

PARISH OFFICE (614) 267-9241 SCHOOL OFFICE (614) 267-6579

www.iccols.org

CATHOLIC CHURCH 414 E. NORTH BROADWAY COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

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.



immaculateconceptioncolumbus



Immaculate Conception Parish





Immaculate Conception School



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

4:00 p.m. Bob Sicuro †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

8:00 a.m. The Breneman Family + For the People of the Parish 9:30 a.m.

Carl Lippert + 11:30 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 20

Morning Prayer 8:00 a.m. John Mawhirter + 8:30 a.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Francis Holcomb + 8:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 8:30 a.m. Jerry Lowther †

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer 8:30 a.m. Mary Sweeney †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Gerald & Lucille Choinski +

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

4:00 p.m. Bob Roehrer †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

8:00 a.m. Irene Cull + Holly Passmore † 9:30 a.m.

For the People of the Parish 11:30 a.m.

† Deceased

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Fr. Matthew Hoovericoffice@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 P.S.R. Coordinator Paulette Mudrey.....icpsr@iccols.org

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

Parish Business John Bernardjbernard@iccols.org Administrator Marketing & Mission Administrative Assistant Karen Cannellicoffice@iccols.org Facilities Manager 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 Erika Bardnell.....ebardnell@cdeducation.org Secretary Peggy Heffernan.....pheffern@cdeducation.org School Age Child Care Mary Louise Westmlwest@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 Nollknoll@gbq.com, (614) 352-1655

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY

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

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Finance Council Chairman Brian Byrne......bbyrne@horizon10.com Parish Council President Heather MacKinnoniccolsparishcouncil@gmail.com School Board President Brian Conwaybrianconwayı@hotmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE - JANUARY 25 & 26, 2020

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Bob Steinbauer Don Muenz Mark Kelsey Betty Kelsey Bobbi Mitch	Cathy Costello Mary Lu Harrison Don Harbaugh Diana Winkler Jeanne Stoker	Peg Tippet Keith Kidner Eileen Kidner Pete Eichel Laura Julian Molly Dodane	Anna Lohrer Dave Wall Christine Demko Elizabeth Hart Bob Poirier Julie Kaminski
LECTOR	E.J. Davis	Roger Hocker	Dean Monin	Claire Kamp Dush
ALTAR SERVERS	Bobby Steinbauer Lydia Steinbauer Gabriel Thomas Kara Baetz	Sophia Comer Kendall Eagle Megan Eberts	Matthew Johnson Ana Kawar Rosie Kay Ryan Kelley	Ryland Arnold Luke Baird Alaina Bennett Luciann Boehn
USHERS	E.J. Davis Mike Hatzo John Groeber	Chris Mahler Ralph Mathews Michael Girard	Scott Miller Jim Emley Kriss Eglitis Todd Farrell	Bob Poirier Bob Taylor Jeff Doon Brian Byrne
WELCOME DESK	Pat Conway	Diana Marie Winkler Suzanne Smith Ronnie Hiss	Lynn Boardwine Jen Bennett Michele Sapp	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.

IN OUR PARISH

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Please remember in your prayers, parishioners, **Peg Bennett** and **Jeanette Legg**, who died last week. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may Your consoling love be with their family and friends.*

ANNIVERSARIES

We congratulate **Magdolna** and **Stephen Homonnay**, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 17, 2020. Wishing you both continued love and happiness for many years to come.



IC WOMEN'S BLOOD DRIVE

The IC Women's Club Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Blood Drive is this Monday, January 20, 2020 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. If you last donated on or before Monday, Novemebr 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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 20, 2020 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

TAX STATEMENTS

Tax statements for 2019 can be picked up in the Gathering Space after all Masses this weekend and on January 25 and 26. Any statements not picked up will be mailed by January 31, 2020.

MASS OF ANOINTING AT IC ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

A special Mass that will offer the Sacrament of Anointing will take place on Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 4 p.m. Following the closing prayer, those who are in need of the Sacrament will be invited to come forward to receive Anointing. Anyone in need of this sacrament is encouraged to attend this Mass. This sacrament is for those who suffer from emotional, mental, spiritual and physical ailments/challenges, this includes illness, upcoming surgery etc. The prayers address the person as a whole focusing on healing.



Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH MARKETING, COMMUNICATION AND SPECIAL EVENTS POSITION OPEN

Seeking an individual with comprehensive communication skills. This individual will manage the design and execution of all printed and web-based communications and marketing for Immaculate Conception Parish and School. Monitoring and updating parish website and electronic signage, creating and writing parish and school grant proposals and bulletin announcements are among the key

tasks. Interested candidates, please mail or email a resume, with references and contact information to: John Bernard, Immaculate Conception Parish, 414 E. North Broadway Street, Columbus, OH 43214 or jbernard@iccols.org.



CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

Learn more about the Catholic Young Adult ministry by checking out their newsletter at https://sway.office.com/U7DczaCqX6tiJW6p?ref=email. Information about attending the Blue Jackets game on February 8, Theology on Tap, and the Young Adult Lenten Retreat are just some items included in the newsletter.

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 at www.columbuscatholicwomen. com. Don't miss this day of amazing grace!

CATHOLIC MEN OF GOD, 2020 CONFERENCE "BUILDING VIRTUE"

The Catholic Men's Conference is Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Ohio Expo Center. Columbus will host 3,500 men to hear from some of the most dynamic speakers around the country and immerse themselves in a life-changing day of fellowship and faith. Find out more and register online at www.CatholicMensMinistry. com. Speakers include Bishop Robert Brennan, Jason Evert and Luke Fickell.

"SCREENAGERS:

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE"

Thursday, January 23 at 7 p.m., in Marian Hall, the Home and School Association (HASA) will present a FREE viewing of:

SCREENAGERS: GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE.

Every IC parish parent and caregiver, regardless of your child's age, is encouraged to attend. The content is informative and enlightening for every adult with screens in their home.

Two years ago, Jesse Weinberger, internet safety expert, presented to the IC community and revealed startling statistics. Data collected nationwide reveals that across the country (regardless of socioeconomics, geography, or school type) cell phone ownership begins as young as 2nd grade. Our community is no exception. Even our youngest students are struggling with the impact screen time is having on their lives.

SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance. This event is free and open to the entire community. Feel free to share this link with neighbors or friends who may be interested.

Please RSVP to this link: https://screenagersIC.eventcombo.com. Please direct any questions regarding this event to carrieracz@gmail.com.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

	1/12/2019	YTD 2019/2020	
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 23,022.50	\$676,332.07	
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 661.00	\$ 18,592.93	
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 23,683.50	\$694,925.00	
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$700,000.00	
Weekly Overage (Shortage)	(\$ 1,316.50)	(\$ 5,075.00)	
Families Receiving Envelopes		1,059	
Envelopes Received	229		
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

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY BEGINS JANUARY 19

Are you looking for friends to share in your grief and healing? Please join us at our Seasons of Hope Bereavement Ministry meetings. This is a Christ-Centered peer support group that meets for six weeks, four times per year. Each session includes Scripture, prayer, reflection, and sharing.

During the winter season, we will meet on January 19, February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 1 at Our Lady of Peace Church, located at 20 E. Dominion Boulevard in Columbus, 43214. Registration is from 1:30 to 1:55 p.m. each Sunday, with group sharing following from 2 to 4 p.m. You may join us for any or all of our sessions. Please feel free to bring a friend! If you have any questions, you may contact Rose Daiga, a parishioner at Our Lady of Peace, at rose.daiga@gmail.com or at (614) 565-0795.

PARISH SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

Spring sports registration has opened for Immaculate Conception parish boys baseball grades 4-8, girls softball grades 4-8, boys/girls track grades 4-8 and soccer grades K-3. Sign-ups will be open from now through February 21, 2020. Please use this site to register to play and coach. http://immaculateconceptionaa.sportssignup.com/site/ Athletic information can also be found on the Immaculate Conception website.

PARENT WORKSHOP MANDATORY FOR SPORTS PARTICIPATION

The Columbus Diocesan Recreation Association has mandated that all parents participate in a Parent Like a Champion Today (PLACT) workshop. The IC Athletic Association will be offering this workshop on Thursday, January 30 from 7-8 p.m. in Marian Hall. For this initial workshop, there will be no cost to participate (typically a \$10 fee) in order to fulfill your obligation. Going forward, a parent or guardian must have completed the PLACT workshop for their child to participate in Diocesan sports. No sign-up is required, but please plan to attend on January 30, 2020. Questions? Please email us at icathleticshelp@gmail.com

SOCIAL CONCERNS

DIAPER DRIVE!



The Knights of Columbus are collecting diapers this weekend 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://kofc98.wixsite.com/kofc14962/diaper-drive. 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.



Knights Support Life! Your IC Knights contributed \$1,000 to be combined with other council's donations for the purchase of greatly needed Ultrasound Machines in the greater Central Ohio Region.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is holding its annual Winter Clothing Drive which continues through January 26. Please place new or gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. in the barrels in the Gathering Space.



IC HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND 50/50 RAFFLE

Please bring your family and friends to join us on Sunday, February 2 between 8 a.m.-1 p.m. for our annual IC Pancake Breakfast. Chris Cakes (www.chriscakes.com) will be flipping the pancakes for an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast. Breakfast includes sausage, juice and coffee. Prices are \$5 for children and seniors and \$7 for adults. Eggs are available a la carte. As always, tables will be available for Scout Sunday. For volunteer opportunities, please sign up via SignUpGenius at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/6obod4cafae22aaf49ichasa or contact Lori Frost (Lorifrost13@live.com) or Jessica Gmerick (jessicagarlock@yahoo.com).

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY CELEBRATION

The Community of Holy Rosary & St. John the Evangelist is hosting its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration this Monday, January 20, 2020 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Holy Rosary-St. John Church, 660 South Ohio Avenue (between Main and Livingston), Columbus. The guest preacher is Rev. Charles Smith, S.V.D. Fr. Charles Smith is co-director of the Bowman Francis Ministry, a ministry that provides religious education and evangelization to the African American Catholic community. Holy Rosary-St. John has been celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day every year since the holiday was established in 1986. Vernon Hairston will be directing the gospel choir during the celebration, and community artists will be displaying their art. For additional info, email hrsjevents@gmail.com or call (614) 252-5926, ext. 7.

SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Preschool and K-8 Registration for the 2020-21 School Year is now open for all families. Registration will remain open until the classes are full. Please check the school website (www.ic-school.org) for registration details. Those currently enrolled in our K-8 school do not need to re-enroll. Those new to our main school and all those enrolling in our preschool must enroll. Please call the school office (614) 267-6579) if you have any questions.

Ed Choice Scholarship Informational Meeting will be held this Wednesday, January 22 at 7 p.m. in Room A. Administrators from IC and OLP are inviting our families to come together so questions can be addressed regarding this important scholarship opportunity. Please invite your friends that are currently not enrolled in our schools so they too can learn about these scholarships.

Catholic Schools Week is Sunday, January 26- Friday, January 31. Please watch for details regarding this celebratory week! Bishop Brennan will celebrate Mass with the schoolchildren on Wednesday, January 29 at 8:30 a.m. Please plan to join us.

IC School Open House is Sunday, February 2 (9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.). Plan to attend and bring a guest family or friends to walk through the school, meet the staff and learn all that our school has to offer.

WATTERSON

Important Dates for the Bishop Watterson Class of 2024: We are excited to welcome the Class of 2024!

January 31: Registration for incoming freshmen due. Registration can be completed online at bishopwatterson.com. Click on Admissions.

February 1 or 8: Freshman Entrance Exam, register at bishopwatterson.com.

March 15: Deadline to apply for the Diocese of Columbus Tuition Assistance Program and a variety of other Bishop Watterson scholarships. For the 2019-20 school year, Bishop Watterson students were awarded more than \$1 million in merit scholarships, need-based scholarships, grants and financial aid. Questions? Check the Admissions page of www.bishopwatterson.com or contact Director of Admissions Mary Kate Campbell at mcampbell@cdeducation.org.

Winter Cheer Clinic: The Bishop Watterson cheerleaders will hold their annual Winter Cheer Clinic for kindergarten through grade six on Sunday, February 9, 2020 from 2-4 p.m. Participants are invited to perform with the varsity cheerleaders at halftime of the varsity boys basketball game on Friday, February 14. Each participant will receive a shirt to wear at the performance. To register, go to bishopwatterson.com.

ST. CHARLES

St. Charles Offering Academic Scholarship Test, January 25 for All 8th Grade Boys: St. Charles Preparatory School will offer its annual Academic Scholarship Test to prospective students at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., Saturday, January 25 in the Robert C. Walter Student Commons on the school's campus (2010 East Broad Street). The exam is open to any 8th grade boy regardless of his current high school enrollment status. Test results determine which students will receive merit-based academic awards from the school for the 2020-2021 school year. For this 2019-2020 school year alone, St. Charles has offered more than \$400,000 in academic scholarships and grants to its students. St. Charles is an Ed Choice participating school and is committed to providing financial aid to qualified families. Anyone interested in sitting for the St. Charles scholarship test may register by calling the school office at (614) 252-6714 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday-Friday or online at https://www.stcharlesprep.org/8th-grade-scholarship-test.

5th-8th Grade Boys Invited to Experience "Cardinal Madness" on January 20: St. Charles Preparatory School invites all young men in the 5th-8th grades to join us for a Night of Cardinal Madness on Monday, January 20. Meet new friends and future classmates as the evening begins at 6 p.m. in our Campus Theater's Cavello Center. There is no cost for the young men or their parents, but we ask that those all those attending register their attendance by e-mail at nkeyes@scprep.org.



SCOUT SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 2, 2020

All Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts are invited to celebrate the birthday of scouting by attending 9:30 Mass together. Pews will be reserved in the front of church for all scouts. All scouts and scout leaders, both past and present are requested to join us for the Mass, followed by the annual pancake breakfast.

RESPECT LIFE MASS

The Respect Life Mass is Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral. Bishop Brennan will be the celebrant. On this day of the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision, our diocese will join all dioceses of the United States in observing a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. All are invited. For more information, contact Social Concerns at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org or (614) 241-2540.

ROE REMEMBRANCE AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE

Greater Columbus Right to Life will sponsor this event on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 12-1 p.m., at the Ohio Statehouse. The program will be held in the Statehouse Atrium. Please allow extra time for Statehouse security measures. Stickers, signs, and weapons are not permitted inside. For additional information, visit www. gcrtl.org/roe.html.

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, January 19, 2020

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catechism Corner

"John the Baptist is 'more than a prophet." [Lk 1:15,41] In him, the Holy Spirit concludes his speaking through the prophets. John completes the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah. [Cf. Mt. 11:13-14] He proclaims the imminence of the consolation of Israel; he is the 'voice' of the Consoler who is coming. [Jn. 1:23; cf. Isra 40:1-3] As the Spirit of truth will also do, John 'came to bear witness to the light.' [Jn. 1:7; cf. Jn. 1:5:26; 5:35] In John's sight, the Spirit thus brings to completion the careful search of the prophets and fulfills the longing of the angels. [Cf. I Pet. 1:10-12] 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God....Behold, the Lamb of God." [Jn. 1:33-36] (CCC, 719) The Catechism of the Catholic Church

"...I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." [15:49:3, 5-6]

Now that we have moved through the Christmas season, go out and continue to "testify that we have seen the Lord and that He is the Son of God!"

Pleasing for the week "Cross to you and perso from Cod our Eather and the Lord Joseph Christ"

You Shall Pursue—You Shall Pursue—You

Blessing for the week: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." [! Cor.1:1-3]

FORMED picks for the week: WATCH/STUDY:

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: "Opening the Word"-Year "A" - "Lamb of God" – Edward Sri --Augustine Institute –Run Time: 6 mins. 40 secs.

Cat Chat: for kids — "Celebrating Mary: Learning about our Blessed Mother" — Season 1 Run Time: 27mins. 30 secs.

<u>YDisciple</u>: for girls (teens) – "Passion & Purity, Part 2" – with Mary Bielski—Run Time: 11 mins.

"Reborn" about Baptism: Augustine Institute—6sessions (average time—45 mins.

LISTEN:

<u>"The Case for Jesus"</u> – by Brant Pitre – Augustine Institute – Run Time: 1 hr., 13 mins.

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time – <u>Basics of the Faith</u>

Ordinary Time is really the time in the Liturgical Calendar that signifies the times between Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter. But, it is hardly "ordinary." Many extraordinary events happen in scripture, such as, dramatic, ear catching parables, wondrous and spectacular miracles of healing, changing and affecting nature, and raising people from the dead. Conflicts and challenges between the Jewish authorities, temple leaders and Jesus take center stage at times.

However, the most extraordinary encounter during ordinary time is the full presence of Jesus, right out there, anytime, anywhere! John the Baptist was so attuned to God's will and built a relationship with God all his life, that when he first saw Jesus coming to be baptized, he recognized Him immediately! John exclaimed; "Here is the Lamb of God..." If we continue with our Advent/Christmas practice of taking time every day with scripture in prayer, meditating and contemplating on the Word of God, and attending Holy Mass we will be able to build up our relationship with Jesus. We will truly be able to see and recognize who it is before us. Jesus will be with us in His fullness. More importantly, Jesus wants to be with us, now and always. Let us pray for an increase in faith and perseverance during this ordinary time.

SAVE THE DATE: February 1, 2020

Saturday immediately following the 4pm Mass the Sacrament of Anointing will be administered. This Sacrament is for the Elderly, the sick, infirm, and/or those awaiting surgery. If you are in need of healing Spiritually, Physically, Mentally, or Emotionally please consider attending this special Mass.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of over 100 year, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21)...

In preparation for the WPCU, ecumenical partners in a particular region were asked to prepare a basic text on a biblical theme. .. the World Council of Churches (WCC) and The Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity edited this text, which was jointly published by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and WCC, through their Commission on Faith and Order... The final material was sent to member churches and Roman Catholic dioceses, and they were invited to translate the text and contextualize it for their own use.

9 DAYS FOR LIFE: JANUARY 21-29, 2020



- 9 Days for Life 2020 will take place Tuesday, January 21 - Wednesday, January 29.
- 9 Days for Life is a multi-faceted novena for the respect and protection of human life.

Each day, a different intention is accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related information. Sign up to receive the novena by email, text message, or an app at www.9daysforlife.com

Additional resources to observe the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children are available at www.usccb.org

exploring the sunday readings

YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED: SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 49:3, 5-6

You are my servant, Israel, through whom I show my glory.

These pitches arrive in the daily mail: "You have been selected..."Sometimes you're being favored with the opportunity to take a survey-oh, and to send a donation, while you're at it. Sometimes,it's a promise that you've already "won" something. But you're not going to get it until you undergo herculean efforts that will not be worth the price of the gadget. Being selected in this presorted way is no prize at all. It just reinforces how incredibly special the average consumer is not. When it's God who comes calling, it's another matter entirely. Our selection for the divine purpose is heightened and our opportunities unparalleled. After all, God is choosing us to serve a particular generation, in a precise location, at a time in history with specific circumstances and needs. No one else has our reach, our skills, or our influence. We shine our light on this corner of the world, touching the lives of those around us. As Joan of Arc said, "I was born for this." For what purpose were you born?

» Consider your top ten achievements. Do these spell out your purpose?

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God

You have to marvel at the clarity that Paul exhibits in every sentence of his letters. He never says, "I can't say for sure" or "This could be one way of looking at the situation" No, Paul is always dead sure of everything, clear-cut in his identity and his goals. He even freely admits when he's been dead wrong with the same heavy certainty!

So his letters don't begin with: "Hi, it's Paul. You remember, the guy who's doing his best to follow Jesus?" Instead, across thirteen letters, Paul starts off by claiming his apostleship nine times in the first sentence. He's a slave of Christ or a prisoner for Christ four times. He claims to operate by the will of God four times. He also serves at the command of God, or not by the authority of human beings, once each. He also views himself set apart from the gospel. All in the first sentence. Maybe this is just what happens when a Pharisee becomes a disciple of Christ. Paul is all in. But it does make me wonder: what would it take to be all in like Paul?

» Are you "doing your best to follow Jesus?" Or are you "all in" as an apostle, one sent by God to do the will of God?

GOSPEL

JOHN 1:29-34

"The reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known."

Prophets talk this way. They know who God is and what God wants. They know who they are and why they are here. Prophets have an inner sense of fulfilling a destiny that's wrapped up in their DNA. It's as if they can do no other. A lot of the rest of us flop around like fish on a pier, seeking some route to an agreeable body of water in which we can breathe freely. Any water will do, so long as it comes about as quickly as possible. We're not too particular about the details of our survival, just the thing itself.

John the Baptist isn't that kind of fish. He swims the ocean of certainty known to Paul. John knows he's selected not to be the Christ, but to be the forerunner. His showy Baptisms are merely a sign of something more brilliant and significant ahead. John has no vocation crisis, no desire to climb a ladder to get ahead in his career. He has one job: to spot and announce the one who is to come. Then he earns his grisly retirement with confidence. We may be glad not to be John, but we have to be grateful he took the job.

» Consider those who are killed in the service of their calling: aid workers, soldiers, journalists. What risks are you willing to take to answer

Dr. Anthony Lordo DDS

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