

IMMACULATE  CONCEPTION
– Catholic Church –

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

“He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.” - MK 1:34

February 7, 2021

*5th Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

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
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San Damiano Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration open to scheduled adorers only.



Christ Heals the Sick, Gebhard Fugel, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons | Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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

Debbie Downer

You might be aware that there has been a character on the sketch comedy show Saturday Night Live (SNL) named Debbie Downer who always brings up the saddest and most depressing news during otherwise cheerful moments. The comedian and actress Rachel Dratch delivers her lines as Debbie in such a funny way that her fellow actors often have to stifle real laughter. At the risk of coming across as a sort of Debbie Downer in this bulletin article, I think that it is important to draw attention to the somewhat dour words and circumstances of Job in the First Reading for Mass on the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time.



We read in Job 7:1 that, "Is not life on earth a drudgery, its days like those of a hireling." And again in Job 7:7, "Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again." Perhaps you already know the context in which Job spoke those words but it is worth repeating that he had family and friends and personal fortunate swept away in rapid succession. His heart was understandably heavy at such a tragic situation. He had a few folks come to talk with him in an attempt to comfort him but they only added stress and strain by emphasizing his faults and saying that he must have done something to deserve what had happened.

Perhaps you can resonate with Job in having lived through heart-wrenching losses of family, friends, health, and personal fortunate. While people with good intentions have tried to comfort you their words have only thrown salt in the proverbial wounds. It might seem to you like "life...is a drudgery" and "like the wind" and you will not experience "happiness again." However, the Good News of the Gospel is that Jesus wants to take you by the hand in the midst of the trial and help you to stand (Mark 1:31). The Lord allows us to go through hardships and difficulties so that we can grow in perseverance, determination, and the realization that we cannot do it on our own. We need the Grace of the Lord to help us in the ups and downs of life. May the Mercy of Christ continually work within our hearts to console us so that we can listen to others in their sorrows and help them press onward.

Peace in Christ,
Fr. James

"Love the Lord and pray for those who do not know Him. What a grace it is to know God!"

—SAINT JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

This Week's Readings and Observances

Sunday, February 7, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Monday, February 8, St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday, February 9

Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday, February 10, St. Scholastica, Virgin

Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday, February 11, Our Lady of Lourdes

Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/Mk 7:24-30

Friday, February 12

Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday, February 13, BVM

Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10

Sunday, February 14, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day;

Valentine's Day

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

*"I am the
Immaculate Conception."*



Our Lady of Lourdes

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The Catholic Services Appraisal Foundation is an independent foundation partnering with fellow Catholics to restore Christ's love with neighbors in need through ministries that serve the poor, support life and strengthen the faith.

Your gift brings hope.

 12,000 PEOPLE PER WEEK RECEIVING FOOD PROVISIONS AND HYGIENE ITEMS	 Thousands RECIPIENTS OF HOPE AND CARE FROM OUR CHARITABLE	 28,000 CATHOLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS BENEFITING FROM MONTHLY LEARNING
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Immaculate Conception Church welcomed the following new members in 2020:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Mary Clare Couillard</i> | <i>Travis & Jacqueline Creley</i> |
| <i>Kay McKee</i> | <i>Richard Genosky</i> |
| <i>Yupa Chimboraw</i> | <i>Maria Andrade</i> |
| <i>Gerald Maciona</i> | <i>Julie Mickelson</i> |
| <i>Carol Wolney</i> | <i>Manuel & Mariuja Ramon</i> |
| <i>Domingo & Guadalupe Coto & family</i> | <i>William Weix</i> |
| <i>Norma & Jose Padilla</i> | <i>Joseph & Melissa Dargay</i> |
| <i>Douglas & Jeanne Wolfe & family</i> | <i>Margaret Kane</i> |
| <i>Mary Pat Fitzgerald</i> | <i>Robert Treuchel</i> |

Knights of Columbus

Seminar Mass

The Knights of Columbus Council 4381 will be hosting our Seminar Mass at 6:00 pm on February 18 at Immaculate Conception Church. There will be no social time or dinner this year. We will be joined again by the Serra Club and will be honoring four seminarians. Please join us.

Council of Catholic Women

Butter Braid Pastries Coming Soon!

The Council of Catholic Women will *not be cancelled*. We will find a safe and efficient way to bring you the Butter Braid Pastries for your Easter celebrations. Watch the parish bulletin and website for ordering details.

Thank you for awarding us the Columbia Heights/Fridley Sun Media 2021 Reader's Choice Award for



— Best Choir/Music Program	— Best Private School
— Best Vacation Bible School	— Best Preschool
— Best Youth Group	— Best Principal—Jane Bona
	— Best Teacher—Susan Kulikowski

Best Private School	Best Preschool	Best Principal Jane Bona	Best Teacher Susan Kulikowski
			

Best Choir/Music Program	Best Vacation Bible School	Best Youth Group
		

We are grateful!

Discipleship

The Audacity of Holiness

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.



St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness “a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness.”

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that “the fever left her and she waited on them.” Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS | ©LPi

Prayer

Intercessory Prayer

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

Courage, strength, and inspiration for students and teachers who are in distance learning situations



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 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:

<i>Bea Alain</i>	<i>Janet Mihalik</i>	<i>Elaine Thunstrom</i>
<i>Paul Bona</i>	<i>Teddy Miller</i>	<i>Sandra Tabor</i>
<i>Robin Crisp</i>	<i>Shawn Moulzolf</i>	<i>Lois Weyers</i>
<i>Hub Duclos</i>	<i>Jody Oftedahl</i>	<i>Reggie Willman</i>
<i>Mary Fredenburg</i>	<i>Katie Oftedahl</i>	<i>Germaine Wolsfeld</i>
<i>Gerald Krawiecki</i>	<i>Diane Redmann</i>	<i>and all those on</i>
<i>Jeff LaFontaine</i>	<i>Greg Sery</i>	<i>our prayer chain</i>
<i>Steven Lauinger</i>	<i>Martha Stwora</i>	

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.

The Week Ahead

February 7

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

February 8

Winter Intramurals3:15 pm - 4:15 pm
4th Degree KC Mass6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

February 9

Winter Intramurals3:15 pm - 4:15 pm
SAC Meeting 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
Charismatic Prayer Group.....7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

February 11

Winter Intramurals3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

February 12

Winter Intramurals3:15 pm - 4:15 pm
Intercessory Prayer Ministry7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

February 13

School Open House..... 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

February 14

Confirmation I..... 10:45 am - 11:45 am
First Eucharist Class..... 10:45 am - 11:45 am



February 7, 2021

Bernadette

WATCH

Millions of people each year go on pilgrimage to Lourdes, a place where miracles frequently occur. Explore the origins of this miraculous place of encounter with the Lord in this movie which depicts Mary's apparitions to St. Bernadette.

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



Led by the Spirit: 40 Days to Grace and Glory

This Lent, we invite you to journey with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for FORMED Daily Lenten Reflections at formed.org/lent. Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video which features Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your Christian life.

Sign up today for free by visiting formed.org/lent!

Social Justice



Feed My Starving Children

Feed My Starving Children® is a non-profit Christian organization committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults' hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. These meals are then shipped to our distribution partners. Meals have reached nearly 70 countries around the world. Immaculate Conception Social Justice Committee will begin our annual Lenten fundraiser for FMSC on February 20-21, watch for more details next week. "The kindly man will be blessed, for he gives of his sustenance to the poor." (Proverbs 22:9).

Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good!
The coin total for Sunday, January 21, 2021 was \$150.95
Thank you for your continued generosity!

Reflections

Word of Life

“A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.”

—Pope Francis, Message for the 29th World Day of the Sick 2021
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Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained

Question: *Is it ever okay to leave Mass before it ends?*

Answer: This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it’s okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is “no,” but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

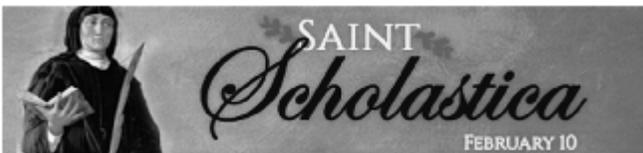
First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to “Go forth” during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

Live the Liturgy: Inspiration for the Week

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it’s intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus’ hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God’s healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises.

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Mass Intentions

Sunday, February 7

8:00 am +Kathryn Hoefs
10:00 am +Randal and Betty Lou Wilcox
12:00 pm IC Parishioners

Tuesday, February 9

7:30 am +John Botzet, Jr., Hubert (Hub) Duclos

Wednesday, February 10

7:30 am +Josephine Gordy

Thursday, February 11

8:30 am +Bob Meyers

Friday, February 12

7:30 am +Jane Lindberg,
+Steve Lauinger Family Deceased Members

Saturday, February 13

5:00 pm, +Muriel Lupo

Sunday, February 14

8:00 am +Pete Crema
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.*

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

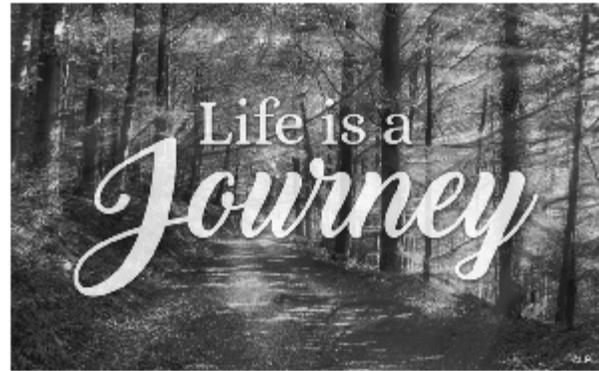
Parish Support

Received Through January 31

Sunday Envelopes.....	\$ 2,785.00
Plate.....	1,803.48
WeShare Online Giving.....	622.50
Automatic Withdrawal.....	5,902.00
Total Collection	\$ 11,112.98

THANK YOU!

Gospel Meditation



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

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"I am filled with restlessness until the dawn."

(1B 7:4)

Eucharistic Adoration

“Rising very early before dawn, Jesus left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.”

(Mark 1: 35)

St. Mark tells us Jesus went off to pray and we, as adorers, also take time to pray. Adorers set aside an hour each week in solitude, either in our adoration chapel or in their home, and pray. Consider joining this prayer filled group of disciples. Our 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.

Volunteers are needed to cover Mondays at 11:00 am, Tuesdays at 1:00 pm, Wednesdays at 10:00 am, 11:00 am and 2:00 pm, Thursdays at 8:00 am, 9:00 am and 3:00 pm and Fridays at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Beyond Our Parish

National Marriage Week



February 7-14, 2021—This year’s theme is “To have To Have, To Hold, To Honor.” This is a wonderful opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This week we pray for all married and engaged couples, that they may strive daily to faithfully and lovingly live out their marriage vows, bearing witness to the love God has for each of us.

World Day for the Sick

February 11, 2021—We pray for all those suffering from illness, especially those whose health has been impacted by the Coronavirus. We also pray for their caregivers and family members.



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Archdiocesan World Day of the Sick Mass

All are invited to attend Mass celebrated by Archbishop Hebda via livestream, especially the sick, caregivers, chaplains and health workers on Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 10:00 am. Join via livestream: CuratioApostolate.com/WDS2021. St. John Paul II established World Day of the Sick in 1992 on the Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. This year, via livestream from St. Agnes Parish we will especially pray for all those affected and for healthcare workers during this pandemic. For questions please email curatioevent@gmail.com

School News

Thank You For Supporting Our School!

The JOY of the LORD is Your STRENGTH - Nehemiah 8:10 - Positively Powered.

Sullivan, Grade 6

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Immaculate Conception Catholic School Now Enrolling for the 2021-22 School Year!

Please join us for a private tour and experience the difference our award-winning Catholic school will make in the life of your child! We emphasize a personalized approach to education, so each child is taught at their “just right level.”

Open House for Students beginning Preschool-Grade 8—meet with Principal Jane Bona, Mary Beth Pfeifer and staff:

Saturday, February 13, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Call Mary Beth for reservations at 763-788-9062, x 203 or mbpfeifer@immac-church.org

Tuition Assistance Available

Need assistance with the enrollment process or applying for tuition assistance? Register for one of these dates with Mary Beth Pfeifer: February 9, 11, 16, 18, 3:30 - 4:30 pm.

Catholic Schools Raffle

Tickets on sale in the church narthex after all Masses this weekend and the weekends February 20-21 and 27-28. For more information call the ICS office during school hours at 763-788-9065.



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