

CHRISTMAS + THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH

414 E. NORTH BROADWAY
COLUMBUS, OH 43214

PARISH OFFICE
(614) 267-9241

SCHOOL OFFICE
(614) 267-6579
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 the Parish Office at
(614) 267-9241, or at icoffice@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 or at 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,
please contact the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, or at
icoffice@iccols.org.

FUNERAL AND BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Family of the deceased loved one should
contact the Parish Office at
(614) 267-9241, or at icoffice@iccols.org.

OCIA

OCIA (Order 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. 605 or at marivera@iccols.org.



MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
2 Sam 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41
10:00 a.m. For the Intention of the Confirmandi
4:00 p.m. For the People of
Immaculate Conception Parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
Zeph 2:3; 3:12-13; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a
8:30 a.m. The Little Family †
11:00 a.m. Charles McKinley †

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
8:30 a.m. James Grimm †

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
2 Sam 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43
6:15 p.m. Guise Đào Tiến Thành †

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
2 Sam 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6
8:30 a.m. For the Intention of Peter Britt

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13
8:30 a.m. Chris Mahler †

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
Sir 47:2-11; Mk 6:14-29
8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of
the IC Women's Club

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34
4:00 p.m. Chris Sapp †

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8
Is 58:7-10; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16
8:30 a.m. For the People of
Immaculate Conception Parish
11:00 a.m. For the Intention of Don Muenz

† Deceased

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Fr. Matthew Hoover icooffice@iccols.org
Permanent Deacon Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell ccampbel@cdeducation.org
Weekend Assistant Msgr. Anthony Frecker
Pastoral Care Coordinator Odee Dammarell ext. 606 | rdammarell@iccols.org

FAITH FORMATION

Music Ministry Adam Fehrenbach ext. 607 | musicdirector@iccols.org
Evangelization and Faith Formation Mary Ann Riveraext. 605 | marivera@iccols.org
Evangelization and Faith Formation for Youth Veronica Dannemiller vdannemiller@iccols.org

PARISH OFFICE STAFF Phone: 614-267-9241

Parish Business Administrator John Bernardext. 602 | jbernard@iccols.org
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Administrative Assistant Karen Cannellext. 601 | icooffice@iccols.org
Facilities Manager Jason Stallkamp
Communications and Social Media Director Tom Berryhill ext. 604 | tberryhill@iccols.org

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Principal Colleen Kentcokent@cdeducation.org
Office Manager Marina Hachwamhachwa@cdeducation.org
Preschool School Officemhachwa@cdeducation.org
School Age Child Care John Bernard jbernard@iccols.org

PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

Faith-Based Counselor Mary Ann Jepsenjepsen.ma@gmail.com, 614-309-2270
Planned Giving Liaison Kelly Nollknoll@gbq.com, 614-352-1655

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Finance Council Chairman Andy MacKinnon amackinnon@horizon10.com
Parish Council President Rich Viertelparishcouncil@iccols.org
School Board President Danielle Culbertsondanielle.w.culbertson@gmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 7 & 8, 2026

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Bobbie Mitch Paul Duffy	Ree & Todd Wickerham	Colleen Kent Karen Cannell
LECTORS	EJ Davis	Tim Geraghty	Gail Hogan
ALTAR SERVERS	Matthew Silva Declan Schools Josh Schultheis Ryan Wallace	Brenna Conway Jake Conway David Jones James Kane	Henry Geraghty Dylan Hernandez Ellie Hockett Carter Leber
GREETERS	Joyce Francis Jeanne Stoker Molly Edwards	Mike Demko Bobby Clark Michele Sapp Tyler Johnston	Coleman Family April Byrne Inkrott Family
WELCOME DESK	Patty Conway	Michele Sapp	Karen Cannell

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Ministry schedules are available on the parish website. To see complete schedules, go to iccols.org>Parish Life>Organization Schedules.

SCHEDULING MASS INTENTIONS

One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead (a spiritual work of mercy). The greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. Mass stipends (offerings) are \$10.00 each with only one intention per Mass. Mass Intentions are scheduled by calling the Parish Office at (614) 267-9241, emailing icoffice@iccols.org, or mailing your request to the Parish Office. We will do our best to honor the dates and times requested, but no day/time can be guaranteed. **Currently, we are scheduling Mass Intentions through August 2026.**

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamps in the church burn constantly to proclaim the real presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle. For the month of February, the three Sanctuary Candles were donated by the **Pat Kearns Davis Family**. Thank you for your generosity.

LIVESTREAMED MASSES

Immaculate Conception Parish livestreams 8:30 a.m. Sunday Masses and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday and Friday morning Masses for individuals who are unable to come to church. Go to www.iccols.org and scroll down to "Mass Schedule," then "See the Mass." Livestreamed Masses are archived and can be experienced at a later time.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS

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

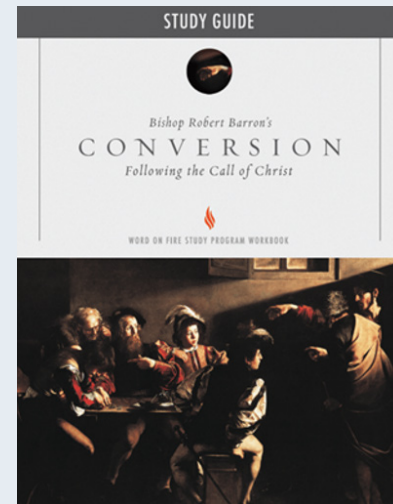
IN OUR PARISH

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome **Luciano Adriel Pichardo Sanchez**, the son of Julian Andres Pichardo and Freilimar Sanchez, who was received into the Church and our parish through the Sacrament of Baptism on January 24, 2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI

Congratulations to all who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday. May you hold the love for Jesus Christ in your heart forever. Romy Catherine of Siena Adams, Adam Joseph Batman, June Catherine of Bologna Bookwalter, Luke John the Apostle Braam, Benton Bernard of Montjoux Brown, Sophia Marie of the Incarnation Brown, Mallory Brigid Burns, Anna Therese Carney, Mason Patrick Casey, Lillian Francis of Assisi Chapman, Marie Cecilia Ciccone, Sydney Catherine of Siena Collver, Charlotte Margaret of Scotland Cottrell, Brooks Michael the Archangel Devlin, Jude Michael the Archangel Eagan, Xavier Francis of Assisi Earley, Edith Elizabeth of Hungary Erwin, Jack Ignatius of Loyola Fivecoat, Matthew Joseph Garcia, Susan Philomena Grover, Frances Kateri Tekakwitha Grover, Rowan Lawrence Hand, Nathan Maximilian Kolbe Hangen, Lila Isabel of France Hatem, Maren Rose of Lima Henderson, Daniel Philip Neri Hernandez Duque, Dylan Anthony of Padua Hernández-Tlahuel, John John Hoffman, Stella Agatha Lewis, Grant Sebastian Mahler, Angie Maria Angela Astorch Mai, Grant Sebastian McCallum, Madison Rose McMurray, Ivey Cecilia Montgomery, Van Agnes of Rome Nguyen, Andrew Maximilian Kolbe Noll, Ella Cecilia Nordstrom, Ethan Sebastian Nordstrom, Patrick Michael the Archangel Parram, Margaret Madeleine Sophie Barat Schroeder, Camille Elizabeth Ann Seton Simmons, Samuel Fulton Sheen Snapp, Hannah Elizabeth of Hungary Strohecker, Jayden Jude Tang, Zachary Sebastian Theado, Emily Helena Thorne, Lucille Maria Goretti Westrick, Brielle Felicity Wicks, Jude John the Baptist Willison, and Kevin Michael the Archangel Wilson.



LENTEN STUDY

Join us this Lent for Bishop Barron's six week BIBLE STUDY beginning Monday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. or Tuesday, February 10 at 10 a.m. You can purchase the study guide for \$19.95 on Word on Fire or go to the home page of our website and click on the link in the scrolling bar. Any questions, please reach out to marivera@iccols.org.

DIAPER DRIVE!

The Knights of Columbus are **collecting diapers after all Masses this weekend** to benefit mothers and families who have chosen life over abortion. Many families face challenges and hardships with a pregnancy and birth of a child. When a family's resources are limited, little ones often wear a diaper much longer than is recommended and healthy for them. By providing this service, we not only lighten their burden, but also show our support for life. All donations will serve the Pregnancy Decision Health Center in Columbus, Ohio. **Diaper sizes 3 and 4 are the greatest need.** Drop off diapers after 4 p.m., 8:30 a.m., and 11 a.m. Masses at the IC garage. Follow the signs. Please do not leave diapers in the church or Gathering Space. Thank you!



ANOINTING OF THE SICK SERVICE SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 AFTER MASS



The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick will take place on Saturday, February 14 immediately after 4 p.m. Mass. Following the closing prayer, those in need of this healing sacrament will be invited to come forward to receive the Anointing. Anyone in need of this Sacrament due to illness, upcoming serious surgery, ongoing treatment for an illness, or disability caused by advanced age is encouraged to attend this Mass. The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament.

LOST & FOUND

Have you lost a hat, glove, reading glasses, sunglasses, umbrella, rosary, child's book, toy or lovey, etc.? Please check the lost and found area in the ushers' room at the back of the church. Unclaimed items will eventually be donated.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit:
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!*

TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life


Fiscal Year 7/1/2025-6/30/2026 • Offertory Report 1/25/2026

	1/25/2026	YTD 2025/2026
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 25,501	\$ 768,474
Loose Cash	\$ 547	\$ 27,572
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 26,048	\$ 796,046
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 27,000	\$ 810,000
Weekly Overage/(Shortage)	\$ (952)	\$ (13,954)
Families Receiving Envelopes		835
Envelopes Received		63
Families on EFT		365




Manage your electronic contributions online! Visit 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.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)



Schedule your photo session
to receive a free 8x10 print
and a free copy of the directory!



VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH PHOTOGRAPHY SIGN-IN

Volunteers will check parishioners in for their photo session with a printed sign-up sheet provided by the Parish Office.

- Go to SignUpGenius (scan the QR code) and select the shift(s) you wish to cover
- Please, feel free to take more than one shift
- More volunteers will lighten the load
- Or, go to iccols.org and click on the Directory link on the scrolling bar on the home page, or call the Parish Office.



There are 27 2-hour shifts that need filled.

DO YOU NEED A RIDE TO THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE?

If you are in need of a ride to the Women's Conference, please call the Parish Office or email marivera@iccols.org.

THANKS TO THE MANY PARENTS, STUDENTS AND ADULTS WHO CAME ON WEDNESDAY AND HELPED MAKE THE CAMPUS SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S CONFIRMATION AND MASSES. THE PARISH IS BLESSED AND YOU ARE TRULY APPRECIATED!!!



INTERESTED IN HELPING KEEP PARISH GROUNDS INVITING

AND LEARNING ABOUT GARDENING?

Please come to a Garden Ministry organizational meeting Monday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m. in Room A of the rectory. We'll discuss plans for 2026 and answer your questions. Contact Chris at tatzberg@columbus.rr.com; Carol at carol.rodock@gmail.com; or Janet at jwilks123@gmail.com for more information.

ARE YOU MOURNING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE?

Are you looking for support as you journey through grief? Join us for the winter/spring session of Seasons of Hope. This five-week session will begin on Sunday, February 15, and will run for five consecutive Sundays, through March 15. These sessions will be held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., at Immaculate Conception in Marian Hall. Each session is centered on Jesus Christ, and explores mourning through Scripture, prayer, faith sharing, and reflection activities.

For more information, and to register for the session, please contact Debbie Kennedy at (614) 937-0516, or email Debbie at kennedydeborah@yahoo.com. **THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8. Come and be comforted.**

CHANGES WITH THE CATHOLIC TIMES



For more than a decade, there has been ongoing discussion regarding the sustainability of *The Catholic Times* newspaper. The cost of producing *The Catholic Times* has risen significantly, while having a limited reach. The digital sphere has antiquated waiting for news to arrive at your doorstep, as information is available at our fingertips 24/7. The time is right to refocus diocesan monies, resources, and staff to a more dynamic, cost-effective, and far-reaching platform. In mid-February, *The Catholic Times* will be moving to a solely digital platform. We are proud of the publication, the contributors, and the hard work of our staff. Now, we can amplify the good news of the 23 counties of our diocese to an even greater degree. Scan the QR code to read more about this exciting change in *The Catholic Times*.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

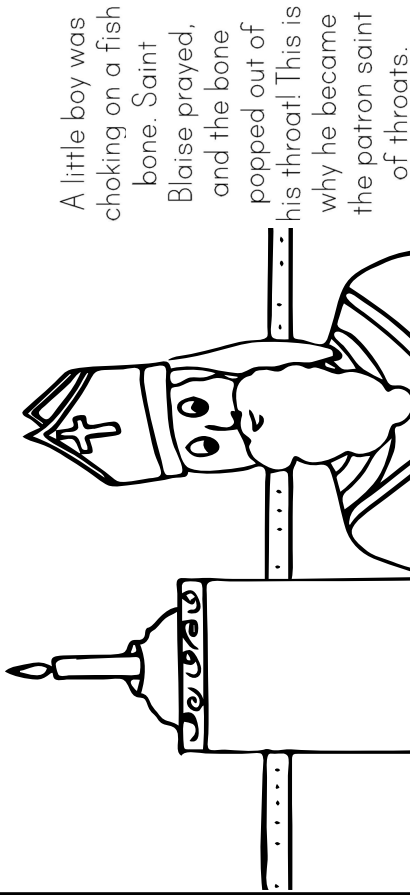


The Immaculate Conception Parish BREAD Team Invites You to "What Living Without a Livable Wage Looks Like;"

What IC Parish is Doing About It; What Else Can be Done; How You Can Be Part of the Solutions. Thursday, February 12, 2026, 7-8:30 p.m., Marian Hall. Speakers from each of the IC Social Concerns Ministries and the BREAD Livable Wage Research Committee, plus Q & A. Come, Hear, Act! Contact Icbread43214@gmail.com or (614) 530-5872 for more information. All Are Welcome!

Saint Blaise

Saint Blaise is the patron saint of throats and wild animals.



Saint Blaise went into the woods and saw a group of sick animals. He was brave enough to help them, so he became the patron saint of wild animals.



Catholic Kids

Bulletin

February 1, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green

BOBLESSEDPJAREITHEIWJCIS

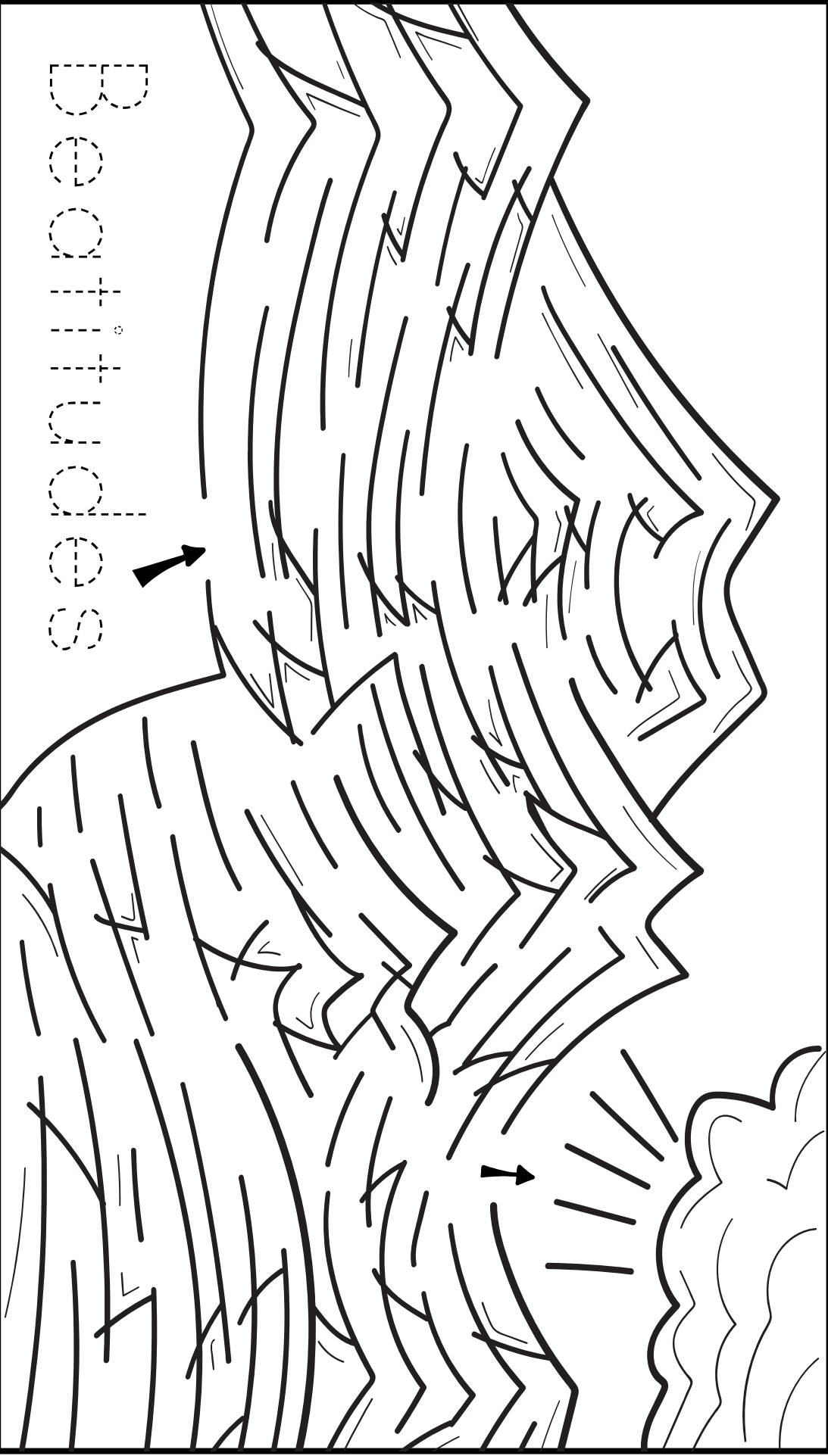
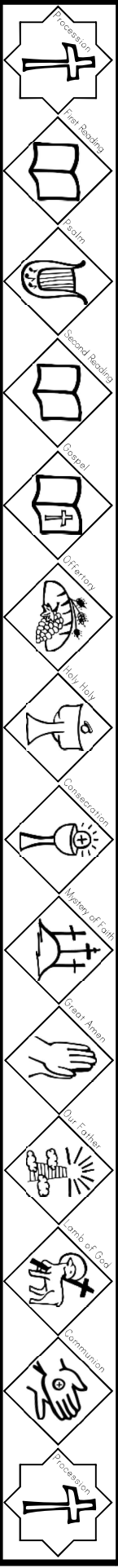
BOWISOTHEIRSPWKZ

Blessed are the
poor in spirit;
the kingdom of
heaven is
theirs!

PWTHECKINGDOMPOFIHEAVEN



There is a special Mass on February 3rd to celebrate Saint Blaise. You can receive a blessing for your throat in honor of Saint Blaise.



Beatitudes



Jesus went up a mountain and talked to the people about heaven.

His words are called the Beatitudes.

The Beatitudes tell us how to live with love and kindness.



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

February 2026

Immaculate Conception Church

Fr. Matthew Hoover

One Minute Meditations

St. Onesimus

Born in Phrygia, St. Onesimus was enslaved to Philemon of Colossae in present-day Turkey. He encountered St. Paul during the apostle's imprisonment in Rome, where Onesimus had fled after stealing from his master. Moved by Paul's witness, he repented, was baptized, and later gained his freedom. Onesimus became a trusted companion and co-worker of St. Paul and was eventually martyred for the faith during the persecutions under Emperor Domitian.

God's Valentine to us

If God sent a Valentine, it might sound something like this: *"My darling child"* (Jeremiah 31:20), *"You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you"* (Isaiah 43:4). *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love"* (John 15:9). *"Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends..."* (John 15:13-14). *"Do you love me?"* (John 21:16) That makes the Bible the world's longest love letter.

"God is not the enemy of our freedom but its ground. That is something we ought to relearn in these days. Only love that is almighty can ground a joy that is free from anxiety." Pope Benedict XVI

"What do you seek?" (John 1:38)

Have you ever felt restless or quietly dissatisfied, sensing that something in your life needs changing? Lent offers that opportunity. It is a spiritual reset, inviting us to reorient our hearts toward Christ, the true source of peace, joy, purpose, and meaning. Here are practical ways to deepen your encounter with God and His love this Lent.

Faith is relational, not informational. The first disciples were not content with simply hearing about Jesus. They wanted to be with Him and to know Him personally. Christ extends that same invitation to us today. We respond by making room for Him through prayer and meditation, regular participation in Mass, and time with Scripture, not as duties to complete, but as ways of choosing a living relationship with the One who loves us most.

Choose trust over control. "Let Him lead and guide you," Pope Leo has urged. God's invitation to deeper friendship is renewed each day, and Lent is a privileged time to respond with intention. Begin each morning by

offering your day to God, placing your work, relationships, and uncertainties in His hands. This simple act of trust opens the door to genuine freedom.

Share what you have received. A true encounter with God naturally leads to what Pope Leo called "missionary

"If you sense the Lord calling you, do not be afraid...He alone knows the deepest, perhaps hidden, longings of your heart — the path that will lead you to true fulfillment." (Pope Leo XIV)

zeal," the desire to share with others what we have received. After meeting Christ, St. Andrew simply brought his brother, Simon Peter, to Him. Likewise, sharing your faith is often as simple as an honest conversation with a friend about the source of your hope. You are not persuading or performing; you are inviting someone you care about to meet the Friend who has changed your life.

This Lent, let renewal take root. Choose presence, trust, and generosity, and allow God to do the rest.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics give up meat on Fridays in Lent?

Abstaining from meat on Fridays in Lent is not merely a rule, but a reverent sacrifice rooted in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. By giving up something we enjoy but do not need, we unite a small, bodily sacrifice to His offering on the Cross.

This "prayer of the body" strengthens the prayer of the soul, training our hearts in discipline and gratitude. It keeps our focus on Christ and serves as a quiet, outward sign of faith. For the same reasons, the Church encourages Friday penance throughout the year.

When things go wrong, choose charity

When difficulties arise, our instinct is often to complain, assign blame, or turn inward with harsh self-criticism. These reactions rarely solve the problem. More often, they weaken charity, cloud judgment, and strain relationships. A more constructive response is to choose kindness deliberately, in thought, speech, and action.

Practice kindness in thought: When self-pity, resentment, comparison, or harsh self-judgment appear, treat them as temptations rather than truths. Pause and redirect your thinking. Replace them with a steady reminder such as, "This is difficult, but I can respond well." Offer yourself the same patience you would give a friend.

Practice kindness in speech: Before speaking, ask whether

your words will help or simply vent frustration. If you would not say something to or about someone you love, refrain. When emotions run high, bring your complaints to prayer first. Naming them before God can bring clarity and restraint.

Practice kindness in action: Focus on what you can do rather than what you cannot control. Choose one concrete act of goodwill: express gratitude, offer help, listen attentively, or perform a small, unnoticed kindness. These simple actions restore perspective and soften difficult moments.

Responding with kindness does not ignore problems. It creates the conditions for peace, clearer judgment, and constructive action to take root.

from Scripture

Matthew 4:1-11, He chose us

In this passage, Jesus is tempted by the Devil. First, Satan tempted Jesus to satisfy His hunger with a miracle – to put physical needs above spiritual needs. Jesus showed us that spiritual needs come first, and to entrust both to God's care. Next, Satan commanded Jesus to jump from the temple roof, forcing God's hand. Again, Jesus refused: serving God means doing things God's way.

Finally, Satan offered to surrender all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him. While horrible, it

promised a "painless" way to save the world. Jesus rejected it, choosing the Cross because it was the only way to save us. He chose us. When tempted to do what's "easy" versus what's morally right, ask for the strength to choose what's right.

The season of Lent is a powerful opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in love. We can take comfort knowing Jesus faced the same temptations we do and conquered them. If we stay close to Jesus, He will lead us to victory.

also a day of abstinence from meat and fasting – one regular meal and two small meals that together don't equal a full meal.

February 22 – St. Margaret of Cortona (1297). St. Margaret's conversion came after the sudden death of the man she was having an affair with. Shaken, she repented and became a Franciscan tertiary. She founded a hospital and an order of Tertiary sisters — *le Poverelle* — to operate it.

February 22 – The Chair of St. Peter. Today marks St. Peter's establishment of the Holy See, the "seat" of authority, in Rome. We thank God for His Church and pray for its holy preservation.

Feasts & Celebrations

February 5 – St. Agatha (c.251). Born to a noble Sicilian family, St. Agatha dedicated herself to God at the age of fifteen. The governor Quintianus was determined to marry her and threatened her if she refused him. She kept her vow despite torture, and imprisonment. God sent her a vision of St. Peter to comfort her, heal her, and fill her dungeon with heavenly light.

February 18 – Ash Wednesday. The first day of Lent. The ashes of old palms are placed on the forehead in the shape of a Cross, as a sign of penance. It's

Q & A What to do with dryness in prayer

A God never leaves us, yet our experience of prayer can ebb and flow. There are times of joy and peace, and others marked by dryness and difficulty. While dry seasons can be discouraging, that is often when our faith can grow the most. Don't avoid them, but live them well.

Ask why. Dryness in prayer can point to areas that need attention. Chronic stress, lack of rest, constant busyness, excessive screen time, or unresolved sin can weaken our attentiveness to God. Examine your habits and ask what may be interfering with prayer.

Remember the good times. When times are tough, memory sustains love. Follow Mary's example, who *"kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19). Recall the ways God has acted in your life. Remembering His faithfulness restores confidence.

Renew your "yes" daily. Mary's consent to God's will was a daily surrender, even amid suffering. Resist the temptation to abandon prayer. Each day, echo her words: *"Let it be done unto me according to your word"* (Luke 1:38).

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.infaithpublishing.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

FAITH FORMATION

Immaculate Conception Church

February 1, 2026



The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord, also known as Candlemas, often slips quietly past our modern consciousness. But like so much in our Catholic faith, there is more there than we might at first recognize. Celebrated on February 2nd, this feast recalls Mary and Joseph presenting the infant Jesus at the Temple in Jerusalem, as prescribed by Jewish law. It is a moment marked by humility, obedience, and the fulfillment of divine promise, and it is a moment of prophetic mystery as we hear Simeon tell Mary that, “you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

Why Does This Event Matter to us?

Candlemas reminds us that our belief in God is often lived out in honoring the observances of our faith. Mary and Joseph’s act of bringing Jesus to the Temple was a simple one, yet it resonated with profound meaning. They were obedient to God’s law, despite Mary’s unique holiness as the sinless Mother of God and Jesus’ divinity. Their willingness to submit to the law of Moses demonstrates how even they lived out their faith in humble, ordinary ways.

Simeon took him in his arms and said, “*Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people, Israel.*” Inspired by this scriptural motif, it is traditional on the feast to bless and light candles, which remind us that the darkness shall not overcome the light of Christ. As Christians, we are called to be light in a world that is overshadowed by darkness. Candles became part of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord as early as the 4th or 5th century, particularly in Jerusalem and later Rome, where a candlelit procession was introduced.

goodcatholic.org

FEAST OF ST. BLAISE FEBRUARY 3



Every year on Feb. 3, the Church celebrates the feast of St. Blaise. Since he is the patron saint of those who suffer from throat ailments (and the doctors who treat them), many parishes around the world offer the “blessing of throats” in his honor.

A bishop and eventual martyr, Blaise of Sebaste began his spiritual journey as a hermit. He was a physician and known to be a miracle worker. He practiced the medicine of his time and is included in the group of the “14 holy helpers” of the Catholic Church — called that because they are considered effective intercessors against certain ailments of the body and soul.

Blaise was named bishop of Sebaste, Armenia, and very popular among his contemporaries for performing numerous miraculous healings. He lived as a hermit even after being named bishop, converting the cave in which he lived — located in the forest of Mount Argeus — into his episcopal see.

Tradition has it that one day Bishop Blaise saved a child who had choked on a fish bone — hence the ancient custom of blessing the throats of his devotees on his feast day. That same fact also made him the patron saint of otorhinolaryngologists and those who suffer from throat ailments. EWTN

SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Faith in Action: Last week was Catholic Schools Week, when students participate in the weekend liturgies, and each day of the school week would include many special service and learning opportunities. With school cancelled, our traditional school activities couldn't take place. We are grateful for, and thank, all the school families and students who braved the cold and snow to come to Saturday or Sunday Mass. Students greeted parishioners at the doors, were lectors, carried up the offertory gifts and spoke after Mass about what Catholic Schools mean to them. Thank you to all IC parishioners for supporting our Catholic School.

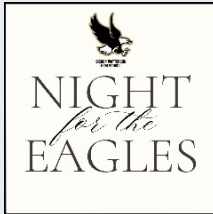
Upcoming Events:

Thursday, March 5: New Confirmation Parent Meeting (7 p.m.)
School Penance Service

Gratitude: THANK YOU for responding to our big end-of-the-year push for scholarship dollars to help with tuition assistance at IC. We will share the final amount when that number becomes available.

Enrollment Reminder: Enrollment for 2026-2027 school year is now underway. Families interested in learning more are encouraged to begin the process now. Inquire on the school website or contact our **Admissions Director, Mrs. Katie Lewis** at 614-267-6579.

BISHOP WATTERSON



Bishop Watterson will host Night for the Eagles on Saturday, February 21 from 6:00-11:00 p.m. at Ohio Brewing Company. All are welcome to join us for this elegant, high-energy, cocktail-style gathering dedicated to uplifting and expanding opportunities for the Bishop Watterson student body and supporting tuition assistance. The evening includes a DJ and silent auction with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a full bar included. Register by February 12 at bishopwatterson.com.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR IC LENTEN MISSION



Immaculate Conception Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

7:00-9:00 PM

For the Lord
Is a Sun & Shield

MONDAY, MARCH 9

7:00-9:00 PM

Indeed Our God Is a
Consuming Fire



FISH FRY NEWS – THREE WEEKS TO GO

IC Lenten Fish Fry will soon be here (starting February 20 from 5-7:30 p.m.)! Plan to enjoy the great food and family of the IC community in your Lenten journey! Same great event sponsored by the IC Knights of Columbus.

We need your generous support of volunteer time and desserts for the IC Fish Fry. It is a truly enjoyable volunteer experience! Volunteer sign-ups and dessert donation sign-ups are on SignUpGenius found on the IC website under News & Events. Stations of the Cross will follow immediately after at 7:30 p.m. Contact John Bruzzese (614) 284-9226 with any questions.

New this year is the ability to Reserve a table or Sponsor. Donation for reserving a table is \$200. Sponsorship donation starts at \$500. Sponsorship includes a table reservation, speaker announcement and signage of your choice. Please use QR Codes below or contact John Bruzzese (614) 284-9226 or Nick Curtis (419) 367-3046.

Sponsorship



Table Reservation



PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AT MASS IN FEBRUARY

Please check the schedule to see if there is a weekend **Mass in February** 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.**

Sign up → https://bit.ly/Chalice_Cup

Chalice Cup Ministry

The Chalice Cup Ministry invites the whole community to pray for vocations. Families and individuals are encouraged to sign up to bring the Chalice Cup home with them from a Saturday or Sunday Mass.

Sign up for a particular week by going to iccols.org>Parish Life>Chalice Cup Ministry. Receive the Chalice Cup box at a weekend Mass and return it to the Parish Office on Friday or to the sacristy before the Saturday 4 p.m. Mass.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Nativity of Mary – This scholarship provides a four year \$2,000 per year scholarship to any rising 9th grade student (current 8th grader) who will attend a Catholic High School next school year. The link to apply for the Nativity of Mary Scholarship can be found at: <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-nativity-of-mary-scholarship/> The Nativity of Mary Scholarship was established for the propagation of the Catholic faith and devotion to Our Blessed Mother. A letter of recommendation, short essay on the applicant's devotion to our Blessed Mother, and financial need will be used to evaluate the potential applicants. Provided the student remains in good standing and continues to attend a Catholic high school in the Diocese of Columbus, the scholarship will be renewed all four years until that student graduates.

The Hands and Feet of Christ Scholarship – This scholarship provides an \$800 scholarship to a student who will attend a Catholic High School next school year at any grade level. The link to apply for the Hands and Feet of Christ Scholarship can be found at: <https://catholic-foundation.org/grants/scholarships/the-hands-and-feet-of-christ-scholarship/>. A letter of recommendation from a community leader (clergy, youth minister, teacher, etc.) attesting to the applicant's active involvement in his or her own Catholic faith formation and demonstrated financial need (via FACTS Tuition Assistance) will be used to evaluate the potential applicants. This is a single year scholarship.

The Catholic Foundation's applications for scholarships are currently open with a **deadline for submission of February 27**. For more information and to apply, please visit www.catholic-foundation.org/scholarships. If you have any questions about our scholarship process, please feel free to contact Dan Kurth, VP of Grants, at (614) 443-8893 or dkurth@catholic-foundation.org.



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE – FEBRUARY 21, 2026

Give Yourself the Gift of Time with Jesus and Your Sisters in Christ at the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference. Inviting All Women! Please mark your calendar now for the Columbus Catholic Women's Conference on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Ohio Expo Center. Our theme is "Look to Him and Be Radiant." (Psalm 34:6) Register now at columbuscatholicwomen.com. Come ready to rest, refresh, and renew with the Lord. You'll be joined by sisters in Christ from around the diocese and beyond. Don't miss this uplifting, annual event for women to grow in faith, hope, and love.



COLUMBUS CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE – TAKE COURAGE

The Catholic Men's Conference is February 28 at the Ohio Expo Center. This year's Conference theme, "Take Courage," reminds men that the path to sainthood requires strength, perseverance, and trust in Christ. In a world that often discourages faith, Catholic men are called to rise above fear and doubt, rooted in the courage that comes from The Holy Spirit. Take Courage invites every man to face life's challenges with confidence that Christ goes before us. As part of our ongoing Call to be Saints, the theme helps men recognize that true courage is not the absence of struggle, but the willingness to follow Jesus boldly, no matter the cost. To register or find out more, go to CatholicMensMinistry.com.

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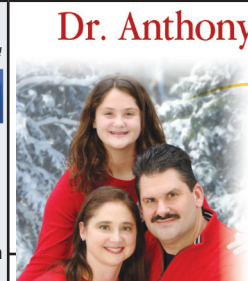
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