



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH

414 E. NORTH BROADWAY COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

PARISH OFFICE

(614) 267-9241

SCHOOL OFFICE

(614) 267-6579

www.iccols.org

WELCOME

to Immaculate Conception!

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

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

Sacraments

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, ext. 608 or at edeluca@iccols.org.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & 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 & 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.

PARISH

 [immaculateconceptioncolumbus](https://www.instagram.com/immaculateconceptioncolumbus)

 [@ICColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/ICColumbus)

SCHOOL

 [icschool_cbus](https://www.instagram.com/icschool_cbus)

 [@ICRamsColumbus](https://www.facebook.com/ICRamsColumbus)

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
Hab 1:12-2:4; Mt 17:14-20
4:00 p.m. Barbara Galloway †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33
8:30 a.m. The Rarick Family †
11:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, AUGUST 10
2 Cor 9:6-10; Jn 12:24-26
8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Members of the
IC St. Vincent de Paul and
Those They Serve

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
Ez 2:8-3:4; Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
6:15 p.m. Peggy Noyes †

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12
Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22; Mt 18:15-20
8:30 a.m. Mary Kay Mathews †

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13
Ez 12:1-12; Mt 18:21-19:1
8:30 a.m. Grover Scharvogel †

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or Ez 16:59-63; Mt 19:3-12
8:30 a.m. Living & Deceased Graduates of
St. Louis University High School

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56
9:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish
4:00 p.m. Karen Murnane †

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
Is 56:1, 6-7; Rom 11:13-15, 29-32; Mt 15:21-28
8:30 a.m. Keith Kidner †
11:00 a.m. For the People of the Parish

† Deceased

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Fr. Seth Keller skeller@iccols.org
Permanent Deacon Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell..... ccampbel@cducation.org
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
Ministry Coordinator Elizabeth DeLuca.....ext. 608 | edeluca@iccols.org
Administrative Assistant Karen Cannellext. 601 | icoffice@iccols.org
Facilities Manager Jason Stallkamp
Communications and Social Media Director Tom Berryhillext. 604 | tberryhill@iccols.org

SCHOOL STAFF Phone: 614-267-6579

Principal Colleen Kent.....cokent@cducation.org
Office Manager Marina Hachwa.....mhachwa@cducation.org
Preschool School Office.....mhachwa@cducation.org
School Age Child Care John Bernardjbernard@iccols.org

PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

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

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Finance Council Chairman
Parish Council President Rich Viertel.....parishcouncil@iccols.org
School Board President Danielle Culbertson.....danielle.w.culbertson@gmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – AUGUST 15 & 16, 2026

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Paul Duffy MaryAnn Grossman	Ree & Todd Wickerham	Jonathan Fortkamp Mary Leathley
LECTORS	EJ Davis	Tim Geraghty	Emily Strand
ALTAR SERVERS	Declan Schools Ryan Wallace Kevin Wilson Lillian Wilson	Sam Rogers Charlie Simmons Arden Smith Josie Smith	Nora Stratton Alberto Suarez Ava Ackerman Romy Adams
GREETERS	Patty Conway Jeanne Stoker	Mike Demko Bobby Clark Michele Sapp	Griffin Family Willard Family Sleeper Family
WELCOME DESK	Patty Conway	Amanda Torgerson	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 January 2027.**

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 **August**, the three Sanctuary Candles were donated by **Rose Smith**. Thank you for your generosity.

IN OUR PARISH



NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome our new parishioners to Immaculate Conception Parish: **John Flaherty; Haley Rankin-Baur; Jonathan, Kara, Kaspar and Bishop Concheck-Vincent.**

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome **Leonardo Ace Francis**, the son of Cody and Loriann Francis, who was received into the Church and our parish through the Sacrament of Baptism on August 1, 2026.

We also welcome **Luca Lawrence Clegg**, the son of Dominic and Madison Clegg; **Noel Thomas Smale** and **Leon Adam Smale**, the sons of Adam and Rachael Smale; **Charles Dougherty Koehler**, the son of Christopher and Bryn Koehler. We welcome these children who were received into the Church and our parish through the Sacrament of Baptism on August 2, 2026.

WELCOME MOST REVEREND EARL K. FERNANDES

We welcome the Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes to Immaculate Conception Parish as he officially installs Fr. Seth Keller as pastor of our parish at the 11 a.m. Mass this weekend. Please join us following Mass for a reception in Marian Hall.



THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

This Saturday, August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will have a Mass at 9 a.m. this Saturday to celebrate the holy day. Because it falls on Saturday, this is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

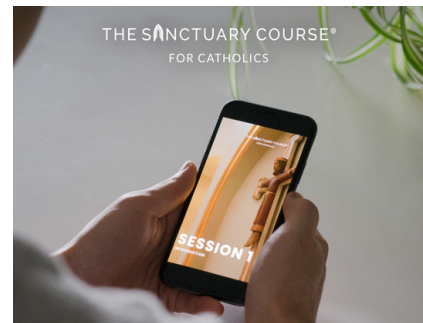


SISTERS OF THE LITTLE WORKERS OF THE SACRED HEART VISITING IC

Please welcome Sr. Pamela and Sr. Rosna from the order of Little Workers of the Sacred Heart who are visiting IC until August 20. The Sisters met some members of the parish at the ice cream social near the Grotto on Tuesday, and joined parishioners on Saturday at a nearby medical clinic to pray for an end to abortions. The sisters are visiting homebound parishioners and will be involved in many upcoming activities at IC. Please welcome them when you see them.

Vocations Chat – All middle school and high school girls are invited to an opportunity to chat with the Sisters, have pizza, and social time on Tuesday, August 18 at 7 p.m. in Marian Hall.

Children's Adoration – We are inviting families to come with their children and attend a special children's time in Eucharistic Adoration with the Sisters of the Little Workers of the Sacred Heart on Wednesday, August 19 from 6-6:30 p.m. Cookies, refreshments, and play time by the picnic tables afterwards.



SANCTUARY COURSE

Immaculate Conception Church presents **The Sanctuary Course for Catholics**. In connection with the Diocese of Columbus Mental Health Ministry Initiative, the course is eight consecutive weeks beginning Monday, August 24 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Mental Health Ministries is a Christian non-profit organization founded in 2012 with a founding mission of raising mental health awareness within faith communities and providing theologically-grounded educational resources and training to promote mental well-being.



This opportunity is open to anyone who wants to better understand mental health wellness, support a loved one, and help create a more welcoming Catholic community. Register at <https://forms.gle/PVgVQUvgtBgiFRze6> or scan the QR Code.



IC WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

The IC Women's Club Annual Summer Blood Drive is this Monday, August 10, 2026 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. If you last donated blood on or before Monday, June 15, 2026, you may be eligible to donate. Please schedule an appointment by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), sponsor code: IC or call 1-800-RED CROSS. If you need assistance, please reach out to Sue Beman at (614) 214-5333. Walk-ins are also accepted.



*Lord, let us see your kindness,
and grant us your salvation.*



TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life

Fiscal Year 7/1/2026-6/30/2027 • Offertory Report 8/2/2026

	8/2/2026	YTD 2026/2027
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 22,014	\$ 127,512
Loose Cash	\$ 937	\$ 4,221
TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 22,951	\$ 131,733
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 29,500	\$ 147,500
Weekly Overage/ <i>(Shortage)</i>	\$ (6,549)	\$ (15,767)
Families Receiving Envelopes		838
Envelopes Received		77
Families on EFT		370



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)*



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Our parish Family Faith Formation program (for students in Grades 1-8) will kick off with a parent meeting in Marian Hall on August 23 at 9:30 a.m., and our first session will take place on August 30 from 9:30-10:45 a.m. in Marian Hall. To register, visit the parish website and click on the "Family Faith Formation Program" tab under "Sacraments & Faith Formation" or scan the QR code. For questions, contact Veronica Dannemiller at vdannemiller@iccols.org or (614) 267-9241, ext. 609. Note: FFF includes First Communion preparation but not Confirmation preparation, which will have its own schedule.

FESTIVAL LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

LOST & FOUND

The following items were left behind at the festival. Are you missing a beige sandal, a pair of pinkish children's cros, an aqua young child's long-sleeved jacket, a Paw Patrol electronic wrist band, a royal blue large hair bow, a black & red FLY glove, or an Immaculate Conception medal and chain? Please call the Parish Office to collect your lost item - (614) 267-9241.



CARRY UP THE GIFTS AT A WEEKEND MASS

We invite all individuals and/or families to carry up the Offertory gifts at a weekend Mass. Register for a particular Mass or check with the ushers when you arrive to see if a family is still needed.

To sign up for a specific date and time, go to the parish website at iccols.org>Parish Life>Presentation of Gifts Ministry. Or call the Parish Office and we will add you to the calendar.

CATHOLIC MEN'S LUNCHEON IS BACK FROM SUMMER BREAK FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2026 – SPEAKER: THE MOST REVEREND EARL K. FERNANDES, BISHOP OF COLUMBUS.

Start your Labor Day Weekend by joining us **Friday, September 4** at St. Patrick Church in downtown Columbus for a luncheon featuring Bishop Fernandes speaking on "The State of the Diocese of Columbus." The Catholic Men's Luncheon Club has operated for over 80 years in the diocese and has a long tradition of welcoming the Bishop each year to speak. The luncheon is sponsored by **The Joseph Group Capital Management**. You can get more information about the Joseph Group at <https://josephgroup.com/>. If you are interested in sponsoring a luncheon, contact Dave Kilanowski at dkilano@aol.com. Holy Mass (optional) begins at 11:45 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:10 p.m. and Bishop Fernandes' talk. No reservations are necessary. \$12 covers lunch and meeting. Bring a friend! **Our luncheon on Friday, October 2, 2026 will feature a talk by Mike Gonidakis from the Ohio Right to Life. Please mark your calendar to attend!**

SCHOOL NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Help WANTED IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SPANISH TEACHER – Part-Time; Catholic Preferred but Not Required. We are currently looking for a part-time Spanish Teacher for the 2026-2027 academic year. The ideal candidate is Catholic, has enthusiasm for teaching the Catholic faith and a love for educating young minds. Please contact principal, Colleen Kent at cokent@cdeducation.org.



PIONEERS FOR OUR TIMES

The Dominican Sisters of Peace invite single Catholic women ages 18-45 to a prayerful retreat from Friday, October 2, through Sunday, October 4, 2026. Through prayer, reflection, and fellowship, participants will have the opportunity to listen for God's voice and explore what it means to be called to live with courage, humility, and hope as a Dominican Sister of Peace. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. To register, use the QR code or for more information, visit opeace.org/becomeasister or contact Ana Gonzalez, OP, at Ana.gonzalez@opeace.org, or call/text (475) 224-0519.

VOTING AS A FAITHFUL CITIZEN

Forming Your Conscience to Prepare for the Election

While the heat of campaign season awaits, the November election will come quickly. As Catholics, we are called to be faithful citizens and engage in elections. Now is a good time to start preparing by first forming your conscience in accordance with Church teaching before you research candidates or issues. The first step is living a life rooted in prayer, scripture, sacraments, and study. Throughout August, consider the following:

- **Prayer:** How often do I pray? How might the Lord be calling me to deepen my prayer life with Him?
- **Scripture:** How often do I pray with or read Sacred Scripture? How might the Lord be calling me to spend more time with His Word?
- **Sacraments:** How often do I frequent the Sacraments? How might the Lord be calling me to encounter Him more often in the Sacraments, particularly in Holy Communion and Confession?
- **Study:** In what ways do I seek to grow in my understanding of the Catholic faith and what I profess to believe? How might the Lord be calling me to deepen my understanding of the faith, and in what ways can I do that?

Saint Moses the Strong

Saint Moses the Strong was a large, strong man who robbed people and led a group of criminals. He hid with some monks, learned about their faith, and became a Catholic! He joined the monastery and worked hard to turn away from his sins. He became a priest and was a great leader for peace in the monastery. Saint Moses the Strong is the patron saint of nonviolence and Africa.



Year A: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catholic Kids

Bulletin

August 9, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green



C L O R D P L E T X U S O S E E I Y O U R I W

E R S A L V A T I O N E I O X K S I

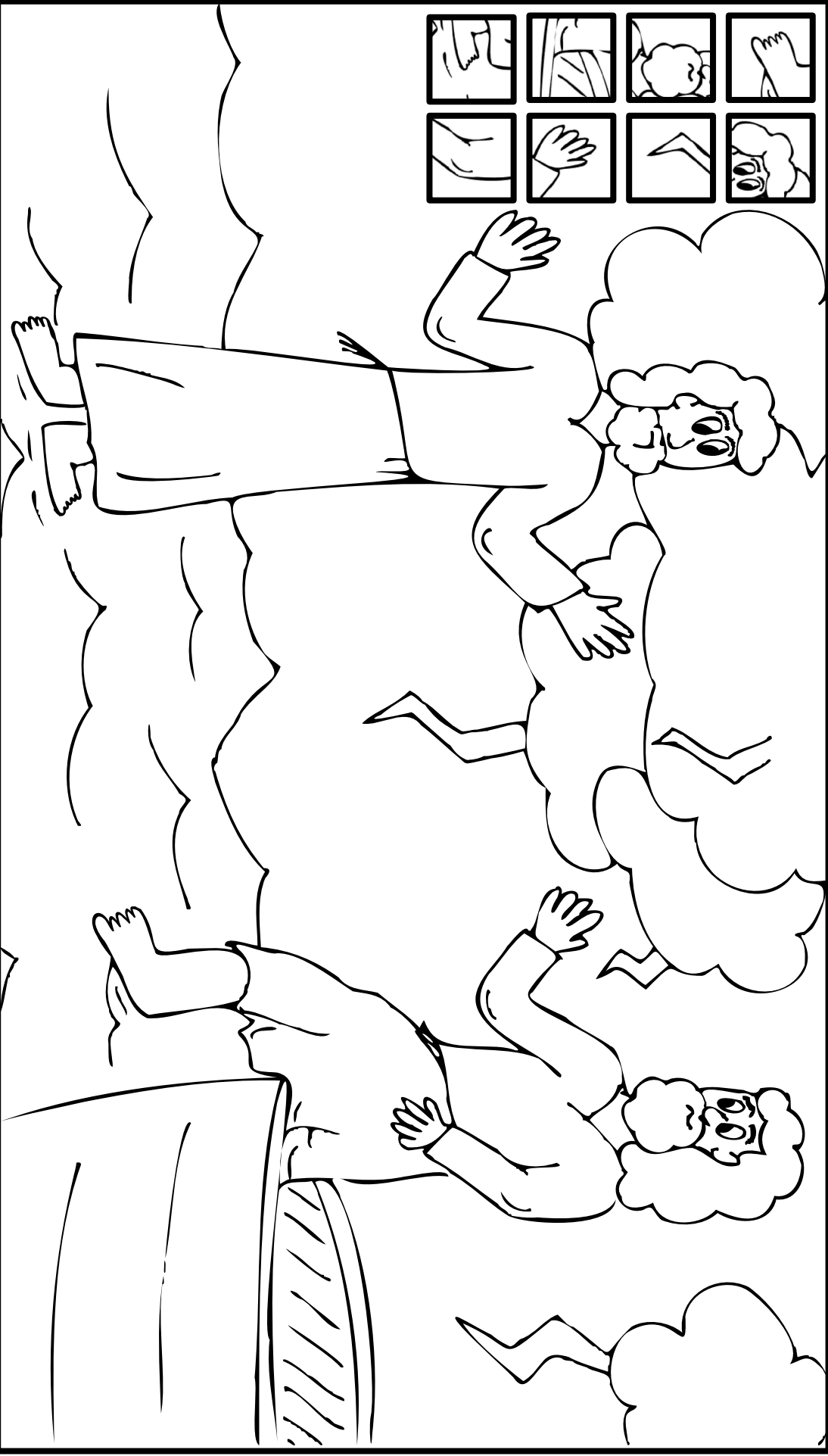
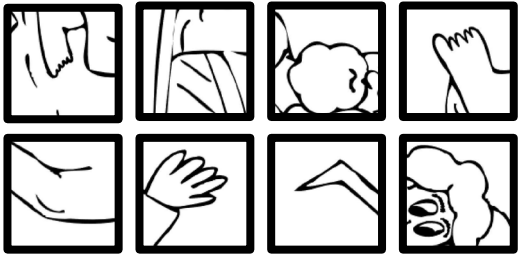
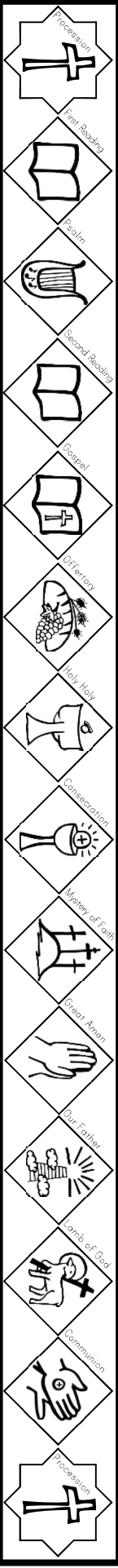
Lord, let us
see your
kindness, and
grant us your
salvation.

B N G R A N T P Z U S O W Y O U R K C H Z A

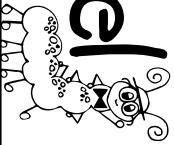


During Mass, the whole church
celebrates together. Your
participation in Mass is connected to
everyone else who is praying in
Heaven and on Earth.

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Gospel



Peter and the disciples were in a boat in the middle of the sea.
They were amazed to see Jesus walking toward them on the water!
Peter needed faith to step out of the boat and walk with Jesus.



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

August 2026

Immaculate Conception Church

Rev. Seth Keller, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Although born into wealth, St. Bernard desired a life of simplicity, holiness, and austerity. Born in 1090 in Fontaines, France, he entered the monastery at Cîteaux in his twenties, followed by most of his family. Recognizing his holiness and noting the overcrowding of the monastery, the abbot sent St. Bernard to establish a new monastery in Clairvaux. St. Bernard went on to found monasteries for nuns, worked for the Holy See, and preached the Second Crusade.

More than the mission

No matter our age, we all need to hear these words: "I love you without measure." At the Transfiguration, the Father declared of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 17:5). He means those words for us as well. Before all else, we are God's beloved children.

Significantly, the Father speaks these words before Jesus goes to the Cross, before His saving mission is complete. We often reverse that order, allowing our identity to depend on our accomplishments or faithfulness. We assume God will love us once we have fulfilled our mission. But the Gospel reveals the opposite. God's love is not earned but freely **given**. Our mission flows from our identity, not the other way around.

"For I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1).

Be Like Christ. Love Like Christ.

What does it mean to "be like Christ" in the context of our everyday lives? The key is to love as He loves. Here are five practical ways to love like Jesus.

Learn His pattern. The Gospels show us how Jesus responded to the sick, the brokenhearted, the marginalized, and even His enemies. Scripture provides the pattern, while prayer and the Sacraments provide the grace to live it. The more we immerse ourselves in Christ's life, the more naturally His way of loving becomes our own.

Cultivate His heart. Jesus describes Himself as "gentle and humble of heart" (Matthew 11:29). His humility comes from His complete obedience to the Father's will. His gentleness is strength under perfect self-control, expressed in His patience, mercy, and compassion, even toward those who rejected Him. As we imitate His way of love, our own hearts are slowly transformed as His.

Show genuine interest. Jesus often asked open-ended questions, not because He lacked the answers, but to draw people out. "What do you seek?" (John 1:38). "What are you discussing

with each other?" (Luke 24:17) Genuine love begins with genuine interest. Asking thoughtful questions communicates that people are seen, heard, and valued.

Choose the charitable interpretation. St. Theresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart wrote, "If the actions of our neighbors have a hundred sides, we ought always to look at them on the best side." Love resists rushing to judgment and gives others the benefit of the doubt, creating space for understanding rather than

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

suspicion.

Always act out of love. St. Paul exhorts us, "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Jesus lived every moment in perfect love for His Father and for us. Love was not merely one aspect of His life; it was the motive behind everything He did. Following Christ means allowing love to shape not only our greatest sacrifices but also our smallest daily actions.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics pray formula prayers?

Formula prayers are not a substitute for personal prayer but a time-tested way of entering into it and deepening it. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He gave them the Our Father (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4), a prayer to be prayed repeatedly. Scripture also contains many communal prayers, especially the Psalms, which

served as Israel's prayer book and remain the Church's today. By praying these inspired words, Catholics join generations of believers in worship. Whether at Mass or beside a hospital bed, formula prayers unite the faithful, expressing not only personal devotion but also the shared faith of the whole Church.

What to do when you don't feel like praying

Not feeling like praying is something even faithful Christians experience. In fact, seasons of dryness can be a normal part of spiritual growth. While they may have different causes, they do not necessarily mean something is wrong. Here are three ways to respond:

Pray about not wanting to pray. Bring your reluctance to God. You don't have to overcome your feelings before coming to Him. Honest prayer is still prayer, and God meets you with love exactly where you are.

Keep it simple. We value brief messages from those we love: "I love you," "Good luck today," or "Thinking of you."

Prayer can be that simple. The goal is relationship, not length. A heartfelt "God, help me," "Jesus, I trust in You," or "Come, Holy Spirit" is enough.

Choose presence over performance. Approach prayer the way you would spending time with a close friend. We don't cancel plans with someone we love simply because we're tired.

In the same way, keep showing up. God delights in your company (Proverbs 8:31). He is not looking for a perfect performance but for a heart that continues to seek Him, even when prayer feels dry or difficult.

from Scripture

Matthew 16:21-27, God's ways are not our ways

At first glance, this passage seems like bad news. Jesus predicts His own death, a revelation that must have stunned the disciples. They had just come to recognize Him as the long-awaited Messiah. Instead of leading a triumphant victory over Rome, Jesus spoke of suffering, rejection, and execution. To them, it looked like failure, not triumph.

Peter responded as many of us do when faced with suffering: he resisted the Cross. He wanted Jesus to avoid it and was sharply rebuked. Yet had Jesus turned aside, we would have remained

in our sins, separated from God. Instead, He freely embraced the Cross. He chose us. From the perspective of the Resurrection, what appeared to be defeat was in fact Christ's decisive victory over sin and death.

God desires our happiness, not merely our temporary comfort. He desires our eternal joy. The Christian life is not about avoiding the crosses God permits but embracing them with trust, as Jesus did. And we never carry them alone. Christ walks beside us, bearing the heavier end of every cross.

Q & A

Can the Pope make mistakes if he's infallible?

Yes. The pope is human and, like anyone else, can make mistakes in his personal opinions, decisions, or everyday statements. Papal infallibility does not mean the pope is incapable of error. Rather, it means that, under specific conditions, the Holy Spirit preserves him from definitively teaching error in matters of faith and morals (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 891).

Papal infallibility applies only when the pope is:

Defining a doctrine of faith or morals. The teaching must concern divine revelation or truths closely connected to it. It does not apply to scientific claims, political views, interviews, homilies, or personal opinions. For example, in 1950, Pope Pius XII infallibly defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption into heaven.

Speaking ex cathedra ("from the chair"). The pope must speak in his official capacity as the successor of St. Peter and clearly intend to proclaim a doctrine that is binding on the entire Church. In *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII explicitly invoked his apostolic authority to "pronounce, declare, and define" the Assumption as a divinely revealed dogma.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 7—St. Cajetan (1547). St. Cajetan was born in Italy to a noble family. He went on to study civil and canon (Church) law at the University of Padua. He worked to reform the Church by founding the Theatines, a religious order modeled on the teachings of the Apostles.

August 9—St. Edith Stein (1942). Formerly Jewish, she was an atheist intellectual in Germany. After studying St. Teresa of Ávila, she converted to Catholicism, and became a Carmelite nun. Although her order tried to shelter her from the Nazis, she was taken to and executed at Auschwitz.

August 15—The Assumption of Mary. Declared a dogma of faith in 1950 by Pope Pius XII, the Assumption celebrates Mary's being taken up into Heaven body and soul at the end of her life. This feast highlights the Church's respect for the dignity of the body in view of our future resurrection. Note: This year, it is not a holy day of obligation.

August 24—St. Bartholomew (First Century). One of the Twelve Apostles and the son of Tolomai, Bartholomew is thought by some scholars to be the apostle, Nathanael, who went with Philip to see Jesus. After Jesus's Ascension, Nathanael spread Christianity to India and in Armenia, where he was martyred. He is the patron saint of Armenia and Belgium.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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

FAITH FORMATION

Immaculate Conception Church August 9, 2026

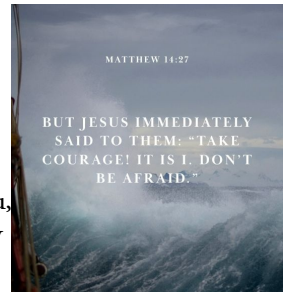
“Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” In His divine wisdom, Jesus knew that countless disciples would read this story and ponder this moment until the end of time.

What message is He giving us? The courage that comes from recognizing God in our midst allows us to conquer fear—especially in our moments of suffering, when the path ahead seems hard, dangerous, and without end.

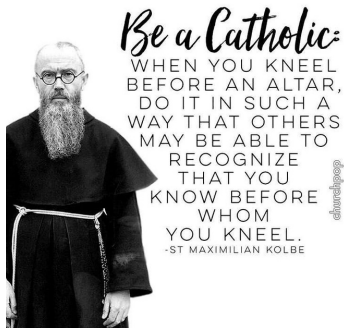
By a supernatural instinct, Peter utters the perfect prayer in this moment of uncertainty: “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you...” When we recognize God amid our trials, focus our gaze on Him, and pray this prayer, God will always answer, “Come.”

Peter sets the pattern for this bold, trusting prayer, but he falters in remaining faithful to it. Yet even this is allowed by God, for our instruction. Making an act of courageous faith does not guarantee we will not stumble. Peter sank not because he lacked faith entirely, but because fear began to overwhelm his trust. And in this, Jesus teaches us another lesson: Even when our faith wavers, we must not give in to despair. Peter did not drown—he cried out once more, “Lord, save me!” and Jesus immediately reached out His hand.

Despair is the true enemy of faith. Though fear and the growing force of the wind weakened Peter’s faith, he remained hopeful even in his weakness. And it was this hope—however trembling—that moved Jesus to stretch out His divine hand and save him. Look for Jesus, who comes to you in the midst of the trial, walking on and through that very storm. Know that it is truly Him, drawing near. As you overcome fear, keep your eyes fixed on Him, not on the storm.



St. Maximilian Kolbe Priest and Martyr August 14



St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Catholic priest and Conventual Franciscan friar who lived and worked in Poland during World War II. When Nazi Germany occupied Poland, he chose to continue his work creating religious and anti-Nazi publications at Niepokalanów, a monastery near Warsaw that he both founded and managed.

Doing whatever he could to combat the oppressive Nazi regime and help those being persecuted, he organized a temporary hospital within the monastery and harbored thousands from persecution before his arrest in 1941.

Kolbe was sent to Auschwitz, where he led prayers, sang hymns and comforted other prisoners. When one prisoner escaped and Nazi guards selected ten people to be starved to death as punishment, Kolbe sacrificed his own life in order to save a stranger with a family who’d been selected.

It’s said that Kolbe spent his final days leading the other prisoners in prayers to the Virgin Mary. As the final survivor of the group after two weeks of dehydration and starvation, guards administered a lethal injection on August 14th. His remains were cremated the next day on August 15th, on which day we celebrate the Assumption of Mary.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15

Every year on August 15, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, her being taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory. For some Protestants, and even for some Catholics, this doctrine may seem unfamiliar, perhaps even remote or secondary to the central message of the Gospel. Yet the Assumption is far from a distant privilege reserved for one figure alone. It is a vivid sign of hope, offered not only to Mary but to the whole church—a glimpse of the future God intends for all who are in Christ.

At its heart, the Assumption reveals God’s purpose for humanity: not disembodied escape, but the full redemption of the body, the triumph of divine love over death, and the victory of grace in a human life. Rather than being a source of theological division, the Assumption can become a shared affirmation across Christian traditions: that God is faithful, that the body matters, and that our final destiny is communion with Christ in glory.

This vision runs deep in the church’s tradition. Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) described Mary as the “eschatological icon” of the church. In her, the church sees what it is becoming. In his 1983 work *Daughter Zion*, he stressed that Marian dogmas are not optional extras, but theological expressions of how the church understands itself in the light of grace. “In her,” Ratzinger wrote, “the church has reached the goal she is striving toward: to be wholly holy, wholly beloved, and wholly transformed by grace.”

Mary’s Assumption, then, is not simply a reward for her unique role in the economy of salvation. It is also a manifestation of God’s desire for every Christian. In Mary, we see not only what God has done but what God longs to do in each of us.





The Diocese of Columbus will be hosting its second annual "Together in Holiness" marriage enrichment conference at St. Catharine in Columbus on September 19th. Childcare help is needed from 7:30am-4:30pm, but half-day shifts are available as well (7:30am-12:15pm and 11:45am-4:30pm). Volunteers are able to indicate which age group they'd prefer to help with (2-3; 4-5; 6-9; or 10-12), and no prep work will need prepared in advance - all materials and activities will be provided. Volunteers must have completed Protecting God's Children and an updated background check for the diocese. Sign up to help by scanning the QR code. For questions, contact Nancy at nancy@forlifeandfamily.org.



NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL BUS TRIP

St. Mary Magdalene Athletic Association is sponsoring an overnight bus trip to South Bend Indiana for the Notre Dame - Michigan State football game on Saturday, September 19. You can attend Mass before the game at the famous Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m. Start time for the game is 7:30 p.m. We will spend the night in Fort Wayne, Indiana after the game and return Sunday in the early afternoon. For all the details, or to reserve your spot, contact Julius Palazzo at Jmpalazzo@juno.com or (614) 946-5729.



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DEMENTIA SERIES

Join us for a four-part series exploring the medical, safety, emotional and community-resource aspects of Alzheimer's disease and Dementia. Sessions are from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on the third Thursday from August through November. The series will be hosted at St. Brendan Parish, located at 4475 Dublin Road in Hilliard.

Session 1: August 20 - Dr. Gavin Baumgardner, Owner, Healthy Alliance ("The Medical Aspects of Alzheimer's & Dementia")

Session 2: September 17 - Kelly Lambert, Executive Director, Dublin Glenn Memory Care ("The Emotional Aspects of Being a Caregiver")

Session 3: October 15 - Tonya Kreml, Owner, Transitioning Your Senior ("Safety at Home While Caregiving")

Session 4: November 19 - Laurie Schier, Oasis Senior Advisors ("Resources Beyond the Home")

Whether you're a caregiver, family member, friend, or simply interested in learning more, all are welcome to attend this free informative series. Let us know you plan to attend at tinyurl.com/dementia4part. For questions, please email Nell O'Connell at doconnell@stbrendans.net.

JOSEPHINUM 5K RUN/WALK

Get your walking (or running) shoes ready! The Josephinum 5K Run/Walk is set for **Saturday, October 3, 2026**. The Friends of the Josephinum 5K/Walk is back for its eighth year and features a one-loop course that will take participants on a tour of the Pontifical College Josephinum campus and the surrounding neighborhood. The 2026 event will again offer a virtual option for supporters from around the nation. Register three or more participants at the same time and get \$15 off (discount is automatically applied upon checking out if three or more registrations are in the cart). Event parking will be at Crosswoods Center I & II office park at 100-150 E. Crosswoods Boulevard. Participants will receive a unisex event shirt, an official Finisher's Medal, FREE race photos, a bottle of wine (21 and over) or a Trappist Monastery Jam (under 21), fresh breakfast burritos and White Castle sliders.



INVEST IN YOUR MARRIAGE – TOGETHER IN HOLINESS MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Married and engaged couples are invited to the Second Annual Together in Holiness marriage conference on September 19, 2026 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at St. Catharine Catholic Church in Columbus. This one-day conference will help you strengthen your relationship with your spouse and discover God's plan for your family.

Registration: \$64/couple and \$5/child for on-site childcare.

Scholarships are available upon request. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and the Diocese of Columbus.

For more info, visit togetherinholiness.org/columbus or email nancy@forlifeandfamily.org.



OCTOBER GETAWAY!

Take steps toward a better relationship! Attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you and your spouse all the tools for a stronger and more loving marriage. "But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Let your marriage be like the rich soil and attend an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on October 9-11, 2026. Get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones and focus only on each other. Location: Procter Camp and Conference Center – London, OH. Other weekend dates are available on our website. Apply at WWME.org or scan QR code. Early registration is recommended.



PILGRIMAGE FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF FULTON SHEEN

Join Father Jonathan Wilson for a pilgrimage to St. Louis from **September 22-25** for the Beatification of Fulton J. Sheen. This four-day journey includes daily Mass, visits to sacred sites, and participation in the historic Beatification Mass at The Dome at America's Center. Go to <https://stcharlespilgrimages.com/sheen> for all the details and to register. Spots are limited.

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