



Mary Immaculate

CATHOLIC CHURCH

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|---|
| Final Reflection From Francis | 1 |
| Holy Triduum | 2 |
| Holy Triduum Continued from Page 2; Over Sixty Years of Excellence | 3 |
| MIS Events | 4 |
| Kindergarten; Living Museum; First Grade; Confirmation | 5 |
| Heart of Gold; Bishop Lynch Alumni | 6 |
| Theology on Tap | 7 |
| Prayer for Our Common Home | 8 |

VISION

That they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you sent me.

John 17:21

Final Reflection from Francis

When Pope Francis declared the Year of St. Joseph, he chose to open the year on December 8th (2020) and to close the year on December 8th (2021). It was an intentional decision to start and end the Year of St. Joseph on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

As you know, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is our Parish Feast Day. So, when I heard the news, I knew that our parish had to honor St. Joseph in some way! The staff and I decided that we would gather the entire community together for a one-night Parish Mission. That evening, we explored the meaning of Pope Francis's invitation to go to St. Joseph, especially at time like this, amidst the ongoing global pandemic.

We first hear that exhortation to "go to Joseph" at the beginning of the Old Testament in the Book of Genesis, Chapter 41. A crisis of similar magnitude has struck the entire world, and the only remaining source of food is to be found in the land of Egypt. When the whole world comes rushing to Egypt, Pharaoh sends them directly to Joseph. Joseph has been raised up as the guardian of the storehouses of grain, and he is thus charged with feeding the people of all nations.

At the beginning of the New Testament, we find St. Joseph taking on a similar role, but he faces an even greater crisis. St. Joseph also lives in a world suffering from severe (spiritual) famine, yet King Herod is threatening to make matters worse by eliminating the only source of saving food, i.e. killing the newborn king. Nevertheless, St. Joseph rises up, takes his family into Egypt, and protects his Son from this threat of death, consequently making it possible for us today, people of every nation, to come to him and receive the "bread of life."

During my time here at Mary Immaculate, I have been overwhelmingly consoled to find this saving food at the center of everything we do. The tabernacle and altar are in the physical heart of our church sanctuary. Parishioners are visiting the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at all hours of the day. We pray monthly Holy Hours at Adoremus Nights and Arise Nights of Healing. Our three priests celebrate two Masses for us every day and nine Masses every Sunday. In these many beautiful ways, I have truly loved being with you as we encounter Christ together and are fed by his Body and his Blood.

With this final reflection, I wanted to take a moment to thank you for welcoming me to your home. You have all drawn me closer to Christ in the Eucharist, and for that, I am *immensely* grateful.

I find it no coincidence whatsoever that Bishop Burns sent me here for my Pastoral Year. Being at a parish named after the Mother of Jesus, during a year dedicated to the Foster Father of Jesus, I have come to recognize a clear call, and I wish to close by simply extending that same invitation to you.

This is what I believe God has been telling me this year: *Stay close to Mary; go to St. Joseph; and unite yourself to their hearts. Let them lead you to their Son, our Eucharistic Lord.*

May Jesus continue to nourish you on this earthly pilgrimage, and may God be with you every step of the way.

Gratefully yours in Christ, Francis Vu



Holy Triduum

Since the earliest days of the Church, Easter has always been the holiest and most sacred season of the liturgical year. After 40 days of reflecting, fasting, alms giving and abstaining, we celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our preparations during Lent have led us to the introduction of Easter with Holy Week concluding with the Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil.



Holy Thursday, or Maundy Thursday Mass began as usual, but then after the homily, 12 candidates from the RCIA and RICA journey were called up to the sanctuary

to have their feet washed, just as Jesus washed the feet of his apostles before going out to the garden to pray. The washing of the feet is a reminder to all, that we are here to serve one another just as Jesus came to serve all of us. What a touching moment for those about to receive their sacraments. Never have they seen a priest get on his knees to wash someone's feet. Following Communion came the procession of the Eucharist led by all the clergy, a seminarian, and the altar servers. They reverently processed throughout the main church so all in attendance could have an up-close encounter with Jesus. The attendees were then invited to either stay for Eucharistic Adoration, or quietly exit the church, as this Mass is special and is not over until the Easter Vigil.



The Good Friday service picked up where Holy Thursday Mass left off. With the altar bare and the crucifix covered, the Lord's passion was read from the Gospel of John followed by the veneration of the cross. Then the attendees

once again left in silence as the Mass still had not yet ended.



The Easter Vigil Saturday night was then the climax of the Triduum and the conclusion of the Mass which began Thursday evening. The Mass began with the lighting and blessing of the fire which is contained in a large free-standing fire pit placed in the courtyard which was used to light the Paschal Candle. The Paschal Candle was then carried into the darkened church and used to light each person's individual candle where one by one, the light of the Lord was



all the people of the world.



community. This was a glorious celebration of baptisms, each receiving a white stole, candle, and a bottle of holy water.



The Mass continued next with the confirmation of the 49 that were newly baptized plus 15 adults that were previously baptized for a total of 64 new Catholics! There was much celebration as Mass continued with the sweet smell of the Chrism Oil on the foreheads of the 64 new Catholics.



With this, the newly baptized Catholics came to a new beginning! Now they are witnesses of Christ "That the same Holy Spirit may teach them to know the things of God and how to please him, let us pray to the Lord". This is what we asked God during the First Scrutiny on the Third Sunday of Lent. What an amazing joy to see these 64 people receive the Holy Spirit, the same Holy Spirit that keeps the Church moving, the same Holy Spirit that led these individuals and families into inquiring and finally to sign up for the formation classes last year. Today we rejoice and give thanks to God for His goodness. He has blessed our faith community here at Mary Immaculate with 64 new brothers and sisters. *(Continued on page 3)*

spread to all the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults & Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos RCIA/RICA candidates and Elect (those soon to receive their sacraments). The lighting of the candles symbolized the Light of Christ being spread among

As is the custom and purpose of the Easter Vigil, Father Michael baptized 49 new Catholics - 7 adults and 42 elementary and middle school children, 3 of which were from the Francophone

Holy Triduum (Continued from page 2)

Our new brothers and sisters come from all walks of life and from all over the world! This year we were blessed to welcome among our catechumens and candidates two families from Ivory Coast, West Africa. Fr. Franck Agbowai and his continued effort to offer Mass and other services in French to the North Texas Francophone community, has brought in some new families and we are delighted to welcome all the families to Mary Immaculate. Welcome, Bienvenidos, Bienvenus! (check out our website to see this same welcoming message in three languages <https://www.maryimmaculatechurch.org/>). Also, we are very excited to welcome all the families from Venezuela, Dominican Republic among others from Latin America.

The process for RCIA & RICA is not easy, it takes a serious commitment from those looking to become Catholic, many classes & rites to be celebrated before the final and glorious day of the Easter Vigil. But it all worthwhile as the new Catholics were beaming with smiles that could even be seen from under their masks. Their eyes just sparkled. Some expressed how they felt their life changed, others were speechless and overwhelmed with joy. A newly confirmed commented, "I felt like I finally came home", and another commented, "I now feel like I am part of the Body of Christ." These comments were shared by many and is the purpose of the RCIA/RICA journey - to help those that are seeking the Lord to find Him, and most importantly, to become a part of the Body of Christ. Alleluia, Jesus Christ is Risen, Alleluia! *By Marie Dussé*

Over Sixty Years of Excellence

NOW ENROLLING

For 60+ years, Mary Immaculate has provided thousands of children academic excellence while they strive for college and heaven. Many think they can't afford Catholic education, but MIS has worked hard to keep tuition affordable. In fact, our tuition is among the most affordable in the Diocese and we are steeped in faith, service and tradition. Come and see why families keep coming back generation after generation. We offer both in-person and virtual tours. [Click here for more](#) or contact our Admissions Director at admissions@mischool.org or 972-243-7105, ext. 150.

POP QUIZ! THE MIS DIFFERENCE

Mary Immaculate School sets itself apart from other Diocesan schools in several ways but we have four very unique differences. Can you guess any of them? Gold star if you named all four!

1. **Authentic Catholic Formation.** MIS students are immersed in the truth and beauty of the Catholic Church with the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Atrium** and under the leadership and instruction of the Nashville Dominicans.
2. **Value.** Mary Immaculate embraces families of all sizes with tuition discounts for multiple students; the fourth Student is free. Combine that with our established academic rigor and you've found one of the best values around!
3. **Diversity.** Catholic means "all embracing." Our students come from countries across the globe and represent various economic and social backgrounds. In fact, half of our students are Hispanic. Come and see how MIS is Catholic in our faith and in our community.
4. **Generations:** This year, 41 of our students are from 24 alumni families up to the *third* generation!

MIS ALUMNI?

If you are a former Mary Immaculate student, we want to keep in touch! We invite you to visit our MIS Alumni Facebook page ([click here](#)) and complete our alumni contact form ([click here](#)) so we can notify you of reunions and news.

MIS EVENTS



In March, students received the sacrament of reconciliation and learned about the passion of Christ in preparation for Easter. When they returned from Easter, they were greeted by an empty tomb to remind them that “he is risen, indeed!”

Empty Tomb link [Empty Tomb in MIS Lobby - YouTube](#)



Sister Sophia helped 8th graders realize the beauty and depth of our faith with a Lenten spiritual reading assignment. Each student chose from a list of 72 books about saints, the faith, issues of faith and more. Visit the MIS Facebook page and search for “spiritual reading” to see the full list.



8th graders on their confirmation retreat with NET ministries. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpuVJ0kc7iQ>



Junior High students walked the Camino de Santiago – sort of! Spanish Teacher Mrs. Cecilia Burgin posted cities and questions throughout the halls. Students colored scallop shells with their answers. The scallop shell is the symbol for the Camino de Santiago.



Kindergarten

Living Museum



KA students learned about the weather



KB kindergartners at the Last Supper with Sister Annunciata



KC students listened to a Gospel reading and then drew pictures featuring Jesus for Lent

Every year, fourth graders learn about historical figures with a "Living Museum." Students are assigned historical people to research. Then, they dress up as the famous person and give a report in front of the class to share the significance and impact that person had in our world.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rpuVJ0kc7iQ>



Confirmation

Many of the confirmandees took photos with Fr. Michael and their Religion Teacher, Sister Sophia.



First Grade



Mrs. Wunderlick and her first graders learning about the Holy Spirit while taking advantage of a beautiful day

Heart of Gold Auction



MIS Principal, Sister Mary Anne, was pleasantly surprised to learn that the 2020-21 Auction Team raised \$104K+ even before the Auction began. This year's Auction was virtual due to the pandemic but Auction co-chairs Adele Verdiguell, Heather McIntyre and Kristin Rogers refused to let that hurt the school's largest fundraiser of the year. Honorary co-chairs, David and Diane Luther, also presented the school with a beautiful painting of Mary Immaculate which will be displayed in the school halls soon. Mary Immaculate is grateful to all who planned, sponsored and participated in this year's event. Thank you and God bless you! by Kim Spiers

Bishop Lynch alumni helped clean up the MIS courtyard this March.

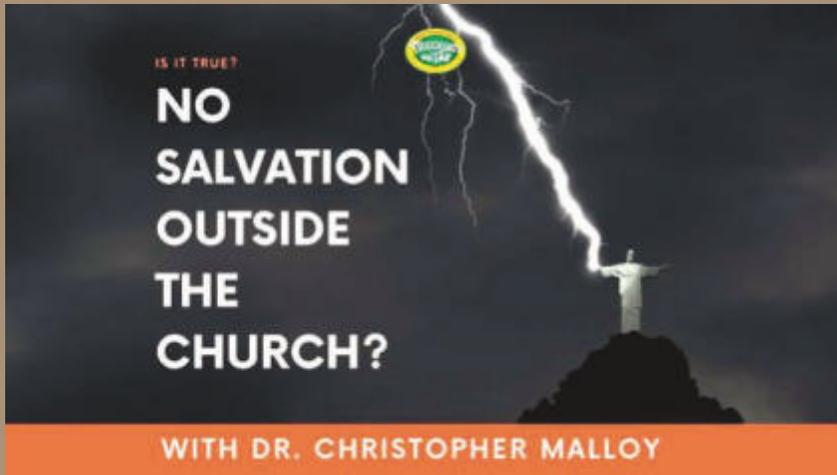
Jim Brewer, Chuck Cale, Curtis Jaska, Pat Laue, Matt Nevitt, Patrick Roffino, Don Shotland, David Tucker and Jim Urbanus with Sr. Mary Anne



We are grateful to have another beautiful spot for our students to study outside.



Theology on Tap



Dr. Christopher Malloy received his Ph.D. from The Catholic University of America. He has been teaching at the University of Dallas since 2001. He approaches the theological vocation with the conviction that philosophy and theology, faith and reason, serious intellectual research and fidelity to the full deposit of Catholic faith, work harmoniously toward one end - the contemplation and love of truth. His research interests include St. Thomas Aquinas, Augustine, Bonaventure, John Duns Scotus, and Matthias Scheeben. You can view the evening by clicking on this link: youtu.be/1Vha3U_JWYc...



A Prayer for Our Common Home



MAY

©LPi

God of all creation,
you have given us the responsibility of a steward,
one who cares for something.
Our stewardship is to care for our common home, the earth.

We look to your goodness
shown to us by all the good gifts the earth
bestows upon us:
The rain to water the ground.
The crops that spring from the ground.
The animals that roam the fields.
The medicines that come from the plants.

We also look to you for the wisdom
to care for this creation of yours:
Give us wisdom to know how and when
this good earth needs our special attention.
Help us not to be shortsighted
and assume that the earth can heal itself
without our help.
You created us from the earth
and we depend upon it for our health.
We ask all from you and give all back to you.
This we do in Jesus' name. Amen.

