

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

— Catholic Church —

4030 Jackson Street NE | Columbia Heights, MN 55421 | 763-788-9062 | ICCSonline.org



**“The child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom; and the favor
of God was upon him.” —Lk 2:40**

Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

December 31, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday	7:30 am
Wednesday	7:30 am
Thursday	8:30 am
Friday	7:30 am
Saturday	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
	10:00 am
	(Spanish) 11:30 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday	3:00 - 4:45 pm
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EUCCHARISTIC 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.



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Parish News

Holiday Office Hours

The parish office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, January 1-2 for the New Year holiday.

Parish Centennial News

If you would like a Centennial ornament or prayer card, please stop by the parish office.

Links to our Centennial celebration video and photos are available on our website at ICCSonline.org



This Week's Readings

Sunday, December 31, The Holy Family; New Year's Eve

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday, January 1, Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday, January 2, Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday, January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday, January 5, St. John Neumann, Bishop

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday, January 6, St. André Bessette, Religious

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Sunday, January 7, The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

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Eucharistic Adoration

"Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Col. 3: 15a; 16a)

Come and experience the peace of Jesus in our chapel. Our Eucharistic adoration chapel is open Monday through Friday beginning at 7:00 am. All are welcome!

We are looking for more scheduled adorers. **We have the following open hours: Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We are also in need of partner adorers for many 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, January 1 and 2, for the New Year holiday.



Social Justice Ministry

Coins For Social Justice

Thank you for your continued support. We received a thank you from the *Family Promise in Anoka County* prevention program. They stated that our generous donation would be used to assist a family maintain housing and receive three months of individual case management service, budgeting assistance and support.

Annual Collection for Veterans - Every Third Saturday

Your new or gently used items can be dropped off on 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.

The Week Ahead

Monday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Parish Office Closed

Mass.....9:00 am

Mass (Spanish) 11:30 am

Tuesday, January 2

Parish Office Closed

Charismatic Prayer Group 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, January 3

Faith Formation Family Mass 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm

OCIA 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm

Saturday, January 6

Spanish RCIA 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Sunday, January 7

Fellowship Sunday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

(Practicing) Catholic

The Sword and the Family

In the first few weeks of parenthood, the tears flowed fast and freely, and with very little provocation.

Sometimes I wept because it was getting dark out, and sometimes because the sun was coming up. Sometimes I wept because the days were so unbearably long. Sometimes I wept because they were so cruelly short and slipped past so quickly, bearing away with them forever these inaugural moments of my daughter's life — moments I knew I would long for on my deathbed.

So, the inclusion of the Presentation of Christ in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary has always struck me. The Blessed Mother, just a few weeks after giving birth, standing at the holy temple: Is she tired? Is she emotional? Is she frightened? Is she happy? We cannot know for sure, but if she is anything like most of the postpartum women I know, she is all four. But she stands there dutifully, offering her baby to the Lord, and this is what she is told, "A sword shall pierce your heart."

Joyful? I would have snatched the baby back, called the police and sobbed for a week.

But Mary knows that Simeon speaks the truth, and she cannot receive God's will with anything less than joy, even if it means a pierced heart.

Family means love, but love means — what, exactly? Pleasure, fulfillment, contentment? Yes, but so much more, too. Love means you have much to lose.

How full is family life with these beautiful moments which, on the surface, look and feel painful — but hold within them the opportunity to be like Mary, to bow our heads and once again say "Yes, Lord."

"Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another..." — Colossians 3:12

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman | ©LPI

Prayer

Dear Lord,

We lift our families to you in prayer — every generation!

Bind our wounds, forgive our debts, show your mercy!

Lead us to deeper communion with each other and You.

Help us, too, to be a holy family.

Amen.

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Catholic Trivia!

Question: True or False: The Catholic Church teaches that those people who don't know and accept the Church will NOT be saved.

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Answer: False

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 x 212. For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray for Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially 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.

Bringing Communion to the Homebound

If you're bringing Holy Communion to the homebound and you have an IC pyx in your home, please return it to the sacristy as soon as possible. All pyx need to be signed out before use and returned the same day for purification. For more information contact Vicki Bazille or Fr. Quail. Thank you.

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.

School News

TICKETS ON SALE
Jan. 12th-Feb. 18th

\$ 10 each

Help Immaculate Conception School reach their goal:

\$8,000

Every dollar we raise stays with our school!

Saint of the Week

St. John Neumann | January 5

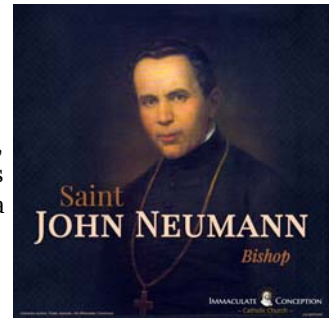
St. John Neumann is the patron saint of educators, immigrants, and, due to the miracles that secured his canonization, sick children. This is a fitting patronage as he was a lover of education and learning from a very young age. In fact, when he was a child, his mother called him “my little bibliomaniac” due to his preoccupation with reading. Born in 1811 Bohemia, in what is now the Czech Republic, he attended the university in Prague preparing for ordination. However, his local bishops were not ordaining new priests at the time because Bohemia was overstocked with priests. He inquired about ordination all over Europe but received the same answer everywhere. Not one to be deterred, John then applied to several United States dioceses. Receiving no immediate responses, the saint took a leap of faith and decided to just immigrate to the United States in 1836, during his 25th year, with only \$40 in his pocket. This risk paid off when he was ordained in New York a month later.

Early in his priesthood he worked primarily as a missionary to German immigrants in Buffalo. His missionary work also created an opportunity for him to spend time in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio. When he was 29, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. He was their first member to profess vows in the United States.

In 1852, at the age of 41, Neumann became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. During this time, he organized the individual parochial schools in his region into a diocesan system. This change allowed Catholic schools to quickly increase the number of pupils enrolled by almost twentyfold. Over the course of his ministry, St. John expanded the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from 2 to 100! His passion for education extended to immigrants, like himself, and his love for learning languages made it possible for him to hear confessions in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, and Gaelic!

A man of the people, he could often be found outside the church walls visiting people who were sick, staying in taverns and public houses to teach, and celebrating Mass in people's homes at their kitchen tables. He was canonized on June 19, 1977, following three miracles, two of which regarded the healing of youth from grave illnesses. St. John Neumann was the first American man to be canonized a saint.

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Reflections

Why Do We Do That?—Catholic Life Explained

Servant Songs

Question: What are the servant songs of Isaiah? How do they relate to Jesus' life and ministry?

Answer: The four servant songs (Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, and 52:13-53:12) are strategically placed in Second Isaiah to offer hope and consolation to a suffering Israel during its Babylonian Exile.

Israel had been defeated by the Babylonians, who destroyed their temple, killed the last of the kings in David's lineage, exiled them from their land, and transported them to Babylon. This is the context in which Second Isaiah composes his powerfully poetic book of hope and consolation. A significant part of that message is the portrait of God's servant, who is called to be a source of hope and encouragement for the people.

Each of the four poems emphasizes God's choice and election of the servant. The last poem stresses the suffering and rejection of God's servant, along with his eventual death. Isaiah is certain that God will use the servant's innocent suffering as a way to redeem and remove the guilt and sin of others. Thus, the servant becomes a source of salvation for himself and for others.

Who is this servant? Many suggest that Isaiah was referring to Israel herself, as she underwent exilic suffering which would ultimately prove to be redemptive. Jesus' followers, including those for whom Mark wrote his Gospel, understood Jesus' ministry in terms of Isaiah's suffering servant whose innocent suffering and death became the means of salvation for all.

Live the Liturgy — Inspiration for the Week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

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Word of Life

Respect Life Reflection

"Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



FORMED Pick of the Week

Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

Join Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of The Most Holy Name of Jesus with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

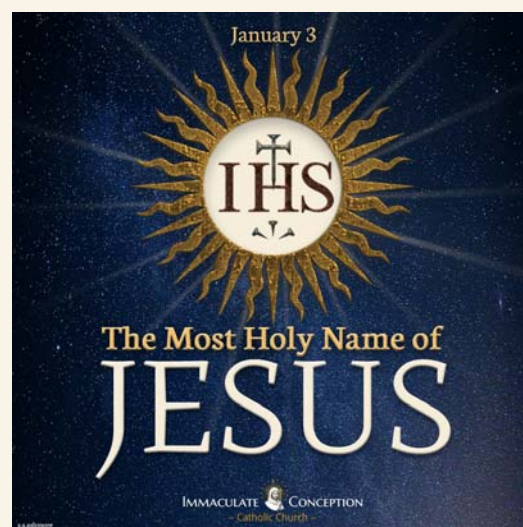
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Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am +Bertha Margotto
10:00 am +Robert Sikes and Ann Fox
11:30 am IC Parish

Monday, January 1

9:00 am Susan Kulikowski
11:30 am IC Parish

Tuesday, January 2

7:30 am +Robert Prokott

Wednesday, January 3

7:30 am +Deceased Members of the CCW

Thursday, January 4

8:30 am Jane Bona

Friday, January 5

7:30 am +Deceased Members of the K of C

Saturday, January 6

5:00 pm +Mary Lou Goodman

Sunday, January 7

8:00 am Kathy Kurt
10:00 am +Rick Jackson
11:30 am IC Parish

+Deceased

Church Directory

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

Parish

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 Ashmore x 205

Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon x 214

Director of Operations, Julie Moricz x 202

Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson x 218

Parish Office Coordinator, Ximena Bunay x 201

Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille x 212

Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser x 227

Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridgeman 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 763-788-9065

School Fax 763-788-9066

Principal, Jane Bona (jbona@immac-church.org) x 220

Director of Admissions, Lydia Zimmerman x 207

Director of Advancement, Seyha Saumweber x 203

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

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available.

Come to the sacristy before Mass to request one.

Visit our website at ICCSonline.org



Gospel Meditation

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

—Father John Muir | ©LPI

JANUARY 1



“Be attentive to the voice of grace.”

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Visit our website: ICCSonline.org





Immaculate Conception Church Centennial Celebration

December 8, 2023



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