

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

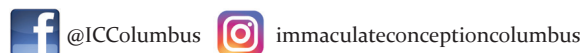
Call the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241. Available at any time.

FUNERAL MINISTRY

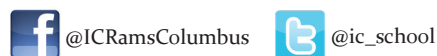
Family of deceased should contact the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Find us on SOCIAL MEDIA

Immaculate Conception Parish



Immaculate Conception School



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, 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 †

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. For the Living & Deceased Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Edward Palazzo †

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Eleanor Andres †

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

8:30 a.m. Michael Kelsey †

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

4:00 p.m. Catherine (Dolly) Doyle †

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

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

9:30 a.m. John Michael Griga †

11:30 a.m. Brian Adkins †

† *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

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

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

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

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

PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

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

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Finance Council Chairman 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 11 & 12, 2020

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Mary Goodburn Pete Koloski Bob Steinbauer Don Muenz Mary M. Schultheis	Jerry Bennett Jeanne Stoker Marilynne Poirier Don Harbaugh Lynn Owings Dan Costello	Mary Ann Rivera Rich Viertel Toni Elovitz Jim Manofsky Sarah Moore Doug Holcomb Katie McCann	Dave Wall Janet Wilks Bob Taylor Anna Lohrer Bob Poirier Colleen Kent
LECTOR	Scott Reing-Hurley	Layton McCallum	Colleen O'Brien	Emily Strand
ALTAR SERVERS	Sean Moore Bella Muetzel Tommy Price Nora Racz	Elly Morrison Gabe Muetzel Isabella Sloan	Luke Gibbons Noah Grayem Luke Hangen Mitch Hettterscheidt	Lilly Shillingburg, Anna Stauffer Jack Summanen Reese Tucker
USHERS	E.J. Davis Mike Hatz John Groeber	Chris Mahler Ralph Mathews Michael Girard	Scott Leathley J. Ruebensaal Matt Hangen Dave Ciccone	Bob Poirier Bob Taylor Brian Byrne
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

NEW PARISHIONERS: We welcome these new parishioners to the parish: **Andrea Wolf; Ali Knapke; Jacob Emmons; Joe Zaycosky; Candice McKay; Lisa Wahlrab**. 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.

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.

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 & 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.

“

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

”

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



On this day, dear Savior, Your light shines brightly in our midst. You are the Light of the World, the Light in our darkness, ever with us, ever showing us the way. On this great feast of Light, when the Magi came guided by a star, may we, like them, offer You gifts that symbolize our love

for You. May we offer You the gold of our faith, the myrrh of our repentance and the frankincense of our devotion. May we bow before You, Holy Savior, as the three Wise Men did, with great and abiding joy. On this day, may we, too, stand in Your light and so give glory to our God. Amen



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.



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://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.



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!

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.

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

Fiscal Year 7/1/2019-6/30/2020 • Offertory Report 12/29/2019		
	12/29/2019	YTD 2019/2020
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 33,363.50	\$ 619,734.07
Loose Cash & Checks	\$ 1,951.00	\$ 17,364.75
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 35,314.50	\$637,098.82
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	\$650,000.00
Weekly Overage (<i>Shortage</i>)	\$ 10,314.50	(\$ 12,901.18)
Christmas Collection (Included above)		\$ 16,556.00
<hr/>		
Families Receiving Envelopes		1,059
Envelopes Received		395
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

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 this 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.

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.
- 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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Tutors are needed for adults seeking Basic Education, GED Preparation, or English as a Second Language. The Dominican Learning Center will hold its next Tutor Training Workshop on Saturday, January 18 from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at 1111 E. Stewart Avenue, Columbus, OH 43206. Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and a high school graduate. Materials are free to tutors. To register, please call (614) 444-7330, ext. 1 or email dlccolumbus@oppeace.org. To find out more, visit www.domlearningcenter.org.

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!

Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2020

Immaculate Conception Church

Fr. Matthew Hoover

One Minute Meditations

St. Thomas Aquinas

Against his family's wishes, St. Thomas

Aquinas joined the newly founded

Dominican Order of Preachers. A brilliant, humble scholar, he taught theology at universities in Paris, Cologne, and Rome, and advised popes, kings, and students. His greatest achievement was his *Summa Theologica*, a thorough, logical, concise treatise on the faith. Exhausted by constant work and travel, St. Thomas collapsed en route to a Church council and died at Fossanova. He is the patron of students and schools.



Well-placed faith

Our world is filled with pain, sorrow, and suffering. Putting our faith in worldly powers guarantees disappointment. Putting faith in God guarantees that we will never be disappointed.

"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).



Shed bad habits in the New Year

Bad habits are sinful inclinations acquired through repetition. Unless we overcome them, they come between us and God and can destroy our peace. Working to overcome our bad habits puts us on the path to true holiness.

Identify the root.

It sounds simple, but recognizing what causes us to sin repeatedly is the first step to overcoming the behavior. That doesn't mean it's easy to do. It can be uncomfortable to look at our failings, but change won't come without courage. Ask for help if you need it.

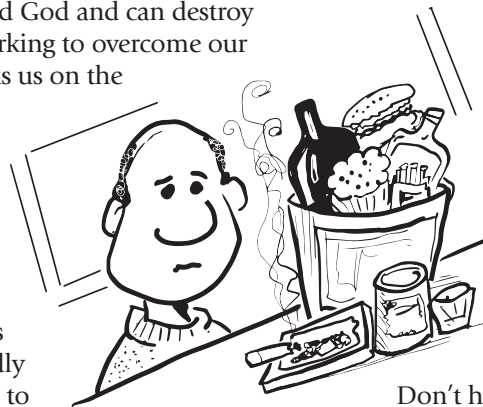
Replace a bad habit with a good one. Once we understand what is behind our bad habits, we can replace

them with new and healthy ways to deal with the underlying issue. If we overeat or drink too much when stressed, for example, we can adopt exercise or meditation to cope instead.

Eliminate triggers. Make it easier to cure bad habits by avoiding the conditions that nurture them. Do you want to avoid eating junk food?

Don't have it around you at home or at work. Want to change a gossip habit? Avoid the people with whom you gossip. Change your environment to change your behavior.

Find good influences. It may not be necessary to lose your old friends, but consider finding new ones who already live the way you want to live.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why are Catholics called "catholic"?

"Catholic" means "universal." In the Greek, it also means "wholeness" or "fullness." Firstly, the Church is catholic because her members have a universal mission. Jesus commanded his Apostles to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them" (Matthew



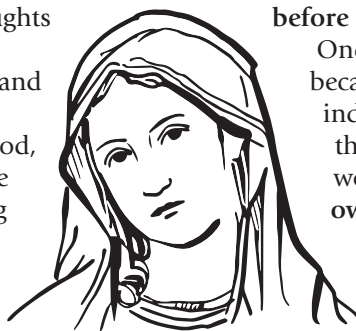
28:19). Secondly, the Church is catholic because, being founded by Christ and united to him, her members have the "correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #830*).

The keys to Mary's success

Jesus loved his mother dearly, and his last thoughts on Earth were of her. We know she is Queen of Heaven, but what did she do to receive His love and great reward?

When Mary agreed to become the mother of God, she could have expected an easy life but Scripture tells us that all Mary expected was the joy of doing God's will. **She put God's will before her own.**

Mary didn't have to go with Joseph to Bethlehem for the census. She chose to go with Joseph as his wife. **She put Joseph's needs**



before her own.

Once there, the couple lodged with animals because there was no room at the inn. Instead of indulging in self-pity, Mary graciously received the shepherds and the Magi, who came to worship her baby. **She put their joy before her own discomfort.**

Throughout her life, Mary said "yes" to God, put his will first, and thought of others before herself. If we follow her example, we'll receive our reward in Heaven, too.

from Scripture

Matthew 4:12-23, The common call

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). When invited to know Jesus better and follow him closely, the men dropped what they were doing "at once" and left everything behind.

Under Christ's leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing things. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, converted countless souls for heaven, and suffered hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as



their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

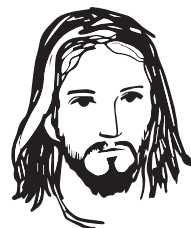
All of us are called to be saints – intimate friends of God. Jesus invites each of us to know him personally and follow him closely. While few of us are called to leave everything,

we can still offer everything we have to God's service. We can still imitate the first disciples who dropped everything "at once" to accept God's invitation. Knowing Jesus personally and closely makes for a great adventure.

Q & A Why are we required to respect Jesus' name?

As the Son of God, Jesus' name is "above every name" (Philippians 2:9) and commands respect.

It is the name God gave himself when he became man (Luke 1:31). In Jesus' day, there was no internet, no media, no network to use to find out if someone was reputable or reliable. All people had was



their good name and the way others used it with respect. He knew he would need a recognizable name.

Jesus' name tells us of his mission. The angel Gabriel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to name the child "Jesus," "for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). And he did.

There is great power in Jesus' name. Jesus promised his disciples that whatever they asked in his name, he would do (John 14:14). In his name, the Apostles cast out demons (Luke 10:17), cured the sick and even raised the dead (Acts 3:16; 4:10). "There is no other name under heaven...by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Feasts & Celebrations

Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. On this holy day of obligation, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary and attend Mass.

Jan. 6 – St. André Bessette (1937). Born near Montreal, Canada, André joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross at twenty-five and was the doorkeeper for their school. During an epidemic, everyone in his care was miraculously healed. He helped build a beautiful chapel to St. Joseph.

Jan. 12 – The Baptism of the Lord

(1st century). Jesus began his public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was free of sin, but he allowed himself to be baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). By his baptism, Jesus declared his willingness to fulfill God's saving plan.

Jan. 20 – St. Fabian (250). During his long reign as pope, Fabian organized Rome into seven districts, countered a heresy in Africa, and founded churches in France. He was martyred during the Decian persecutions.



Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.
Success Publishing & Media, LLC
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Preview will be held this 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 Monday, January 6 for current families and Monday, 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.

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK IS JANUARY 5-11, 2020.

This is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. This year's theme, "Promoting a Church and a World for All," draws attention to the fact that each of our families has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

ARE YOU SUFFERING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?

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.

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.

Done with
small talk?

#TryAlpha

Join us for real conversations with others who are exploring life and faith. It's a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere and there is no pressure. **EVER.**

**Tuesdays beginning January 14!
6:30 p.m. in Marian Hall**

Ten, weekly sessions featuring:

- a delicious, casual dinner
- a short, inspirational video
- small group discussion

Alpha

Register online at <https://bit.ly/RegisterforICAlpha>

414 E. North Broadway, Columbus, OH 43214

www.iccols.org

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION PAGE



Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, January 5, 2020

The Epiphany of the Lord “Little Christmas”

“The *Epiphany* is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Savior of the world. The great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (*magi*) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. ²¹² In the magi, representatives of the neighboring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. The magi’s coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the King of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. [Cf. Mt.2:2; Num. 24:17-19; Rev. 22:16.] Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. [Cf. Jn. 4:22; Mt. 2:4-6] The Epiphany show that ‘the full number of the nations’ now takes its ‘place in the family of the patriarch,’ and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* ²¹⁵ (are made ‘worthy of the heritage of Israel’).” (CCC, 528) **212:** Mt. 2:1; cf. Liturgy of the Hours, Epiphany, Evening Prayer II, Antiphon at the Canticle of Mary. **215:** St. Leo the Great, *Sermo* 3 in *epiphania Domini* 1-3,5: J.P. Migne, ed., *Patrologia Latina* (Paris: 1857-1855) 54, 242; Liturgy of the Hours, Epiphany, OR; *Roman Missal*, Easter Vigil 26, Prayer after the third reading.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The Gifts of the Three Kings

In Matthew’s Gospel reading today (MT 2:1-12), the birth of Jesus is heralded by the arrival of mysterious visitors from the east. Traditionally identified as three kings, because they spoke directly to king Herod, or as astrologers because they followed a star, or as wise men because they knew of Christ’s birth through some hidden wisdom, the fact is we know virtually nothing about them; not even their number, although that’s traditionally been fixed at three, because they brought three gifts: Gold — a symbol of wealth and power identifies the recipient as a king. Frankincense — the crystalized resinous sap of a tree used as incense and as an offering, is symbolic of prayer. Myrrh — another resinous tree sap was used in healing liniments, and as an embalming ointment. Myrrh is an odd gift for a child, unless you know that this special child will, through his death and resurrection, redeem the world. At the beginning of Jesus’ life on earth, this gift foreshadows his death.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-resources/christmas/christmas-january-5.cfm>

JANUARY is Poverty Awareness Month. The Christ child reminds us to consider the poor in our own midst. Poverty affects millions in this country and abroad. Many times it is our own family that struggles with poverty [body, mind, and spirit]. How do we help all those who struggle with poverty? In your prayer time this week ask God to enlighten and inspire you.

National Migration Week 2020 (January 5-11)

For more information on Poverty and National Migration Week visit the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops website at www.usccb.org

RESOLUTIONS

This is the time of year when people consider making their New Year resolutions. They want to choose something that they can achieve or improve on in the New Year. Perhaps it may involve getting in shape physically, offering more help to the poor and those in need, or setting achievable goals for living life personally. Sometimes, people consider spiritual changes and goals for the upcoming year.

There are many ways to renew your faith and grow spiritually. Attending Church and participating in the sacraments, attending mass more often this year, or adding daily mass into your schedule, and doing more spiritual reading, including the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Some choose to learn more about their faith through study and fellowship with others on the journey. This can happen through a parish mission, the men’s and women’s faith sharing groups, the R.C.I.A. process, and other spiritual offerings made available through the parish.

I invite you to consider and choose a short 10 week program which begins on January 14, 2020. This program is called “**Alpha.**” It will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30PM. There is still time to register and attend. This is a “parish-wide” and beyond, program offering to help increase your faith, spiritual growth, and development. All are welcome.

Also, many people are needed to help with this program during the 10 week period. If you are looking for a way to become more involved in a stewardship ministry, please consider this opportunity to share your faith with others and build community through loving service. You will receive training.

Explore your “Spiritual” health this New Year and come to “**Alpha.**” Pray about it. Ask God if **Alpha** should be part of your spiritual resolution for this year. God bless you.

To inquire, please contact the parish office at (614) 267-9241x293. Or, to register for **Alpha** online, go to <https://bit.ly/RegisterforICAlpha> You may also go through our parish website: www.iccols.org

We anticipate and look forward to seeing you soon at **Alpha!**

exploring THE SUNDAY READINGS

FOLLOW THE RISING STAR: SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 60:1-6

Upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears God's glory.

Do you consider yourself a radiant being? Many of us will humbly protest, not wishing to appear boastful or assuming. Yet in God's eyes, we're radiant. Thomas Merton appreciated this in his famous Louisville epiphany, when he saw all the people walking around the streets shining like the sun. Some seers describe an aura emanating from our bodies that differs in color according to the condition of our souls. Artists throughout history have translated that idea into the haloes of saints. They even invented the mandorla, an almond-shaped full body halo like the one framing Our Lady of Guadalupe and also traditionally enclosing Jesus in iconography. The mandorla is meant to suggest a being that transcends time and space.

Some days you and I don't manage to transcend our own bad moods. But if you seek the simple way of holiness available to you every day, don't be surprised if a mandorla is in your future. In the meantime, shine on!

» *Have you known people who seemed to shine with a light that comes from within? How can you stoke "this little light" that is yours?*

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 3:2-3A, 5-6

The mystery was made known to me by revelation.

Our eyes naturally follow the light. When we move through a dark room, instinctively we seek out whatever moonlight or streetlight or LED markers we can trace across the space to guide our steps. Like those rows of floor lights the flight attendants always promise will come on in case of an emergency, we need guiding lights, or we're sure to stumble in the dark.

Revelation is another way to describe the light that's sometimes available in dark situations. We don't know what to do, scratching our heads and weighing the options. Then suddenly, the path before us clarifies and straightens, and we make a firm choice to walk it. Revelation, which literally means to lift a veil between the seen and unseen, is something better and more far seeing than just another helping of useful information. It also gives us confidence that, even when walking in the dark valley or the shadow of death, all will be well. When St. Paul encountered the risen Lord on the Damascus Road, he didn't get answers to questions. He got direction for his life altogether.

» *Even if the information doesn't change, have you ever found an unexpected way to the solution to a problem?*

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 2:1-12

"We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

The image of a star tiptoeing across the heavens, beckoning watchful astrologers to follow in its wake, is a lovely metaphor for the journey we each must take to wisdom. Most of us don't look for answers in the night sky anymore. We seek understanding by studying history, by attending to the signs of our times, by listening to experts, and perhaps by taking all that we learn to prayer and contemplation.

From there, we may feel the prompting, a tug that requires us to speak or take action in a way we would not normally choose. So we move tentatively in this new direction. The light we're following bids us to be more courageous, or more generous; to take less offense, or to show more compassion. Little by little, as we inch toward our wiser selves, we find our hearts widening, our egos demanding less attention and satisfaction. Wise folk find it easier to surrender themselves to mystery, to bow down before One who is mightier. Homage is not a posture readily assumed by the arrogant and the ignorant.

» *Bowing, kneeling, prostrating. These religious gestures imitate with the body the manner of the spirit. How do you show homage?*

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