



IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH

414 E. NORTH BROADWAY COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

PARISH OFFICE  
(614) 267-9241

SCHOOL OFFICE  
(614) 267-6579

[www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org)

*Leading people to Jesus through Worship, Community, Service, and Devotion to Mary*

Celebration of

## *Holy Mass*

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

### DAILY MASSES

Monday: 8:30 a.m., Tuesday: 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.

### HOLY DAY MASSES

8:30 a.m., 7:00 p.m. or as announced

## *Sacraments*

### RECONCILIATION

Tuesdays: 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Fridays: Following the 8:30 a.m. Mass,  
9:15-9:45 a.m., or by appointment

### BAPTISM

For detailed information related to preparation and scheduling, please contact Barb Fortkamp at (614) 267-9241, ext. 307 or at [bfortkamp@iccols.org](mailto:bfortkamp@iccols.org)

### MARRIAGE

Couples should inquire at least 12 months in advance of the intended date. A marriage preparation program is required. For information, contact Elizabeth DeLuca at (614) 267-9241, ext. 304 or at [edeluca@iccols.org](mailto:edeluca@iccols.org).

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK AND PASTORAL MINISTRY TO THE HOMEBOUND

If there is an emergency need for Anointing of the Sick, please call the parish office. If you get the voicemail message, press "1" and leave a message on the sacramental emergency line. For pastoral care needs contact Barb Fortkamp at (614) 267-9241, ext. 307 or at [bfortkamp@iccols.org](mailto:bfortkamp@iccols.org).

### FUNERAL AND BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Family of the deceased loved one should contact Barb Fortkamp at (614) 267-9241, ext. 307 or at [bfortkamp@iccols.org](mailto:bfortkamp@iccols.org).

### RCIA

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the formation program of inquiry, discernment and instruction for adults. If you are interested in learning more about our faith and becoming Catholic, please contact Mary Ann Rivera at (614) 267-9241, ext. 293 or at [marivera@iccols.org](mailto:marivera@iccols.org).

Find us on  
SOCIAL MEDIA

Immaculate Conception Parish



@ICColumbus



immaculateconceptioncolumbus

Immaculate Conception School



@ICRamsColumbus



@ic\_school



## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Col 1:21-23; Lk 6:1-5

4:00 p.m. Dorothy Hunsinger †

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Is 35:4-7a; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37

8:30 a.m. Jim Schultheis †

11:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Col 1:24-2:3; Lk 6:6-11

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

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19

6:15 p.m. Louis Vinh Do †

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23, or 1:18-23

8:30 a.m. Raymond Haidet Family

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38

8:30 a.m. Kathryn Clark †

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Lk 6:39-42

8:30 a.m. Michael Kelsey †

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49

4:00 p.m. For the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Is 50:4c-9a; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

8:30 a.m. Bob Carlisle †

11:00 a.m. Robert Carlisle †

† Deceased

## SEPTEMBER CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamp burns constantly to proclaim the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle. For the month of September, the Sanctuary candles in the Church were donated by **the Ruschau Family, the Hernandez Family** and the **Griffin Family**. Thank you for your generosity.

## THE POPE'S INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

### An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle

We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

## PASTORAL STAFF

<i>Pastor</i>	Fr. Matthew Hoover .....	icoffice@iccols.org
<i>Permanent Deacon</i>	Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell.....	ccampbel@cducation.org
<i>Weekend Assistants</i>	Msgr. Anthony Frecker	
<i>Pastoral Care &amp; Bereavement Ministry</i>	Barbara Fortkamp .....	bfortkamp@iccols.org

## FAITH FORMATION

<i>Music Ministry</i>	icoffice@iccols.org	
<i>Permanent Deacon</i>	Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell.....	ccampbel@cducation.org
<i>PSR Coordinator</i>	icpsr@iccols.org	
<i>Evangelization and Faith Formation</i>	Mary Ann Rivera .....	marivera@iccols.org

## PARISH OFFICE STAFF Phone: (614) 267-9241

<i>Parish Business Administrator</i>	John Bernard .....	jbernard@iccols.org
<i>Ministry Coordinator</i>	Elizabeth DeLuca.....	edeluca@iccols.org
<i>Director of Marketing &amp; Communications</i>	Jacob Lammers.....	jlammers@iccols.org
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Karen Cannell .....	icoffice@iccols.org
<i>Facilities Manager</i>	Keith Altier	

## SCHOOL STAFF Phone: (614) 267-6579

<i>Principal</i>	Colleen Kent.....	cokent@cducation.org
<i>Assistant Principal</i>	Rick Logue.....	rlogue@cducation.org
<i>Office Manager</i>	Marina Hachwa.....	mhachwa@cducation.org
<i>Preschool</i>	School Office.....	mhachwa@cducation.org
<i>Secretary</i>	Peggy Heffernan.....	pheffern@cducation.org
<i>School Age Child Care</i>	Mary Louise West .....	mlwest@iccols.org

## PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

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

## ADVISORY COUNCILS

<i>Finance Council Chairman</i>	Brian Byrne.....	bbyrne@horizon10.com
<i>Parish Council President</i>	Beth Mahler.....	parishcouncil@iccols.org
<i>School Board President</i>	Katie Lewis .....	lewisk9@me.com

## IN OUR PARISH

### LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS

Using low-gluten hosts is an available option at Immaculate Conception. If you require a low-gluten host, please stop off in the Sacristy before Mass and talk to the priest or deacon.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome this new member of the parish: **Finn Alexander Forker**, the son of John and Marcy Forker, who was baptized on August 28, 2021.

### ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE

Assisted listening devices are available for use during Mass. If you are interested in using one of these devices, please go to the sacristy before Mass.

“Praise the Lord, my soul.”

ROSARY  
AT THE GROTTTO

Please join us each Sunday evening to pray the Rosary at the Grotto. All are welcome.



Every Sunday at 8 p.m.

IS GOD CALLING YOU?



**PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK**

Due to privacy laws, the parish office is not notified by the hospital that an I.C. parishioner has been admitted. Parishioners wishing to have a home, hospital or nursing home visit for themselves or a family member should contact the parish office at (614) 267-9241 or email Barb Fortkamp at bfortkamp@iccols.org.

**IC PRAYER MINISTRY**

The I.C. prayer ministry is dedicated to praying for parishioners, or friends of our parish and their families, who have physical, financial, emotional, or other special needs. The prayer ministry strengthens the community through intercessory prayer and provides prayer support for those in need. Members of the ministry have a commitment to pray for the requests daily. If you have a request or would like to join the prayer ministry, please contact Jean Carter at jccarter@computer.org or at (614) 263-8776.

Do you want to share the Catholic faith with others? Do you enjoy seeing others grow in their faith? Do you have a passion for ministry with children? If so, Immaculate Conception Parish would love to hear from you! Please contact Mary Ann Rivera at marivera@iccols.org or call the parish office at (614) 267-9241.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR VICTIMS IN HAITI 9/12 EARTHQUAKE – TROPICAL STORM GRACE**



Bishop Brennan is asking for our support for the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake that struck on August 11, 2021. It caused immense damage and substantial loss of life on an island already challenged by social unrest and still rebuilding after a major 2010 earthquake. Tropical Storm Grace followed, adding devastation to an already reeling population. As a result of both disasters, many Church properties, along with homes and businesses, have been severely damaged or destroyed. The impact will be long-lasting. Our partners at Catholic Relief Services are on the ground providing humanitarian relief and will be with the community over its extended recovery. But much more support will be needed. To donate, please put a clearly marked envelope in an offertory box, send it to the parish office, or donate online at iccols.org – Give Now, Choose A Fund, Haiti Relief Fund.



***Called to the Catholic Church?  
RCIA Starts September 21 at 7 p.m.***

**ADDITIONAL RCIA SPONSORS NEEDED! FIND OUT MORE AT A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 9**

A sponsor is a companion and mentor to catechumens and candidates participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). If this is something you are interested in, or would like to be a part of the RCIA team, we would like to invite you to a meeting on Thursday, September 9 at 7 p.m. in Room A. Any questions, please contact Mary Ann Rivera at marivera@iccols.org.

**NEXT DAY OF ADORATION – SEPTEMBER 8**

Our next Day of Adoration is this Wednesday, September 8, the feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Adoration begins at 7 a.m. and goes until 6 p.m. with Mass at 8:30 a.m. All are invited to come and spend time with the Lord on this special feast day. To sign up for a specific hour, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/icadoration>. Additional upcoming dates for Adoration are October 20 and November 10. When you arrive, please sign in at the east door.



**23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2021**

***Openness to New Ideas: Deacon Tim Birie,  
Knox County Consortium of Catholic Churches***

In today's Gospel, Jesus says to the deaf man with the speech impediment, "Ephphatha," which means "be opened." The man could now hear and speak plainly. What a change for him. He now had access to a whole new world. He could hear Jesus' teaching and could share them with others. Many people in our world need to hear the words of Jesus. We are all being called to proclaim the Gospel, which could be a change for many of us. Real Presence, Real Future is asking us to be open to new ideas and accept some changes. In the words of Jesus, "Ephphatha," be opened.

To read more about how we are growing together in the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit [www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org](http://www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org).

## COME & SEE: HELP SHAPE IC'S FUTURE – SEPTEMBER 28 & 30

Immaculate Conception is encouraging all parishioners to attend the Fall Sessions for the Real Presence, Real Future, where they can get their questions answered about the survey results that were released this past summer. Every parishioner in the Diocese is encouraged to attend.

The Diocese of Columbus will be leading these Fall Sessions for Immaculate Conception. Participants can attend either session in-person or via Zoom video-conferencing. Parishioner participation in these sessions is critical to helping shape the future of the Diocese of Columbus and Immaculate Conception.

Fall Sessions Schedule:

- 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Tuesday, September 28 | Marian Hall
- 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Thursday, September 30 | Marian Hall
- If attending in-person, you are strongly encouraged to bring your laptop or phone, though it is not required.

### Registration:

Additionally, **registration is required for in-person AND Zoom video-conferencing, which can be done via [www.realpresencerealfuture.org](http://www.realpresencerealfuture.org). Registration opened on August 30.** All registrants will receive a link to the recording via email after the session.

The Fall Sessions are a vital part of the planning process that encourages parishioners to offer insights and perspective on the future planning of their parish. The feedback provided during these sessions will be used to draft new models for review by parishioners in early 2022. The consultation process will continue throughout 2022 until final models are approved. **No decisions have been made regarding Immaculate Conception, and none will be made until feedback is gathered directly from parishioners through the consultation process.**

Contact: For any questions, please contact Mary Ann Rivera via [marivera@iccols.org](mailto:marivera@iccols.org).



### AN INVITATION TO THE IC COMMISSIONS MEETING

All parishioners are invited to the first Parish Commissions meeting of the 2021-2022 year. IC has three Parish Commissions: Parish & Community Life, Faith Formation & Spiritual

Life, and Social Concerns. Read the insert in this weekend's bulletin - IC PASTORAL COUNCIL 2020-21 END-OF-YEAR SUMMARY. Come join us and see how you can play a role in enriching our parish life by helping to fulfill our mission: Leading People to Jesus through Worship, Community, Service, and Devotion to Mary.

**Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

**Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

**Where: Marian Hall**

**Who is Invited: All Parishioners**

**Questions: Contact [parishcouncil@iccols.org](mailto:parishcouncil@iccols.org)**

(IC Parish Pastoral Council meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m.)

### BREAKFAST WITH THE BISHOP

Catholic Social Services will host Breakfast With the Bishop on Friday, September 10, 2021, from 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel. The keynote speaker is Fr. Michael Rozier, SJ, PhD, assistant professor at Saint Louis University. He will speak on "Health, Poverty, and Human Dignity: Deepening our Moral Imagination." Sponsorship opportunities and individual tickets are available online at <https://colscs.org/upcoming-events>. Please contact Julie Naporano at [jnaporano@colscs.org](mailto:jnaporano@colscs.org) with any questions.

### THE BLUE MASS

Friday, September 10 at 5 p.m.

St. Timothy Church, 1088 Thomas Lane, Columbus, OH 43220

St. Timothy Church and St. Timothy Knights of Columbus Council 14345 will host The Blue Mass on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 5 p.m. The Blue Mass is an opportunity to honor and pray for all active, retired, and deceased police, firefighters, and emergency medical services. In addition, it is an occasion to remember the 2,973 who lost their lives in the September 2001 terrorist attacks. All active and retired police, fire, and emergency medical services in the greater Columbus area, and their families are invited. The Celebrant and Homilist for The Blue Mass will be The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus. **Let us all join together to honor our police, firefighters, and emergency medical services, to ask for God's blessing, to keep them safe, and to guide them in their duties.**

### BIRTHRIGHT OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Birthright of Columbus, a pregnancy support center, will hold its annual luncheon September 18, 2021 at Mozart's, 4784 N. High Street.

The event will start at 11 a.m. and will include a silent auction and raffle. The raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, and luncheon tickets are \$35 each. Tickets are available by calling Mary Jo Mayhan at (614) 668-6421. The featured speaker will be a mother of quadruplets who received support from Birthright. Thank you for your continued support of Birthright of Columbus.

### PIETRA – FITNESS WITH PRAYER & MEDITATION

Experience Pietra ... A whole-person fitness class that stretches and strengthens the body while refreshing the soul with prayer and meditation. In one hour, you will feel calmer, stronger, refreshed and renewed! Join our Autumn Pietra classes! Saturdays 7-8 a.m. at St. Michael Church (September 11-December 11); Thursdays 12:30-1:30 p.m. outdoor class at fields behind St. Peter Church (September 9-October 14). \$10/class.

Contact Maria Elliott at [maria@viribuswellness.com](mailto:maria@viribuswellness.com) for more information and to sign up!

### LAGHI CHAIR LECTURE AT THE JOSEPHINUM

The Pontifical College Josephinum invites you to its annual Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair Lecture. Dr. Jonathan Reyes, Senior Vice President for Communications and Strategic Partnerships for the Knights of Columbus, will present "Addressing Poverty and Injustice in the Light of Christ: A Response to the Utopian Temptation of Our Age" on Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 7 p.m. in the Jessing Center. Free and Open to the Public; reservations not required. For more information, please visit [www.pcj.edu](http://www.pcj.edu) or call (614) 985-2274.

The Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair was inaugurated at the Josephinum in 1992 in honor of Pio Cardinal Laghi, then Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education. American cardinals and presidents of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops promoted the funding of this chair in recognition of Cardinal Laghi's dedicated service to the Catholic Church in the United States.

### TUTORS NEEDED

Did you know that Saint Vincent Pallottiano is the patron saint of tutors and those whom they teach? You can be a saint in our community by becoming a tutor at the Dominican Learning Center (DLC), a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The DLC is seeking tutors for English as a Second Language (ESL) and GED prep programs. As a tutor, you will be assigned a learner and meet at least once a week for a two-hour session. You can work with your learner online, at a library near you, or at the DLC on Stewart Avenue. The DLC will supply all the training and materials. For more information, call Denise Hilliard, Director of the Dominican Learning Center, at (614) 444-7330, ext. 8, or email her at [Denise.Hilliard@oppeace.org](mailto:Denise.Hilliard@oppeace.org).



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH**  
*Leading People to Jesus Through Worship, Community, Service  
and Devotion to Mary*

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**

**2020-21 END-OF-YEAR SUMMARY**

**GOALS OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2020-21**

- Increase parishioner participation in Parish Commissions
- Increase engagement in the parish community of parishioners across all age groups and life stages

**EVANGELIZATION EFFORTS AND RESPONSE TO THE DIOCESAN REAL PRESENCE REAL FUTURE**

**INITIATIVE** - Arranged the presentation *Lean In: Why Jesus is Important – Highlights from the January 2020 Diocesan Millennial Church Conference* by former Council President Heather MacKinnon; Promoted participation in the fall 2020 Diocesan/Catholic Foundation Survey for Catholics Disengaged from their Faith, winter 2021 Diocesan Disciple Maker Index, and the April “Missionary Discipleship in the Parishes” event by Fr. Adam Streitenberger.

**ACCOMMODATIONS RELATED TO COVID** - Conducted 7 of 9 meetings via Zoom prior to safely returning to in-person meetings beginning May 12; Made recommendations regarding safe participation in the Christmas and Easter liturgies, parish Corpus Christi celebration, and for postponing Vacation Bible School to 2022.

**PROPOSAL PROCESS FOR FACILITATING PARISHIONER IDEAS FOR NEW PARISH ACTIVITIES** - Approved an official process and packet (available on the parish website), with guidelines and forms, for completing the proposal process; Reviewed 2 official Proposals: 1) Oplatki Christmas Wafer event - recommended tabling until fall 2021; 2) Virtual I.C. Community Rosary - recommended approval .

**PASTORAL COUNCIL & COMMISSIONS MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION** - Approved the document *PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONS: AN INTRODUCTION* (available on parish website) describing the purpose and processes of I.C. Parish Commissions and Pastoral Council ; developed strategies to recruit new participants for the three commissions; Clarified the process, timeline and requirements for nomination of new Pastoral Council representatives and the offices of Council Vice President and Secretary; Developed strategies for identifying potential nominees to Council and the two Council offices; and Recommended approval of the slate of nominations for new Council members, Vice President and Secretary.

**PARISH COMMUNITY BUILDING** – Recommended 3 potential recipients for the 2020 Giving Tuesday funds; Began discussions for building a new sense of parish community post-pandemic; Identified a strategy for collaboration among Commissions on proposals when necessary; and brainstormed possibilities for a dedicated strategy for welcoming and supporting new parishioners.

## TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

### Fiscal Year 7/1/2021-6/30/2022 • Offertory Report 8/29/2021

	8/29/2021	YTD 2021/2022
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 17,363	\$ 187,528
Loose Cash	\$ 155	\$ 1,959
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 17,518	\$ 189,487
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 29,000	\$ 261,000
Weekly Overage ( <i>Shortage</i> )	(\$ 11,482)	(\$ 71,513)

Families Receiving Envelopes	1,035
Envelopes Received	77
Families on EFT	395



Manage your electronic contributions online! Visit [www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org) and click "Offertory & Stewardship" under the Giving menu. Alternatively, text "Give" to (614) 953-6436, or scan the QR code to the left. Thank you for your financial support of our Catholic faith here in our parish. We are grateful for your generosity.

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." – 1 Pt 4:10*



### THE IC BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

The IC Women's Club Annual Summer Blood Drive was a great success. We collected 68 units which could potentially help 204 lives. Thank you, Fr. Hoover, the IC staff, and all the donors who came to donate.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS



### OPEN SHELTER DATE MOVED TO SEPTEMBER 7 DUE TO HOLIDAY

The Open Shelter meal for September will be Tuesday, September 7 due to the holiday. Please contact Cheryl Costello at (614) 774-8879 for donation information or arrangements. We will be leaving to deliver items to the shelter by 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 7.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COLLECTION "THANK YOU"

Thank you from the St. Vincent de Paul Society for your generosity in our regular "Fifth Sunday" collection. Your contributions help in our efforts to aid those in need.

You may still donate by using the envelope in your packet, placing your clearly marked donation in an offertory box, dropping it off at the parish office, or donating through the parish website using the Give Now tab.

### SIGN UP FOR YWCA DINNER – SEPTEMBER 17, 2021

Sign up for the next YWCA Family Shelter dinner by going to the parish website at [www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org), clicking on Quick Links on the blue bar, then the YWCA Shelter Dinner Sign-up. **Those who donate are to deliver donations directly to the shelter at 900 Harvey Court, Columbus, OH 43219.** Please do not drop off your donations at Immaculate Conception. When you drop off donations at the YWCA directly, please call the front desk when you arrive at (614) 253-3910, ext. 3910, and a staff member will meet you at your car.

## SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

### IC SCHOOL

First Day of School –  
Welcome to a New School Year!!!



### HASA Mum Sale – Benefiting the Immaculate Conception Home And School Association

All Sales are Online!

Please visit: <https://www.fundraiseit.org/>

Under "For Families" ----> Click "Order Online"

IC Parish WebCode: F614C - Parishioners who order with the IC Parish web code are responsible for picking up their own orders.

Want your Mums delivered by an IC student? Reach out to your nearest IC student and place an order from them! The sale ends on Friday, September 10 and order pick up is on Sunday, October 3 from 2:30-5:30 p.m. in the IC parking lot.

### Immaculate Conception School is Hiring

- **Preschool Teacher's Aide** – The hours of this preschool aide position are Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. each day. Please check out the diocesan website for application requirements: <https://education.columbuscatholic.org/preschool-childcare>

All inquiries or resumes should be sent to Principal Colleen Kent ([cokent@cducation.org](mailto:cokent@cducation.org)).

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

September 2021

**Immaculate Conception Church**

Fr. Matthew Hoover

## One Minute Meditations

### Make time

Life can be so busy that it becomes impossible to find time to pray.

Instead we have to make time to pray. If we make time for God, he will help us find the time we need for everything else.

### Face forward

Continually reliving the past prevents us from looking ahead with hope. Follow St. Paul's example: *"Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14).

### Our Lady of Sorrows

On September 15th we commemorate Our Lady of Sorrows. The title refers to Simeon's prediction that Mary would experience sorrows as if *"... you yourself a sword will pierce"* (Luke 2:35). Her greatest sorrow may have been watching her son die on the Cross.

If we ever want someone who understands our difficulties, we have only to look to Mary.



## "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Popular culture would have us believe that happiness comes from having the perfect spouse, the perfect home, the perfect job, and the perfect body. Without all that, happiness isn't possible. Consider this:

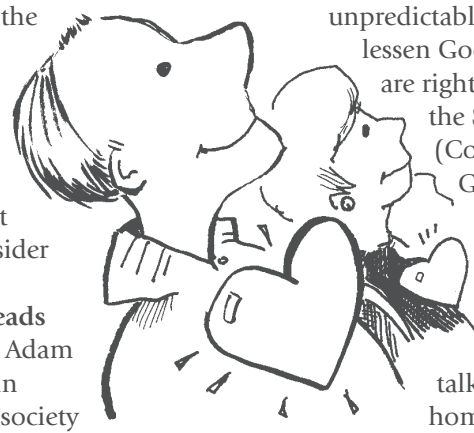
**God's way leads to perfection.** Adam and Eve were in Paradise until society convinced them that by eating a piece of fruit, they could become perfect and be even happier. Had they listened to God instead, their lives would have stayed perfect.

**Only God loves perfectly.** Sometimes we fear that showing our failings to

others will lessen their regard. The more perfect we appear, the more we will be loved and respected. Human love is unpredictable, but we can never lose or lessen God's love. He loves us as we are right now. In fact, Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to remind us of God's unconditional love.

**God's idea of perfect is possible.** Jesus said, *"... be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48), but he wasn't

talking about muscles or homes. Perfection in Jesus' eyes means loving God with all our hearts, praying for our enemies, and taking care of the poor. To Jesus, love, obedience and service is the true measure of perfection and he wants us to let go of anything that gets in the way. That's the only "perfect" that is possible.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

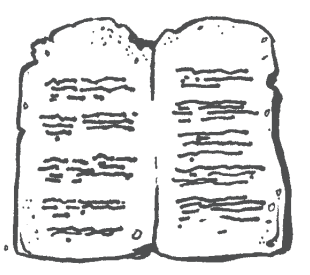
## Why do Catholics follow the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments were given by God to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai after they left Egypt. They are considered divine law because God himself revealed them to help his people live holy lives. They formed the basis of Jewish life, so Jesus followed them, too.

The Commandments are standards of holiness for Christians, too. Obey them

and eternal happiness is ours. Disobey them and we suffer the consequences. Jesus

summarized the spirit of the Commandments in Matthew 22:36-40.

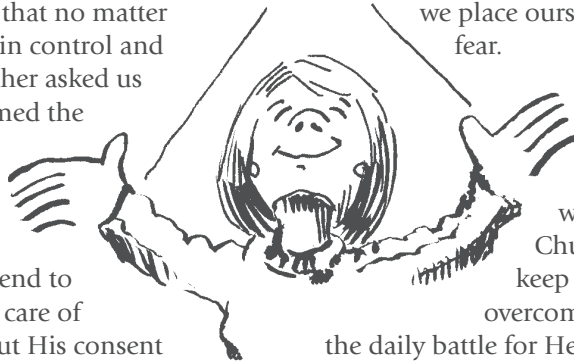


# Be not afraid

The phrase "be not afraid," made famous by Pope St. John Paul II, helps us to remember that no matter what happens in the world, God is in control and we are in good hands. The Holy Father asked us to put our trust in Jesus who redeemed the world.

**Refuse to worry.** Jesus reminded us that tomorrow isn't guaranteed to anyone (Luke 12:20). What brings us peace is to tend to today's challenges and let God take care of tomorrow. Nothing happens without His consent

and He won't permit anything that is bad for us. When we place ourselves in His care, we have nothing to fear.

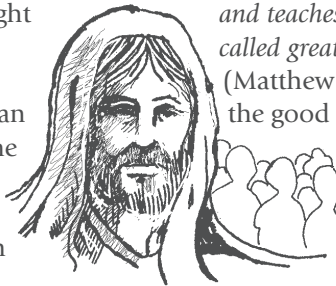


**Keep your eyes on Him.** Don't let the world blind you to God's presence in your life. We may not feel powerful at times, but when we stay close to Jesus through His Church, we receive the grace we need to keep fighting temptations to sin. God has overcome the world. With His help, we will win the daily battle for Heaven.

## from Scripture

### Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48, The discipline of discipleship

In this Gospel passage, the disciples hear of an unknown man healing in Jesus' name. In their jealousy, it seemed the disciples were more concerned about losing the spotlight than in healing. Jesus added perspective. He pointed out that the man had the same goal as the disciples - to build up God's Kingdom. He was a teammate, not an enemy.



through those sins, we lead others into sin, our responsibility is doubled.

These are grim words, but the opposite is great news: "Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:19). God rewards us for the good we do to and for others.

Our example is powerfully influential.

Being a faithful disciple isn't easy. Rooting out personal sin and setting a good

Discipleship means making a change of heart and mind. Jesus was very clear: if we choose to follow him, we can't foster private sins, too. If,

example is difficult, but we're not alone or without grace to do the job. No matter what we sacrifice, the reward is infinitely better.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**September 8 - The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1st century).**

Tradition says Mary was born in Jerusalem after her mother, Anna, and her father, Joachim, had been married more than twenty years without children. Mary's birth brought her parents joy, and we are joyful too - because Mary brings salvation to all of us with the birth of Jesus.

**September 23 - St. Padre Pio (1968).** Born to farmers in southern Italy, Padre Pio was an inspiring confessor and counselor. He received the five wounds of Our Lord's Passion (stigmata) eight

years after he became a Capuchin Friar. Despite intense personal and physical suffering, he remained dedicated to prayer.

**September 28 - Saint Wenceslaus (929).** As the king of Bohemia, Wenceslaus worked closely with the Church to end the persecution of the Christians in his country. He encouraged German missionaries, built churches, and cared for the sick, and poor. Political conflict led to his assassination by his brother. The "Good King" was immediately recognized as a martyr.



## Q & A Why do I have to go to Mass when I don't enjoy it?

A Catholic adult who lives an average lifespan can attend as many as 4,084 Sunday Masses. No ritual or event can sustain good vibrations 4,048 times. The truth is that the Mass is not meant to always make us feel good. It isn't actually about us - it's about God.

**Mass is public worship.** At every Mass, we worship God as a natural response to His overwhelming magnificence. This is not because God needs our praise, but because we need to praise Him. We recognize and honor all that is good about Him.

**Mass is a sacrifice.** When the gifts are brought to the altar, each of us offers our lives along with the bread and wine. We can do nothing of our own accord, so Christ accepts our offerings - our sacrifice - and joins it to His ongoing work of salvation.

**Mass is a meal.** Through the Eucharist, Jesus makes His home within us. We deepen our union with Jesus each time we receive His Word and His Body and Blood during Mass.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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**MARIA STEIN SHRINE OF THE HOLY RELICS  
SEPTEMBER 19 HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION**

Join us for food, family, faith and FUN at the 2021 Heritage Day Celebration Sunday, September 19 from 1-5 p.m.! This is a free, family-friendly event held annually at the Maria Stein Shrine to help support operating costs. Be sure to visit the Shrine between September 1-19 to view the raffle baskets on display and register to win! Special events include Quilt & Tractor Shows, Bobbin Lace Demo, Petting Zoo, Relic Chapel Presentations, Live Music by Roger DeMange, Stump the Priests, Bingo and youth games. For other events, program or complete event info and to purchase raffle or presale chicken dinner tickets, visit [mariasteinshrine.org](http://mariasteinshrine.org).

**NOTRE DAME  
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St. Mary Magdalene Church, Columbus is sponsoring a bus trip to South Bend, Indiana for the Notre Dame vs. Purdue football game on Saturday, September 18. The cost is \$199 per person which includes bus ticket, sandwiches, snacks, soft drinks. Children accompanied by parent are welcome. Only 50 spots available. To reserve your spot, contact Julius Palazzo at [Jmpalazzo@juno.com](mailto:Jmpalazzo@juno.com) or (614) 946-5729.

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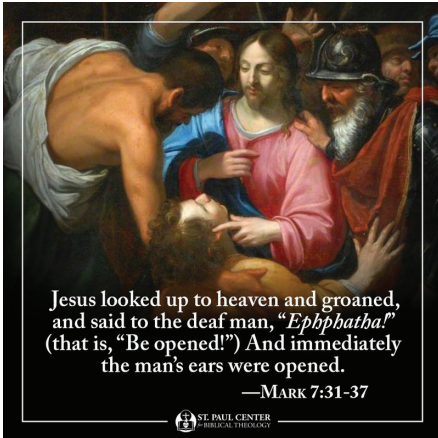
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For more than four decades, Pregnancy Decision Health Centers has been rescuing lives and impacting families for generations in the community. Celebrate PDHC’s 40th anniversary by attending one of our upcoming Celebration for Life Galas, in Lancaster on September 16 and in Columbus on September 23. Hear inspirational stories of lives saved, enjoy being entertained by our humorous guest speaker, and celebrate the evening with PDHC founders and friends, Mike and Peggy Hartshorn. Your support will provide life-saving ultrasounds and pregnancy support to thousands of women and families in Central Ohio. To become a sponsor, donate or reserve your seats, go to [SupportLifePDHC.org](http://SupportLifePDHC.org).

# FAITH FORMATION

Immaculate Conception Church

September 5, 2021



Jesus looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to the deaf man, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!") And immediately the man's ears were opened.

—MARK 7:31-37



## Dear brothers and sisters!

At the heart of today's Gospel (Mk 7, 31-37) there is a small, but very important word; a word that in its deepest meaning sums up the whole message and the whole work of Christ. The Evangelist Mark writes it in the same language that Jesus pronounced it in, so that it is even more alive to us. **This word is "Ephphatha," which means, "be opened." Let us look at the context in which it is located.**

Jesus was travelling through the region known as the "Decapolis", between the coast of Tyre and Sidon, and Galilee, therefore a non-Jewish area. They brought to him a deaf man, so that he could heal him – evidently his fame had spread that far. Jesus took him aside, touched his ears and tongue, and then, looking up to the heavens, with a deep sigh said, "Ephphatha," which means, "Be opened." And immediately the man began to hear and speak fluently (cf. Mk 7.35).

This then is the historical, literal, meaning of this word: this deaf mute, thanks to Jesus' intervention, "was opened", before he had been closed, insulated, it was very difficult for him to communicate, and his recovery was "openness" to others and the world, an openness that, starting from the organs of hearing and speech, involved all his person and his life: Finally he was able to communicate and thus relate in a new way.

But we all know that closure of man, his isolation, does not solely depend on the sense organs. There is an inner closing, which covers the deepest core of the person, what the Bible calls the "heart". That is what Jesus came to "open" to liberate, to enable us to fully live our relationship with God and with others. **That is why I said that this little word, "Ephphatha – Be opened," sums up Christ's entire mission. He became man so that man, made inwardly deaf and dumb by sin, would become able to hear the voice of God, the voice of love speaking to his heart, and learn to speak in the language of love, to communicate with God and with others.....**

VATICAN CITY Pope Benedict's Angelus message from the 23d Sunday in Ordinary Time:

## SEPTEMBER 8: THE NATIVITY OF MARY

*"Let us celebrate with joy the birth of the Virgin Mary, of whom was born the Sun of Justice.... Her birth constitutes the hope and the light of salvation for the whole world.... Her image is light for the whole Christian people" (From the Liturgy).*

### Historical Details about the Feast:

The origin of this Feast is sought in Palestine. It goes back to the consecration of a church in Jerusalem, which tradition identifies as that of the present basilica of St. Ann.

At Rome the Feast began to be kept toward the end of the 7th century, brought there by Eastern monks. Gradually and in varied ways it spread to the other parts of the West in the centuries that followed. From the 13th century on, the celebration assumed notable importance, becoming a Solemnity with a major Octave and preceded by a Vigil calling for a fast. The Octave was reduced to a simple one during the reform of St. Pius X and was abolished altogether under the reform of Pius XII in 1955.

The present Calendar characterizes the Birth of Mary as a "Feast," placing it on the same plane as the Visitation.

For some centuries now, the Birth has been assigned to September 8 both in the East and in the West, but in ancient times it was celebrated on different dates from place to place. However, when the Feast of the Immaculate Conception (which has a later origin than that of the Birth) was extended to the whole Church, the Birth little by little became assigned everywhere to September 8: nine months after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

[www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/birth-of-mary](http://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/birth-of-mary)



Orthodox Icon of The Nativity Of The Blessed Virgin

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