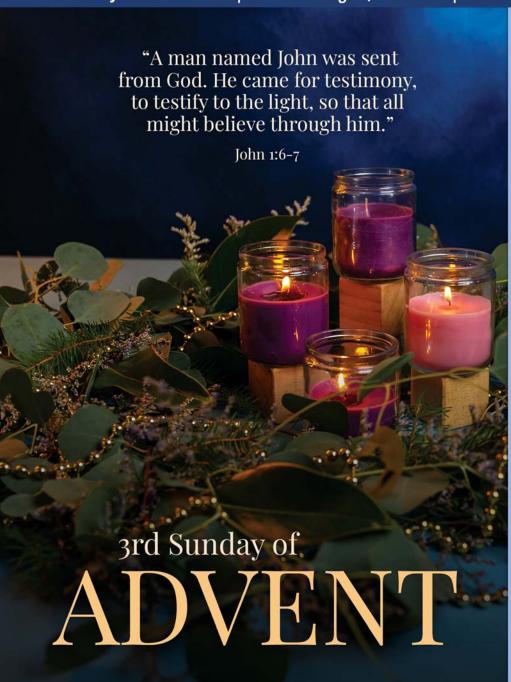


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December 17, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY **OF ADVENT**

MASS SCHEDULE

7:30 am Tuesday Wednesday 7:30 am Thursday 8:30 am 7:30 am Friday Saturday 5:00 pm 8:00 am Sunday 10:00 am

(Spanish) 11:30 am

RECONCILIATION

3:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

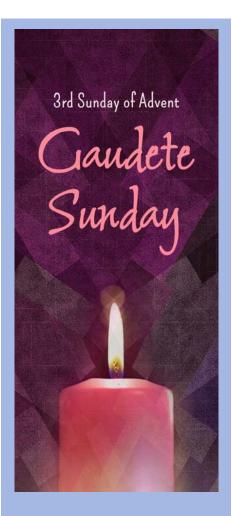
San Damiano Chapel **Open Weekdays** 7:00 am



Our Mission

The Mission of The Church of the Immaculate Conception is to proclaim and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ. We fulfill our mission as Christian disciples by intentionally responding to God's call to grow in holiness.

DECEMBER 17, 2023



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Prayer for the 3rd Week of Advent

Dear Lord,
Give us boldness as we move
through the motions of the holiday season,
to reflect and remind those around us
of Your deep and abiding love for them.
Allow them to encounter Your love, through us.
Amen. ©LPi

Parish News

2023-2024 Tax Deduction Information

This is just a reminder that, regardless of the date on the check, we must record your donations by the date we receive them or the date on which they are postmarked. For example, if a check dated December 31, 2023 is received by us on January 1 or later, it must be recorded as a 2024 donation. If you send us a donation through the postal service and the envelope is postmarked December 31, 2023 or earlier, this will be recorded as a 2023 donation even if we receive the envelope in January. As these are IRS regulations, we have no flexibility in the matter.

Help support Christians in the Holy Land by purchasing beautifully handcrafted religious wood carvings at Immaculate Conception Church *this weekend*, December 16 and 17 after all Masses in the church narthex.

You are invited to view the display of olivewood carvings. All of the items are hand made in the Holy Land and make great gifts for any religious or non-religious occasion. Be sure to stop by!

This Week's Readings

Sunday, December 17, 3rd Sunday of Advent Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday, December 23, St. John of Kanty, Priest Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Sunday, December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38

©LPi

Social Justice Ministry

Coins For Social Justice

December Collection Next Weekend

IC parishioners are asked to fill the collection basket with their pocket change to benefit the Social Justice Ministry. Only the loose change and marked envelopes from this collection are designated for Social Justice. Marked envelopes are available at all entrances to the church.

Thank You

Dear Friends.

Thank you for your thoughtful gift of \$200 received on November 10, 2023. Your donation will help us enrich and expand our person-centered programming. The focus of everything we do at PAI is to provide services that empower the individual choices of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is because of generous people like you that we can connect people with disabilities to the community and the world.

Mike Miner President, PAI



Annual Collection for Veterans

Every Third Saturday located in Minneapolis, addresses the physical needs of struggling and homeless veterans, as well as the emotional needs of veterans and their families. This organization needs winter coats, gloves, hats, thermal underwear, and boots that are new or used in good condition for female and male veterans. Immaculate Conception will again team with other Catholic churches in the area to collect goods. Now is a good time to clean out your closets. Your new or gently used items can be dropped off on the weekend of January 13-14. There will be a large, marked bin available in the church narthex for your donations. Questions? Please contact Vicki B., 763-788-9062 x 212.



To donate via WeShare using your debit, credit card, checking, or savings account:



Visit ICCSonline.org and click Donate Now.



Select your donation amount and frequency.



Enter your account and payment information.









To donate stock, contact Julie Moricz at 763-788-9062 x202 or jmoricz@immac-church.org

Catholic Trivia!

Question: What are the only materials acceptable for use as an altar cloth?

©I Pi

Answer: Hemp or flax



FORMED Pick of the Week

Mary of Nazareth

What would it have been like to have known the Mother of God? Watch this beautiful film portraying the life of Mary in order to contemplate Mary's profound faith and the mysteries of her life.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



DECEMBER 17, 2023

Pastoral Ministry

Anointing of the Sick

Individual Anointing of the Sick is available by request — call the parish office at 763-788-9062.

In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the weekend Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call Vicki at $763-788-9062 \times 212$. For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray for Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially Jo Anne Student and all who have died as a result of violence. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

Pray for All the Sick—Especially:

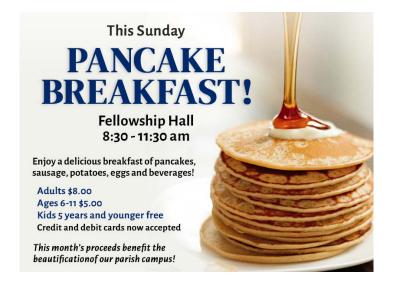
Bea Alain · Paul Bona · Tom Botzet · Vickie Botzet
Kathy Fraser · Mary Fredenburg · Shawn Frederixon
Jeanne Fulton · Tom Fulton · Len Jurek · Marge Klimek
Anna Larson · Steven Lauinger · Annette Peifer · Dianne Redman
Greg Sery · Elaine Thunstrom and all those on our prayer chain

If your name was removed and you would like to continue to be on the prayer list please call 763-788-9062 x 212.

Dear Visitor,

Welcome, we are glad to see you today! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Know that we are here for you and that we welcome new members! For more information about ICC or to become a member contact Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212. Online registration is available at our website, ICCSonline.org.





(Practicing) Catholic

Testimony

When my grandmother heard the news that my cousin had fallen from a second-story window, she immediately went and washed her hair.

Grandma had been sitting alone in her house, listening to the morning radio when the announcer shared a news bulletin stating that the previous night, a little boy with the same name as her grandson, living in the same community and of the same age, had fallen onto the pavement from a window on the second floor of his house. He had been rushed to the hospital but miraculously survived his injuries.

She thought she was hallucinating and wanted to look pretty when the "men in white coats" came to take her away. Thus, the hair-washing.

As it happens, the whole story was true — it was her grandson, but this was before the age of mobile phones and had happened so late at night that his parents had been unable to notify any family members before the whole thing showed up on the news.

It wasn't until my grandmother received a phone call from another relative corroborating the story that she realized it hadn't been a figment of her imagination. What a waste of styled hair, no hospital committal for her that day.

There are certain truths that we cannot accept unless they are supported by the testimony of others. We find them to be unbelievable without the reassurance of another person whispering, "It's okay. I see it, too."

This is the value of testimony, and the purpose of John the Baptist and every saint who ever died with the name of Jesus Christ on their lips. And this is the sacred duty of all the baptized, to give testimony with our words and our actions.

How will you testify today?

"He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." — John 1:8

Reflections

Why Do We Do That?-Catholic Life Explained

The Sign of Peace

Question: Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer: The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven. It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

Live the Liturgy — Inspiration for the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

Word of Life

Respect Life Reflection

"O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free."

-USCCB, "Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita"



The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Mass Schedule

Sunday, December 24, Vigil Mass of Christmas 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm (in Spanish)

> Monday, December 25 Christmas Mass 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Thank you to our sponsors

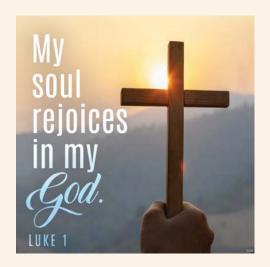
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Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 17

8:00 am +Sheila Prokott

10:00 am +Randy and Betty Lou Wilcox

11:30 am IC Parish

Tuesday, December 19

7:30 am +Jim Johnson

Wednesday, December 20

7:30 am +Daniel Grow

Thursday, December 21

8:30 am +Janet Mihalik

Friday, December 22

7:30 am Fr. James Peterson, +LeRoy Willman

Saturday, December 23

5:00 pm +John P. Botzet, Jr.

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am +Clinton Buntin

10:00 am +Angelique Christine Lepsch

11:30 am IC Parish

Vigil of Christmas

5:00~pm +Slawko (Sid) & Iolanda (Linda) Dupak

7:00 pm IC Parish

+Deceased

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Church Directory

Emergency (Death/Anointing) 763-788-9062 (#9)

Parish

1 41 1511	
Parish Office	763-788-9062
Monday-Friday: 8:00 am - 4:00 pm	
Parish Fax	763-788-0202
Pastor, Fr. Matthew Quail	x 215
Accounting Specialist, Kay Karye	x 204
Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashr	nore x 205
Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bana	non x 214
Director of Operations, Julie Moricz	x 202
Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson	x 218
Parish Office Coordinator, Ximena Buna	ay x 201
Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille	x 212
Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser	x 227
Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridger	man x 221
Wedding Coordinator, Barb Hartwick	x 204

Faith Formation

Director of Faith Formation, Mary Nawrocki	x 210
Administrative Assistant, Mary Scott	x 208

School

School Office 763-7	88-9065
School Fax 763-7	88-9066
Principal, Jane Bona (jbona@immac-church.org)	x 220
Director of Admissions, Lydia Zimmerman	x 207
Director of Advancement, Seyha Saumweber	x 213
Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko	x 219

Parish Pastoral Council Members

Daryl Post • Maria Hamilton • Sue Nyvold • Jerry Earley Tom Herschbach • Marcus Paulson • Stacy McVary

Fr. Matthew Quail (Parochial Administrator)
Jane Bona (School Principal)
Al Haeg (Parish Trustee)
Patrick McVary (Parish Trustee)

Low Gluten Hosts

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Visit our website at ICCSonline.org



Gospel Meditation

3rd Sunday of Advent

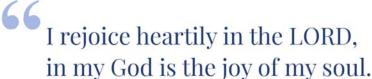
Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: "There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him." The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a *pattern* at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

-Father John Muir | ©LPi





-Isaiah 61:10

Council of Catholic Women

Last Chance Nut Sale

This is the last weekend for the nut sale. Nuts are nutritious, delicious and make great Christmas and hostess gifts. The Council of Catholic Women wish to thank everyone that has supported our fundraiser by purchasing nuts or helping in any way.

Bake Sale and Boutique

The Council of Catholic Women extends a heartfelt *thank you* to everyone for your generous donations of baked goods, lovely crafts and holiday home décor to the Christmas Bake Sale and Boutique. And thank you to all those who stopped by to support us through your purchases. It was another successful sale! We couldn't do it without you!

Gods blessings to all in 2024!

Looking ahead, when you're packing up your Christmas décor at the end of the season this year and you have items you may no longer want or have a need for, we'd be happy to take them for our holiday décor area next year. Please call either Sandy at 763-789-3246 or Mary Ann at 763-780-5911 to make arrangements for drop off or pick up at your home.

The Week Ahead

Sunday, December 10

CCW Nut Sale	7:30 am - 1:00 pm
IC Pancake Breakfast	8:30 am - 11:30am
Tuesday, December 12	
Charismatic Prayer Group	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

"Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

Come and spend time in prayer during this Advent season in our Eucharistic adoration chapel. Our Lord, present in the Blessed Sacrament on the chapel altar, is there waiting for you. Our chapel is open Monday through Friday beginning at 7:00 am and all are welcome!

We are looking for more scheduled adorers. We have the following open hours: **Wednesdays at 10:00 am and Fridays at 2:00 pm.** We are also in need of partner adorers for many more hours. If you would like to schedule an adoration hour, are unable to attend your scheduled hour, or have questions about adoration, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246.

Note: The chapel will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday and on Monday and Tuesday, January 1 and 2 for the New Year holiday.





CURRENT PROJECTS

REPLACE BOILER

Praise God! We have raised enough for the removal and replacement of the boiler. The Legacy of Light Campaign team has gotten the bids and are set to schedule the removal when contractors are available.





REMOVE OIL TANK

re have also raised enough money to remove the oil tank. our hope is to schedule the removal in the spring or ummer of 2024.

LOOKING AHEAD

REMAINING PROJECT PRIORITIES

- 1. Replace Gym and Parish Office Roof
- 2. Upgrade School Elevator 3. Main Electrical Service
- 4. Church Floor Tile
- 5. Ministry Initiatives



GOT QUESTIONS?

Contact Seyha Saumweber, Director of Advancement, with questions regarding the Legacy of Light Capital Campaign or on how to give.

> seyha@immac-church.org 763-788-9062 ext. 213

Scan to give or visit: www.tinyurl.com/iclol



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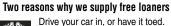
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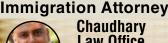
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