



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 10
 4:00 p.m. Tom Litzinger †
SUNDAY, AUGUST 11
 8:00 a.m. The Rarick Family †
 9:30 a.m. For the People of the Parish
 11:30 a.m. Ann & Jim Kirwan †

MONDAY, AUGUST 12

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Mary De Vol †

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Genevieve Durbin †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. For the Intention of Trevor Crawford

THURSDAY, AUGUST 15

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. For the Special Intention
 of the Peoples Family

7:30 p.m. For the People of the Parish

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
 8:30 a.m. Elliott & Alice McCallum †

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 †

† 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 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@cducation.org
Assistant Principal Rick Logue rlogue@cducation.org
Office Manager Marina Hachwa mhachwa@cducation.org
Preschool Secretary Erika Bardnell ebardnell@cducation.org
 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 17 & 18, 2019

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Nancy Moushey Tim Moushey John Groeber Karen Groeber Christine Sapp	Paul Duffy Kathy Copeland Don Harbaugh Chris Mahler Marilynne Poirier Lynne Owens	Jennifer Gardner Mary Leathley Herbert Poling Cathy Poling Chris Atzberger Matt Finnegan John Jackson Dee Dee Dodane	Rosemary Velasquez Joe Urquhart Kathy Urquhart Sue Beman Bob Poirier
LECTOR	Scott Reing-Hurley	Dennis Wilcox	Colleen O'BPrien	Jonathan Fortkamp
ALTAR SERVERS	Sophia Shultheis Lydia Steinbauer Bobby Steinbauer Gabriel Thomas	Catherine Intihar Parker Jenkins Rudy Kessinger	Andrew Miller Mya Montgomery Evie Morrison Jason Noll	Grace E. Jenkins Michael Kirkpatrick Patrick Moore Isaac Nguyen
USHERS	E.J. Davis Mike Hatz John Groeber	Chris Mahler Ralph Mathews Michael Girard	Dave Ciccone Scott Leathley J. Ruebensaal Matt Hangen	Bob Poirier 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 AND 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: **Jean Ritchy; Erik, Mary and Maeve Walker**. 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: **Sean Cormac Donohue** who was baptized on August 4, 2019.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY: Congratulations to **Kristin Cruikshank** and **Ruben Sotelo** who were united in marriage on August 3, 2019.

ITEMS LEFT IN MARIAN HALL KITCHEN

The following items were found in and around Marian Hall: baseball caps, little girl's 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 usher's 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 at the parish office. If this is yours, please call the office at (614) 267-9241. If it is not yours, please spread the word.

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.

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.



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

This Thursday, August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Holy Day Mass times are at 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.



IC WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

Our annual summer blood drive will be held in Marian Hall from 1 p.m.-7 p.m. on Monday, August 19, 2019. 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 are helping raise money for refugees in the Middle East while rebuilding Churches.
- Knights are helping with Backpack supplies for Catholic Schools and public schools.
- Knights help send our Veterans to Lourdes every year.
- Knights help set up and tear down of IC Festival!

Contact Jim Andracki or Sean Murray at Jandracki8796@wowway.com, sean.murray84@gmail.com.

ALL NATURAL. GOOD FOR THE BODY. GREAT FOR THE SOUL!

Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods are effective for postponing or achieving pregnancy and are completely natural – no pills, patches or devices. Engaged and married couples are invited to learn about NFP by visiting <http://www.columbuscatholic.org/natural-family-planning> or contacting the Marriage and Family Life Office at (614) 241-2560.

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



Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be His own.



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE*Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life***Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 • Offertory Report 8/4/2019**

	8/4/2019	YTD 2019/2020
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 21,331.50	\$104,769.50
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 683.80	\$ 2,760.30
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 22,015.30	\$ 107,529.80
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 125,000.00
Weekly Overage/(Shortage)	(\$ 2,984.70)	(\$ 17,470.20)

Families Receiving Envelopes	1,420
Envelopes Received	196
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

SOCIAL CONCERNS**YWCA FAMILY CENTER DINNER**

Immaculate Conception Church will be preparing and serving dinner at the YWCA Family Center, Friday, August 16. The food sign-up board is located in the Gathering Space of the church. Thank you for any help.

BREAD

The I.C. BREAD team sincerely thanks all who have invested in justice in Columbus by investing in BREAD. You have pushed us to within 77 % of our 2019 goal. In 2018, each \$1 invested leveraged back \$42 to those in most need in our Columbus community. Investments are 100% tax deductible and are still welcome. They can be made either in installments or as a single transaction by writing a check to BREAD (but please put Immaculate Conception in the subject line) and mailing to the parish office. Contact Rosemary Williams (rosemary@bigevillbrain.com) or MaryAnn Grossman at (614) 530-5872 with questions or for information about how you can become part of this important work.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Thank you for your support of the Collection for the Church in Latin America. The funds donated by our parish will be used to share the faith with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean so they in turn can share it with others. If you have not yet donated, you may still do so by using the envelope in your packet or by placing your donation in an envelope marked Latin America and placing it in the offertory basket. To learn more about how you can make a difference, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

JOHN STEVENSON TO ADDRESS CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON CLUB FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

We're back from summer break with a powerful fall lineup of speakers. The September Catholic Men's Luncheon Club will feature John Stevenson from St. Paul's Outreach which is a Catholic Organization evangelizing on college campuses throughout the Midwest. Please join us Friday, September 6 at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for lunch and Mr. Stevenson's talk entitled "Forming Boys Into Men on Campus." The September luncheon is sponsored by St. Gabriel Catholic Radio. Listen to St. Gabriel in Central Ohio on AM820 and Southern Ohio on FM88.3 (on the web at www.stgabrielradio.com.) Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Mr. Stevenson's talk. Free parking available in the Columbus State Grant Avenue parking lot (25-S) across the street from St. Patrick. No reservations are necessary. \$10 covers the lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **October's luncheon will feature Bishop Robert Brennan in his first talk to the CMLC.**

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2019!!!

For information on Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, visit www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc or contact Craig Heppner, CMLC President at craigkofc@gmail.com.

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**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.

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 and Marilou Clouse at 614-834-6880 or visit our website at wwmecolumbus.org.

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.

SCHOOL NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL NEWS

School Office Re-Opens

Thursday, August 1 (9 a.m.-12 p.m.). Office will be open Tuesday-Thursday (9 a.m.-12 p.m.) until school starts.

School Supply Sale

Sunday, August 11, (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) in the school gym. Supplies needed for this upcoming school year will be on hand to purchase. The uniform closet will be available in the **school lobby** for those that need to move up to the next size. Please donate gently used uniforms so others can benefit. Finally, all the class lists will be posted in the gym hallway for those interested. ☺

Preschool and Kindergarten Open House

August 18, (10:30-11:30 a.m.) Stop in the Preschool and Kindergarten classrooms before/after Mass next week to allow your son or daughter the opportunity to see their classroom set-up for the first day of school. Meet the teachers and become acquainted with their spaces. The time is limited so we hope to see you there.

First Day of School for PK-8th Grade

Wednesday, August 21, 2019. We cannot wait to see you! ☺

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.

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PAGE

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, August 11, 2019

The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechism Corner

“In Jesus ‘the Kingdom of God is at hand.’^[Mk. 1:15] He calls his hearers to conversion and faith, but also to *watchfulness*. In prayer the disciple keeps watch, attentive to Him Who Is and Him Who Comes, in memory of his first coming in the lowliness of the flesh, and in the hope of his second coming in glory.^[Cf. Mk. 13; Lk. 21:34-36] In communion with their Master, the disciples’ prayer is a battle; only by keeping watch in prayer can one avoid falling into temptation.”^[Cf. Lk. 22:40, 46] (CCC, 2612)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

FORMED PICKS FOR THIS WEEK:

WATCH:

“**God With Us**” Augustine Institute
Recommended for ages 7 and up. Duration: 1 hr. 28 mins. [For Children]
“**Love is Faith with Fulton Sheen - Volume 1**”

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

READ:

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

“**Faith Basics: Understanding Catholic Teaching on the Blessed Virgin Mary**” by Tom Perna Emmaus Road Publishing | Pages: 84

STUDY:

“**Footprints of God: Mary**” by Augustine Press

LISTEN:

“**Answering Common Objections: Mary**” by: Dr. Scott Hahn -- St. Joseph Communications | 68 minutes



The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary---August 15, 2019

[This is a Holy Day of Obligation]

Masses are held at **8:30a.m., and 7:00p.m.**

Jesus’ Brief Time in Ministry

Jesus’ life can be divided into two parts. What is surprising is that, while he is the Son of God who came to redeem the world, he spent 90 percent of his life in the remote town of Nazareth. Only 10 percent or, at most, 30 months made up his public ministry, of preaching, healing, and teaching. It is curious, too, that his headquarters was the town of Capernaum on the shore of the Sea of Galilee—not a bustling metropolis. Archeologists say there were no more that 1,000 to 1,500 inhabitants. In fact, it was so poor it did not even have its own synagogue.

As a result, there is a real lesson to be learned about our own lived experiences, and what might be important in our lives. People talk about making a mark on this earth. And, indeed, some do that with great political or economic power. Explorers in the past also did that by discovering new lands and trading routes.

We Do Not Walk Alone

Keep in mind the short time Jesus had to accomplish his mission on earth. Truth be told, his own life and short ministry remind us that the length of time is not the most important element of our journeys. We can say this because we do not walk alone. God is constantly with us.

One thing we believe is that God has a way of using us as “instruments of peace” to do good works. There are so many people who think that they accomplish very little on earth. There is nothing spectacular they can point to—no new medical breakthrough, no new piece of literature or work of art. But what about giving life to a single human being who has more value in the eyes of God than the entire universe? The example of Jesus himself shows us that length of time is not of the essence. If we walk in faith and ask the Lord to use us as his instruments, then we can live our ordinary lives without working any miracles and simply trust that God will use us. If we have talents we think are miniscule, we must not forget what Jesus did in the little time he had. In fact, one percent of talent in God’s hands is beyond human estimation.

Remember how many words Mary spoke to become the Mother of God? One single word: “Yes.” One thing we have to remember, however, is that we may not even be aware of how the Lord uses us. God protects us from vanity, pride, and self-righteousness. That’s why our lives are lives of faith.

Here I Am, Lord

I believe that one of the eternal joys of heaven will occur when others come up to us and astound us with their words of gratitude for something we did for them. And we will be smiling at the surprised look on the faces of others when we offer our thanks to them.

In God’s hands, we cannot imagine what can be done in our lives. All we have to say is, “Here I am Lord. Use me.”

<http://blog.americancatholic.org/>

Posted by [Guest Blogger](#) on Jun 20, 2013 in [Featured](#), [Inspiration](#), [Spirituality](#)

Father Jim Van Vurst OFM With Jack Wintz OFM he writes the twice-monthly [Friar Jack’s E-spirations](#)

exploring THE SUNDAY READINGS

BLESSED MEALS TAKE US FARTHER: NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

WISDOM 18:6-9

The night of the passover was known beforehand ... that...they might have courage.

Sacred meals hold some of the most dangerous and subversive memories of believers. Remember the first passover in Egypt: the Israelites were asked to share the lamb, use its blood to mark their doorways, and have faith that the angel of death would pass them by on its route of destruction. How's that for a trust walk? While Egyptian households mourned their dead, Israelites walked through parted waters on their way to becoming God's free people.

As Wisdom reminds us, "the holy children of the good" knew in advance what to do and they did it. We presume those dedicated to unvirtuous living didn't notice what their neighbors were doing, had chicken that night, went to bed and woke up to anguish. Of course, it isn't about what they ate or the marks they made or failed to make. Wisdom attends to God's voice and heeds what it hears. The angel of death still makes the rounds today. If we live as God requires, the sea of death itself will part for us.

» *What sources do you seek to hear the voice of God more clearly?*

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 11:1-2, 8-19

By faith Abraham went out, not knowing where he was to go.

Some of us are pleased to stay in place, living our whole lives in one town or even one house. Others are driven to wander, following wherever curiosity or courage takes us. Abraham is more or less the patron saint of the wanderer. He took a journey into the dark with only trust in God as his guide. And because he did, the story of a people took shape ahead of Abraham, composed of countless generations and never-ending stories.

How far did Abraham go? From present-day Iraq to present-day Israel, in purely geographic terms. But he also took a journey from a culture based on idol worship to faith in a single God he came to know as friend. Abraham crossed the distance from being childless to becoming a father; from poverty to abundance; from wheeler-dealer to one content to wait on God to fulfill every promise. The adventure Abraham embarked on wasn't about miles but about character. The man who left home is not the man who finally arrived.

» *Make a map of your physical journeys in life. Now make a map of your interior journey. What does each one teach you about yourself?*

GOSPEL

LUKE 12:32-48

"Amen, I say to you, the master will gird himself, and have his servants recline at table."

In what fantasy scenario does the CEO wait on his aides? Does a prime minister ever serve in a soup kitchen, or an estate owner set the table for her grounds crew? It sounds fantastic to imagine the scene that Jesus describes, a master waiting table on his house staff. Yet this is how Jesus himself will act, when he washes the feet of his followers at the Last Supper.

This reversal of roles in servant leadership is not entirely rare, of course. Don't parents put themselves and their resources at the service of their children: not for an hour but for a lifetime? Don't teachers labor painstakingly through the years to bring their students along with ABCs and 1-2-3s? Missionary medical crews put their expertise to use for the sake of those who can never repay them. When those with resources serve those in need, wonderful things are possible. Set the table for someone soon.

» *Who has served you with their wisdom, example, encouragement or material help? Whom do you serve?*

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