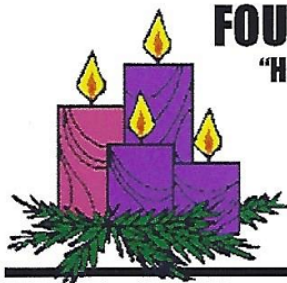


**CHRISTMAS EVE & MIDNIGHT MASSES:** 4:00PM, 7:00PM & Midnight (12:00AM)

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:** 7:00AM, 9:00AM & 11:00AM

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

3555 South Fremont Avenue – Springfield, Missouri 65804-4237



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."*

December 24, 2017

### PARISH OFFICE STAFF

**Rev. Thomas P. Kiefer, Pastor**  
Voicemail 107 frtom@ic-parish.org

**Rev. Charles "Chaz" Dunn, Associate Pastor**  
Voicemail 114 frchaz@ic-parish.org

**Rev. Mr. Kevin Carroll, Permanent Deacon**  
kevin.carroll@htetech.com

**Sharon Weidelman**  
Director of Family Life Ministries  
& Religious Education  
Voicemail 111 sharonweidelman@yahoo.com

**Steve Jannetti**  
Director of Sacred Music  
Voicemail 103 sjannetti@ic-parish.org

**Dan Pfaff**  
Director of Confirmation & Youth Activities  
Voicemail 115 lifeteen@ic-parish.org

**Doris Trotter, PSR Coordinator**  
Voicemail 116 dtrotter@ic-parish.org

**Tina Miller**  
Finance Manager, RCIA Coordinator  
Voicemail 106 tmiller@ic-parish.org

**Mary Ann Davis**  
Parish Bulletin & Data Coordinator  
Voicemail 113 madavis@ic-parish.org

**Becky Wieberg, Parish Secretary**  
Voicemail 101 bwieberg@ic-parish.org

### CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF SPRINGFIELD

**Paul Wunderlich** 417-866-6720  
lohmeyerfuneralhome@gmail.com

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

3555A S. Fremont - Springfield, MO 65804  
Phone: 417-881-7000 Fax: 417-881-7087  
Website: scspk12.org

**Theresa Coleman, Principal**  
Voicemail 201 tcoleman@scspk12.org

**Jenny Pendleton, Assistant Principal**  
Voicemail 204 jpendleton@scspk12.org

The Blessings Of  
*Christmas*  
PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Parish Office: 417-887-0600

Fax: 417-887-0027

Webpage: [www.ic-parish.org](http://www.ic-parish.org)

E-mail: [staff@ic-parish.org](mailto:staff@ic-parish.org)

### SCHEDULE OF SUNDAY MASSES

**Sunday: 7:00AM, 9:00AM & 11:00AM**

**Saturday (Vigil): 4:00PM**

### SCHEDULE OF WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 6:20AM

Thursday: Communion Service at 6:20AM

Monday – Saturday: 8:30AM

**Wednesday: 6:30PM**

### SACRAMENTAL MINISTRY

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturday on the Hour: 3:00PM & 7:00PM  
By appointment – call the Parish Office.

#### **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Please call the Parish Office.

#### **SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Call the Parish Office at least six months  
prior to intended wedding date.

#### **EMERGENCY CALLS FOR THE ANOINTING THE SICK**

For an emergency requesting the  
Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or  
if you have experienced the death of a family member –  
call the Parish Office at 417-887-0600.  
Prompt #2 will connect you with Fr. Tom or Fr. Chaz.

#### **PRAYER CHAIN: 417-887-0600**

Prompt #3 will connect you to the mailbox  
where you may leave a prayer request.  
Please leave contact information with the request.

#### **PERPETUAL ADORATION—HOLY TRINITY'S CHAPEL**

2818 East Bennett Street, Springfield, MO  
Please call Joyce Blades at 417-881-4367 or  
Diane Hoy at 417-860-7134 to schedule a time  
before the Blessed Sacrament.

Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary—3:00 PM on Sundays.

#### **SECURITY TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION**

You may leave a message for the Security Team at the  
following email address: [security@ic-parish.org](mailto:security@ic-parish.org)

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

December 24, 2017—Fourth Sunday of Advent

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:00AM, 9:00AM, & 11:00AM SUNDAY MASSES

8:30AM Rosary in the Chapel

4:00PM & 7:00PM—CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

11:30PM Christmas Carols

12:00AM MIDNIGHT MASS

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH CHRISTMAS DAY

7:00AM, 9:00AM, & 11:00AM MASSES

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH—PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

6:20AM MASS—CHAPEL

8:30AM MASS—CHAPEL

Noon—1:00PM Prayer Intercessor—CHAPEL

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

6:20AM MASS—Perpetual Help Devotions—CHAPEL

8:30AM MASS—CHAPEL

Noon—1:00PM Prayer Intercessor—CHAPEL

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

6:20AM Communion Service—CHAPEL

8:30AM Mass—CHAPEL

Noon—1:00PM Prayer Intercessor—CHAPEL

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

6:20AM MASS—CHAPEL

8:30AM MASS—CHAPEL

*Rosary for Vocations following in the Chapel*

Noon—1:00PM Prayer Intercessor—CHAPEL

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

8:30AM Mass—CHAPEL

3:00PM Sacrament of Reconciliation—CHURCH

4:00PM SUNDAY VIGIL Mass

7:00PM Sacrament of Reconciliation—CHURCH

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST—

7:00AM, 9:00AM, & 11:00AM SUNDAY MASSES

8:30AM Rosary in the Chapel

4:00PM HOLYDAY MASS—MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

### MONDAY, JANUARY 1ST—PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00AM—HOLYDAY MASS

## MASS INTENTIONS

### CHRISTMAS, DECEMBER 25TH—

#### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

12:00AM Special Intention

7:00AM Homeless

9:00AM Special Intention

11:00AM Vocations to Religious Life



### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH—

#### ST. STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

6:20AM Blessed Virgin Mary Intercession

8:30AM + Josephine Beaumont

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27TH—

#### ST. JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST

6:20AM + Terry Miller

8:30AM + Delfin Pangilinan

6:30PM + Madelyn Bertalott

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28TH—

#### THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

6:20AM Communion Service

8:30AM + Dominic Ha Tien Nhat

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29TH—

#### ST. THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP & MARTYR

6:20AM Parents Seeking Adoption

8:30AM + Edward J. Harrick

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH—

8:30AM Retired Priests (Int.)

### Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday

4:00PM The Parish Family

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31ST—FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

7:00AM + Rev. Stephen Schneider

9:00AM + Mary Jansen

11:00AM + William Buchek

### DECEMBER 31ST—

#### VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

4:00PM The Parish Family

### JANUARY 1ST—SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

10:00AM + Pauline Katzfey

## Christmas Masses



### Christmas Eve

**Sunday, December 24, 2017**

**4:00PM and 7:00PM**

**Midnight Mass: 12:00AM**

**(Christmas Carols: 11:30PM)**

### Christmas Day

**Monday, December 25, 2017**

**7:00AM, 9:00AM & 11:00AM**



**PRAY FOR OUR CANDIDATES PREPARING  
FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION  
CANDIDATES AND SPONSORS MEET  
JANUARY 14TH AT 8:45AM**

Adults who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Becky at the Parish Office (417.887.0600) to register. Special sessions will be held for adults and their sponsors to prepare to receive the Sacrament on August 11, 2018.

The Sacrament of Confirmation completes the Sacramental preparation to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, to be a godparent for Baptism, and preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage.



**HOLYDAY MASSES: SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**



**Sunday, December 31, 2017: 4:00 PM**

**Monday, January 1, 2018: 10:00 AM**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR ...**

**Scripture Readings for  
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
JANUARY 7, 2018**

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13;  
Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; & Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

**PARISHIONERS WHO NEED SPECIAL PRAYERS**

Carlos Contreras, Lorraine D'Alessandro, Robert Gerhardy, Judy Gibson, Gail LaRoche, Mamie Lawless, Michael Menne, Becky Meyer, Mary Miller, Loretta Polk, Flor Rivera, Jan Royster, Mary Shanahan, Douglas Strickland, Elizabeth Tomelleri, Jake Wilson, and all who need prayers.

*People are listed for 4 weeks, then transferred to the Prayer Intention book, unless family notifies us otherwise.*

**FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

Please remember in prayer our faithful departed: Bernard Cardinal Law former Bishop of our diocese; Martha Wise; Doris Meekins; and Gregory Barber.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION**

God promises King David his house and kingdom will endure forever. Through Mary's "Yes" - "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." - that is the promise fulfilled.

**SUNDAY ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL**

The Rosary will be prayed in the Chapel at 8:30AM on Sunday mornings. Please take time to join us and pray for each other and for special needs.

**DIOCESAN PERPETUAL ADORATION  
HOLY TRINITY CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

Due to the Christmas, and New Year holiday season, Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration will be suspended at 6:00AM on Thursday, December 21st, and will resume after the 10:00AM Mass on Monday, January 1st. The chapel will remain open during this time period. For information regarding The Diocesan Perpetual Adoration and/or wanting to commit to an hour a week, please call Joyce Blades at 881.4367 or Diane Hoy at 860.7134. Help is needed for many available hours.



**JANUARY 5, 2018—FIRST FRIDAY**

**ADORATION OF THE**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**9:00AM—1:00PM 1:00PM BENEDICTION**

**From Father Tom's Desk**



**Mary**

William Barclay once said that the world's most popular prayer is, "Thy will be changed." But the world's greatest prayer is, "Thy will be done." Mary prayed the latter.

**At Christmas Time I Am Somebody**

Several years ago I visited a man in a nursing home. Life was difficult for him and he constantly complained because he had no visitors and felt lonely and neglected. He seemed to have every right to complain as he did, considering the circumstances under which he lived. I went to see him just before Christmas. There were Christmas cards on his wall and a poinsettia plant on the table and he told me that the night before carolers from a local church came by and sang Christmas carols for him. I asked him how he was doing and he said, "At Christmas time I am somebody."

A nobody is a somebody at Christmas. All of the things that surround the birth of Jesus are for you -- hope, joy, peace, and love. In your ordinariness, right where you are, God comes to you. At Christmas time you are somebody."

*John A. Stroman, God's Downward Mobility, CSS Publishing, Lima, Ohio*

**From the Grinch**



I think the Grinch said it best:  
And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold  
in the snow,  
Stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so?"  
"It came without ribbons! It came without tags!"  
"It came without packages, boxes or bags!"  
And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore.  
Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't  
before!  
"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from  
a store."  
"Maybe Christmas. . . perhaps. . . means a little bit  
more!"

*Dr. Suess*

**Hand Me the Broom**

There was a little boy who was afraid of the dark and afraid of storms. One night during a thunderstorm his mother asked him to go out on the back porch and get the broom. The boy started to go but when he tried to turn on the light, it was burnt out. Between the dark and the storm outside, he wasn't about to go out there. So he ran back and told his Mom. Well, Mom said, "You don't have to be afraid, God right there with you and God's not gonna let anything happen to you. God's everywhere."

The little boy looked at Mom for a second and then asked, "Are you sure?" Mom assured him that it would be all right. Filled with Mom's assurance, the boy mustered up his courage and decided to go get the broom. He was getting ready to step out on the back porch when all of a sudden lightening flashed and a huge clap of thunder rumbled all around. The boy froze. His eyes were as big as dinner plates. Then he hollered: "God, if you're really out there, hand me the broom."

*Traditional*

*Father Tom*

## Dear Parishioners,

Thank you! With deep joy and gratitude, we extend to you our prayerful best wishes for a Holy and Blessed Christmas.

Thank you and God bless you for the many kindnesses, gifts, cookies, candy and acts of charity you have shown to Fr. Chaz and to me during this Christmas Season.

There is a Christmas card with this message: "This Christmas, I wish you Jesus." On the inside it read: "Isn't it nice to have everything!"

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this special time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our beloved Immaculate Conception Parish always.

God's blessings,

Father Tom & Father Chaz



## WELCOME TO SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Springfield Catholic School System is accepting registration for the 2017-2018 school year. Our system is made up of three (3) elementary schools (preschool-8th grade) and one (1) high school. For a tour, enrollment information, or to check availability at various grade levels, please contact the schools in which you are interested.

Immaculate Conception: 417-881-7000

St. Agnes: 417-866-5038

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: 417-887-6056

Springfield Catholic High School: 417-887-8817

*Tradition of Faith, Service, and Academic Excellence!*

• **Employment Opportunities**—ALL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND APPLICATIONS are available on the Springfield Catholic Schools website at [www.scspk12.org](http://www.scspk12.org).

• **DISCOVERY NIGHT AT SPRINGFIELD CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**—Join us on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 for Junior High/New Student Discovery Night at Springfield Catholic High School. Presentation and discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium followed by Open House. Parents and students are welcome to see the campus, meet our student leadership, experience the community, and learn about the many academic achievements we are celebrating! No RSVP is required. For questions, please contact our Academic Office at 417.887.8817.

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION QUILT CLUB

Join the Quilt Club and make quilts and fleece blankets for LifeHouse, wounded soldier's, sheriff and police officers, and firefighters. Contact, Katie Mlnarik, 417.731.2311 (during the morning and early evening hours) if interested. NEEDED: new flat sheets (any size), fabric, yarn, fleece cut to 2 yard lengths (2 cuts for front & back) for each blanket. We will start in January on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

## WOMEN'S MORNING OF REFLECTION

Would you like to begin the New Year with a renewed spirit? Please join us Saturday morning, January 6, 2018, at St. Agnes Church. We will begin with Mass at 8:30AM in the Chapel. Our speaker, Pastor Melissa Bailey-Kirk from Grace United Methodist Church, will begin the reflection in the Chapel following Mass. Lunch will be served at 11:30AM, in the school cafeteria. Please call the parish office, 831.3565, to register by January 2nd so that we have enough food prepared. Babysitting will be provided, but we need to know how many children to expect & also their ages. We sincerely hope you will consider participating in this opportunity.

## SILENT SATURDAY

Now that the busyness and stress of the holidays is over, how about treating yourself to a peaceful Saturday morning with prayer and reflection with the Lord, on Saturday, January 6th, Holy Trinity Church, 2818 E. Bennett, in the Trinity Room. Registration, fellowship and light refreshments: 9:45AM. Prayer at 10:00AM and conclude at Noon. If you have questions: contact Barb DePue at [democatsx2@gmail.com](mailto:democatsx2@gmail.com)

## 6:30 PM—MASS WEDNESDAY EVENING

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

### THANK YOU

Thank you to our parishioners for your food donations, monetary donations,, bagging the groceries, and handing them out. Without your support we would not have been able to help so many of "Those in Need." Your overwhelming support of our organization is humbling. Thank you for your generosity!!

## THE PARISH OFFICE—HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Closed: Monday, December 25th, Tuesday, December 26th, and Monday, January, 1st. Have a Safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH SNOW/ICE CANCELLATION PROCEDURE

If the Catholic School System is closed because of bad weather, all activities scheduled for that day, such as RCIA, PSR, Scripture Study, Choir, Women's Council, or any other meeting scheduled for that day will be canceled. If, during the morning or afternoon, conditions get bad, we will put information about cancellations on KTTS (94.7fm) radio station. The parish office will be closed the first day that schools are out, the second day we will open at noon (unless it is extremely bad and dangerous to be out). Please use your best judgment; your safety is most important!!!

INCLEMENT  
WEATHER  
INFORMATION



Sunday & Daily Masses WILL BE HELD at the regularly scheduled times and

WILL NOT BE CANCELLED due to snow or ice.

## BLESSING OF A NATIVITY SCENE



*In its present form the custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.*

*The blessing of the Christmas manger or nativity scene may take place on the Vigil of Christmas or at another suitable time.*

*When the manger is set up in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another family member.*

**All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:**

**Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.**

**Who made heaven and earth.**

*One of those present or the leader reads a text of sacred Scripture, for example, [Luke 2:1](#) (lines 1-8) or [Isaiah 7:10](#) (lines 10-15, the birth of Emmanuel).*

**Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The leader prays with hands joined:*

**God of every nation and people,  
from the very beginning of creation  
you have made manifest your love:  
when our need for a Savior was great  
you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.  
To our lives he brings joy and peace,  
justice, mercy, and love.**

**Lord,**

**bless all who look upon this manger;  
may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,  
and raise our thoughts to him,  
who is God-with-us and Savior of all,  
and who lives and reigns forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

—From "[Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers](#)"

## YEAR END GIVING & CURRENT REQUESTS

Please consider making a prayerful financial response to help provide for our ministries.

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

#### • Year End Donations:

- ◆ **Ministry to the Poor**—support to those in need
- ◆ **Youth Activities**—Parish School of Religion, Religious Education Supplies, Retreat Scholarships for Youth
- ◆ **Parish Activities**—Scholarships for Parish Bible Study participants, supplies for Funeral & Parish Dinners
- ◆ **Catholic School Tuition Assistance**—funding for Catholic Education of a student in our school system
- ◆ **Parish Repair & Maintenance**—reducing major repairs by upkeep of facilities
- ◆ **Debt Reduction**—reducing our current debt
- ◆ **Pastor's Discretion**—Used for unexpected & special needs that arise that are not budgeted items

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. VINCENT de PAUL

- Immaculate Conception's St. Vincent de Paul
  - ◆ Christmas Dinners for those in need.

*All gifts made on or before December 31st are tax deductible for this tax year.*

*Gifts of securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds) are some of the best gifts to make whether they have appreciated or depreciated in value. Call Tina at the parish office, 417.887.0600, for details.*

## COLLECTION FOR SEMINARIANS AND RETIRED PRIESTS



The annual Christmas collection, along with the interest of our diocesan endowment fund, is the way the diocese funds the education and formation of our seminarians. This collection is also used to

supplement the endowment fund to meet the needs of the ever-growing number of retired priests who have given their lives in service to us. Even though we have recently completed a diocesan endowment campaign for these needs, many of those pledges will not be completed for some years, making this collection still necessary at this time. Please be generous in supporting our future priests and retired priests in this Christmas collection.



**Pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.**

## YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 16-17, 2017

Envelopes:	\$ 23,624.00
Plate:	\$ 1,010.27
Weekly Total:	<u>\$ 24,634.27</u>
<b>Weekly Need to Meet Budget:</b>	<b>\$ 20,400.00</b>

Yearly Budget:	\$ 1,083,000.00
Year-to-date Collection:	\$ 484,305.65

*(.9 % below yearly budget)*



Sponsor-A-Child:	\$ 898.00
Feast of the Immaculate Conception	\$ 3,055.00

Parish Repair & Maintenance:	\$ 3,246.00
Building Fund:	\$ 305.00
Remaining on Debt Collection:	\$ 187,505.50