox, Addison Graham, Wesco Family, Sara Clayhorn, Mark Buran, Don Clark, Ann Clark, Louise Farrell, Wendy Carter, Virginia Kastl, Edna Probst, Rich Fafara, Lynden and Margie Henning, Karl Rabe, Sheila Rosine, Betty Bailey, Max Ohm, Zale Vincent Walk, Mary Magnotta, Lois Neff, Gwen Johnson, Jim Pendell, Tammy Howard, Ralph Vanneste, Wyatt Edwards, Eddie Sullivan, Alice Farmer, Loretta Tucker, Teresa Miller, Kelly Sullivan, Elisa Gonzalez, Liz Newton, Dennis James, Don Clark, Jr., Cassandra and Nora Oliger, Joyce and Joe LaFleur

If you have a loved one who should be added to our parish prayer list, please call the parish office.

TO REPORT ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR BY CLERGY-EVEN IF IT IS IN THE PAST— individuals are encouraged to call the Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number **(217) 321-1155**.

Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at **1.800.25.ABUSE**, or contact your local police authority.

Sacrament of Baptism

Contact Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. New parents seeking the Sacrament of Baptism for an infant or child are asked to attend ONE pre-baptism session. Call the parish office at 235-0539 for information and to register.

Sacrament of Marriage

Contact Parish Office at least (6) months before the date to make arrangements.

CHOICES Pregnancy & Health-234-3312

Www.choices4pregnancy.org

Project Rachel-888-456-4673

Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation Number 217-321-1155

DEADLINE FOR PARISH BULLETIN- Monday at 10:00AM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

320 N. 21ST STREET - MATTOON, IL

www.mattoonimmaculateconception.org

Welcome new parishioners! Please call the office (217-235-0539) to make an appointment to register!

PARISH STAFF:

Fr. John M. Titus – Pastor: 217-235-0539, E-Mail: jtitus@dio.org

Deacon Gene Uptmor: 217-235-2189, E-Mail: euptmor@dio.org, Tues. Office Hours 9 AM - 3 PM
Carla Will – Christian Formation Dir.: 217-235-0431
E-Mail: carlajanewill@yahoo.com

Julie Robinson: Senior Ministry Co.: 217-235-0539
E-Mail: st.columcille.sullivan@gmail.com

Kim Coffey – Parish Administrative Assistant, Safe Environment Coordinator, Phone: 217-235-0539

Fax- 217-235-0593 E-Mail: icchurchsec@gmail.com

IC Mass Schedule

Saturday 4 PM (also 8:30 AM on First Sat.)
Sunday 8 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM
Weekday 7 AM (Mon. Wed., and Fri.)
5:30 PM (T. & Th.)

Sacrament of Reconciliation–30 minutes before
Weekday Mass and Saturday 2:30-3:30 PM

ST. COLUMCILLE CHURCH, Sullivan IL
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MATTOON, IL 61938
www.stcolumcillesullivan.org

PARISH STAFF:

Fr. John M. Titus – Pastor: 217-235-0539, E-Mail: jtitus@dio.org

Julie Robinson – Parish Secretary: 217-235-0539
E-Mail: st.columcille.sullivan@gmail.com

Rev. John E. Sohm – Pastor Emeritus

St. Columcille Mass Schedule

Saturday 6 PM Weekday 5:30 PM
(Wednesdays)

Sacrament of Reconciliation before and after 5:30
PM Mass on Wednesdays with Eucharistic
Exposition ending with Benediction at 6:30 PM.

**DEADLINE FOR PARISH BULLETIN- Monday
at 10:00AM**

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS AND CONTACT PEOPLE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & ST. COLUMCILLE

Finance Council
Pat Dust 217-235-4279

Pastoral Council
Todd Farris 217- 273-0502

Communion To The Sick/Homebound
Debbie Reinhart 217-234-3439

Director of Christian Formation
Carla Will 217-235-0431

Golden Hearts
Madelaine Masse 217-294-1885

Knights of Columbus
Kelly Scott 217-273-5788

Ladies Guild
Julie Robinson 217-235-0539

Liturgical Roles
Deacon Gene 217-235-2189

Share The Word
Sue Auer 217-317-4924

Spanish Speaking Outreach
Rosa Olvera 217-205-7479

St. Vincent de Paul Society
Cheryl Smith 217-258-NEED

Social Committee
Tim Knepple 217-273-8991

CALVARY CEMETERY:
 North 19th Street, Mattoon
Linda Wente 217-235-2488

St. Columcille Organizations and Contact People

St. Elizabeth Council of Catholic Women
President Elect: Lori Creek:
lac62@mchsi.com, 217-246-0739

Pastoral Council : Kathy Woodworth

Finance Council: Mike Mossman

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