



IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH

414 E. NORTH BROADWAY COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

PARISH OFFICE
(614) 267-9241
SCHOOL OFFICE
(614) 267-6579
www.iccols.org

We are a welcoming Catholic parish of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ that fosters love, deepens faith and encourages respect and caring for fellow parishioners and neighbors through community conversations and action.

Celebration of

Holy Mass

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4 p.m.

Sunday: 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.

HOLY DAY MASSES

8:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. or as announced

Sacraments

RECONCILIATION

Fridays: Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass

Saturdays: 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are held on the first and third Sundays, following the 11:30 a.m. Mass and the second Saturday, following the 4:00 p.m. Mass. All first-time parents are asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Class before scheduling their child's Baptism. For class times, contact Sr. Ruth Hamel in the Parish Office.

MARRIAGE

Based on Diocesan guidelines, couples should contact the Parish Office at least twelve months in advance of the intended date. A marriage preparation program is required.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

Call the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241.

Available at any time.

FUNERAL MINISTRY

Family of deceased should contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.



Find us on
SOCIAL MEDIA

Immaculate Conception Parish



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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17
 4:00 p.m. Bob Roehrer †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18
 8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
 9:30 a.m. Catherine Canty Adkins †
 11:30 a.m. Kim Fields †

MONDAY, AUGUST 19
 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Dr. Frank Sobolewski †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20
 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Joseph Lynch †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21
 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Mark & Kevin Enke †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22
 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Lois Wornoff †

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23
 8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Maria Myers †

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24
 4:00 p.m. Joseph Oxley, Sr. †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25
 8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
 9:30 a.m. Noah Hummer †
 11:30 a.m. Jim McLaine †

† Deceased

WELCOME DESK

Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish. Welcome Desk volunteers are available each weekend to answer questions and assist with information as requested. Parish registration forms may be found at the Welcome Desk and in the Parish Office. Parishioners are asked to notify the office of any updates or changes in your family information.

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Fr. Matthew Hoover icoffice@iccols.org
Permanent Deacon Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell ccampbel@cducation.org
Weekend Assistants Msgr. Anthony Frecker
Pastoral Minister Sr. Ruth Hamel, O.P. srhamel@iccols.org

FAITH FORMATION

Adult Faith Formation Sr. Ruth Hamel, O.P. srhamel@iccols.org
Music Ministry Deanna Oppenheimer doppenheimer@iccols.org
Youth Ministry Gina Cecutti gcecutti@iccols.org
P.S.R. Coordinator Paulette Mudrey icpsr@iccols.org

PARISH OFFICE STAFF Phone: (614) 267-9241 Fax: (614) 267-7720

Parish Business Administrator John Bernard jbernard@iccols.org
Marketing & Mission Theresa Vivona tvivona@iccols.org
Administrative Assistant Karen Cannell icoffice@iccols.org
Facilities Manager Keith Altier

SCHOOL STAFF Phone: (614) 267-6579 Fax: (614) 267-2549

Principal Colleen Kent cokent@cducation.org
Assistant Principal Rick Logue rlogue@cducation.org
Office Manager Marina Hachwa mhachwa@cducation.org
Preschool Erika Bardnell ebardnell@cducation.org
Secretary Peggy Heffernan pheffern@cducation.org
School Age Child Care Mary Louise West mlwest@iccols.org, (614) 267-0239

PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

Faith-Based Counselor Mary Ann Jepsen jepsen.ma@gmail.com, (614) 309-2270
Planned Giving Liaison Kelly Noll knoll@gbq.com, (614) 352-1655

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Finance Council Chairman Dirk Greene dirk.greene@spgroup.com
Parish Council President Heather MacKinnon iccolsparishcouncil@gmail.com
School Board President Tim Conway tim.conway@shawinc.com

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – AUGUST 24 & 25, 2019

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Mary Goodburn Pete Koloski Bob Steinbauer Don Muenz Mary M. Schultheis	Jerry Bennett Jeanne Stoker Marilynne Poirier Don Harbaugh Lynn Owings Dan Costello	Mary Ann Rivera Rich Viertel Toni Elovitz Jim Manofsky Sarah Moore Doug Holcomb Katie McCann	Dave Wall Marjorie Taylor Bob Taylor Jeff Lohrer Bob Poirier
LECTOR	Nathan Dedino	Layton McCallum	Daric Galden	Laura Wise
ALTAR SERVERS	Kara Baetz Grace Billingslea Cameron Billingslea Chelsea Doon	Riley McGee Davis Minzler Elly Morrison	Landon Purcell Sylvia Rinderle Paul Rivera Audrey Ruschau	Grace Ortega James Packard Joy Packard Luke Ponesse
USHERS	E.J. Davis Mike Hatz John Groeber	Chris Mahler Ralph Mathews Michael Girard	Jeff Ortega John Ryle John Longbrake Sean O'Neil	Bob Poirier Bob Taylor Jeff Doon Brian Byrne
WELCOME DESK	Pat Conway	Diana Marie Winkler Suzanne Smith Ronnie Hiss	Lynn Boardwine	Janine Oman Anne Campbell Carolyn Smith

AUGUST CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary lamp burns constantly to proclaim the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle. For the month of August, the Sanctuary candle in the Adoration Chapel was donated by **an anonymous donor**. The three Sanctuary candles in the church were donated by the **Stoker Family**. Our thanks go to these families for their generosity.



PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AT MASS – OPEN MASSES IN AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

Please check the schedule to see if there is a Sunday Mass in August or September that you/your family

are able to carry up the offertory gifts. In the offertory procession, the bread and wine are presented (offered) by the faithful to God before they are consecrated. Members of the parish are invited to bring up the gifts at the Mass(es) of their choosing, throughout the year.

To participate in this ministry, go to www.bit.ly/ICPresentationofGifts and sign up for the Mass or Masses at which you and your family wish to carry up the gifts.

IN OUR PARISH

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome these new parishioners to the parish: **Alexis, Chris and Harrison Madden; Maria Baird; Mario and Mackenzie Traina**. We invite and encourage you to join us as we pray, work and play together and hope that you find a welcoming and spiritual home here at Immaculate Conception.

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

IC Women's Club is looking for volunteers to help clean the church. The commitment is about 90 minutes every six weeks and cleaning can be done on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday morning. Please email Cindy Colucy at ckcolucy@gmail.com if you are interested in joining this important ministry.



SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE – DONORS STILL NEEDED

Our annual summer blood drive is this Monday in Marian Hall from 1 p.m.-7 p.m. If you last donated on or before

Monday, June 24, 2019, you may be eligible to donate. Come to donate and you will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card* via email, on behalf of Amazon** and a Roosters coupon for \$5 off, while supplies last!

To schedule an appointment, visit RedCrossBlood.org: sponsor code: IC, or call 1-800-RED CROSS. If you have any questions, please call Sue Beman at (614) 214-5333.



NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

The IC Knights of Columbus will meet in Marian Hall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, August 22, 2019 for their monthly business meeting. **The meeting is open to any men interested in joining.**

- Knights helped with Tools for Catholic Schools supplies.
- Knights will help set up for the Blood Drive this Sunday at 7 p.m. before the 8 p.m. Rosary at the Grotto.
- Knights helped with food in conjunction with God's Hygiene Back to School initiative in Linden last Saturday.

For more information about joining the Knights, contact Jim Andracki or Sean Murray at Jandracki8796@wowway.com or sean.murray84@gmail.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES AT IC

Do you have the desire to serve the Lord and your parish through music? If so, please come check out one of our choirs and enjoy being a part of our music ministry community! It is helpful if you have some musical knowledge or training, but not necessary. Contact the Music Director, Deanna Oppenheimer, at doppenheimer@iccols.org or (614) 267-9241, ext. 289 for more information or join us for a rehearsal.

9:30 Contemporary Ensemble:

The Contemporary Ensemble involves keyboard, guitars, flute, voices (of course!) and occasionally other instruments. This group sings/plays contemporary liturgical music, while occasionally adding music of rich, sacred tradition with a contemporary flair. The season runs from September through May and rehearsals are held on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:15 p.m. in the church choir loft. This ensemble unites with the Traditional Choir for Holy Days and Feast Days. The first rehearsal is Tuesday, September 3.

11:30 Traditional Choir:

This choir is most often accompanied by organ and sings a variety of styles of music, primarily focusing on traditional liturgical music. The season runs from September through May and rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7-8:15 p.m. in Room A of the rectory. This choir unites with the Contemporary Ensemble for Holy Days and Feasts. The first rehearsal is Thursday, September 5.

Resurrection Choir:

The Resurrection Choir sings for the funeral Masses at Immaculate Conception Parish. Members of this choir rehearse several times a year and are notified by the Music Director of upcoming funerals. This is a great choir to join if you have a flexible schedule or are retired! Please join us for a short rehearsal on Tuesday morning, September 24 from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in Room A of the rectory.

ITEMS LEFT IN MARIAN HALL KITCHEN

The following items were found in and around Marian Hall: baseball caps, little girls' shoes, cake pans, shirts and sunglasses. Please contact the parish office if any of these items could be yours. Also, items are often left in the Church and can be found in the ushers' room at the southeast corner of the church.

Did you lose a wedding band while attending the Festival? A wedding band was found in the bingo tent and was turned in to the parish office. If this is yours, please call the office at (614) 267-9241. If it is not yours, please spread the word.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS

The Diocesan Recreation Association wants you! It is time to begin forming your parish CYO volleyball team. Girls in grades 9-12 are eligible to play. Games will be played on weekends, beginning September 14; all teams must be formed by September 5. Coaches meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4, at 5:30 p.m., at 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus. Once your team is formed, please notify Patty Shipe at (614) 795-8040 or pshipep@gmail.com, or Marty Raines at (614) 241-2580 or mraines@columbuscatholic.org. Contact either Patty or Marty with questions.



Lord come to my aid!



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 • Offertory Report 8/11/2019

	8/11/2019	YTD 2019/2020
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 20,542.50	\$ 125,312.00
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 647.00	\$ 3,407.30
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 21,189.50	\$ 128,719.30
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Weekly Overage/(Shortage)	(\$ 3,810.50)	(\$ 21,280.70)
<hr/>		
Families Receiving Envelopes		1,420
Envelopes Received		195
Families on EFT		330

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."

- 1 Pt 4:10

PERPETUAL ADORATION AT IC

The entrance to the St. John Paul II Perpetual Adoration Chapel is located in the Education Center at the northeast corner of the building. The chapel is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To gain entrance, ring the doorbell or knock and an adorer will let you into the building. To sign up for a weekly hour or to get requests for subs, please contact the parish office or contact Bill or Mary Beth Hinger at bhinger@columbus.rr.com or call (614) 560-1555.

The following hours are open:

Sunday

..... 7-8 a.m.
 8-9 a.m.
 1-2 p.m.

Monday

..... 12 midnight -1 a.m.
 1-2 a.m.
 11 a.m.-12 noon

Tuesday

..... 4-5 a.m.
 10-11 a.m.

Wednesday

..... 11 a.m.-12 noon
 11 p.m.-12 midnight

Thursday

..... 12-1 p.m.
 1-2 p.m.

Saturday

..... 4-5 a.m.
 1-2 p.m.
 7-8 p.m.
 8-9 p.m.

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FREELY, TOTALLY, FAITHFULLY!

The love shared between a husband and wife is given freely, totally, and faithfully, with a potential to bring new life. Some summarize this as "babies and bonding." Natural Family Planning (NFP) respects the dual love-giving and life-giving dimensions of marriage in a way that contraception cannot. Engaged and married couples are invited to learn about the NFP difference by visiting <http://www.columbuscatholic.org/natural-family-planning> or contacting the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC SINGLES CONFERENCE

Join hundreds of single Catholics from across the country at the 19th National Catholic Singles Conference - October 25-27, 2019 at The Diocese of Nashville Catholic Pastoral Center. The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers (Sr. Helena Burns, Dr. Kerry Cronin, Damon Owens, and David Clayton) as well as music, social events, prayer, food, fellowship and more. Space is limited, so register now! Enter promo code **NASH19** for a \$20 discount (promo ends August 22, 2019). For more information and to register, visit www.NationalCatholicSingles.com. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH

Blog: icyouthablaze.wordpress.com

On Twitter & Instagram @icyouthablaze

For questions, contact our youth minister
Gina Cecutti at gcecutti@iccols.org

27th ANNUAL BIRTHRIGHT LUNCHEON

Birthright of Columbus, a pregnancy support service, is holding the 27th Annual Luncheon on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at 11 a.m. at Mozart's Café, 4784 N. High St., Columbus. There will be a style show, silent auction and raffle. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. It's a wonderful opportunity to support the pro-life movement and a great time for friends to socialize. For reservations, call Mary Jo at (614) 235-7465. The deadline for reservations is September 16.

GOVERNOR SIGNS STATE BUDGET BILL

The Catholic Conference of Ohio commends Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly for passing a responsible and compassionate state budget. The bill supports at-risk children, foster care programs, families of multi-system youth with an intent to end child custody relinquishment for the sole purpose of accessing needed services, hunger programs, housing, crisis pregnancy centers, and clean water. The budget also expands school choice programs and maintains support for auxiliary services for Catholic schools. Thank you for your advocacy. For budget details, visit www.ohiocathconf.org.

MASS OF HEALING

Do you need hope? Do you NEED HEALING? Come experience the AWE and WONDER of the Lord at the foot of the Blessed Sacrament! The Columbus Catholic Renewal is proud to announce a Healing Mass and Mini-Conference with Father McAlear at St. Peter's Catholic Church on September 13 and 14. Father McAlear, from Boston Massachusetts, will be providing teachings about forgiveness, healing, faith, and the Eucharist. Please visit www.cccolumbus.org for details and to register for this free event. You may also email info@cccolumbus.org or call (614) 500-8178.

TIME FOR A GETAWAY!

Attend a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. The next weekend is September 13-15 in Central Ohio. For more information or to apply, contact Paul & Marilou Clouse at (614) 834-6880 or visit our website at wwmecolumbus.org.

SCHOOL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL NEWS

First Day of School for Preschool - 8th Grade - Wednesday, August 21, 2019.

Please keep all the students and staff at Immaculate Conception School in your prayers as we kick off the 2019-2020 school year. We are blessed to have a wonderful school that focuses on spiritual, academic, emotional, and physical growth. The staff is ready and we look forward to seeing all the children on Wednesday, August 21.

Preschool and Kindergarten Open House on Sunday, August 19 from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

This Open House is designed for those children enrolled in IC school. Bring your Kindergarten or preschooler into their classroom early, meet the teachers, and take a peek at their new space. We hope to see you Sunday.

Meet the Teacher, Thursday, August 29, 7 p.m.

All school parents are invited to our Meet the Teacher Night in Marian Hall on Thursday, August 29. The entire school staff will be introduced and on hand to share an overview of the important events throughout the year. Teachers will give their presentation three times to allow those with multiple children an opportunity to listen in.

Aftercare Parents (SCC) - Part Time Rate

Attention AfterCare parents, we have added a part-time tuition rate for families with committed hours. If you are interested in our open spots, please email Mary Louise West at mlwest@iccols.org to make arrangements.

HOLY FIRE GREAT LAKES - A MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT LIKE NO OTHER!

Holy Fire Great Lakes takes place Sunday, October 13, 2019 at the Bowling Green University Stroh Center. The producers of the nation's largest Catholic youth event, NCCY, invite young people in grades 6-8 to a one-day experience of dynamic speakers, music, and the Sacrament of the Eucharist like they have never before experienced. At Holy Fire, young people will be invited and challenged to embrace their baptismal call and embrace the relevant and powerful gospel of Jesus. **The Diocese of Columbus is offering a special ticket package, which includes Holy Fire Great Lakes, with bus transportation and a sack lunch, and registration to the 2020 Bosco Bash on March 7, 2020** all for one low price of \$70! For more information and to register, go to <https://columbuscatholic.org/HOLY-FIRE>.

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

St. Vincent Family Center is responding to the most urgent crisis our community faces: the damaging effects of the opioid epidemic, which has resulted in an increasing need for foster homes. The demand for compassionate foster parents is greater than ever, as children are being abandoned by addiction with no place to go. St. Vincent Family Center is deeply committed to providing these children with a safe family and a loving home while their families heal. St. Vincent's partners every step of the way - from initial call to licensing. Most importantly, St. Vincent's provides expert treatment to help parents foster a child AND coach, encourage, and support. If you know of families willing to learn more about what it means to be a foster parent, have them contact St. Vincent Family Center at www.svfc.org or call (614) 940-6399.

BLUE MASS

The annual Mass for law enforcement and first responder personnel is Wednesday, September 11, at 5 p.m., at St. Timothy Church, Columbus.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

The deadline for all articles for the Sunday bulletin is Friday afternoon, (9) days before the article appears in the bulletin. Please include contact information with a phone number and email address. Your written submission may be sent to the parish office or emailed to ic.bulletin@iccols.org. All bulletin items and flyers must be approved by the parish office. Notices for bulletin boards must also be approved by the parish office before posting.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PAGE

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, August 18, 2019

The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechism Corner

“Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. The virtue of fortitude enables one to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It disposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. ‘The Lord is my strength and my song.’ [Ps. 118:14] ‘In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.’ [Jn 16:33]” (CCC, 1808)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Brothers and sisters: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith... [Hebrews 12:1-4]

Alleluia, Alleluia. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia, Alleluia.

“Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!....

[Luke 12:49-53]

Help Jesus start a fire today. Go and preach the Good News!!

The **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** is the process through which persons inquire into and determine if they are called to live out their faith life as a member of the Roman Catholic Community. RCIA is open to any adult who wishes to learn more about the Catholic faith, including those interested in becoming members of the Catholic Church. Meeting times are Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm and Sunday mornings during the 11:30am Mass. **Adult Catholic parishioners are needed in a variety of volunteer capacities such as: companion sponsor to a candidate or catechumen, RCIA Team member, and catechist.** Contact Sr. Ruth Hamel, O.P. at srhamel@iccols.org or call 614-267-9241 x 293.

Why rituals?

Root Your Family in Rituals

Rituals can be elaborate or simple. They may be connected to:

- Special life events, like weddings and graduations
- Annual happenings, like birthdays and religious holy days
- Daily occurrences, like saying good-night at bedtime
- Certain locations, like Grandma’s house where we always play cards

The meaning of rituals goes beyond their surface details. When a family gets together for traditional celebrations, they are also celebrating the ties that bind their lives together, spanning generations and linking them to a larger community. It is through rituals that we build a sense of the rhythms of life.

Roots and resilience

Parents are called on to provide their children with both roots (for stability) and wings (for growth). Rituals and tradition form a large part of the roots. They create a sense of predictability and stability, helping the child to define his or her identity both inside the family and in relation to society. The feeling of belonging strengthens both the family and the individuals in it; contributing to what is called “resilience.” this is the ability to thrive in spite of experiencing difficult circumstances.

The pressures of work often leave little time for families to share traditions. In blended families and those with different backgrounds, keeping up traditions of past generations can prove impossible.

Making room for rituals

So for instance, if you don’t have time to cook all the elaborate dishes associated with an idealized celebration, what can you do?

How can you create traditions you can live with?

- Be flexible and work with what fits your own lifestyle. This may mean scaling down your expectations.
- Acknowledge the new rituals your family has created and appreciate their underlying meaning. Once you realize the importance of these gestures, you can reinforce them.
- Concentrate on the essentials by looking back at what stands out in your own memories of childhood. One mother recalls, “I couldn’t tell you any of the gifts I got, but I remember the special days and the celebrations: the feelings, the songs, the family stories, even the smells come back.”

Spending time together—not buying bigger presents or making elaborate decorations—is how parents give their children a rich heritage of memories. The gift of shared moments marked out and made memorable through rituals—these are the lasting roots parents can nurture year round.

Betsy Mann at www.familyservicecanada.org

<http://www.colsdioc.org/Offices/MarriageandFamilyLifeOffice.aspx>

exploring THE SUNDAY READINGS

THE TRUTH ISN'T ALWAYS FUN: TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 38:4-6, 8-70

"Jeremiah is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin."

Good news is always preferred to bad. We'd like to learn that we've aced the test, earned the raise, won the lottery, or gained the unqualified admiration of everyone in the room after giving our talk. While these outcomes are most pleasing, they may not be the most useful to our growth. This is especially true if we don't deserve the A, gained the raise for nefarious reasons, will ruin ourselves and our families with the lottery money, or gave a real stinker of a talk without knowing it. Truth can hurt – but it can also be vastly helpful. Prophets like Jeremiah deliver the God's honest truth to rulers who tend to surround themselves with yes-men. Such truth is not well received. Biblical prophets are often assassinated for their trouble. Unpopular truth is often twisted by those intent on discrediting it: "There is no global warming." "We have no obligation to people less fortunate." Prophets themselves are frequently libeled to cast doubt on their message. But you just can't bury the truth at the bottom of a cistern for long.

» *When has accepting an unpleasant truth led to positive consequences?*

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 12:1-4

For the sake of the joy that lay before Him He endured the cross.

I'm ten times more willing to take up a difficult task if someone promises me ice cream afterward. But that's just me. Some of you may not be bought so cheaply. What does it take to get you to do the hard thing? Money? Time off? A statuette for the mantel? What if the hard thing happens to be personally costly, possibly to the point of drawing blood or even threatening your life? For me, ice cream is no longer sufficient payoff. Under those circumstances I need to know that the value of the tough assignment is going to bring a huge social reward or avert a devastating crisis. Only for actual heroes and martyrs is the risk of one's life worth the goal of a greater benefit for strangers. It's the price Jesus is willing to pay on the cross. Our joy is bought by His pain. But what if you or I risk everything for strangers who don't even care that we did? Silent martyrs go to their graves in every generation, unsung and unnoticed.

» *When have you received a great benefit from someone you can never repay?*

GOSPEL

LUKE 12:49-53

"Do you think I have come to establish peace? No, I tell you, but rather division."

Many of us are fans of Jesus the peacenik. A generation ago every Catholic I know used to have a plastic plaque on the wall that said: "Peace to all who enter here." Indeed, we'd prefer to have our guests experience peace in our homes. We like to envision our personal space as a sanctuary of tranquility. Yet when Jesus was brought to the temple as a baby, the holy man Simeon warned he would be a sign of contradiction. Jesus wasn't forecast to be a bridge-builder but a troublemaker who would draw lines in the sand that would be painful for some to cross. Those who embraced the way of Jesus would find those lines drawn across their own homes. That peacenik Jesus wasn't evident in his own generation. Everywhere he went, some folks loved him and others wanted him dead. If you've ever lost a friend because of your faith, if you've been dismissed or put down or deserted in Jesus' name, that's all part of the territory. Peace is coming, but maybe not today.

» *How can you answer the call to be a peacemaker but accept that personal serenity may not be part of the package?*

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