



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



@ICColumbus



immaculateconceptioncolumbus

Immaculate Conception School



@ICRamsColumbus



@ic_school



MASS INTENTIONS

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 †

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Cory Hayes †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. For the Special Intention of John Fields

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Joseph & Catherine Palazzo †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Michael Weaver †

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Beverly Duffy †

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

4:00 p.m. Charles Cull †

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

9:30 a.m. Payton Elizabeth Young †

11:30 a.m. Jim Grimm †

† 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@cdeducation.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 Administrative Assistant Theresa Vivona..... tvivona@iccols.org
Facilities Manager Karen Cannell icoffice@iccols.org
 Keith Altier

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

Principal Colleen Kent..... cokent@cdeducation.org
Assistant Principal Rick Logue..... rlogue@cdeducation.org
Office Manager Marina Hachwa..... mhachwa@cdeducation.org
Preschool Secretary Erika Bardnell..... ebardnell@cdeducation.org
 Peggy Heffernan..... pheffern@cdeducation.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 31 & SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Bobbi Mitch Mark Kelsey Betty Kelsey Dom Do Christine Sapp	Marilynne Poirier Kathy Copeland Suzanne Smith Jerry Bennett Paul Duffy Chris Mahler	Cecilia Bruzzese Diane Schlegel Wendi Jenkins Karen Cannell Kim Cannell Bob Welsh Dee Dee Dodane Anna Beharry	Sharon Tantes Susan Gillespie Ron Bitler Patty Bitler Bob Poirier
LECTOR	E.J. Davis	Mary Ann Grossman	Dean Monin	Dan Wander
ALTAR SERVERS	Ian Fountain Rosalie Gengras Mia Gill Fiona Isbell	Gabe Muetzel Grace Pavich Isabella Sloan	Gus Ruschau Kenna Ryan Lauren Sloan Audrey Smith	Lilly Shillingburg Anna Stauffer Jack Summanen Reese Tucker
USHERS	E.J. Davis Mike Hatz John Groeber	Chris Mahler Ralph Mathews Michael Girard	Todd Farrell Scott Miller Jim Emley Kriss Eglitis	Bob Poirier Bob Taylor Jeff Doon
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 SEPTEMBER

Please check the schedule to see if there is a Sunday Mass in 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: **Brian, Tiffany, Claire and Luke Gibbons; Matthew Adams**. 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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: We welcome this new member of the parish: **Braxton Alexander Miskimen**, who was baptized on August 18, 2019.

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.

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS REGISTRATION

The **I.C. Wee Care Nursery** is a complimentary Nursery offered during 9:30 a.m. Mass to all registered I.C. parishioners and is held in the Parish Education Center next to the grotto. It is offered for children ages six months through three years (or potty trained). The Nursery is fully staffed and runs from mid September until mid-May. Registration will follow all Masses on Sunday, September 8 in Marian Hall. For more information, please call Wendi Jenkins at (614) 447-9335.

Sunday Preschool is for 3-, 4-, and 5(K)-year-olds and meets during the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday. The curriculum is designed to allow children to discover God's presence and love in the experience of self, family, neighborhood and the larger church community. Three-year-olds must be potty-trained. Registration is September 8 in Marian Hall after all Masses.

Parish School of Religion – The parish religious education program provides religious instruction and sacramental preparation for parish children who do not attend the parish school. Registration for Parish School of Religion (PSR), grades 1-8 will be held in Marian Hall after all Masses on Sunday, September 8. If your child/children will be receiving a sacrament this year, and they were not baptized at Immaculate Conception parish, please bring a copy of their Baptism certificate. A calendar and more information will be provided.

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.



SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE - RESULTS

Amazing, Wonderful, Thankful - words cannot describe the success of the August drive. Once again, the Immaculate Conception community showed their giving hearts by donating blood, baking homemade goodies and volunteering. The Women's Club annual summer blood drive surpassed the goal. Sixty-two units of blood were collected, which could potentially save 186 lives. Thank you.

INVITATION TO DIACONATE ORDINATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

It is with great joy, trusting in God's plan, that I share with you the news of my Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacon. I will be ordained on **Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 9 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral in downtown Columbus**. It will be great to have you there with family, friends, clergy and brother seminarians.

Please do pray for me and my brother seminarians as we enter into another year of formation.

May our Lord Jesus Christ be praised always!
Eugene Joseph, Summer Seminarian



Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 • Offertory Report 8/18/2019

	8/18/2019	YTD 2019/2020
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 21,682.51	\$146,994.51
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 587.88	\$ 3,995.18
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 22,270.39	\$150,989.69
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 175,000.00
Weekly Overage/(Shortage)	(\$ 2,729.61)	(\$ 24,010.31)
<hr/>		
Families Receiving Envelopes		1,420
Envelopes Received		229
Families on EFT		330

Manage your electronic contributions online! Visit www.iccols.org and click "Offertory & Stewardship" under the Giving menu. Thank you for your financial support of our Catholic faith here in our parish.

"My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."
 - **Philippians 4:19**

PSR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Anyone interested in the opportunity to deepen their faith by teaching or assisting a teacher for 1st-8th grade Parish School of Religion (PSR) students, please contact Paulette Mudrey at icpsr@iccols.org or (614) 668-1292.

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.



NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

- Knights helped with the summer blood drive last week, set up and clean up.
- Knights met for the August monthly meeting last Thursday to discuss how we can better help our Parish and our community.
- Christians are at risk in areas all around the globe. The Knights of Columbus has responded with the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, which provides humanitarian assistance, primarily in Iraq, Syria and the surrounding regions. Help us help others. Get involved. For more information about joining the Knights, contact Jim Andracki or Sean Murray at Jandracki8796@wowway.com or sean.murray84@gmail.com.

SOCIAL CONCERNS: OPEN SHELTER DINNER – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

The Open Shelter ministry serves the homeless and marginally-housed persons in Columbus. Our parish assists in this ministry by serving dinner one evening a month, year-round, at the Broad Street United Methodist Church. Due to Labor Day, the next date is Thursday, September 5, 2019. We need volunteers to make sloppy joes, macaroni & cheese or cookies. If you are interested, please call Cheryl Costello at 614-774-8879. Food must be hot and will be picked up behind the rectory at 5 p.m. that Monday. Arrangements can be made for pickup if this time is inconvenient. Donations for buns, bananas and drinks are welcome.

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.



Sign-up TODAY and save \$20!

Sundays from 2:30-4 p.m.
 through November 3

<https://www.fpu.com/1091487>



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH

Blog: icyouthablaze.wordpress.com
On Twitter & Instagram @icyouthablaze
 For questions, contact our youth minister
 Gina Cecutti at gcecutti@iccols.org

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.

more information and to register, go to <https://columbuscatholic.org/HOLY-FIRE>.

BLUE MASS

St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, 43220, and St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host The Blue Mass on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 5 p.m. The Blue Mass is an opportunity to honor and pray for all active, retired and deceased police, firefighters, and emergency medical services and to remember the 2,973 who lost their lives in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. All active and retired police, fire, and emergency medical services in the greater Columbus area and their families are invited. The Celebrant and Homilist for The Blue Mass will be The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, DD, Bishop of Columbus. **Let us all join together to honor our police, firefighters, and emergency medical services, to ask for God's blessing, to keep them safe, and to guide them in their duties.**

ST. MARTHA GIVING CIRCLE

Join us on Wednesday, September 4 at 5 p.m. at 257 E. Broad Street. Have you been curious about the St. Martha Giving Circle (The Marthas)? Two members will speak about their experiences and what it meant to be a Martha. Additionally, you will learn about the amazing things the group does and what a typical year looks like. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP by September 2 to Kristin Shuey at (614) 443-8893 or kshuey@catholic-foundation.org.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MICROLOAN PROGRAM FINANCIAL MENTOR TRAINING

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul started a small loan program to help our neighbors, who have little or no access to regular loans through banks, avoid payday lenders.

We are currently looking for people who are willing to be financial mentors to borrowers in our loan program. Microloans have improved the lives of our borrowers by providing not only the low-interest loans, but also by providing access to a financial mentor who can work with the person to improve credit scores and increase the understanding and use of a variety of financial tools. We know from the experiences of our current mentors and borrowers, that this relationship has positively impacted everyone involved.

The curriculum includes tips on relationship building, background about the Microloan program, understanding poverty, and an introduction to using financial empowerment tools, including *Your Money, Your Goals* from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Those who are interested in becoming a financial mentor, including previously trained mentors who want a refresher, are invited to register online by September 18. You can also call or text Deb Zabloudil at (614) 507-5345. Lunch and materials are provided by St. Vincent de Paul Systemic Change programs. Registration is required so we can insure that we have adequate

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 Street, 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.

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.

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 Stroth Center. The producers of the nation's largest Catholic youth event, NCYC, 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**

SCHOOL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL NEWS

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PAGE

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, August 25, 2019

The Twenty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time

Catechism Corner

“Christ enables us to *live in him* all that he himself lived, and *he lives it in us*. ‘By his Incarnation, he, the Son of God, has in a certain way united himself with each man.’¹⁹³ We are called only to become one with him, for he enables us as the members of his Body to share in what he lived for us in his flesh as our model:

“We must continue to accomplish in ourselves the stages of Jesus’ life and his mysteries and often to beg him to perfect and realize them in us and in his whole Church...For it is the plan of the Son of God to make us and the whole Church partake in his mysteries and to extend them to and continue them in us and in his whole Church.

This is his plan for fulfilling his mysteries in us.”¹⁹⁴ (CCC, 521)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

193: *Gaudium et Spes* 22 § 2. 194: St. John Eudes, *Liturgy of the Hours* Week 33, Friday Office of Readings.

FORMED PICKS FOR THIS WEEK:

WATCH/LISTEN:

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time—August 25, 2019 “*Opening the Word™, Year C - Ordinary Time*”

LISTEN:

“The Legends of Robin Hood” Augustine Institute Radio Theatre Augustine Institute | 348 min.

Featuring over 60 actors, cinematic sound and original music, *The Legends of Robin Hood* is an exciting 12-part audio drama from the award-winning Augustine Institute.

WATCH:

Wild Goose: Discovering A Deeper Relationship With The Holy Spirit.

Children and Teens: “The Animated Bible Series: The Creation” STUDIO: Vision Video

The Animated Bible Series, currently in production, is the world’s first visual narrative of the entire Bible from creation and the fall to the kings and prophets, to the coming of the Christ and His final Revelation.

Episode 1: The Creation highlights Genesis chapter 1-3 revealing God’s creation, the fall of man, God’s judgment on mankind and on the crafty serpent, the banishing of Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden and the tree of life, and the promise of future redemption.

WATCH/STUDY:

“Parenting in God’s Plan—Me and My House:” Module 1; Hosted by Patrick Sullivan.

“Augustine” STUDIO Vision Video Hosted by Mike Aquilina. Run Time: 59 mins.

“Catholic Heroes of the Faith: The Story of Saint Augustine” Herald Entertainment, Inc. Run Time: 36 mins.

Symbolon: Knowing the Faith: Session 3: “The Bible: God’s Love Letter to Humanity.”— Augustine Institute.

READ:

“Saint Augustine’s Confessions in Latin and English”

AUTHOR: St. Augustine TRANSLATOR: William Watts Ignatius Press

This version of Augustine’s Confessions contains each “book,” or chapter, in the original Latin, followed by the same book translated into English by William Watts.

“Because God Is Real: Sixteen Questions, One Answer” by Peter J. Kreeft -- Ignatius Press Pages: 237

Pray, Pray, Pray

CCC - 2653 The Church “forcefully and specially exhorts all the Christian faithful . . . to learn ‘the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ’ (*Phil* 3:8) by frequent reading of the divine Scriptures. . . . Let them remember, however, that prayer should accompany the reading of Sacred Scripture, so that a dialogue takes place between God and man. For ‘we speak to him when we pray; we listen to him when we read the divine oracles.’⁴

CCC – 2655 In the sacramental liturgy of the Church, the mission of Christ and of the Holy Spirit proclaims, makes present, and communicates the mystery of salvation, which is continued in the heart that prays. The spiritual writers sometimes compare the heart to an altar. Prayer internalizes and assimilates the liturgy during and after its celebration. Even when it is lived out “in secret,”⁵ prayer is always prayer of the Church; it is a communion with the Holy Trinity.⁷

CCC – 2662 The Word of God, the liturgy of the Church, and the virtues of faith, hope, and charity are sources of prayer.

CCC – 2683 The witnesses who have preceded us into the kingdom,⁴¹ especially those whom the Church recognizes as saints, share in the living tradition of prayer by the example of their lives, the transmission of their writings, and their prayer today. They contemplate God, praise him and constantly care for those whom they have left on earth. When they entered into the joy of their Master, they were “put in charge of many things.”⁴² Their intercession is their most exalted service to God’s plan. We can and should ask them to intercede for us and for the whole world.

[4. DV25; cf. *Phil* 3:8; St. Ambrose, *De Officiis ministrorum* 1, 20, 88: PL 16, 50.—6. Cf. *Mt*.6:6—7. GILH 9./ 41. Cf. *Heb* 12:1—42. Cf. *Mt* 25:21.]

ARE YOU CALLED TO THE JOURNEY? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process through which adults experience Catholicism and discern if they are called to live out their Christianity as a member of the Catholic Church. The 2019-2020 Catechumenate Period of the RCIA process will begin in September. Could the Holy Spirit be prompting YOU to come and see what it is all about?

Perhaps, you are being called to help with the process as a sponsor, or team member. For more information, call Sr. Ruth at the rectory office: 614-267-9241 X293. Or, E-mail at srhamel@iccols.org Thank you for responding to God’s call!

exploring THE SUNDAY READINGS

GLIMPSES OF THE BOTTOM LINE: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 66:18-21

I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory.

Think about the serials you watch regularly on television, or the news stories you follow eagerly as events unfold. What invests you in one particular saga more than others? What are the elements that make this story worth pursuing? Often, what drives our interest in a drama, whether fictional or current events, is the people involved. Will they survive the circumstances that have befallen them? Will heroes triumph and villains come to justice? Will nature be a help or harm to the community at risk? What will be the final outcome of all this striving and hoping?

In the final chapter of his prophecy, Isaiah tells us where the anguish of his generation is going in the long run. The God of creation will gather all nations – not just Israel, but even nations that have never heard of Israel's God – and draw them together into a single community united in a common hope. This prophecy is both a consolation and a warning. God intends to bless all the earth, so we might want to reconsider any stances of exclusion.

» Are there people I would prefer to leave out of the master plan of divine rescue? What steps can I take toward peace and reconciliation?

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 12:5-7, 11-13

"For whom the Lord loves, he disciplines."

Nothing good happens in a classroom without discipline. When a teacher loses control of the students, chaos ensues and the lesson goes up in smoke. Parents, too, know that one important way to love a child is to set constraints on his or her freedom. Such discipline keeps a child safe from harm and also allows the child to grow in the incalculable blessing of self-control.

We train our pets, of course, so they make better companions in our co-habitation. In more subtle ways we even train each other: in the home, the workplace, and the special sphere of friendship. This subtle shaping of the terms of our relationship has led me to know, for example, not to talk to my friend Erin before she has her morning coffee. It informs me that my siblings need to drop out of sight now and then to tend to their inner work. We teach each other how to avoid pressing buttons or how to frame bad news so we can hear it more readily. And in all these ways and more, we learn how to love each other well.

» Compose a list of "Five Rules Everyone Who Loves Me Should Observe." What sort of rules has God given you to teach you how to love?

GOSPEL

LUKE 13:22-30

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

Isaiah and Jesus seem to be having an ideological fistfight this weekend! Isaiah says the way to salvation is wide and user-friendly. Jesus insists the gate of admission is narrow and "many" who expect to get in will find the door closed in their faces. We Christians suspect that in matters of doctrine, Jesus is a bigger authority than Isaiah. But the truth is, it makes us uneasy when the Bible apparently contradicts itself.

Yet both authorities are making the same claim to different audiences. In the sixth century BC, Isaiah's community had just returned from Babylonian exile and was understandably down on non-Israelites. Not so fast, the prophet says: will you reject those whom God welcomes to share in divine blessings? Meanwhile, the crowd around Jesus was plenty sure they were God's darlings and everyone else was an abomination. So Jesus points out that the gate will close on the self-righteous, even as it opens for folks in all four directions. Isaiah and Jesus are, despite their Testaments, on the same page.

» What's required for entry into the reign of God: amassing sacraments, keeping commandments, showing mercy, or – ?

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