



The Spotlight

Immaculate Conception Church

Ira Township, Michigan

August 22, 2021

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Enter for Worship, Depart for Service



21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." - Jn 6:68

Mass Times & Information

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH
 9764 Dixie Highway, Ira Township, MI 48023
 Phone: 586•725•3051 Fax: 586•725•8240

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	4:30pm
Sunday	8am 10am 12pm
Monday	8:30am
Tuesday	6:30pm
Wednesday	8:30am
Thursday	8:30am
Friday	8:30am

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9am to 4pm
 closed 12-1pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday	9:15am
Saturday	3:30pm

BAPTISM

Parents must be registered for three months in the parish and complete two baptism preparation sessions before celebrating baptism.

MARRIAGE

Couple must meet with the pastor prior to choosing the wedding date and complete six months of marriage preparation.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK / HOMEBOUND

Call the parish office to arrange for anointing for someone who is seriously ill or preparing for surgery or if you would like Holy Communion brought to your home.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available in the parish office or you may register online at icatholic.org.

PARISH DATABASE

Immaculate Conception invites you to create your own member account. You may contact the parish office with your e-mail address and we will send you a link to join our **Breeze** system where you may update your personal information and start or adjust online giving. (ic.breezechms.com)

ONLINE OR TEXT TO GIVE

For your convenience we offer Online Giving. You may contribute using a checking or savings account, credit, or debit card, and you may update or cancel at any time. You may make a one-time donation or set up a repeating schedule. We also offer Text-to-Give — just text your donation amount to **586-435-0011**. To give online just visit icatholic.org/e-giving, call the parish office, 586-725-3051, if you need help.



**MON
23**

8:30am.....Mass
 6:00pm.....SoulCore

1 *Ghes* 1:1-5, 8b-10/*Ps* 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b [cf. 4a]/*OT* 23:13-22

**TUES
24**

8 & 9:15amSoulCore
 6:30pm.....Mass
 7:15-9:00pmEucharistic Adoration

Rv 21:9b-14/*Ps* 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/*Jn* 1:45-51

**WED
25**

8:30am.....Mass

1 *Ghes* 2:9-13/*Ps* 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab [1]/*OT* 23:27-32

**THUR
26**

8:30am.....Mass
 9:15am.....Confessions
 7:00pm.....K of C 4th Degree
 7:30pm.....Fatima Devotions

1 *Ghes* 3:7-13/*Ps* 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17 [14]/*OT* 24:42-51

**FRI
27**

8:30am.....Mass
 9:30-11:00am.....Eucharistic Adoration
 11:00am.....Veronica Kish Memorial
 3:30pm.....Wedding of
 Dan Riley & Marianne Pupka

1 *Ghes* 4:1-8/*Ps* 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12 [12a]/*OT* 25:1-13

**SAT
28**

11:00am.....Kathy DeBusschere Memorial
 3:30pm.....Confessions
 4:30pm.....Mass

1 *Ghes* 4:9-11/*Ps* 98:1, 7-8, 9 [9]/*OT* 25:14-30

**SUN
29**

8:00am.....Mass
 10:00am.....Mass
 12:00pm.....Mass
 12:00pm.....K of C Corporate Communion

OT 4:1-2, 6-8/*Ps* 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 [1a]/*Jas* 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/*OK* 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23





Fr. Joe's Jottings

Sometimes Catholics complain that they find the Mass to be boring . . . confusing . . . or spiritually empty or unsatisfying. My response is that (1) the Mass isn't about *us* and our feelings and desires, but about *God* and our duty and need to worship Him; (2) our attitude as we arrive at church will play a huge role in how much we get out of Mass; and (3) we can and should prepare ourselves for Mass by arriving early enough to settle down and put ourselves in a prayerful spirit, look over the assigned Scripture readings (printed in the hymnal), and pray to the Holy Spirit, asking for help in paying attention and in being open and receptive to the graces offered at Mass that day.

The Jesuit author Father Robert Spitzer, in his book *Escape from Evil's Darkness*, also offers these suggestions:

"As the Mass begins, prepare yourself to enter into the Penitential Rite, considering sins of the past week or areas in which you need reconciliation and healing—then as you . . . hear the words of virtual absolution, 'May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life,' you will receive that reconciliation more profoundly, taking it with you into the rest of the Mass and into the rest of the week."

Then, in the Gloria, "enter into the Spirit of giving praise to the Father for creation, including the creation of your soul; to the Son of God for His redemption, including your redemption unto eternal life."

"Again, prepare yourself for the Liturgy of the Word. Try to shake off the stresses and distractions of the week and try to understand the passages of Scripture being proclaimed. There is something truly marvelous about having the Word of God read to us almost like listening to our parents reading to us our Catholic picture Bibles. We can simply relax and put ourselves on 'absorb.' . . . If you have questions about particular readings, simply go to the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) website and click on the readings of the day. . . . There are also several smartphone apps providing explanations and meditations on the readings of the day."

"Preparation for the General Intercessions is quite simple: in addition to participating in the prayers read by the lector, add your special prayers of petition in your mind; for these will all be added into the prayer of the congregation by the priest when he concludes the rite. . . ."

"As you listen to the Offertory, recognize that you are entering into the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and position yourself within the tradition going back over two thousand years, starting with the Jewish table blessings before Jesus' Eucharist blessing. . . . Now prepare yourself for the central rite of the Mass: the reenactment of Jesus' Eucharistic words. If possible, recall what He intended in His Eucharistic words: to give us His crucified Body, risen Body, and unconditional love. . . . As the priest raises the Host, consider that this really is Jesus' crucified and risen Body that will lead to forgiveness, freedom from evil, and eternal life (see John 6). . . ."

"As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, we will want to pay special attention to the Our Father and three petitions of the Agnus Dei: 'Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us . . . have mercy on us . . . grant us peace. . . . consider the Lord of love that you will be receiving—the Lord who will grant you mercy, peace, healing, and transformation into His own image—then meaningfully pray, 'Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word, and my soul shall be healed.'"

"As you return to your seats after receiving the Lord's Body and Blood, pray for the graces intrinsic to this precious sacrament. This will bring you into an intimate and close relationship with the Lord of love, which will transform and console you after Mass, and perhaps during the Mass itself."

Fr. Spitzer also notes, "Even if we do not feel moved during the liturgy itself, our concerted attempts to participate in it will bear much fruit in the long term, a strengthening of confidence, peace, hope, healing, and reconciliation, as well as loving transformation leading us more surely on the path to eternal salvation. Even if the homilies are less than scintillating and the music less than symphonic, we will still derive eternal benefit, dispel the darkness that may be in our hearts, put the Evil One to flight, and enter more resolutely on the road to salvation. We will be connected to and transformed by the Son of God, Who came to be with us, to enter into us, and to love us into Eternity" (pp. 100ff).

Though we can't see them, numerous angels and saints, including the Virgin Mary are present and worshipping God at every Catholic liturgy, and we are indeed in the presence of our Lord and Savior. Attending Mass allows us to touch Heaven while still here on earth—and the more we strive to be open to the graces Jesus offers us, the more we will be ready for the everlasting joys of eternal life.

* * * * *

A young boy called a local pastor and asked him to come and pray for his mother, who was seriously ill with the flu. Knowing the family belonged to the neighboring parish, the priest asked, "Shouldn't you be asking Fr. Wilson at your church to come and see your mom?" The boy replied, "Yeah, but we didn't want to take the chance he might catch whatever it is that Mom has."

* * * * *

Thought for the Day:

The whole sanctuary and the space before the altar is filled with the heavenly Powers come to honor Him Who is present upon the altar.

--St. John Chrysostom





Faith Formation



Live ~ Learn ~ Grow

Adult Confirmation

Adults 16 years of age or older, who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and have been baptized in the Catholic Church and received First Holy Communion, may enter an 8-week preparation process that takes place twice a year: once in the fall leading up to the Feast of Christ the King, and the second in the spring leading up to Pentecost.

Our preparation session this fall will begin the week of September 20th and run through the week of November 8th, with celebration of the Sacrament on Sunday, November 21st at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 586-725-1762 or you may email me at kovalcik@iccatholic.org. This offering is FREE to all interested.

Have a great week!
Tina Kovalcik, DRE

**Now Registering for Faith Formation 2021-2022
Ages 3-5 and Grades K-8**

We need your help! If you have not yet registered for Faith Formation, please do!

We are in the process of gathering and training enough catechists to teach this fall. If you don't have

time to complete the registration form, please call 586-725-1762 or email us at ffsecretary@iccatholic.org and let us know if you plan on attending the Monday sessions or the Sunday sessions

Lord, What Are You Calling Me To Do?

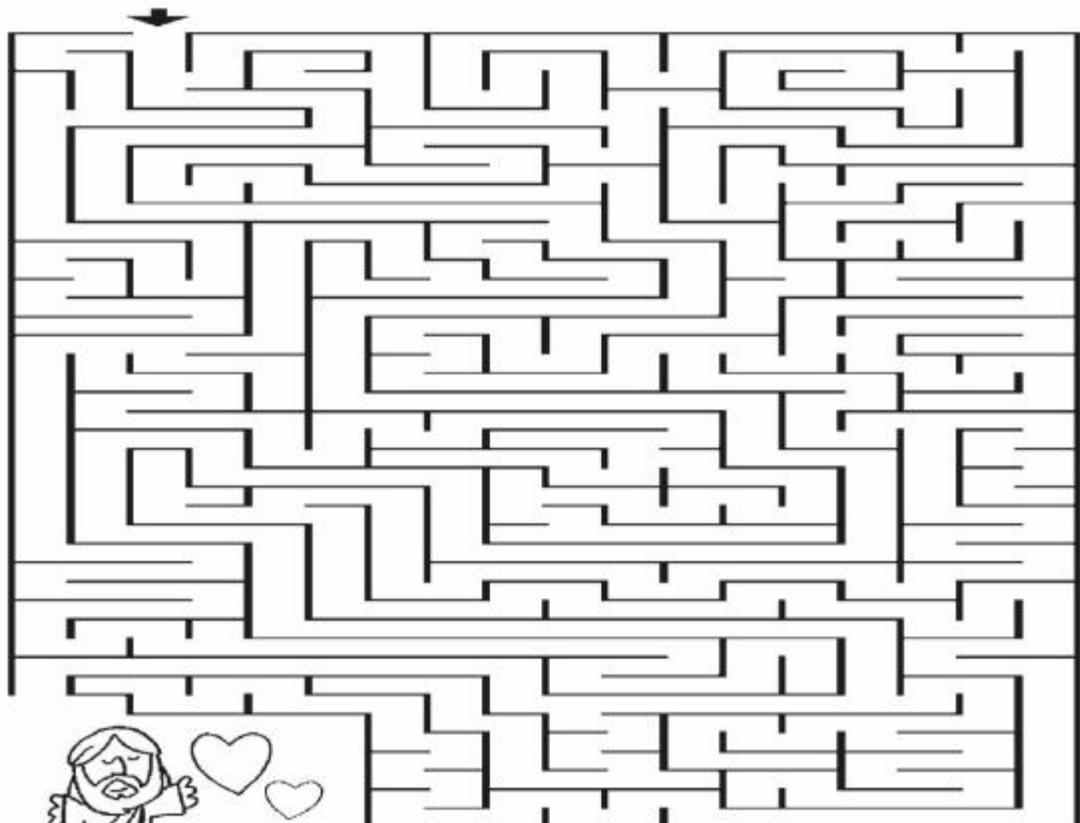
“Christ’s disciples were never meant to carry out her divine mandate to evangelize on the basis of human resources alone. Christ has endowed His bride with an abundance of supernatural charisms, gifts of the Holy Spirit that equip every member of the body of Christ to do his or her part in bearing witness to Christ and building up the Church. These gifts range from the simple and humble to the extraordinary (Romans 12:6-7; 1 Corinthians 12). The foundation and standard for using these gifts are always love (1 Corinthians 13).”

Archbishop Allen Vigneron,
Archdiocese of Detroit Unleash the Gospel—Marker 4.3

The **Called and Gifted** series will guide you in discovering, discerning, and developing your unique charisms gifted to you by the Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation. Our 10-week session begins September 8th at 6:30pm. Please register no later than September 1st so that we may order and receive materials in time for our first gathering. Call the Faith Formation Office to register. **See the flyer on Page 7.**

PUZZLE

Find your way through the maze to Jesus.



MISSION

Have you ever learned something about God that was hard to understand? Talk about it with your family, and together pray for each other. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn what God wants you to do.



Grateful for Families of Parishes Opportunities!



Book Discussion and Prayer Group begins September 9, 2021!

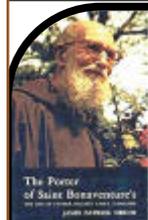
Do you enjoy reading and discussing books that provide awesome advice on how to live our faith and learn what pleases God the most as we grow Deeper in our relationship with Him and are strengthened by the richness of our Catholic faith?

Do you enjoy praying for others and joining in fellowship?

If you answered yes, please pick a book and time that works for you.

Two books and two times to choose from:

The Porter of Saint Bonaventure's, the Life of Father Solanus Casey, or The Diary of Saint Faustina Kowalska, Divine Mercy in My Soul!

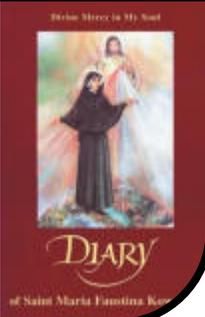


**Morning Group
Sept. 9 at 9:30am**

Meets every other Thursday
in the Parish Hall.
\$12 for the book.

**Evening Group
Sept. 9 at 6:30pm**

We will be taking this journey with a discussion program designed by the Marians of the Immaculate Conception and will be reading the Diary along with sections of the Catechism and Scripture, as we learn about Jesus' message of mercy and love as given directly by Jesus to Saint Faustina.
\$9 for the book.



To register for either book discussion, please contact Laura Somogy at 810-334-5101 (call or text). Please state if you will be needing a copy of the book.



**Protecting God's Children Workshop
Tuesday, September 28th**

Attendance is required for anyone who may interact with minors, the elderly, or the handicapped. This free three-hour workshop is mandated through the Archdiocese of Detroit and is for persons 18 years of age and older. This workshop builds awareness and empowers attendees to intervene and prevent potentially harmful situations or behavior. Participants are taught to identify situations that could leave a child, the elderly or the handicapped vulnerable.

You must register online at www.aod.org. Be sure to select the Archdiocese of Detroit and the location that you will be serving will be Immaculate Conception Parish, Ira.

If you do not have online access, please contact our Safe Environment Coordinator, Colleen Wooten by leaving a message at the parish office or by email cwooten@icatholic.org.



ACTS

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Bible Study!

Two times to choose from!
9:30am or 6:30pm.
Location: Immaculate Conception Parish Hall

Starts September 16 and runs every other Thursday through January 27.

We will be using a video and discussion series called Lectio from Formed. Dr. Mary Healy will be our video presenter as we explore "Acts of the Apostles" and dive into what it means to live out the Gospel message in today's society.

Please register by contacting Laura at 810 334-5101 (call or text) or call the Parish Office at 586 725-3051.

Heroes & Heroines (Saints) From Our Family History



Mon., Aug. 23rd, St. Rose of Lima, Virgin: Isabel Flores Olivia died in 1617 at the age of 31. She was a Peruvian mystic nicknamed "Rosa" because of her beauty. She was a tertiary of the O.P. who lived a life of penance and solitude. She cared for the homeless, the elderly and the sick. She is the first declared saint of the New World in 1672. She is the patroness of the Philippines and of South America, especially Peru; and, florists and gardeners.

Tues., Aug. 24th, St. Bartholomew, Apostle: St. Bartholomew died in the 1st century. His name is probably a surname in the synoptic gospels meaning "the son of Tolmai". In the Gospel of John, he is known as Nathaniel and is associated with Philip. He is said to have preached the gospel in India and in Armenia where, according tradition, he was flayed alive.

Wed., Aug. 25th, St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest: St. Louis IX of France died in 1270. He was a model ruler and father of 11 children. He was a Franciscan tertiary who cared especially for lepers. He built Sainte Chapelle in Paris as a reliquary for the crown of thorns. He died of the plague near Tunis while on his second crusade. He is the patron of masons and sculptors. St. Joseph Calasanz who died in 1648 was from Aragon. He founded in 1617 the Clerics Regular of Religious Schools (Piarists [S.P. or Sch. P]). Today, the Or-

der numbers some 1,375 religious who are dedicated to helping poor children. He faced many trials and calumnies for his work, including the temporary suppression of his Institute. He is the patron of all Christian schools dedicated to assisting the poor.

Fri., Aug. 27th, St. Monica: St. Monica was born in Tagaste in Roman Africa (now Souk Abras, Algeria) and died in 387. After 30 years of prayer, she obtained the conversion of her dissolute pagan husband under the guidance of St. Ambrose (Dec 7), she won the conversion of her eldest son, St. Augustine. She is the patroness of mothers.

Sat., Aug. 28th, St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church: St. Augustine died in 430 in Hippo Regius (now modern day Annaba, Algeria). He was born in Tagaste, North Africa (now Souk Ahras, Algeria). After a dissolute life, he received baptism at the age of 33 from St. Ambrose. He was elected bishop of Hippo Regius. He combated the heresies of the Manichees, the Donatists, and Pelagius. He is most noted for his Confessions and City of God; over 500 homilies are extant. He is considered a founder of monastic life in the West. His rule, whose mantra for community is "Anima una at cor Unum ad Deum", (which translated means in the community there is to be "one mind and one heart on the way to God") is observed by some 100 religious communities. He is one of the four great doctors of the Latin Church. He is called the "Doctor of Grace."

From the Order of Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours and Celebration of the Eucharist, 2021 Archdiocese of Detroit and the Six Dioceses of Michigan; (b.) The Liturgy of the Hours, Vol. IV.

Diaconate Vocation Awareness Night



The Permanent Diaconate Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be hosting an in-person Vocation Awareness Information Night at Sacred Heart Major Seminary for all who are discerning a call to the Diaconate. Please pass along the following information if you are or if you know of any interested men or would like to encourage someone you know.

Diaconate Vocation Awareness Night
In-person at Sacred Heart Major Seminary
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
7:00 – 8:30 pm
RSVP – Dewimille.erin@aod.org



Sacristans Needed

Have you ever considered being a sacristan, altar server? If you are able to attend morning Mass during the week, then you can fulfill a dream and serve our parish community. You will be trained to prepare the items needed for Mass, light the candles, serve during Mass.

Please pray for guidance and then call the parish office. "Whatever you do, do from the heart, as for the Lord and not for others, knowing that you will receive from the Lord the due payment of the inheritance; be slaves of the Lord Christ." Col. 3:23-24





DISCOVER GOD'S CALL FOR YOUR LIFE

Lord, what are you calling me to do?

The Called and Gifted series will guide you in discovering, discerning, and developing your unique charisms gifted to you by the Holy Spirit through Baptism and Confirmation.

THE WORKSHOP

Wednesday, Sept. 8 – Nov. 10, 2021

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church - Parish Hall

9764 Dixie Hwy., Ira Twp., MI 48023

www.iccatholic.org 586-725-1762

Cost: \$40

Includes course materials and online access to video & audio sessions

Please make \$40 check payable to Immaculate Conception Parish

With "Called & Gifted" written in the memo

Detach and mail or return the completed form by Sept. 1, 2021 to

Immaculate Conception, ATTN: Tina Kovalcik | 9764 Dixie Hwy., Ira Twp., 48023

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Parish: _____

For questions or concerns please contact: Tina Kovalcik at kovalcik@iccatholic.org - 586-725-1762



Open Positions at IC School

1. **Latchkey Director**
Part-time Mon-Fri 2:30-6:00pm
 2. **Cook**
Part-time 19 hours/week
 3. **Substitute Teachers**
Multiple substitute teaching positions
- Please contact Principal, Lawrence Ricard at ricard@iccatholic.org with resume, letters of reference and other certifications pertinent to these positions.

Go to aod.org/careers for complete position requirements

GOD IS HERE
ALL IS GOOD



A Choice to Make: Scott Hahn Reflects on The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Mass readings conclude a four-week meditation on the Eucharist.

The Twelve Apostles in today's Gospel are asked to make a choice—either to believe and accept the New Covenant He offers in His Body and Blood or return to their former ways of life.

Their choice is prefigured by the decision Joshua asks the Twelve Tribes to make in today's First Reading.

Joshua gathers them at Shechem—where God first appeared to their father Abraham promising to make his descendants a great nation in a new land (see Genesis 12:1–9). And he issues a blunt challenge: either renew their covenant with God or serve the alien gods of the surrounding nations.

We too are being asked today to decide whom we will serve. For four weeks we have been presented in the liturgy with the mystery of the Eucharist—a daily miracle far greater than those performed by God in bringing the Israelites out of the land of Egypt.

He has promised us a new homeland and eternal life, offering us bread from heaven to strengthen us on our journey. He has told us that unless we eat His Flesh and drink His Blood we will have no life in us.

It is a hard saying, as many murmur in today's Gospel. Yet He has given us the words of eternal life.

We must believe, as Peter says today, that He is the Holy One of God, who handed Himself over for us, who gave His flesh for the life of the world.

As we hear in today's Epistle, Jesus did this that we might be sanctified, made holy, through the water and word of Baptism by which we enter into His new covenant. Through the Eucharist, He nourishes and cherishes us, making us His own flesh and blood, as husband and wife become one flesh.

Let us renew our covenant today, approaching the altar with confidence that, as we sing in today's Psalm, the Lord will redeem the lives of His servants.



Remember in Your Prayers

Names of the sick will be published for **four weeks**. If you wish to place the name again, please contact the office.

- Nichole Amicone
- Richard Barch
- Theresa Cangelosi
- Karen Cummings
- Dennis Cyr
- Michael Endres
- Joe Finamore
- Mark Golden
- Tom Hickerson
- Mary Kot
- Marlene Krul
- Tom Lemanski
- Michael McCormick
- Melissa McDonner
- Barbara Binnall Meldrum
- Mary Ann Milko
- Susan Neumann
- Barbara Novack
- Bob Novack
- Matthew Novak
- Guy & Titi Ratchford
- Grace Schmuck
- Scott Simons
- Joanne Smyth
- Gina Stahovick
- Elianna Grace Tomczak
- Delphine Wegryn



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, August 23

8:30am

- † Forgotten Souls in Purgatory— by The Kandler Family
- Intentions of Laura Somogy — by James

Tuesday, August 24

6:30pm

- † Nancy Komara — by Tom & Pam
- † Vincent Cvengros

Wednesday, August 25

8:30am

- † Rosemary Soga — by Mike & Kathy L'Esperance
- † Ed Reim — by Matthew & Amber Godlewski

Thursday, August 26

8:30am

- † Norbert & Ann Marie Biebuyck — by Family
- † William Kempt — by The IC Funeral Greeters

Friday, August 27

8:30am

- † Deceased Members of the Bahnsen & Toupin Families
- Blessings & Protection Upon Fr Joe Esper

Saturday, August 28

4:30pm

- Tim & Amanda Ruegsegger — Wedding Anniversary Blessings
by The Kandler Family

- † Fay Murray — by The Cornwell Family

Sunday, August 29

8:00am

- † Katie Meldrum — by Chris & Mary Jo Frank
- † Frank Carly — by Tom Neeb & Kathy James

10:00am

- For the People of Immaculate Conception Parish

12:00pm

- † Richard Petitpren — by Family
- Blessings & Protection Upon Fr Joe Esper — by IC Youth Group



Please Pray for our Military

- SSGT Chad Bohr, US Air Force
- Sgt Jason Finamore US Army
- Sgt Drake Jacobsen, US Army
- Alex Kurple, US Navy
- Fr. Lt. Tomek Maka, US Navy
- Sgt Mitchell Sikorski, USMC
- PS1, Felix Garcia, US Navy

Please send the name, branch of service and rank of any active Military persons to editor@iccatholic.org.



Today's Intentions

4:30pm

- † Edmund Fisher
- † Mary Ann Gladki

8:00am

- The People of IC

10:00am

- † Joe Savoyard
- † Catherine Fisher

12:00pm

- † Veronica Kish
- † Poor Souls in Purgatory

August 28 & 29, 2021

	Saturday 4:30pm	Sunday 8:00am	Sunday 10:00am	Sunday 12:00pm
ALTAR SERVERS	Celeste Nagorsen Deven Nagorsen	Katrina Foster	Samantha Winkle	Nikolai Zacharko
EMHC	Dcn Dave Ebner - Host (1) Celebrant - Host	Christina Foster - Host (1) Edward Foster - Host (2) Celebrant - Host	Deacon Ken - Host (1) Anna Adkins - Host (2) Celebrant - Host	Dcn Dave Ebner - Host (1) Ashley Sebastian - Host (2) Celebrant - Host
LECTORS	Dominic Schirmer	Mary Kelley	Brittany Davis	Lisa Bont (sub req)
USHERS	David DeGregory Greg Milbreath Oscar Stefani	Peter Cornwell James Mattina Christine Plegue Bob Tharrett	Jim Zeck Chris Barrett Dave Furtah Don Plegue Ron Vigneron	Tad Gabryel Don Claeys Tammie Thelen Aleksander Zacharko Sandra Zinevich
GREETERS		Mary Jo Frank	Kim Gutenschwager	Eliana Hogarth Bryant Sebastian
SACRISTAN	Tom Dunn	Ted Stawiasz	Janis Cornwell	Ed Gates



Thank You From St. Vincent dePaul

Thank you so very much to everyone that has donated to our fund. The generosity of IC parishioners is really incredible. You have helped many families that you may never even meet, which is a true testimony to your love of God and His children.

If you can find it in your heart & budget to help those in need, please look for envelopes at the exits. Or you may simply drop your contribution in the poor boxes also located at the exits. Checks may be payable to SVdP.

All donations are welcome and appreciated.



24th Annual Charitable Walk to Benefit Spero Pregnancy Center

Saturday, September 11th the Spero Pregnancy Center, formerly Blue Water Pregnancy Care Center, invites the community to participate in the 24th Annual Walk For Life benefit. Join us this year as we remember the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 with our Patriot's Day Walk for Life, Liberty and Justice for ALL.

Walkers should register no later than September 1st, so they have time to ask for pledges. Walk Registration forms are available on-line (www.BlueWaterBabies.org), or at the pregnancy center, 1211 Griswold Street in Port Huron. Sign in starts at 8:30 am and the walk begins at 9:00 am.

Spero is a 501c3 social impact, non-profit medical clinic empowering women in

the Blue Water Area with factual information about their bodies, pregnancy, and options while providing emotional & practical assistance to anyone experiencing unplanned or untimely pregnancies.

Clients receive free & confidential pregnancy tests, ultrasound, parenting classes, baby items, & community referrals. Supported entirely by donations from concerned and generous individuals, Spero helps nearly 1300 moms, babies and dads each year.

For further information contact Spero Center, Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Keighley, Outreach@BlueWaterBabies.org, 810-985-4673, www.BlueWaterBabies.org.



Stewardship in Action - Collection Update

August 2 - 8, 2021

Offertory

Envelopes	\$10,556.00
E-Giving	\$4,628.00
Loose.	<u>\$452.94</u>
TOTAL	\$15,636.94

Goal — \$12,500 per week

Thank You!



2021 Catholic Services Appeal

Pledged Amount:	\$71,022
Budgeted Goal:	\$125,230
Amount to Goal	\$54,208
Number Pledges Received	200

Thank You!

Everyday Stewardship — Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments Submission as Stewardship

We aren't comfortable with the idea of submission. Our society champions equality, and rightly so — but it's a mistake to think that submission is at odds with equality. To submit ourselves fully, we must first be free. We must first be our own masters. God has granted us that freedom with the salvation He offers. We are no longer the slaves of sin. Now **He asks us to be subordinate to one another, in the name of Christ.**

What a completely uncomfortable task! What He's asking is for us to be subordinate to the person who irritates us the most. The person we really can't stand. The person who doesn't respect us or appreciate what we have to offer. The person we think we are smarter than,

more talented than. The person we envy.

That's the real challenge of stewardship, isn't it? Subordination. Inconveniencing myself by giving of time, of money, of relationship. Putting the needs or wants of another above my own when they haven't done anything special to earn it.

Consider the cross — the most radical expression of submission, and of stewardship, that ever existed. If there was ever someone who deserved superiority, isn't it the God who let Himself be nailed to a tree, who gave so freely of His life, His body, His blood, His everything?

To look at him in his agony is to truly understand the beauty of submission — of laying down what you have for the good of the other. ©LPI

DIRECTORY

PARISH OFFICE

9764 Dixie Highway,
Ira Township, MI 48023
586-725-3051

FAITH FORMATION PHONE

586-725-1762

PASTOR

Fr. Joseph Esper, Ext. 113
parish@icatholic.org
(not private e-mail)

SENIOR DEACON

Kenneth Nowicki,
kgnowicki@sbcglobal.net
586-918-8949

DEACON

Dave Ebner
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PASTORAL ASSOCIATE/ DIR. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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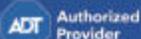
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