

IMMACULATE  CONCEPTION
– Catholic Church –

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

*"A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him."*

John 1:6



3rd Sunday of
ADVENT

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

December 13, 2020

*Third 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

Third Sunday of Advent: Rejoice

Every now and again in his Letters, Saint Paul offers a summation of the Christian life in a brief and digestible manner. In my humble opinion that's precisely what happens when we read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." An even simpler way to put it could be, "Rejoice. Pray. Give thanks."



As followers of Jesus our lives should be marked by an undercurrent of joyful perseverance. To rejoice is to make a conscious effort to find the good and the beautiful gifts that the Lord offers on a daily basis. In the midst of sadness, heartache, challenges, and strife we can rejoice in the Resurrection of Christ and the Good News of salvation. More than merely an emotional feeling to rejoice from a Christian perspective is to be intentional in celebrating the goodness of God. There is a connection with how we rejoice and how we pray.

Saint Paul also exhorted the community of Thessalonica to "Pray without ceasing." That is a variation of what we read in the Gospel according to St. Luke of Jesus teaching his friends, "about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary" (18:1). Within the Catechism of the Catholic Church there is a quote attributed to St. John Damascene that, "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (2559). One concrete form of prayer is giving thanks.

Less than a month ago our country commemorated one of my favorite holidays—Thanksgiving. As a Catholic Christian people the idea of thanksgiving is so much more than just a big meal once a year. The very word of Eucharist from Greek literally could be translated into English as "Thanksgiving." On a daily basis we have the invitation to thank the Lord for life, Grace, peace, joy, and everything else. Together let us be a people of rejoicing, prayer, and thanksgiving and in turn build up the Kingdom of God.

Peace in Christ,
Fr. James



I rejoice heartily in the **LORD**,
in my God is the joy of my soul.

(Is 61:10a)

This Week's Readings and Observances

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

Monday, December 14, St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday, December 15

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23 [7a]/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday, December 16

Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 45:8]/Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Friday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Saturday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Sunday, December 20, 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



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The Church of the Immaculate Conception

2020 – 2021

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Liturgies

Advent Mass Times

(November 29 – December 26)

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 5:00 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 5:00 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!*

Eucharistic Adoration

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

(1 Thessalonians 5:16)

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 adorers 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 7:00, 10:00 and 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.



Parish News

2020-2021 Tax Deduction Information

This is just a reminder that, regardless of the date on the check, we must record your donations by the date we receive them or the date on which they are postmarked. For example, if a check dated December 31, 2020 is received by us on January 1 or later, it must be recorded as a 2021 donation. If you send us a donation through the postal service and the envelope is postmarked December 31, 2020 or earlier, this will be recorded as a 2020 donation even if we receive the envelope in January. As these are IRS regulations, we have no flexibility in the matter.

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.



Anointing of the Sick

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

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 *Henry Wallace Lepsch* (infant grandson of Bill and Angie Lepsch), *Rodney Reichle*, 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	Janet Mihalik	Greg Sery
Paul Bona	Teddy Miller	Doug Strom
Robin Crisp	Shawn Moulzolf	Martha Stwora
Nicole Drews Davis	Jody Oftedahl	Elaine Thunstrom
Mary Fredenburg	Katie Oftedahl	Sandra Tabor
Gerald Krawiecki	Rita Patterson	Lois Weyers
Steven Lauinger	Diane Redmann	Germaine Wolsfeld

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

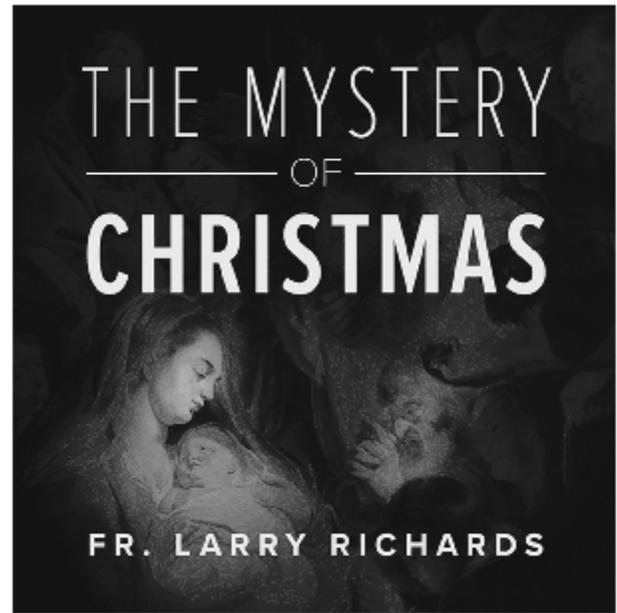
Veterans in Need

Every third Saturday *Veterans in Need* (located in Minneapolis) addresses the physical needs of struggling and homeless veterans, as well as the emotional needs of veterans and their families. This organization is in desperately in need of winter coats, gloves, hats, thermal underwear and boots that are new or used in good condition for female and male veterans. The pandemic has made the shortage greater than usual. Immaculate Conception will team with other Catholic Churches in the area to collect goods. *Your gently used items can be dropped off the weekend of January 9-10, 2021. There will be a large marked bin available in the church narthex for your donation. Questions? Contact Vicki B. 763-788-9062 x212*

Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good!

The next collection will be on December 27-28.



December 13, 2020

LISTEN

The Mystery of Christmas

By Fr. Larry Richards

In this talk, Fr. Larry Richards reminds us that in the mystery of Christmas, God gives humanity his greatest gift—the gift of his Son to the world.

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

Discipleship

A Constant Companion

As Christians, we are called to a life of prayer. This is not just during seasons like Advent, but all year long. When we talk about being prayerful everyday stewards, we are speaking about cultivating an awareness of God being with us at all times. Each day we begin by offering God the entirety of our day. Each night we rest in Him and hope that the hours that passed gave Him glory.

During this busy time of Advent, it is hard to cultivate this life of prayer, but without it we can too easily lose sight of the reason for the season. It is during this time of year we need to heed the words of St. Paul more than ever when he wrote to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.” This is how we will be able to avoid the pitfalls of consumerism and secularism and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Bring Jesus with you into the office Christmas party. Take him with you shopping for gifts in the department store. Be aware of him when you sit down to watch television specials you have seen every year of your life. Give him all your time and let his presence fill your every moment. By striving to be connecting with Jesus at all times, you will bear greater fruit and the joy you experience will be much greater than you could imagine. You might even spend a few less dollars and spend more time with those you love, particularly the one who loves you the most, the Incarnation himself.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS | ©LPi

Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained

Question: *The Church teaches that, through our baptism, we are made priest, prophet, and king like Christ. What does it mean for us to be prophets in the world today?*

Answer: We are indeed sharers in the threefold mission of Christ. We live our “kingship” when we serve others in justice, work for the common good in society, and overcome sin in our own lives. Our “priestly” mission is lived when we unite our lives to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross, offering them up as a gift of love. We are also called to be prophets. Our lives may not look like Isaiah and Jeremiah of old—and perhaps desert living and locust eating like St. John the Baptist might feel out of reach—but this doesn’t nullify our invitation and obligation.

As baptized Christians, we have accepted the Gospel in faith. We’re also called to proclaim the Gospel as well. This may mean by giving Christ-centered advice to another person or defending truth when it’s threatened. It also means living our faith in deeds.

St. John Paul II writes that we are “called to allow the newness and the power of the Gospel to shine out every day in [our] family and social life” (On the Lay Members of Christ’s Faithful, 14). A prophet points to a higher truth beyond himself or herself. We live prophetically when we treat others as Christ treated people and when we arrange our schedule to prioritize those to whom we have the greatest obligation, including our families, as well as the poor and vulnerable around us. We live prophetically when we think critically about the culture around us and we allow our faith to inform our public life.

Live the Liturgy: Inspiration for the Week

What gives you joy? Joy is discovered when we connect with something or someone very deeply and experience a dimension of ourselves that material or secular possessions cannot bring. Joy is stumbled upon when we see our newly born child for the first time, get caught up in the vastness of a mountain landscape, and are led out into infinity gazing at an ocean’s horizon, or being lovingly present with someone when they are vulnerable and in need. Joy is a profound experience that in its uniqueness grounds us in ultimate truth. Did you know that all authentic, profound, and memorable moments of joy mirror the eternal joy we desire from God? We can have glimpses of this eternal Divine joy as we embark upon our earthly journey, mirrored in our human connections with joy, but experienced directly during moments of deep prayer. God is the joy of my soul. Ponder those intense words! You will know moments of true and real joy by paying attention to your response to the experience. You will find yourself rejoicing and saying thank you.

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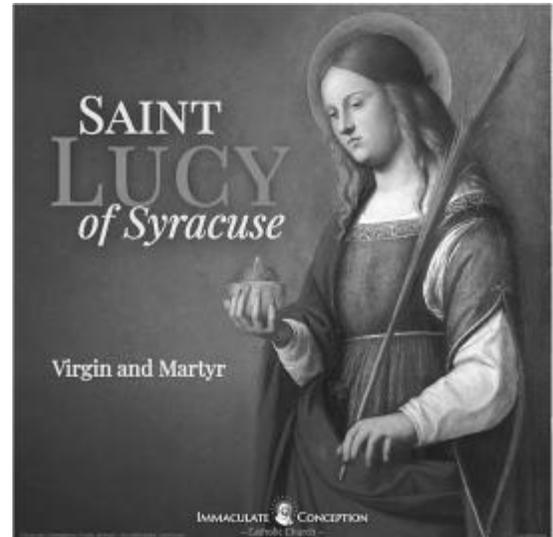
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Sunday, December 13

8:00 am +Bob Meyers

10:00 am +Mary Ann Taylor

12:00 pm IC Parishioners

Tuesday, December 15

7:30 am +Harold Lahaise

Wednesday, December 16

7:30 am +Marilyn Deering

Thursday, December 17

8:30 am +Sheila Prokott

Friday, December 18

7:30 am +James Malisheski

Saturday, December 19

5:00 pm +Marvin Sowada

Sunday, December 20

8:00 am +Chuck Bernhagen

10:00 am +Sheila Prokott

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 December 6

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$ 3,124.94
Plate.....	1,732.65
WeShare.....	1,412.50
Automatic Withdrawal.....	5,977.00
Total Collection.....	\$ 12,247.09

Gospel Meditation



3rd Sunday of Advent

Did you ever stop and realize that there is no earthly gain that can ever really satisfy us? Think of winning the Lotto. On this side of the winning ticket, it's all about the money, the new car, house, vacations, bank accounts, and infinite pleasures. The possibility of acquiring all of these earthly securities brings us back again and again to the purchase of a ticket. Then, one day we win! Our dreams are fulfilled, and happiness is on the horizon. Then one day, we wake up and realize that nothing has really changed, and I am not as satisfied as I thought I was or would be. I find myself living in my incompleteness and with my profound sorrow and grief. I did not find joy.

Glimpses of joy are possible but not by material means. They are brought to us through incredible experiences of connection that bring us face to face with real and authentic faith, hope, and love. And, they are glimpses and do not last. The moment we find ourselves looking back at them, they are gone, and we find ourselves remembering the moment in memory. To carry joy within us is to realize that it is not something I create, manufacture or even acquire. It is not able to be purchased. It is a gift. My need for joy mirrors my need for eternity, for a Creator who has a claim on the very essence of who I am and desires a home within me. As C. S. Lewis discovered, joy is a surprise that speaks to my very soul and is given as gift by the God who loves me.

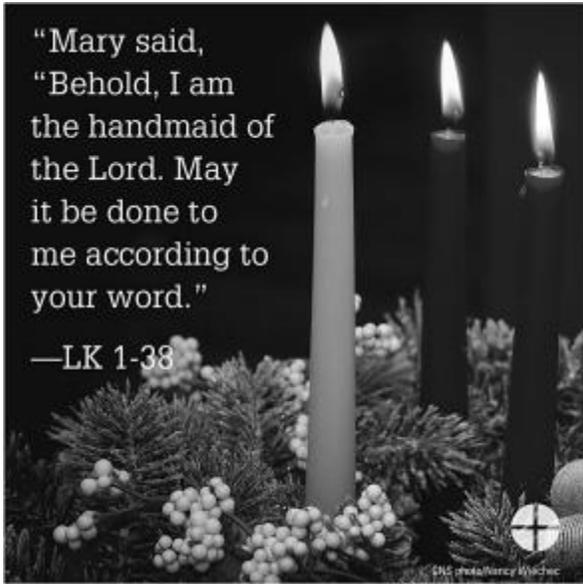
The beauty of Advent is found in discovering the beauty of the gift of joy. God has visited his people for no other reason than to show them where and how to find joy! All of our human and earthly joy experiences are always only glimpses. They never satisfy us, sustain us or fulfill us. It is only God who is the joy of my soul. Real, Divine experiences of joy catch us off guard, make us stop and become aware, bring a feeling of awe and rightness and have an eternal Otherness about them. Nothing created by humans can ever come close to this. We probably will not fully realize the truth of all of this until we actually meet God face to face in heaven one day. Then, in that sacred moment when our hearts leap for joy we will understand what we have been tirelessly searching for all along. Intense gratitude will most surely follow.

©LP1



*“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’”*

(Jn 1:23)



What Is Special About the 3rd Sunday of Advent?

For much of the Church’s history, this Sunday had a special name: “Gaudete” Sunday. The traditions surrounding this Sunday go back as far as the fourth or fifth century, as does the season of Advent itself. Advent, our preparation for Christmas, was originally a forty-day penitential season like Lent. In fact, since it used to begin on November 12 (just after the Memorial of St. Martin of Tours), it was called “St. Martin’s Lent.” “Gaudete Sunday” was the Advent counterpart to “Laetare Sunday,” which marks the midpoint in Lent.

On Gaudete Sunday, the season of Advent shifts its focus. For the first two weeks of Advent, the focus can be summed up in the phrase, “The Lord is coming.” But beginning with Gaudete Sunday, the summary might be, “The Lord is near.” This shift is marked by a lighter mood and a heightened sense of joyous anticipation. Liturgically, the colors lighten as well. The priest usually wears rose-colored vestments, a hue seen only on Gaudete Sunday and Laetare Sunday. On this day, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, which is also rose-colored, or if you prefer, pink.

The word “Gaudete” is Latin for “Rejoice.” In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

—Catholic Current December Week 3— Bulletin Insert, “The Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday”, December 13, 2020



Happy Birthday Pope Francis!

On Thursday, December 17, Pope Francis celebrates his 84th birthday!

December 14

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

December 15

Reconciliation Preparation 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

December 16

First Communion Class..... 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

December 17

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

December 18

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

December 19

Reconciliation 3:00 pm - 4:45 pm

December 20

Confirmation I 10:45 am - 11:45 am

Pre-Confirmation Class 10:45 am - 11:45 am

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

Word of Life



Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”

—USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”



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