

Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. - Luke 2:10



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

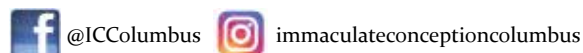
Call the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241. Available at any time.

FUNERAL MINISTRY

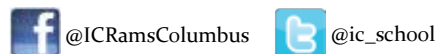
Family of deceased should contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Find us on SOCIAL MEDIA

Immaculate Conception Parish



Immaculate Conception School



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

4:00 p.m. For the Intention of Rita & Gregory Purnell (50th Wedding Anniversary)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
9:30 a.m. Adrienne McCann †
11:30 a.m. Ellen Carroll †

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:30 a.m. For the Intention of Aaron Laub

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 a.m. John & Rita Schultheis †
4:00 p.m. Joseph Lynch †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1

9:00 a.m. For the Intention of the Stoker Family

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:30 a.m. Adrienne McCann †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the IC Women's Club

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

4:00 p.m. Frances A. Davis †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

8:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
9:30 a.m. Audry Charbonneau †
11:30 a.m. Jim Schultheis †

† **Deceased**

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

All are invited for fellowship and refreshments following all Sunday Masses on the first weekend of each month.

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
P.S.R. Coordinator Paulette Mudrey icpsr@iccols.org

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Marketing & Mission Administrative Assistant Karen Cannell icoffice@iccols.org
Facilities Manager Keith Altier

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Assistant Principal Rick Logue rlogue@cducation.org
Office Manager Marina Hachwa mhachwa@cducation.org
Preschool Secretary Erika Bardnell ebardnell@cducation.org
School Age Child Care Peggy Heffernan pheffern@cducation.org
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 Brian Byrne bbyrne@horizonio.com
Parish Council President Heather MacKinnon iccolsparishcouncil@gmail.com
School Board President Brian Conway brianconway1@hotmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – JANUARY 4 & 5, 2020

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 Colleen Kent
LECTOR	Layton McCallum	Beth Mahler	Tim Geraghty	Dan Wander
ALTAR SERVERS	Fiona Isbell Sebastian Isbell Xavier Isbell Grace Monaghan	Rudy Kessinger Riley McGgee Davis Minzler	Maija Eglitis Megan Fabro Alex Ferguson Clare Geraghty	Joy Packard Luke Ponesse Michael Ponesse Sydney Schultheis
USHERS	E.J. Davis Mike Hatz John Groeber	Chris Mahler Ralph Mathews Michael Girard	Jim Emley Kriss Eglitis Todd Farrell Scott Miller	Bob Poirier Bob Taylor Jeff Doon
WELCOME DESK	Pat Conway	Diana Marie Winkler Suzanne Smith Ronnie Hiss	Lynn Boardwine Jen Bennett Michelle Sap	Janine Oman Anne Campbell Carolyn Smith



PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AT MASS - JANUARY

Please check the schedule to see if there is a weekend **Mass in January** that you/your family would like 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, email the parish office at icoffice@iccols.org or 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.**

JANUARY CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

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

DONATIONS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

Parishioners interested in making a contribution to a candle for one or more of the three Sanctuary Lamps in the Church or the candle in the Adoration Chapel, please contact Sue Beman at (614) 214-5333 or Beman_sue@yahoo.com to make arrangements. Contributors' names will be included in the Sunday bulletin. The suggested offering is \$25.00 per candle. The I.C. Women's Club thanks you for supporting this ministry.

IN OUR PARISH

ANNIVERSARIES: We congratulate **Rita & Gregory Purnell** who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome these new parishioners to the parish: **Marco, Andrea and Lorenzo De Santis**. 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.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2020

Wednesday, January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Tuesday vigil Mass is at 4 p.m. and the holy day Mass on Wednesday is at 9 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

With warm wishes for a blessed and fruitful season of miracles, love and thanksgiving, may 2020 draw you closer to Jesus Christ that you may experience all the rich blessings He has for you.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

World Day of Peace is January 1, 2020. In addition to the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Church commemorates the World Day of Peace each year with a message from the Holy Father. As Mary is known as Our Lady of Peace and the Queen of Peace, what a great day to make a New Year's resolution to work for peace. To read Pope Francis' 2020 message *Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion*, visit the Vatican website at www.vatican.va.



*Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.*



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

God, our Father

You are the guardian and guide of our lives.

Your word is joy, Your will is life, Your commands bring peace. Watch over and guide us as You did Your Son's earthly family. Through the celebration of this feast help us to respond to Your word and will, that we may grow together as people of faith and enjoy the peace of Your Kingdom.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2019

The mystery of Christmas is a drawing near to God, or rather God drawing nearer to us. Scripture reminds us that the condition for entering the kingdom of God is to become a child in relation to God (Catholic Catechism 526). Only when Christ is fully formed in us will the mystery of Christmas be fulfilled. We must seek, and desire a deeper relationship with Him. This became possible for us at Christmas, the birth of Jesus, a marvelous exchange!

Thomas á Kempis explains it like this:

*The one who has from eternity
been in the bosom of the Father
is now resting on his mother's knees.
God is so close to you
that he lets himself be embraced like a child
and held like a baby at the breast –
for "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."
How is it possible for him
to be more like you
and more closely related to you?
Look, he has your flesh and bones!
God has become your brother.*

If God really entered our history, then history must be fundamentally changed. God is my brother and your brother and this changes everything! We are Christ's brothers and sisters, men and women who became related to God. This relationship with Jesus is something immeasurable, so that we can never value it highly enough. Then let Christ Jesus be formed in us more and more! Let us humble ourselves and be "born of God!" This is indeed a day of rejoicing. "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests!"

A Holy and Blessed Christmas to you!
Fr Matt



THANKS FROM THE KNIGHTS

The Knights of Columbus want to thank all parishioners who attended Breakfast with the Knights and donated Christmas gifts for needy families and financial support for our seminarians.

Help us help others. Get involved. K of C offers men a place to lead their families by putting their Faith into action and service. Our activities are local and global in supporting Faith, Community, Family and Life.

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

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 • Offertory Report 12/22/2019		
	12/22/2019	YTD 2019/2020
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 35,100.50	\$586,370.57
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 615.00	\$ 15,413.75
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 35,715.50	\$ 601,784.32
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$625,000.00
Weekly Overage (<i>Shortage</i>)	\$ 10,715.50	(\$ 23,215.68)
<hr/>		
Families Receiving Envelopes		1,059
Envelopes Received		181
Families on EFT		331

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

SOCIAL CONCERNS

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL 5TH SUNDAY COLLECTION

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are at the doors of the church to accept your donations for their charitable works. They will hold their 5th Sunday Collection on December 28 and 29. We ask your continued financial support for their charitable works. The need is great! You may use the envelope in your packet or members will be at the church doors after all Masses this weekend to accept your donations.

OPEN SHELTER MINISTRY

The Open Shelter is a ministry that 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. The next date is Monday, January 6, 2020. 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. on that Monday. Arrangements can be made for pickup if this time is inconvenient. Donations for buns, bananas and drinks are welcome.

RESOLUTION 2020:
 Save more money!

Financial Peace University returns to Immaculate Conception in January! Join us for this life-changing, nine-week session to master budgeting, build your savings, beat debt and plan your financial future!

Mondays beginning
 January 6
 7 - 8:30 p.m.
 Marian Hall



Register online TODAY and save
\$20 on your membership!
<https://www.fpu.com/1105781>

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY
 JUNE 5 - 18, 2020

Join Fr. Matt and fellow IC parishioners for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore Rome, Naples & Sicily!

Visit the parish web site for details or contact the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241 with specific questions!

CHRISTMAS CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION

This annual collection allows the diocese to meet a variety of basic needs directly and through diocesan agencies and organizations including J.O.I.N. (Joint Organization for Inner-City Needs), St. Stephen's Community House, Catholic Social Services, St. Francis Center, St. Lawrence Haven, St. Vincent Family Center, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. You can help share in this important work by generously supporting the Catholic Charities collection this year. You may use the Christmas Charities envelope in your packet or place your donation in an envelope marked Charities and place it in the offertory basket or send it to the parish office.

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small talk?

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6:30 p.m. in Marian Hall**

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- small group discussion

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To see an Alpha trailer with additional insight go to <https://vimeo.com/204052948>.

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.

SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Preview will be held Thursday, January 9, 2020. We will have two informational sessions, 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Learn details about our Kindergarten program, our Catholic school, opportunities for scholarships, and take a school tour with our Student Ambassadors. You are invited to bring your future Kindergarten as our teachers will have something special planned for them. Please call and let us know you are coming! (614) 267-6579.

Registration for the 2020-21 School Year begins January 6 for current families and January 13 for new families. Please check the school website (www.ic-school.org) for registration details. This includes our preschool families and our K-8 families.

THE MILLENNIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

Are you interested in helping IC parish reach out to young adults to engage them in their faith? Help us engage the millennial generation by attending a one-day event that will help you understand, empower and connect. The Millennial Church Conference will take place January 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Gahanna. For more information or to register, go to www.millennialchurchconference.com.



IC WOMEN'S BLOOD DRIVE

The IC Women's Club Annual Martin Luther King Blood Drive is on Monday, January 20, 2020 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you last donated on or before Monday, November 25, 2019 you may be eligible to donate. You can now schedule an appointment by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, sponsor code: IC or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

GIVE YOURSELF THE GIFT OF TIME WITH JESUS AND YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST!

Give yourself the gift of the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, February 15, 2020, from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Ohio Expo Center. Come to pray, learn and rest with your sisters in Christ from around the diocese. Register now for early bird pricing at www.columbuscatholicwomen.com. Don't miss this day of amazing grace!

IC YEAR-END GIVING

With the celebration of Christmas, we receive the ultimate gift from God – the gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ. This season and year's end is a spiritual opportunity to make a return to God of His many blessings, while also positively impacting your taxes.

If you wish to make a donation to Immaculate Conception Parish this season to be applied to the 2019 tax year, we kindly ask that you do so as soon as possible.

Please make note of the following dates: Gifts of cash or checks must be received in the Parish Office by close of business (4 p.m.) on January 9, 2020. Please be sure the check is dated in 2019. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions or concerns.

DIAPER DRIVE!



The Knights of Columbus are collecting diapers on the weekend of January 18-19 to benefit families who have chosen life over abortion. January is the March for Life month and all donations will serve the

Pregnancy Decision Health Center in Columbus, Ohio. Diaper sizes 3 and 4 have been identified as the greatest need. Cash donations will be accepted online at https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=M6AQXZXDPC2WU&source=url. Many

families face challenges and hardships with a pregnancy and having a child. By providing this service, we not only lighten their burden, but also show our support for life. Please drop off donations in the gathering space before and after all Masses. The Knights will be available to take donations and answer any questions you may have.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION PAGE

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, December 29, 2019

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

“The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life:

“The home of Nazareth is the school where we begin to understand the life of Jesus—the school of the Gospel. First, then, a lesson of silence. May esteem for silence, that admirable and indispensable condition of mind, revive in us...A lesson on family life. May Nazareth teach us what family life is, its communion of love, its austere and simple beauty, and its sacred and inviolable character...A lesson of work. Nazareth, home of the ‘Carpenter’s Son,’ in you I would choose to understand and proclaim the severe and redeeming law of human work...To conclude, I want to greet all the workers of the world, holding up to them their great pattern, their brother who is God”²²⁵ (CCC, 533).

225: Paul VI at Nazareth, January 5, 1964: *LH*, Feast of the Holy Family, OR.
The Catechism of the Catholic Church



Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, teach us how to live and serve God and one another because of Love.

“The Christian family is a communion of person, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father’s work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelizing and missionary task.” (CCC, 2205)



*A Blessed
New Year!!
The Solemnity of
Mary, Mother of God,
January 1, 2020*

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself. It is the feast of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment." It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us). While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts, and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him...including the fact that he was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes. It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends as a way to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones. Visit: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/christmas/index.cfm> to learn more about the Christmas season.

Did You Know?

In Webster’s New World Dictionary of the American Language, second college edition, the word **“resolution”** has nine definitions. Some of these definitions are: **1.** a) the act or process of resolving something or breaking it up into its constituent parts or elements...**5.** a solving, as of a puzzle, or answering, as of a question; solution...**7.** *Med.* The subsidence or disappearance of swelling, fever, or other manifestation of disease...**8.** *Music* a) the passing of a dissonant chord (or tone in a chord) to a consonant chord (or tone)...**9.** *Optics* the capability of an optical system of making clear and distinguishable the separate parts or components of an object or of differentiating between sources of light.

In order for New Year’s resolutions to work, first we need to make them! Secondly, if we apply these few definitions, certainly we will see some results. Many times our lives may seem dissonant, puzzling, and filled with questions. We may struggle through an illness or problem. Sometimes we move to the beat of our own drum and our chords do not always meet or pass on to another person. We can lose the capability to distinguish God’s presence and work in our lives. Sometimes we cannot see goodness clearly, or the sources of light around us, nor within us.

Jesus is waiting for us to come and give our resolution of faith, to decide once again to walk with God.

May you be resolute in your New Year’s resolution(s) by “having or showing a fixed, firm purpose; determined; resolved; unwavering.” And may you always stay close to Jesus and Mary.

January 1, 2020 – The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day of Obligation

Immanuel has come!! Jesus, the Light that shines in the darkness, has overcome the darkness!! After immersing ourselves in the hope of Advent and rejoicing that, Emmanuel—God Is with us, we follow the example of the Holy Family to stay together, to love one another generously, and to work together to bring the message of the Christ into the world.

As Mary, the Mother of God, “pondered all things in her heart,” [Luke 2:51] may we discern in our hearts the concerns and needs of all our brothers and sisters, and **Pray for Peace** on this **“World Day of Prayer for Peace.”**

May Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who is, who was, and who is to come again, always be our Peace!!

exploring THE SUNDAY READINGS

PROTECT THE CHILD OF PROMISE: FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

FIRST READING

SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children, a mother's authority over her sons.

Father, mother, and children. This classic pyramid of the family is not as commonplace as it used to be. Yet what's true in any situation involving children is that there are two kinds of people: the kids themselves, and the grownups in charge of protecting them. As we all know to our shame, not all adults have the welfare of children at heart.

Children are to be nurtured, taught, encouraged, corrected, protected, and guided until they are ready to take their place in society as adults themselves. Where this is done well and with love, healthy societies emerge. When this is done half-heartedly or badly, damaged souls and crippled future families are the result. There is no dollar spent on nourishing the bodies, minds, and hearts of children that is wasted. If you have children, love them. If you don't, the world is full of children who need your love.

» *What have you done for the next generation today? What will you do for them this week?*

SECOND READING

COLOSSIANS 3:12-21

And whatever you do...do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Family systems vary from culture to culture, and they evolve through history. They're not cookie cutter even in a single neighborhood. I grew up in a three generational household with fifteen people in it. It was a good life, if a bit crowded. Yet, perhaps as a result of that experience, I've lived most of my adult life alone. The sound of silence is lovely.

However we style our lives, it remains true that we live in relationship to others. Paul describes the typical household of the Roman era: wives, husbands, children (and slaves) all performing their expected roles. We take issue with the form of those alliances today, but not the substance. Family members do have responsibilities toward each other, as do neighbors, citizens, and countries. Humans also have duties toward the planet that sustains us. If we neglect what holds us together, we'll be driven apart.

» *How have these relationships in your childhood home and the one you live in today shaped the person you are?*

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:13-15, 19-23

"Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt."

Joseph's child was in danger. Never mind for a moment the precise relationship between this man, the child, and his mother. What mattered most is the commitment Joseph had made to take both of them into his home. They were his family. And the child was in jeopardy. What else could he do but make arrangements to spirit them off to safety?

Migrants and refugees are always at the mercy of strangers when they leave their homeland. Will there be hospitality at the far end of their journey? Would their last state be worse than the first? We know nothing of what Mary and Joseph encountered in their travels abroad. But we do know they wanted what all refugees thirst for: the chance to return home someday, when conditions are more favorable and the threat to security is past. As soon as it was possible, Joseph steered his family back toward Israel.

» *Do you treat the stranger the way you, sometimes a stranger, wish to be received?*

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