

IMMACULATE  CONCEPTION
– Catholic Church –

4030 Jackson Street NE | Columbia Heights, MN 55421 | 763-788-9062 | ICCSonline.org

“Prepare the way of the Lord.”

Mark 1:3



2nd Sunday of
ADVENT

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD | Cover Design s.a.ashmore

December 6, 2020

*Second Sunday
of Advent*

Mass Schedule

Tuesday	7:30 am
Wednesday	7:30 am
Thursday	8:30 am
Friday	7:30 am
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am (Spanish) 12:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 - 4:45 pm

San Damiano Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration open
to scheduled adorers only.



Our Mission

*The Mission of The Church of the Immaculate Conception 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.*

From the Pastor's Desk

Second Sunday of Advent: Comfort

When hearing the word “comfort” what are some of the things that come to mind for you? Do you think of comfort foods like chicken noodle soup or a grilled cheese sandwich? Perhaps your thoughts are drawn to creature comforts like a cozy chair on a chilly day with a hot mug of coffee or tea? As a follow up question, can you think of a time when a good friend or family member or even a stranger has offered you comfort in a time of need? How did that make you feel to be given empathetic attention and concern?



My sincere hope is that you can recall some of those experiences and let them be an opportunity for giving thanks. This is resonant with words from Sacred Scripture this weekend. Within the First Reading for the Second Sunday of Advent we hear a message of consolation spoken through the Prophet Isaiah, “Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins” (40:1-2). The historical context for the Israelite people was that they would be making a return to the Holy Land from their nearly sixty year exile in the Land of the Babylonians.

For those who would have been old enough to remember, it would mean a return to the comfort foods that they previously enjoyed along with those creature comforts of their former home. It was an encouraging message of good news from the voice of the Lord. When we find ourselves estranged from God and one another because of sin or life circumstances we can also experience that Divine Comfort through the Sacraments, biblical texts, an active prayer life, charitable works of mercy, and directly from Christ the Good Shepherd. In receiving that comfort may we be inspired to comfort others in our journey of faith.

Peace in Christ,
Fr. James



“Lord, let us see your **KINDNESS**,
and grant us your salvation.”

(Ps 80)

This Week's Readings and Observances

Sunday, December 6, 2nd 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 7, St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

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

Tuesday, December 8, The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Wednesday, December 9, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin

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

Thursday, December 10

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

Friday, December 11, St. Damasus I, Pope

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

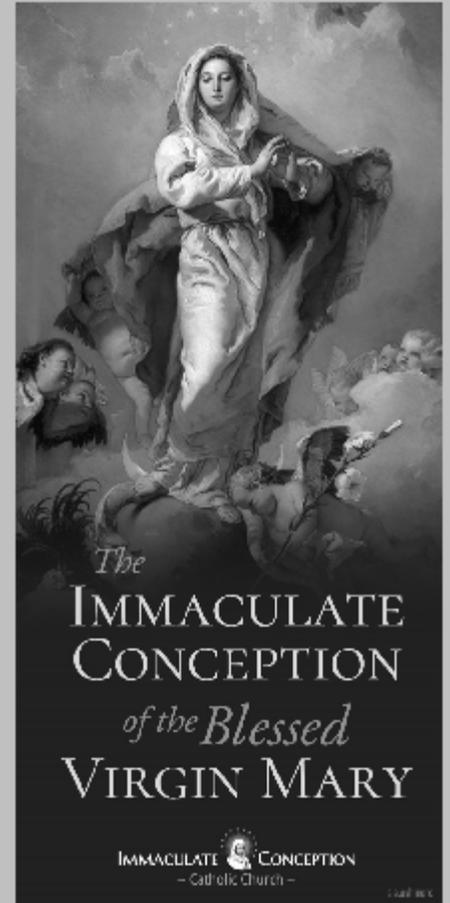
Saturday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

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

Sunday, December 13, 3rd Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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Inside this Issue

Eucharistic Adoration	3
All Committee Meeting	3
FORMED	3
Discipleship	3
Pastoral Ministry	4
Social Justice	4
Advent	4
Immaculate Conception	4
Reflections	5
Prayer	5
Bulletin Sponsor	5
Mass Intentions	5
Church Directory	6
Parish Support	6
Gospel Meditation	6
Advent	7
The Week Ahead	7
Word of Life	7
Memorare	7

ICChurchandSchool IC.Church.School

Eucharistic Adoration

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths”
(Mark 1:3)

Our adoration chapel is available Monday through Friday, with some regulations we must follow:

- Only registered, scheduled adorers are allowed in the chapel (No walk in visitors will be admitted at this time)
- Masks are required
- All adorers are asked to sanitize any surfaces they touch during their adoration hour
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home

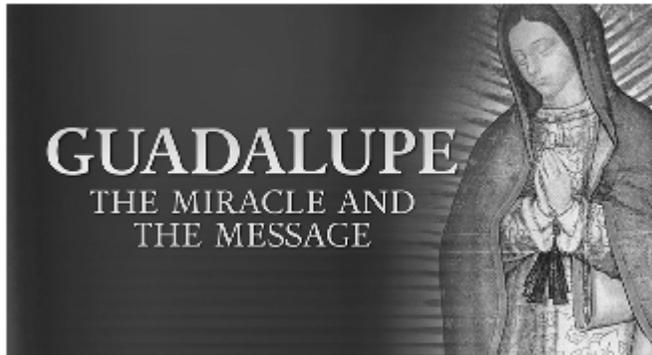
If you would like to register and schedule an adoration hour, or if you are an adorer unable to attend your scheduled hour, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246. We are looking for volunteers to cover Mondays at 11:00 am, Tuesdays at 2:00 pm, Wednesdays at 10:00 am, 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, Thursdays at 3:00 pm and Fridays at 2:00 pm. There are also some evening hours available.

All Committee Meeting

Are you the leader of a committee, organization, or ministry here at Immaculate Conception? Mark the date for Thursday, December 10, at 6:00 pm. We will meet via Zoom to hear how all of us are struggling through COVID, finding success in our ministries and serving the people of Immaculate Conception. A link and more information is available on the parish web-page.

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK



December 6, 2020

WATCH

Guadalupe: The Miracle and the Message

As we celebrate the patroness of the Americas this week, enjoy this film narrated by Jim Caviezel that walks us through our Mother’s miraculous appearance to Juan Diego—an encounter that has converted millions.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Council of Catholic Women

CCW Christmas Bake & Craft Boutique— *Cancelled for 2020*

Due to Covid-19 and the importance of keeping our members and parishioners safe, the IC Council of Catholic Women have decided it is necessary to cancel our Annual Christmas Bake Sale and Boutique normally held in December.

The CCW Bake Sale and Boutique is our largest yearly fundraiser and the profits from this sale allow us to contribute to many local and global charities that would otherwise not benefit from our donations.

Therefore, in place of the Bake Sale and Boutique, we are asking those of you who would normally make purchases during the sale to consider making a donation to IC-CCW; it will help to replace the sale’s income for 2020. With your generosity, we will continue making donations to the needs of our parish, our community, and throughout the World.

Donations can be made by check to IC-CCW. Please reference “CCW Bake Sale Donation” at the bottom of your check and mail to our CCW Treasurer, Diane Tieden, 1000 41st Avenue NE #319, Columbia Heights, MN 55421.

Thank you for your consideration and God Bless!
The IC CCW Membership



Discipleship

Jubilation to Share

“Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.

When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don’t feel the same motivation to share? Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don’t feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS | ©LPi



Pastoral Ministry

Anointing of the Sick

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

Thank You!

Thank you to all who reached out in so many ways to show concern and care for me and my family in our time of loss. My Mom was 99, she lived a good life, my family and I are thankful knowing that she now rests in the arms of God.

Peace to you and yours, Vicki Bazille

In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call 763-788-9062. For private prayer (eight individuals offer confidential prayer for requested needs) call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray for Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially *Louis Pikala, Sharon Netkow, Pete Crema*, all who have died from Covid-19 and all who have died as a result of violence. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

Pray for All the Sick—Especially:

Bea Alain	Teddy Miller	Doug Strom
Paul Bona	Shawn Moulzolf	Martha Stwora
Robin Crisp	Jody Oftedahl	Elaine Thunstrom
Mary Fredenburg	Katie Oftedahl	Sandra Tabor
Gerald Krawiecki	Rita Patterson	Lois Weyers
Steven Lauinger	Diane Redmann	Germaine Wolsfeld
Janet Mihalik	Greg Sery	

and all those on our prayer chain

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

Dear Visitor

Welcome, we are glad to see you today! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Know that we are here for you and that we welcome new members! For more information about ICC or to become a member contact Vicki 763-788-9062 x 212.

Thinking of our Immaculate Parish family during this Advent Season. We miss your presence and continue to pray for you at Mass until we're able to reunite IN Church once again.

Social Justice

The Giving Tree

Today is the final day for the Giving Tree! Thank you for your contributions. If you would still like to donate, we will be keeping our drop box out through next weekend.



Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good!

Thank you for your contributions the coin total for November 21 and 22 was \$116.63.

Advent

Our Parish App

Check out the new ADVENT button on our parish app! These daily reflections along with the Mass readings in the READINGS button are a great way to prepare our lives for the coming of Our Lord. Text App to 88202 to download our parish app.



FORMED

Daily Reflections and Enrichment for Advent

Sign up at FORMED.org/advent

The Road to Bethlehem on FORMED

This Advent join us for a journey on The Road to Bethlehem, an opt-in digital discipleship program designed to guide you through this important season of preparation.

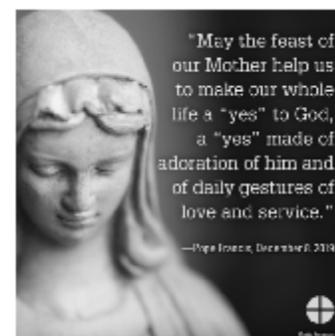
The Road to Bethlehem includes:

- daily Advent reflections by Dr. Tim Gray;
- weekly videos, audio talks, and book excerpts on FORMED related to the weekly theme;
- email reminders every morning;
- Brother Francis Advent reflections for kids; and
- a weekly action item to help you put the Advent message into practice.

Not yet on FORMED? To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

The Immaculate Conception

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



On December 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. (While normally a holy day of obligation, most dioceses continue to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass during the pandemic.) On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began at the moment she was conceived

in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of conception, when it is lovingly knit together by God the Father.

Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained

Question: *Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?*

Answer: Unfortunately, too many people today—Catholics and non-Catholics alike—mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have “endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life.” (Amoris Laetitia, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, “The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty.” (AL, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is “not a prize for the perfect,” but “a powerful medicine and nourishment” (Evangelii Gaudium, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

Live the Liturgy: Inspiration for the Week

Prepare the way of the Lord! The message of John the Baptist becomes the calling of every baptized disciple of Jesus Christ. Each one of us is asked to prepare the way of the Lord. Given the humble means of our lives, how can we do this? It certainly does not require that we stand on street corners announcing God’s future coming! We can more readily take up the task of our lifework by clearing our lives of unnecessary, distracting clutter. By creating solid and deep spiritual lives, we can heighten our awareness of God’s presence and help people point to and discover God’s presence around them. By conducting ourselves in holiness and devotion, we can speak volumes to those we meet. Not by preaching actual words, but by living lives that communicate the comfort God wants His people to know. As the world sometimes frantically unfolds around us, we can be people of patience who show others that it’s okay to wait for God’s gift to come. Conducting our lives in this manner, we will know the peace that comes from doing what we have been asked to do.

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Prayer

Intercessory Prayer

Please join the Intercessory Prayer Ministry in praying for this month’s prayer intention:

That God will anoint the ministry of Father James during these times.



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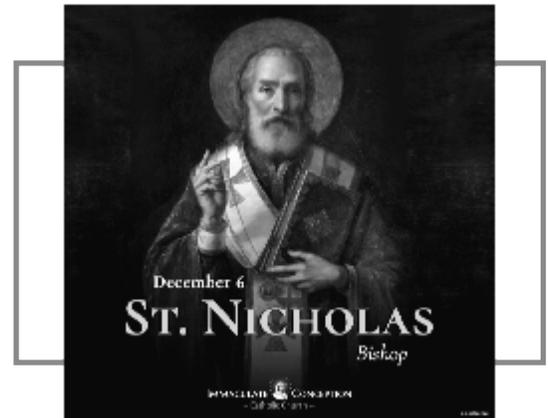
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Sunday, December 6

8:00 am +John Sichak
10:00 am +David Schmeling
12:00 pm IC Parishioners

Tuesday, December 8

7:30 am +Mary Ann & +Michelle Reynolds

Wednesday, December 9

7:30 am +Jay Dowdle

Thursday, December 10

8:30 am +Michael Lunney

Friday, December 11

7:30 am +John Botzet, Jr., +Pat Alain

Saturday, December 12

5:00 pm +Marge Lahti

Sunday, December 13

8:00 am +Bob Meyers
10:00 am +Mary Ann Taylor
12:00 pm IC Parishioners

+Deceased

Church Directory

Emergency (Death or Anointing) 763-788-9062 (#9)

PARISH

Parish Office.....	763-788-9062
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)	
Parish Fax.....	763-788-0202
Pastor, Fr. James Peterson.....	x 215
Accounting Specialist, Julie Mack.....	x 204
Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashmore.....	x 205
Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon.....	x 214
Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson.....	x 218
Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille.....	x 212
Parish Business Manager, Michael Wilde.....	x 202
Reception Desk.....	x 201
Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser.....	x 227
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
Director of Advancement/School Business Manager,	
<i>Mary Beth Pfeifer.....</i>	x 203
Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko.....	x 219

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

*Dave Kellner Kathy Johnson Charles Karanja
Stacy McVary Marcus Paulson*

*Jane Bona (School Principal)
Steve Smith (Parish Trustee)*

*Copies of the Parish Council meeting minutes are available
in the pamphlet racks at the entrance to the church.*

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available.
Come to the Sacristy before Mass to request one.

Parish Support

Received Through November 22

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$ 7,475.00
Plate.....	1,643.00
WeShare.....	1,273.50
Automatic Withdrawal.....	4,358.00
Total Collection.....	\$14,749.50

Received Through November 29

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$ 2,988.28
Plate.....	2,082.00
WeShare.....	837.50
Total Collection.....	\$ 5,907.78

Gospel Meditation



2nd Sunday of Advent

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?

©LPi



"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)

Sunday, December 6

Confirmation I..... 10:45 am - 11:45 am

Tuesday, December 8

Serra Club 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Reconciliation Preparation..... 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Thursday, December 10

Reconciliation Preparation..... 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

All Committee Meeting (online) 6:00 pm

Friday, December 11

RCIC I..... 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Intercessory Prayer Ministry 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Saturday, December 12

Reconciliation 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm



The Church of the Immaculate Conception

2020 - 2021

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Liturgies

Advent Mass Times

(November 29 - December 20)

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday at 7:30 am Thursday at 8:30 am

Saturday at 7:00 pm Sunday at 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 pm (in Spanish)

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday, December 8, Mass at 8:30 am and 7:00 pm

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Friday, December 11, Mass at 11:00 pm

Saturday, December 12, Prayer Service (bilingual) at 7:00 pm

The Nativity of the Lord Christmas

Thursday, December 24,

Vigil Mass of Christmas at 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm (in Spanish)

Friday, December 25,

Christmas Mass at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm (in Spanish)

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday Mass at 7:00 pm

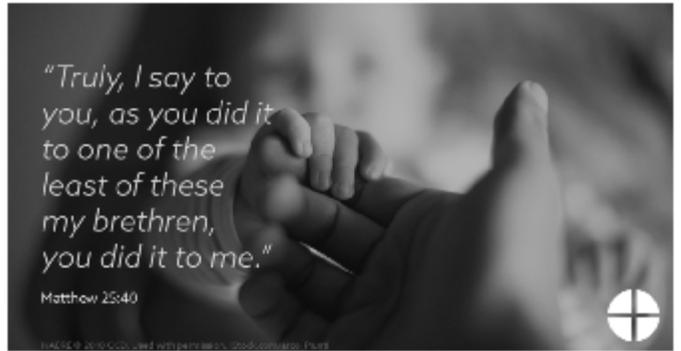
Sunday Mass at 8:00 am, 10:00 am and 12:00 pm (in Spanish)

Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Thursday, December 31, Mass at 7:00 pm

Friday, January 1, Mass at 9:00 am and 11:00 am (in Spanish)

*From all of us here at Immaculate Conception Parish
we pray God will bless you with a joy filled Advent and
Christmas season and with a happy New Year of 2021!*



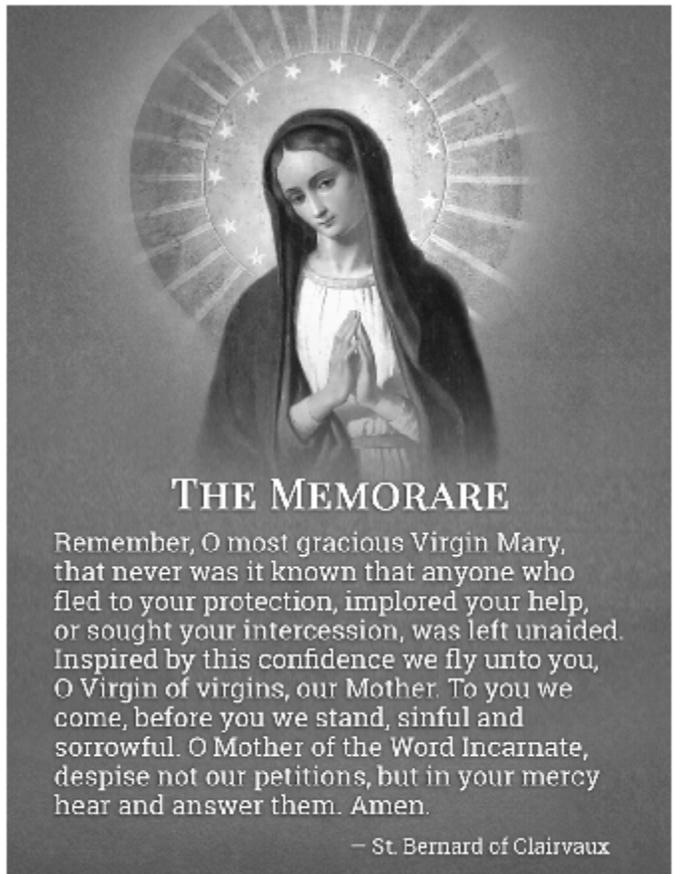
Word of Life

“Jesus calls each of us to ‘care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible’ (EV 87). ...The encyclical The Gospel of Life recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

*Excerpt from *Evangelium vitae*, © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

2020-2021 Respect Life Reflection, www.respectlife.org/reflection



THE MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother. To you we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer them. Amen.

— St. Bernard of Clairvaux

St Martin's Church (Fessenheim-le-Bas) © Ralph Hammann, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



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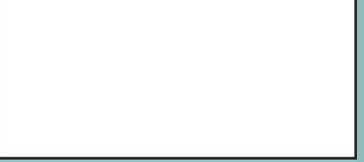
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