



IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
414 E. NORTH BROADWAY COLUMBUS, OHIO 43214

PARISH OFFICE  
(614) 267-9241

SCHOOL OFFICE  
(614) 267-6579  
www.iccols.org

*“Behold  
a virgin will conceive and bear a son,  
and she will call His name  
Emmanuel”*  
– Isaiah 7:14



THE SEASON OF ADVENT ♦ HOPE ♦ LOVE ♦ JOY ♦ PEACE ♦

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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, NOVEMBER 30

Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22  
4:00 p.m. Richard P. Cleary †

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36  
8:30 a.m. For the People of  
Immaculate Conception Parish  
11:00 a.m. Palmer Calderone †

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Is 2:1-5; Mt 8:5-11  
8:30 a.m. Jim Faulk †

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Is 11:1-10; Lk 10:21-24  
6:15 p.m. The Deceased of the  
Kent/Nutter Family †

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Is 25:6-10a; Mt 15:29-37  
8:30 a.m. Andy & Joan Andracki †

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Is 26:1-6; Mt 7:21, 24-27  
9:00 a.m. Chris Mahler †

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Is 29:17-24; Mt 9:27-31  
8:30 a.m. Bill Muenz †

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8  
4:00 p.m. For the People of  
Immaculate Conception Parish

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6  
8:30 a.m. Jim France †  
11:00 a.m. Walt & Jody Holden †

† Deceased

## PASTORAL STAFF

*Pastor* Fr. Matthew Hoover ..... icoffice@iccols.org  
*Administrator Pro-Tem* Fr. Jerome Rodenfels ..... jprody@iccols.org  
*Permanent Deacon* Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell ..... ccampbel@cducation.org  
*Weekend Assistant* Msgr. Anthony Frecker  
*Pastoral Care Coordinator* Peggy O'Donovan ..... ext. 606 | podonovan@iccols.org

## FAITH FORMATION

*Music Ministry* Adam Fehrenbach ..... ext. 607 | musicdirector@iccols.org  
*Permanent Deacon* Rev. Mr. Christopher Campbell ..... ccampbel@cducation.org  
*Evangelization and Faith Formation* Mary Ann Rivera ..... ext. 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 Bernard ..... ext. 602 | jbernard@iccols.org  
*Ministry Coordinator* Elizabeth DeLuca ..... ext. 608 | edeluca@iccols.org  
*Administrative Assistant* Karen Cannell ..... ext. 601 | icoffice@iccols.org  
*Facilities Manager* Jason Stallkamp  
*Communications and Social Media Director* ..... ext. 601 | icoffice@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 Bernard ..... jbernard@iccols.org

## PARISH SUPPORT SERVICES

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

## ADVISORY COUNCILS

*Finance Council Chairman* Andy MacKinnon ..... amackinnon@horizon10.com  
*Parish Council President* Rich Viertel ..... parishcouncil@iccols.org  
*School Board President* Jonathan DeLuca ..... jondeluca1229@gmail.com

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – DECEMBER 7 & 8, 2024

MASS TIMES	4:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	Christine Demko Bobbie Mitch	Chris Atzberger Dam Do	Ron Bitler Patty Bitler
LECTORS	Michelle Lang	Colleen O'Brien	Emma Echenrode-Lewis
ALTAR SERVERS	Lola Bittner Sydney Collver Noah Edwards Ava Gill	Dalton King Everett King James Krzyzewski Vince Krzyzewski	Evie Sabo Jackson Sleeper Emerson Sloan Elise Stratton
GREETERS	Joyce Francis Christine Sapp Jeanne Stoker	Martha Bowling Alison King Tyler Johnston	Margaret Williams Michelle Gill Sara Konz Lang Family
WELCOME DESK	Patty Conway	Diana Marie Winkler	Elizabeth Daniels

## 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](mailto: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 from January through June 2025.**

## 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 December, the three sanctuary candles were donated by an **anonymous donor**. Thank you for your generosity.

## IC CHURCH OPEN DAILY / ADORATION

The church is open weekly on Monday, Wednesday-Friday from 6:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. for prayer. On Tuesdays, the church remains open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 5:30 until 6 p.m., followed by Mass at 6:15 p.m. One Wednesday a month, we have Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition from 7 a.m. until 6 p.m. Our next Day of Adoration is this Wednesday, December 4. To sign up for a specific hour, go to [iccols.org](http://iccols.org)>Parish Life>Adoration.

## ROSARY AT THE GROTTTO

Please join us each Sunday evening to pray the Rosary at the IC Marian Grotto at 8 p.m. All are welcome! Questions? Please contact [peterjmccann64@gmail.com](mailto:peterjmccann64@gmail.com).

## IN OUR PARISH



### NEW PARISHIONERS:

We welcome new parishioners to Immaculate Conception Parish: **Deanna, James, Thomas and David Jones**. 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.

### MAY THEY REST IN PEACE:

Please remember in your prayers **Richard Corrigan** who died this week. *Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May Your consoling love be with his family and friends.*

## rites of WELCOMING AND ACCEPTANCE

This Sunday, December 1, our OCIA candidates and catechumens will be participating in the Rites of Welcoming and Acceptance at the 11 a.m. Mass. We continue to pray for their continued faith journey and their journey into the Catholic faith.



### CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR IC HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

Women of the parish are invited to help assemble cookie packages for homebound members of the parish. **Please bring one or two dozen homemade cookies to Marian Hall at 7 p.m. this Wednesday, December 4.** Questions? call Marilynne Poirier at (614) 261-1261.

Join with other IC Parishioners in observing

# #GIVINGTUESDAY

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

This year, all donations will go to:  
**The Brian Muha Foundation**

This organization provides exceptional enrichment and leadership development opportunities to young people in Columbus, Cleveland, and Steubenville, Ohio.



Learn more & make a gift at:  
[bit.ly/IC-Giving-Tuesday](http://bit.ly/IC-Giving-Tuesday)

Or, scan the QR Code  
with your phone's  
camera



Immaculate Conception Parish is again, participating on #GivingTuesday. This year, with the help of the IC Parish Commissions and Council, we have designated the Brian Muha Foundation/The Run The Race Club as our recipient. The Run The Race Club is an after school and summer program for inner city young people. "We offer them a safe haven, so they don't have to be on the streets, doing things they really don't want to do. We offer a food pantry, dinner, Bible Study, open gym, basketball league, art, computers, library, music and tumbling rooms, chess club, book club, board games, tutoring, and homework help: everything a child needs to grow up healthy and become a good productive citizen. Everything we offer is free of charge to the children, including the Day School, now operating in its fifth year."

JOIN US FOR A TRIDUUM CELEBRATION FOR

*The Feast of the  
Immaculate Conception*

DECEMBER 8, 9, AND 10

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8:**

*"Immaculate Conception and Grace"*

talk given by guest speaker, **Fr. Thomas Blau** at 7 P.M.  
in the church, followed by a Rosary prayer

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 9:**

Feast Day Masses at 8:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M., and 7 P.M.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10:**

Advent Vespers beginning at 6:15 P.M. in the church,  
followed by evening Mass

*To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.*

**TIME, TALENT & TREASURE**

*Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life*



**Fiscal Year 7/1/2024-6/30/2025 • Offertory Report 11/24/2024**

	<u>11/24/2024</u>	<u>YTD 2024/2025</u>
Recorded Envelopes/Checks	\$ 18,287	\$ 496,829
Loose Cash	\$ 1,048	\$ 17,047
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$ 19,335</b>	<b>\$ 513,848</b>
Weekly Operating Expenses	\$ 27,000	\$ 567,000
Weekly Overage/ <i>(Shortage)</i>	<b>\$ (7,665)</b>	<b>\$ (53,152)</b>
Families Receiving Envelopes		859
Envelopes Received		77
Families on EFT		383



Manage your electronic contributions online! Visit [www.iccols.org](http://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)*



**IC SENIOR MINISTRY DECEMBER GATHERING**

December's IC Senior Ministry's meeting will be Thursday, December 12 at noon in Marian Hall. Please note that this is a week earlier than our usual date. Come and enjoy a potluck (with main dish provided), music, and conversation. Please bring a game to play with others, too, if you want. If you are interested in the group, please contact Peggy O'Donovan in the Parish Office at [podonovan@iccols.org](mailto:podonovan@iccols.org).



There are many ways to make a difference. To begin donating, or to increase your donation, complete your pledge card or call the Parish Office and we can assist you. Or visit our website, click "Give Now," and sign up for online giving. Thank you for your support of IC and its mission of saving souls and transforming lives!!

**SOCIAL CONCERNS**



**OPEN SHELTER MEAL ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 2**

The next Open Shelter meal for homeless and marginally housed individuals is this Monday, December 2, 2024. We need donations of sloppy joes, mac & cheese, cookies, lunch size chips, snacky desserts and bottled water. Cash donations are welcome. Arrangements can be made to get your donations earlier in the week or weekend if Monday by 10 a.m. is not a convenient drop-off time. Please contact Cheryl Costello at (614) 774-8879 to coordinate. Thank you for your support of this ministry.



**THANK YOU FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL AND THE IC KNIGHTS**

Thank you to all who donated so generously to our annual food drive. Pictured are members of the IC Knights who delivered turkeys and other food donations to the Bishop Griffin Center on E. Livingston. To learn more, go to <https://bgrc-svdp.org/>. You may still donate by putting your nonperishable food items in the wooden boxes at the church doors. Financial donations can be placed in the offertory basket or through our Give Now option on the parish website at [www.iccols.org](http://www.iccols.org).

**RETIRED RELIGIOUS**

Each year in December, we begin accepting donations for aging religious who need our help. "Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement," says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart Sister Celeste Burgos, age 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious using the special envelope in your packet, a clearly marked donation, or go to [iccols.org](http://iccols.org)>Give Now>Diocesan Collections>Retirement Fund.

**WHY SHOULD YOU GIVE TO THE OFFERTORY?**

- Your offertory gifts transform lives!
- Because you give, members of our parish have undergone a faithful reawakening through the power of the Gospel and the many faith formation programs we provide at IC.
- Your sacrifices help us work together for the salvation of our people!

Will you financially support our parish as we lead "people to Jesus through Worship, Community, Service and devotion to Mary"?

No matter how large or small your gift, we ask you to join us, and your fellow parishioners, as we work together for the salvation of souls. If you have not contributed regularly, please consider starting today. If you do contribute, increasing your pledge makes it possible for us to reach more people and bring them to an encounter with Jesus.

**EMMAUS ROAD SCHOLARSHIP – A WAY TO HELP STUDENTS RECEIVE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION**



*Turn Your Tax Dollars into Scholarships!*

**Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund**

*It's True! Scan the QR Code or visit the website to learn more!*

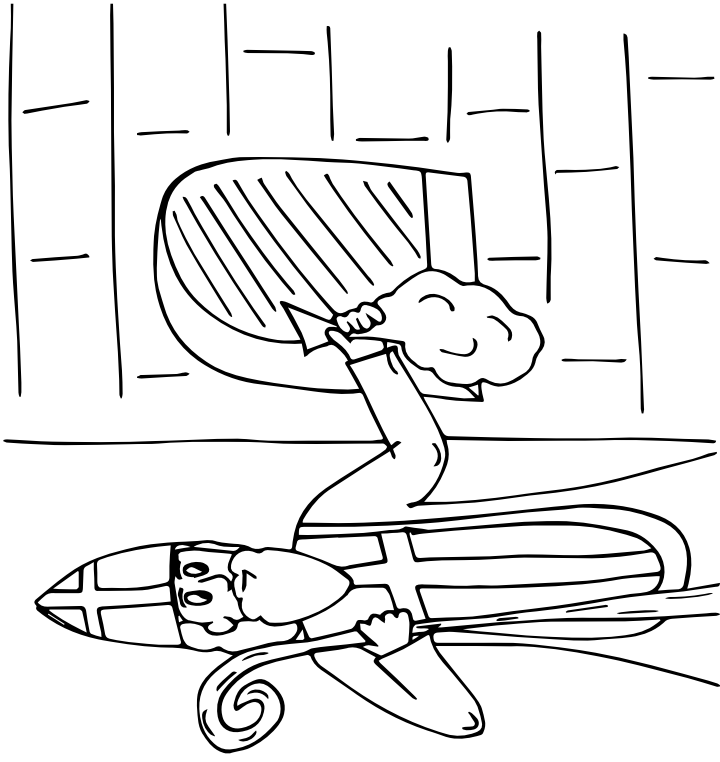


[www.emmausroadscholarship.org](http://www.emmausroadscholarship.org)

Thanks to a state law passed in 2021, Ohio taxpayers are eligible to receive a tax credit for qualified donations to our scholarship granting organization (SGO), the Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund. Donors receive a dollar-for-dollar credit (not deduction) on their Ohio income tax liability of up to \$750 or \$1,500 if married, filing jointly.

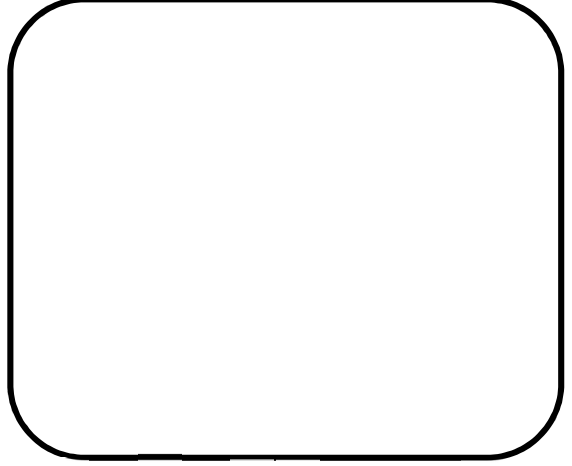
**Why give?** The Emmaus Road Scholarship Fund was established by the Office of Catholic Schools to create much-needed scholarship dollars for the schools in our Catholic Diocese of Columbus.

# Saint Nicholas



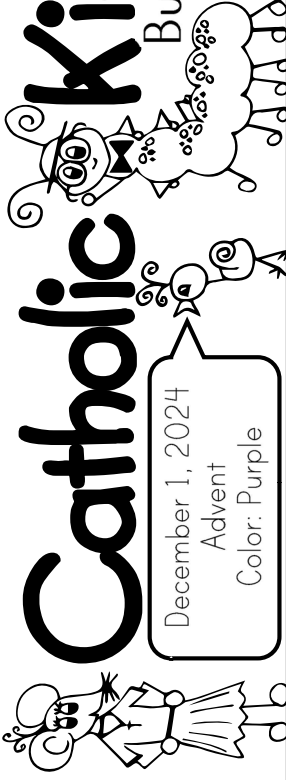
Saint Nicholas knew that a family needed help, so he dropped gifts into the window of their home! We can celebrate his feast day by putting treats and gifts in people's shoes on December 6th.

Draw a picture of a gift that you would like to give to your family.



# Catholic Kids Bulletin

December 1, 2024  
Advent  
Color: Purple



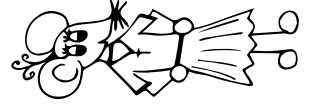
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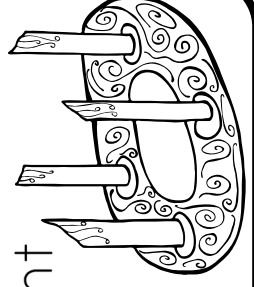
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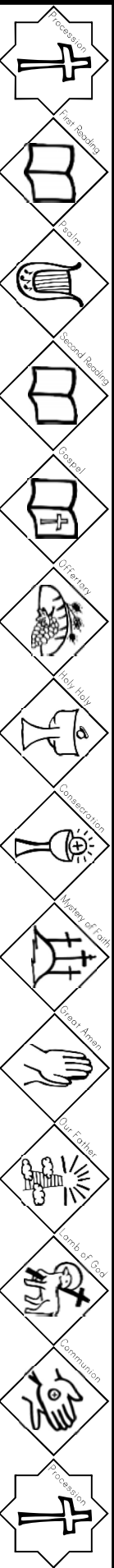
To you, O  
Lord, I lift  
my soul.

LWKEJABLIFTWAMYOWKEISA



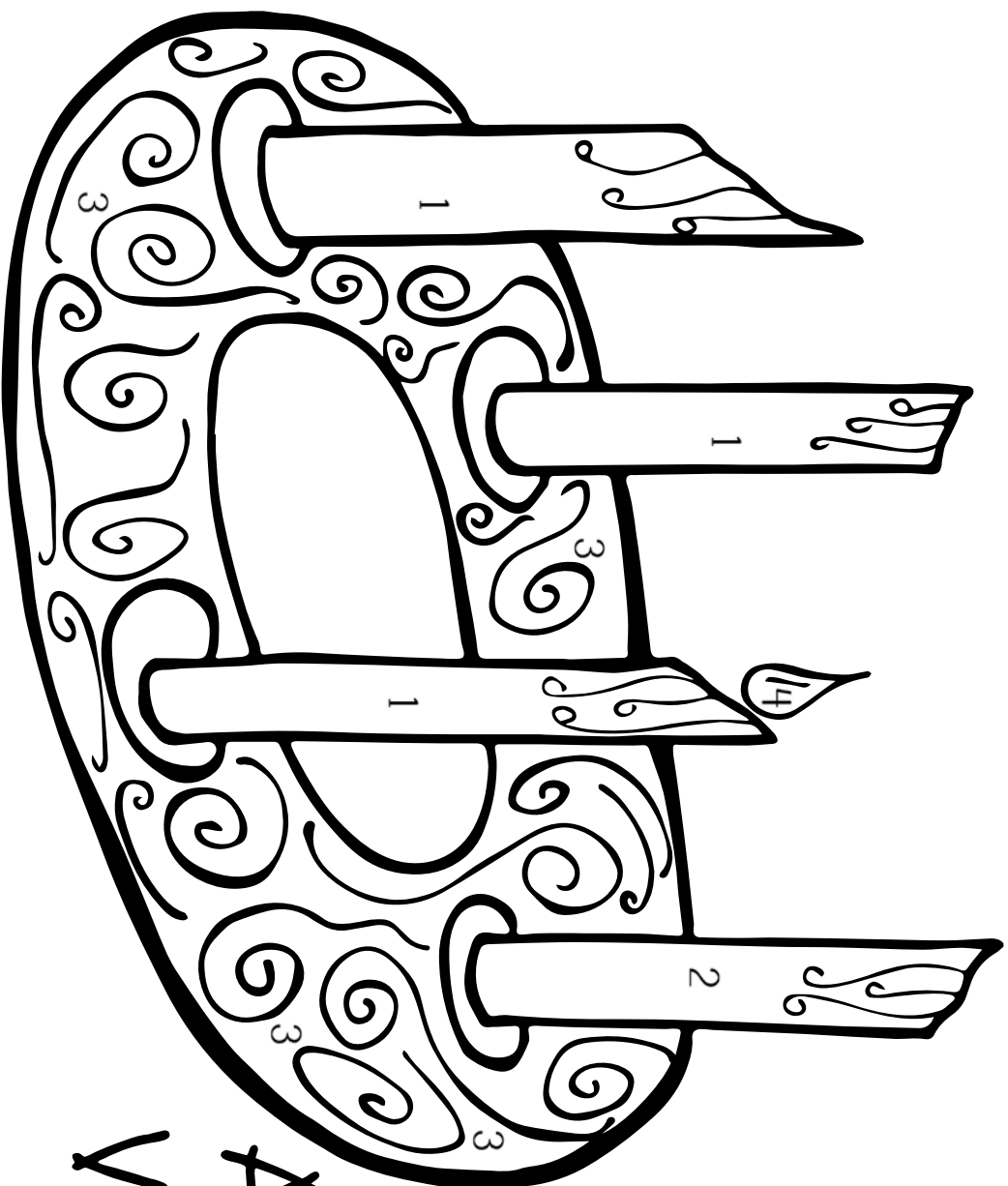
Find the Advent  
wreath in  
your church.





Color the Advent Wreath.

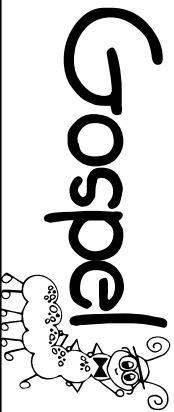
- 1: Purple
- 2: Pink
- 3: Green
- 4: Yellow



Countdown to Jesus' Birthday...  
**4**  
 Sundays!

# Advent Wreath

Jesus told the disciples that He would come back to Earth!  
 We should always be ready for Jesus to return.  
 We practice waiting during Advent as we wait for Christmas.



# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

December 2024

Immaculate Conception Church

Fr. Matthew Hoover

## One Minute Meditations

### St. John of the Cross

Born in Castile, Spain, St. Juan de Yepes lived in poverty. St. John embraced poverty and suffering throughout his life. In 1563, he entered the Carmelite Order. He befriended St. Teresa of Ávila, who encouraged and supported him in his efforts at reform. He faced opposition and he was imprisoned in a tower. From this experience came the mystical poetry and inspired writings on the interior life that made him a Doctor of the Church.



### Close to the Infant Jesus

"You are nowhere but close to the Infant Jesus, trembling with cold in the stable of Bethlehem...Therefore, I beg you to love the crib of the Child of Bethlehem...stay close to him and be sure that Jesus is in the midst of your hearts more than you could believe or imagine." St. Padre Pio

*"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory"*  
(John 1:14).



## The best gifts come on Christmas

Christmas brings a joy that goes beyond presents—it's a season rich with the gifts God offers: love, hope, family, and the promise of Heaven. These gifts touch every heart, young and old, and hold profound meaning.

**The gift of love.** God chose to come into the world as a baby, sharing in our human experience. His love surpasses anything we could imagine. He invites us to embrace His love and let it transform us.

**The gift of hope.** Although we have moments of sin and can turn from God, the Child born on that first Christmas offers freedom from sin and the hope of a brighter future. This hope

renews us and promises a better path forward.

**The gift of family.** Family provides strength, comfort, and support. Baptism welcomes us into Christ's divine family, where we are bound by an unbreakable connection. "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God" (1 John 3:1).

**The gift of Heaven.** The most awesome gift is Heaven itself. Without Jesus' miraculous birth, Heaven would be out of reach. He bridged the gap between Heaven and Earth, offering the promise of eternal joy. This Christmas, we can cherish the enduring gifts of love, hope, family, and Heaven that make the season truly meaningful.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics display nativity scenes?

The tradition of displaying nativity scenes began with St. Francis of Assisi, who was awed that God humbled Himself to be born in humility and poverty. To illustrate, he displayed a manger scene in a cave near the Franciscans' chapel —



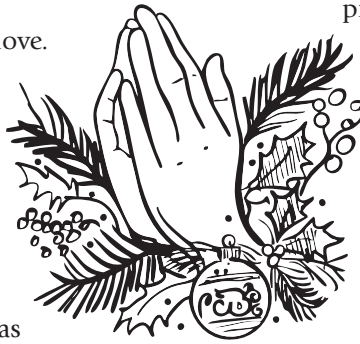
complete with donkey and ox. He celebrated Christmas Mass and, according to an eyewitness, the wax figure of the Christ Child came alive. This pious tradition continues, reminding us that "the

*Word became flesh and dwelt among us"*(John 1:14).

## Two Advent practices for a joyful Christmas

Each Advent, God invites us to deepen our friendship with Him and draw closer to His love. The key to a joyful Christmas lies in responding to this invitation by dedicating daily time to God and helping those in need.

**Do the one thing needful:** Pope Francis encourages us to “waste time” with God through prayer, even for just 15–20 minutes. This could be offering daily prayers for a special intention, meditating on the Christmas Story a verse at a time, or simply being peacefully



present to Him, who is always present to us. Continue spending time with Him after the season ends.

**Go in haste to love:** Just as Mary went “with haste” (Luke 1:39) to serve her cousin Elizabeth, we, too, are called to act quickly in love. While no one can do everything, everyone can do something. When we serve others even in small ways, we receive a greater gift in return (Matthew 25:40).

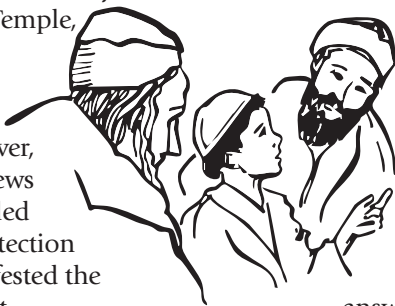
Embrace these practices for a deeper, more joyful Christmas open to God’s love.

### from Scripture

### Luke 2:41-52, Love and obedience

The Feast of the Holy Family (December 29) includes the story of finding Jesus in the Temple, a story of love and obedience. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, as was the custom for Jews of that time. They traveled in a large group for protection against bandits who infested the hill country. So it wasn’t surprising that His parents didn’t miss Jesus as they started the return trip. Upon discovering Him missing, they hurried back to Jerusalem.

On the third day of searching, they found Jesus in the Temple. He was



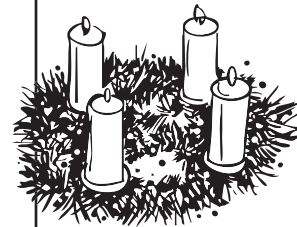
questioning the priests and amazing them with His understanding.

However, Mary asked how He could have caused His parents so much worry and Jesus replied, “Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house?”

Though they were puzzled by His answer, Mary and Joseph took Jesus back to Nazareth. He remained there in obedience to His parents until it was time for His public ministry. We learn from this story to obey not only God but also those in valid authority over us.

### Q & A How do I use an Advent Wreath?

The Advent Wreath is a circle of evergreen branches, symbolizing God’s eternal and unending love. It includes three purple (violet) candles and one pink (rose) candle. On the first Sunday of Advent, and each night that week, the first purple candle, known as the Prophet’s Candle, is lit to symbolize hope. On the second Sunday and throughout that week, light both the first and second purple candles.



The second candle, called the Bethlehem Candle, represents faith. The pink candle, lit during the third week, symbolizes joy and marks Gaudete Sunday. During the fourth week of Advent, all three purple candles and the pink candle are lit. The fourth candle, known as the Angel’s Candle, represents peace.

Consider meditating on Scripture as you light the candles. Week 1 (hope) - Isaiah 9:2-7, week 2 (faith) - Micah 5:2-5a, week 3 (joy) - Luke 2:8-14, and week 4 (peace) - Luke 1:26-38.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**December 1 - First Sunday in Advent.** We anticipate Christ’s birth and His coming on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

**December 4 – St. John Damascene (749).** A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Muslim-ruled Syria and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion.

**December 9 – Immaculate**

**Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne’s womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it’s still considered a holy day of obligation and Mass attendance is required.

**December 28 – Feast of the Holy Innocents (1st century).** Today, we remember the infants massacred by King Herod’s soldiers (Matthew 2:16-18). We also pray for the safety of unborn children.



**Our Mission**

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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<http://www.growinginfaith.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)



# FAITH FORMATION

Immaculate Conception Church  
December 1, 2024



**Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” It is the season preceding Christmas, encompassing at least the four Sundays prior to December 25. The “four weeks” of Advent allude to the four thousand years that were literally attributed to the interval between the fall of Adam and the birth of Jesus Christ.**

**When most Catholics talk about Advent, they speak of it as “preparation for Christmas.” That’s not necessarily wrong, inasmuch as celebration of the commemoration of the Nativity of the Lord requires preparation.**

The greater part of Advent—the 13-18 days (depending on when Advent starts) preceding December 16—is not focused on Jesus’ first coming in Bethlehem. It is focused on his second coming at the end of time.

Advent opens with an eschatological focus. In that sense, it continues the eschatological focus of the last weeks of Ordinary Time. The Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time and the First Sunday of Advent always have a judgment motif, either the Lord’s return at the end of time (Ordinary Time) or the need for watchfulness and sober readiness for that coming (Advent). The Solemnity of Christ the King hinges them together: Jesus is King of the Universe.

We need to be preparing not for a past event, but a future one. ***That’s why, at every Mass, after the Our Father, the priest prays that we be delivered from evil to await Jesus’ return in “joyful hope.” catholicanswers.com***

## In Training to Grow in Holiness during Advent

The special seasons of the Church, Advent and Lent, offer us a unique opportunity to double-down on our training. Just like the times of training intensity in our physical training, our spiritual lives can also have times of more intensity. The special seasons of the Church invite us into a deeper and more intense experience of knowing and loving Jesus, serving our neighbor and growing in holiness.

I also like to think that we are in training to grow in holiness each day. When we rise and pray anew, frequent the sacraments and try to be loving and giving to others, we are in training in a way — to grow in holiness.

[holyllandhealthyatholic.com](http://holyllandhealthyatholic.com)

**1** Nicholas was the *Bishop of Myra* (modern-day Demre, Turkey) in the early 4th century.

**2** He is the *patron saint of children*. There are many stories of him saving children from various scenarios, while he was alive and through his intercession.

**5** *things you need to know about St. Nicholas*

**3** His *feast day is December 6*. According to legend, on the night of December 5th, St. Nicholas would ride his horse and visit children. The children would leave a shoe filled with hay or carrots for the horse that evening. If the child was good, the shoe would be re-filled with treats and presents by morning!

**4** He is also known as *St. Nicholas of Bari* because his relics were moved to Bari, Italy in the 11th century.  
FUN FACT: There is a St. Nicholas of Bari Parish in the Archdiocese of Toronto!

**5** St. Nicholas is honoured as *someone who is able to perform wonders*. His good works show his special concern for the poor and those who are in trouble. ***He reminds all of us that we are called to care for those in need.***

Archdiocese of Toronto | [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)  
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IMAGE FROM ST. NICHOLAS OF BARI PARISH, TORONTO

Immaculate Conception and St. Charles Boys' Choir invite you to



**ADVENT  
LESSONS & CAROLS**

**Sunday, December 15, 2024**  
7:00 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IS LAUNCHING ITS OWN SPRINGS OF LOVE TEAM!**

Springs of Love creates communities of support for those touched by fostering, kinship care and adoption. It also encourages, educates and equips Catholics to discern and live out the call to foster and adopt. The I.C. Springs of Love team hopes to offer support to foster, kinship and adoptive families through educational programming, small groups, and parish care teams. We hope that Springs of Love will be a place for support and encouragement.

One of the most powerful ways that the Church can support vulnerable children in foster care is by offering practical faith-based support to families through Springs of Love. Please contact Stephanie Baird at [sksccc@yahoo.com](mailto:sksccc@yahoo.com) if you know of a family who could use support or if you would like to help.



**PRAY FOR PRIESTS**

Please join Our Lady of Peace parish in praying for a different priest or seminarian of our diocese every day in December. The December calendar can be found at [Pray for Priests - 12.24-1.pdf](#).



**Advent  
Penance Service**

Wednesday, December 18  
at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Take the time to experience healing and reconciliation as part of your preparation for the birth of the Lord!

**SCHOOL NEWS  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**



Immaculate Conception School  
*As a Catholic community, we form disciples of Christ through faith, academics, and character.*

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Our 100+-year-old bathrooms on the first floor are complete and we are excited to welcome parishioners and school families to come check them out! Come to the school Open House and see the amazing transformation and your Diocesan Appeal dollars at work.

**ST. CHARLES HOLDING WINTER MUSICAL AUDITIONS**

The St. Charles Preparatory School Drama Department will hold auditions for its winter musical, *The Old Man and The Old Moon* on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 3 and 4, 2024 at 4 p.m. at the St. Charles Campus Theater, 2010 East Broad Street (*You need only attend one of the two days.*) Auditions are open to all area high school women in Central Ohio. Production Dates: February 27-March 2, 2025. If you would like additional information, please email Doug Montgomery at [dmontgomery@scprep.org](mailto:dmontgomery@scprep.org).



**FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER - FIRST-CLASS RELICS**

Bishop Earl K. Fernandes will celebrate Mass on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 6 p.m. at St. Joseph Cathedral. A first-class relic of St. Francis Xavier will be on display for veneration, and a blessing with the relic will be offered after the evening Mass.


**SACRED MUSIC OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS**

Join the St. Paul Adult Choir at 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 14 as they tell the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. This concert will include scripture readings, choral pieces, and familiar carols for all to sing! 313 North State Street, Westerville, Ohio.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 4  
7 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Sign Up for a Holy Hour at:  
[bit.ly/IC\\_Adoration](https://bit.ly/IC_Adoration) or call the parish office.



**FEBRUARY MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT!**

A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will give you and your spouse all the tools for a better, stronger, more loving marriage. "But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Help your marriage be like the rich soil and attend an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on February 7-9, 2025. 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](http://WWME.org) or call Don and Kim Downs at (614) 893-1935. Early registration is recommended.

**SERRA CLUB NOW MORE THAN EVER NO PRIESTS - NO EUCHARIST!**

God is still calling; it's up to the whole church to amplify His call! Do you want to get more involved in promoting, encouraging, and praying for vocations? Serra Club is a lay apostolate that has been in our diocese for over 40 years. We are looking for more members to stand alongside our priests and seminarians to support more vocations for the diocese of Columbus. We meet at the Jessing Center at the Pontifical College Josephinum the 1st Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Rosary, Catered Lunch, Catholic speakers and more. Check out our website at [membershipnorth@serracolumbus.org](mailto:membershipnorth@serracolumbus.org) for more information and schedule.

**"A DAY OF YOUR OWN"**  
December 9, 2024  
Arrupe Retreat House, Jesuit Spiritual Center  
8:00/8:30 a.m., Arrive to the grounds  
11:30 a.m., Mass (optional)  
12:00 p.m., Lunch  
3:30 p.m., End of your day  
Future Dates: January 6, February 3, March 3, May 5  
Register today: (Cost \$50)  
Online: <https://jesuitspiritualcenter.com/a-day-of-your-own/>


**MEMORIAL POINSETTIAS**

Each Christmas season, we decorate our church and sanctuary with poinsettias in memory of our deceased loved ones. If you would like to contribute to our Christmas flowers, you may do so by ordering through the parish website at [iccols.org](http://iccols.org), online at [https://bit.ly/3zrDRC7\\_Poinsettias](https://bit.ly/3zrDRC7_Poinsettias) or by placing your order in the offertory collection, or mail or drop it off at the Parish Office. Your \$10.00 donation will not only honor someone special in your life, but it will enhance the beauty of our worship space during the Christmas season.

**IN ORDER TO PUBLISH THESE NAMES IN THE CHRISTMAS BULLETIN, NAMES AND DONATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, DECEMBER 16.** (Please print.)

- \_\_\_\_\_
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