



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

CATHOLIC CHURCH



## 2025 GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY

636-583-5144 • 100 N. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084



# ***Immaculate Conception Parish***

100 N. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084  
636-583-5144

## ***Parish Staff & Mass Schedule***

**Pastor:** Rev. Peter M Blake  
**Senior Associate:** Rev. Eric Kunz  
**Deacons:** Deacon Keith Henderson  
**Business Manager:** Mrs. Kathy Arens  
**Parish Secretary:** Ms. Joanna Arneson

### ***Mass Schedule***

**Weekday – Tuesday through Friday:** .....8:00 A.M.  
**First Saturday:**.....8:00 A.M.  
**Saturday:** ..... 4:15 PM. (Sunday Vigil)  
**Sunday:** ..... 7:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.

#### **Holy Days: (Unless noted otherwise from the Pulpit)**

Eve of Holy Day:..... 7:00 PM.  
Holy Day: .....8:00 A.M.  
..... 12:15 PM.

#### **Confessions:**

Saturday:.....3:30-4:00 PM.  
Any time by appointment.

#### **Devotions:**

Eucharistic Adoration every Tuesday from 8:30 A.M. until 5:45 PM.

To register in the Parish or to arrange for a Baptism, Wedding or to have Holy Communion brought to the sick, please call the Parish Office.

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Dear Parishioners,

2025 will be a special year for all Catholics. Pope Francis has declared a **“Jubilee Year”** for the Universal Church. In every diocese throughout the world, several parishes will be designated as Jubilee Pilgrim Churches. Archbishop Rozanski has designated Immaculate Conception as one of the parishes in the Archdiocese. This is a great honor and a privilege for us at Immaculate Conception. Many visitors will come to receive the blessings associated with a pilgrimage Church. May they find here what a wonderful community of faith IC is.

This past December 15th my classmates and I celebrated a milestone anniversary in ministry. We celebrated **40 years** of service to the people of God in our Archdiocese. As I reflected on how the time has passed, I am especially happy and proud to have served IC Parish, now twice; 9 years before and now in my second year back. It has been a great blessing to be “Home” again. IC is, and will always be, the place where God answered many prayers.

This is the second Parish Guidebook and Directory of my pastorate, and I hope every parishioner will take the time to browse through it. It answers many questions regarding parish policies, parish opportunities, as well as important contact information. To be as up to date as possible, if you notice any information regarding your family, especially phone numbers or children who no longer are living at home, please contact **Joanna** in the parish office.

God bless everyone who calls I.C. home, and please remember those three Hail Marys,

Fr. Pete

***“O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”***



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## ***Mailing Address***

Immaculate Conception Parish Office  
111 N. Washington Ave.  
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Email: icunionoffice@gmail.com  
Website: www.immaculatecunion.org

Immaculate Conception School  
6 W. State Street  
Union, MO 63084  
Website: www.icschoolunion.com

## ***Telephone Numbers***

Parish Office.....	636-583-5144
School.....	636-583-2641
School Fax.....	636-583-3073
Union City Hall.....	636-583-3600
Police.....	636-583-3700 (or Emergency 911)
Fire Department.....	636-583-2515 (or Emergency 911)
Franklin County Sheriff.....	636-583-2567
Union Post Office.....	636-583-2442
Family Wellness Office.....	636-583-1800

## ***Archdiocesan Address & Telephone Numbers***

Catholic Center & Archbishop's Office.....	314-792-7000
20 Archbishop May Dr. St. Louis, MO 63119	
Catholic Charities Help Line.....	314-371-HELP
Catholic Family Services.....	314-792-7030
St. Louis Review.....	314-792-7500

## ***Parish Mission Statement***

**Immaculate Conception Parish called by Jesus Christ to live fully the Gospel by knowing, loving, and serving the Lord.**

# Parish Boundaries

The parish boundaries of Immaculate Conception Parish, Union, include all peoples living within the following geographic area:

(West to East) Highway AJ to Whiskey Creek Road  
Whiskey Creek Road to Highway BB  
North on Highway BB to Clearview Road  
East on Clearview to Highway V  
Highway V to the Bourbeuse River  
The Bourbeuse River East to Highway AT (Old Highway 66)

(North to South) South on Highway AT to Schuchart Road

(East to West) West on Schuchart Road to Massey Ford Road.

(South to North) Northwest on Massey Ford Road to Highway 50 and Highway AJ

Northeast on Highway AJ to Whiskey Creek Road

People living outside this area are welcome to join Immaculate Conception Parish after consultation with their proper pastor.

Immaculate Conception - Union  
Parish Map



## *Parish Policies*

**Mass Intentions:** To arrange to have Mass said for someone, please contact the Parish Office well in advance if you have a specific date in mind. Masses with no specific dates are scheduled as they come up in rotation in the Mass register. Mass cards for both the living and deceased are available at the Parish Office at no charge. The Mass stipend in the Archdiocese is \$10.00. Mass folders are available for an additional \$10.00.

**Altar Flowers:** The Altar Society provides flowers for the sanctuary throughout the Liturgical Year for special occasions. In the annual Christmas Memorial Poinsettia Program excess revenue helps to provide flowers for other seasons. Parishioners wishing to place flowers on the altar at special times of the year to mark an anniversary, birthday, or special occasion may do so in consultation with the Parish Office. Flowers are not permitted during the season of Lent. During the summer, we encourage donations from parishioner gardens.

**Hospital Visitation:** Since hospitals no longer inform the Parish Office when parishioners are admitted, please call the Parish Office to let us know if you will be entering the hospital or if a friend or relative is hospitalized. In a hospital setting, the chaplain's office arranges for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and bringing Holy Communion to the patient.

**Use of Parish Facilities:** To arrange for the use of any of the parish facilities, please call the Parish Office. Likewise, on a limited basis, the parish makes tables and chairs available for borrowing. These services are for I.C. Parishioners only.

**Baptismal Records:** To request a baptismal, wedding, or First Communion record, please contact the Parish Office. Please allow a day or two to find the record and a phone number where the Parish Secretary can contact you in case there is any question about locating the record. There is no charge for this service. For purposes of confidentiality, no one may peruse the records of the parish in an unsupervised way.

**Funerals:** Immaculate Conception is happy to be able to assist its parishioners and their families in whatever way we can at the time of a death in the family. Arrangements for the particulars of a funeral Mass can be made with the priest prior to the funeral. The Daughters of Isabella will be happy to assist families with a luncheon at the Knights of Columbus Hall if requested.

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**Registration:** New parishioners and newly married couples are encouraged to register as soon as they move into Immaculate Conception. Registration may be done in person at the Parish Office or by calling the Parish Office. When changes occur in your registration (new phone number, change of address, new or additional members of your family), please notify the Parish Office so that our records can be kept as up-to-date as possible. Those with unlisted phone numbers are requested to have their phone number on file at the Parish Office. At your request, your phone number (listed or unlisted) will not be made available through the Parish Office. Contribution envelopes are sent to registered parishioners. Online giving is also available. Sign up through our parish website.

## ***Parish Communications***

*Any family needs to have good lines of communication to keep one another informed of family life. This is especially true of a parish with over 1,000 families oftentimes needing to keep abreast of activities.*

**The Parish Bulletin** is our weekly means of communication and information. Everyone is urged to read the bulletin each week. There are things that appear here which are not found anywhere else. Items for the bulletin must be submitted to the Parish Office in writing, email to [icubulletin@gmail.com](mailto:icubulletin@gmail.com) no later than 9:00 A.M. on Mondays, or dropped in the collection on weekends. Non-parish information will be published as space permits.

**Pulpit Announcements** are usually reserved for those things that are happening right after Mass or items of importance that didn't make it into the bulletin. We like to keep announcements from the pulpit to a minimum.

**The Parish Bulletin Board** serves as a vehicle for general information of interest to I.C. Parishioners. Notices should be appropriate to the Parish and approved by the Pastor before placing on the bulletin board. All items posted are removed in a timely manner.

**Bulletin Inserts** are used sometimes when: 1.) the information is too lengthy for a bulletin announcement or 2.) special attention needs to be drawn to a circumstance or event. All inserts to the bulletin must be cleared with the Pastor.

**Handouts** to Parishioners are not allowed on parish premises by secular organizations or political candidates. Immaculate Conception does not authorize the placing of flyers on car windshields.

**Parish Mailings** come from parish organizations or the Church Office itself. All such mailings to Immaculate Conception parishioners must be authorized by the Pastor. No individual or organization may identify itself as an agent of Immaculate Conception without proper authorization.

**A Parish Phone List** can be made available to Parish organizations for Parish functions or information. Parishioners who list their phone numbers as “unlisted” in this directory will automatically be removed from the Parish Phone List. Those organizations that use the phone list are instructed to 1.) identify themselves as an Immaculate Conception parish organization and 2.) politely terminate the message as soon as any parishioner says he or she is not interested. The parish Phone List is not made available to individuals or businesses.

**This Parish Phone & Information Directory** contains much useful information. If you find any mistakes, or if you see that something has been left out, please contact the Parish Office. This Directory is for Parish use only. No one is authorized to give this Directory to anyone who is not a Parishioner of Immaculate Conception.

## ***Parish Finances***

Discussion of finances is a necessary but potentially divisive aspect of parish life. One of the precepts of the Church is that Catholics contribute to the ongoing work and mission of Christ. Catholics of Immaculate Conception parish have time and time again proven a generous love and support of the Church, both local and universal. Catholics are urged to assess their own situations and make a decision to give based upon faith and sacrifice. The biblical suggestion is tithing: returning a portion of our bounty to God. In addition we are called to faithful stewardship which involves offering not only treasures, but time and talent as well. Immaculate Conception can be proud of the way that many parishioners strive to live these values for the benefit of the Church. We need the support and involvement of all parishioners to accomplish the ministry of faith we have been called to in our lives.

The weekly collection is the ordinary way parishioners donate their treasures to the Church. Everyone is urged to use their contribution envelopes provided by the parish or donate through online giving. Please be generous in giving according to your means for “God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

**Special Collections** are taken up at Church throughout the year for various ministries and apostolates of the Catholic Church. These are designated by our Archdiocese. Parishioners are asked to give to these according to their choice. The very fact that we have a special collection does not mean that everyone is expected to donate. Give as your heart dictates.

**The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA)** is an annual drive of our whole local Church to address the needs of our charitable and administrative ministries. Each May, the whole Archdiocese works together as a unified Church to raise funds for ministry.

**Parish Fundraisers** are held from time to time. These events are meant not only for our financial stability and ministries but for the strengthening of our Parish family life as well. All Parishioners are urged to be involved in our Parish fundraisers. The Fall Festival and the annual Dinner Auction are the two main fundraisers for I.C. Parish. Monies raised help support our parish school, educational ministry, and other worthwhile causes.

**Will & Bequests** are a wonderful way to remember I.C. and help secure a sound future. This form of contribution allows you to make use of your funds in daily life while earmarking those funds for Church use when you no longer need them. To leave funds or property to Immaculate Conception in your will, simply identify the gift you wish to leave to “Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Union, Missouri.” You might also consider naming Immaculate Conception the beneficiary on insurance policies, annuities, etc.

## ***Immaculate Conception School***

Since 1902, one of the primary ministries of our parish has been the education of our youth. Immaculate Conception School has been a means for parents to realize the mandate of Jesus to make disciples. The success of any Catholic school is only achievable with a great deal of sacrifice by committed parents, dedicated faculty and generous parishioners. Working together for over a century, we have achieved a quality educational environment for youth to grow into the hope of the future. The transfer of faith, from one generation to the next, is one of the goals of our Catholic Church received from Christ Himself. At Immaculate Conception we reverence the rich heritage we have received from the past and continue to build for a bright future.

*Besides providing religious education, sacramental preparation, liturgical experience and apostolic and charitable opportunities, I.C. School provides an excellent and up-to-date secular education in a Catholic environment. The focus is upon Respect, Reverence and Responsibility. From Kindergarten to 8th Grade, our students can favorably compare themselves to students in any other Catholic, parochial, private or public school.*

Our facilities are well equipped for all the major needs of students and plans continue to make improvements as technology advances. Our students are taught the value of Christian discipline, which strives to develop self-discipline for the future. Working together, faculty and students form one spiritual community, proud of the benefit of belonging to Immaculate Conception School.

Parental involvement is a real asset at Immaculate Conception-one which is greatly appreciated and which allows our school to accomplish so much. An active Home & School Association, Fall Festival Committee, Dinner Auction Committee, School Board, together with parents & volunteers, have provided many benefits to our students.

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In the past several years, parishioners have made great sacrifices to improve facilities as a sign of their commitment and love for our youth.

The Parish subsidizes the school budget as all parishes do. All school families are expected to financially support the parish to the best of their abilities: offering time, treasure and talents. While no child will be denied a Catholic education because of an inability to meet financial obligations, everyone must do his or her best. Special tuition arrangements need to be made with the Pastor. No registration is complete and no records will be forwarded to another school until the previous year's tuition has been resolved.

Immaculate Conception School receives students from St. Joseph Parish, Neier and the parishes of Holy Family, Port Hudson, St. Gerald in Gerald and St. Clare in St. Clair. Non-Catholics are also received as students in our school, but must follow the ordinary curriculum that involves instructions in the teaching of Catholic faith.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL MRS. SHELLY JENSEN, 636-583-2641.

## ***Immaculate Conception Parish School of Religion (PSR) & Youth Ministry***

Every child deserves the best religious education and faith formation opportunity possible. For those who attend public schools, Immaculate Conception provides a PSR program on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 P.M. beginning shortly after Labor Day each fall and ending in early May. Faculty members are parishioners who offer their time and talent as a ministry of service to our parish youth attending public schools in Union.

In addition to religious education, PSR provides sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Communion (2nd Grade) and Confirmation (7th/8th Grade). The PSR program also makes every effort to make sure that all of its students have received the Sacraments appropriate to their age level.

Additionally we offer a Youth Ministry program for 6th - 8th grade students. Youth Ministry meets weekly for Faith Formation. Catholic Youth Ministry hopes to empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today; to present the Good News to others, and to grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Because of the limitations on the PSR class time, home study and parental involvement in the faith formation of their children and involvement on home projects is encouraged. Parents are the primary educators of the children in the ways of faith and this is especially true for those whose children attend a secular school. Parental involvement and support of the PSR is essential if we are to accomplish a firm faith foundation in our students.

The Parish supports the PSR program by providing classroom space and teachers. Parents are asked to pay a yearly tuition fee per child. The annual Fall Festival provides textbooks for all students in the PSR program. While no child will be denied a Catholic education because of a real inability to pay, all must do their part to ensure a well-run program. Special arrangements may be made by contacting the Pastor.

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT MRS. JANELLE GILDEHAUS AT (636)259-6358.

## ***Sacramental Policies***

### **BAPTISM**

Baptism is the first of three Sacraments by which one becomes Catholic. In the Sacrament the person becomes a child of God and an heir of heaven, the journey of faith and discipleship begin, original sin is removed and the newly baptized becomes part of the family of the Church.

Children of Catholic parents should be baptized soon after birth so that, after the gift of natural life, the supernatural life of grace may begin. As Catholics we believe in the process of salvation that begins with Baptism. A person is 'saved' in the waters of Baptism and continues throughout life to be saved again and again as they grow in grace. Our ultimate salvation comes when we enter eternal life in God's Kingdom.

For a child to be baptized at Immaculate Conception Parish, the parents should be registered, practicing members of the Church. As a parent requests Baptism, the Church has a minimal expectation that they will see to it that the child has the opportunity to grow in faith.

To arrange for a Baptism, call the Parish Office. We encourage expectant parents to meet with the priest prior to Baptism for brief instructions and to fill out a Baptism registration form. If parents have already attended a Baptism instruction and are arranging a second Baptism, they will not need to meet with the priest; rather they may make arrangements over the phone, giving the necessary information for the Baptism register.

According to Church law, a child must have at least one godparent (sponsor) who is a baptized, confirmed and practicing Catholic. Parents may not be sponsors for their own child's Baptism. One who is not Catholic, but certainly a Christian may act as a witness to the Baptism.

Those who are not registered parishioners of Immaculate Conception, but have family or genuine pastoral reasons to do so, may request that their child be baptized at I.C. A letter of permission from their proper pastor is requested attesting to their participation in the faith life of their parish.

Baptisms are normally held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday following the 10:00 A.M. Mass. For pastoral reasons and special circumstance, other arrangements can be made. A booklet containing all the particulars for Baptism at our parish will be given to all parents as they register their children for Baptism.

## **CATHOLIC CONVERTS**

Any adult interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Church, and particularly a member of Immaculate Conception Parish, will be warmly welcomed. As a parish family we seek to open our doors to any who truly seek the Lord and desire to live the Gospel in conformity with the tradition of the Catholic Church.

If you know someone who is interested in the Church, has shown a desire to join us, please refer him or her to the Pastor. Instructions in the faith of the Catholic Church are offered through R.C.I.A., the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, by which converts throughout the world prepare for the Rites of Initiation.

R.C.I.A. is held each year from mid-September to Easter. Held each week, this annual opportunity gathers together in an informal setting all those who are discerning a call to become Catholic. The classes are held on a specific evening each week in our Marian Activity Center. There is no charge.

After classes are completed, individuals make a decision to continue with initiation. On Holy Saturday, at the Vigil Mass for Easter, converts are welcomed into the Church. Those who are validly baptized in another Christian Church are not re-baptized but make a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church. Adults who become Catholic are usually confirmed and share the Eucharist for the first time with their new parish family.

## **HOLY COMMUNION (EUCHARIST)**

In the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist we truly become one with Christ as we receive His Body and Blood. His Real Presence is a gift not only for the Church, but for all of us. He is given as real food for our pilgrim journey to His eternal Kingdom. Reception of Holy Communion in the Catholic Church signifies and is a communion with Christ and His mystical Body, the Church.

As regulated by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Church states:

**For Catholics:** Catholics fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, have **fasted for one hour**, and **seek** to live in charity and love with their neighbors. Persons conscious of grave sin must first be reconciled with God and the Church through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is encouraged for all. If you miss a Sunday Mass (Holy Day of Obligation) it is encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the next Mass. If you arrive at Mass after the Gospel is proclaimed, you have missed Mass, and you are to refrain from receiving the Eucharist. (Unless you are a care provider, First Responder, or Medical Professional on duty.)

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**For other Christians:** We welcome to the celebration of the Eucharist those Christians who are not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad division in Christianity that we cannot extend to them a general invitation to receive Communion. Catholics believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life and worship of the community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must all pray.

**For those not receiving Communion:** Those not receiving Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

- We also welcome to our Church those who do not share our faith in Jesus. While we cannot extend to them an invitation to receive Communion, we do invite them to be united with us in prayer.
- Ordinarily speaking, Catholics may receive Holy Communion any time they attend Mass, maximum of 2 times a day.
- Catholics should not receive Holy Communion in a non-Catholic Church.
- If you have any questions, please call the Pastor.

**Communion Calls:** Those unable to attend Mass due to infirmity or disability can arrange to have Holy Communion brought to them in their home. Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements.

### **RECONCILIATION (Penance, Confession)**

Jesus Christ gave His apostles the “power of the keys” saying to them, “Whose sins you shall forgive, shall be forgiven in heaven. Whose sins you shall hold bound shall be held bound in heaven.” Knowing our human weakness, the Lord left us the Sacrament to heal our brokenness caused by sin.

The Sacrament is available each Saturday from 3:30-4:00 PM. in Church or anytime by appointment.

Catholics are encouraged to make confession a regular part of their spiritual lives, especially during Lent and in preparation for Christmas. By Church Law, those conscious of grave sin must confess their sins as soon as possible and may not receive Our Lord in Holy Communion until they have received absolution. If you have any questions, please contact the priest.

**Penance Services:** Each year during Advent and Lent, the parish offers a Communal Penance Service with the availability of several confessors so that a greater number of penitents may receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a community setting. Please check the bulletin for dates and times when these services are scheduled.

### **CONFIRMATION**

With Baptism and Holy Eucharist, Confirmation completes the Sacraments of Initiation. In Confirmation we are anointed as adult members of the Church, empowered by the Spirit to Profess, Defend and Explain our faith. Confirmation is a Sacrament of mature discipleship.

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**Children:** Children of Immaculate Conception are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation in Junior High (7th/8th Grade). The date for Confirmation is determined by assignment from the Archbishop's Office. The Confirmation program extends the two years of 7th & 8th Grade. Seventh Grade serves as a time to review the fundamental beliefs and practices, morals and teachings of the Catholic Church. Eighth Grade provides an opportunity to put faith into practice by 1.) becoming more familiar with ways in which the Church calls all members to actively share time, treasures and talents to build up the household of God and 2.) actually involving youth in prayer, ministry and service. Those not enrolled in I.C. School or PSR can take private instructions for Confirmation. Those not in the Confirmation Preparation Class may be confirmed each year at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Easter.

**Adults:** Those adults who have not yet been confirmed can arrange to be confirmed by contacting the Parish Office. In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, those who have not been confirmed are invited to join in the whole local Church's celebration of Confirmation at the St. Louis Cathedral on Pentecost. At Easter time a notice will appear in the bulletin reminding those who have not been confirmed to contact the Pastor. Private instructions will be arranged prior to the reception of the Sacrament.

### **MATRIMONY**

In the Sacrament of Matrimony, a man and woman commit themselves to a perpetual, faithful and fruitful life together and, in so doing, the two become one in Christ. For a complete copy of the marriage policies of Immaculate Conception Parish, please contact the Parish Office. In brief, however, the following should be kept in mind:

The Common Marriage Policy for All Dioceses in the State of Missouri was written to guide and direct marriage preparation in every Catholic parish in our state. What is not covered by this Common Policy is governed by the universal laws of the Catholic Church.

The Common Policy calls for the couple to contact the Church at least six months prior to the proposed date for the wedding. This is no guarantee that the couple has enough time to adequately prepare for this sacrament or to complete the following:

1. A Pre-Marriage Inventory administered by the priest to help the couple determine their readiness for marriage.
2. Marriage Classes (Pre-Cana) which serve to instruct the couple on the spiritual, emotional, financial, relational, child-rearing and everyday aspects of married life.
3. Planning the Wedding Ceremony. (Do not reserve the reception venue before securing the date for the wedding ceremony.)

The primary intentions for being married in the Catholic Church is for a life-long marriage and to be open to life, raising the kids in the ways of the Faith. If registered, non-practicing Catholics do not practice or intend on practicing the Faith, they need to meet with the Pastor to discuss any plans for receiving the Sacrament of Marriage. Non-parishioners, those outside of the parish, must receive pastor approval to use the church. They must be a *practicing* Catholic, *registered* in a parish and provide all necessary documents, sacramental history, etc. before the wedding date. They must complete the same required course for marriage prep as registered parishioners.

Weddings can be planned for Friday evenings or Saturdays between 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. (starting times)

Catholics marrying another Catholic are normally married at a Nuptial Mass. When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic, the marriage takes place at a liturgy that does not include the Sacrifice of the Mass.

Catholics marrying someone other than a Catholic need to request a dispensation from the Archbishop. Catholics promise not to abandon their faith and to see to it that children born of their marriage will be raised in the Church.

Should a Catholic wish to marry a non-Catholic and have the wedding take place in a non-Catholic Church, special permission (under certain circumstances) may be obtained from the Archbishop. Please contact the Pastor if you have any questions.

While weddings are permitted during Advent, Lent remains a special season of penitence in the Catholic Church. Therefore, weddings at Immaculate Conception are not permitted. Please refer all questions to the Pastor.

Couples who are co-habiting, ideally must separate prior to the wedding day. However, if for some extraordinary reasons, separation is impossible, they are asked to live in abstinence and participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. According to recent pew studies, couples who cohabit prior to marriage are seventy-five percent more likely to get divorced. This is one of the reasons why we as a Church practice the virtue of chastity prior to marriage. The gift of self is a gift given first by God to us and a gift we treasure to give to one another.

The ordinary offering to the Church for a wedding is \$250.00 for a registered Parishioner. Non-parishioner rate is \$500. Suggested offering for priest is \$100.

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

The Sacrament of the Sick is given to us by Christ to strengthen us in body and soul when we experience the effects of serious illness. Generally speaking, those who are in advanced age (75 and above), those facing major surgery, those with a terminal illness or those facing life-threatening situations may request the Sacrament of the Anointing. One can be anointed again each month for the same illness or immediately in danger of death.

Families with those who are dying should notify the priest and make arrangements for the Sacrament. In special cases, this Sacrament can bring peace and comfort to those who fear the final stages of life.

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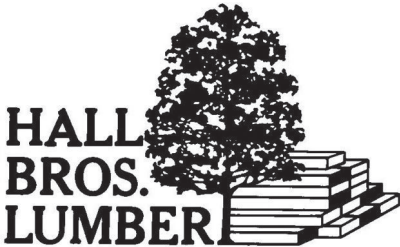
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## ***Parish Program Coordinators***

A.C.A.....	Mr. Dale Schmuke....	636-583-2099
Altar Society.....	Mrs. Christine Henderson....	636-584-5496
Athletic Association.....		636-583-2641
Cemetery.....	Parish Office....	636-583-5144
Daughters of Isabella .....	Mrs. Jo Noelker....	636-584-9257
Dinner Auction Chairs.....	Mrs. Shelly Jensen....	314-808-7882
.....	or Jessica Haynes....	314-974-1286
Eucharistic Adoration.....	Mrs. Jo Arand.....	636-584-5313
Eucharistic Ministers .....	Rev. Peter Blake....	636-583-5144
Fall Festival .....	Mr. Craig Edmister....	636-583-2998
Finance Committee .....	Parish Office....	636-583-5144
Gift Bearers .....	Mr. Mark Voss....	573-484-3670
Golf Tournament Committee Chairs .....	Mr. Tim Richardson....	636-744-4633
Home & School Assoc. ....	Mrs. Adrienne Bailey....	865-406-5550
Knights of Columbus .....	Mr. Jim Noelker....	636-283-1100
4th Degree Contact.....	Mr. John Jasper....	314-581-6968
Lectors .....	Rev. Peter Blake....	636-583-5144
Liturgy Committee .....	Rev. Peter Blake....	636-583-5144
Parish Council .....	Mr. Patrick Wilson....	636-583-5844
Parish Day School .....	Mrs. Shelly Jensen....	636-583-2641
Parish School of Religion.....	Parish Office....	636-583-5144
(PSR) Evening School .....	Mrs. Janelle Gildehaus....	636-259-6358
Prayer Requests.....	Parish Office....	636-583-5144
Pro-Life Committee .....	Mrs. Jean Marquart....	636-583-3259
Quilters .....	Mrs. Mary Jo Wilding....	636-583-2072
R.C.I.A. Convert Class .....	Parish Office....	636-583-5144
St. Vincent dePaul Society.....	Mrs. Ruth Klenke..	636-583-5144 x5
Servers .....	icmcservers@gmail.com	
School Board.....	Mrs. Tessa Stowe....	636-221-5446
SCRIP.....	Paris Office....	636-583-5144
Ushers .....	Mr. Mark Voss....	573-484-3670
Western Catholic Union .....	Mr. Gary Sieve....	636-583-4120
Youth Ministry.....	Mrs. Janelle Gildehaus....	636-259-6358

# *Parish Organizations and Ministries*

## **ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

The Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) is an annual drive of our whole local Church to address the needs of our charitable and administrative ministries. Each May, the whole Archdiocese works together as a unified Church to raise funds for ministry. The coordinator is **Dale Schmuke, 636-583-2099**.

## **ALTAR SOCIETY**

All women of Immaculate Conception are encouraged to join the Altar Society. The work of these faithful women is to assist and provide for the needs of the Church. Members volunteer to care for the weekly preparations of the altar and sanctuary for Sunday Worship. Funds raised throughout the year provide needed additions to our beautiful Church building. The current president of the Altar Society is **Christine Henderson, 636-584-5496**.

## **ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**

The Athletic Association exists in order to support the sports program of the Parish. Among its duties is the responsibility of coordinating coaches for sports programs and the scheduling of activities. For more information, call the **School Office, 636-583-2641**.

## **CEMETERY**

The Immaculate Conception Cemetery was founded in 1902 to serve the needs of all parishioners. It is located off Springfield Avenue. For more information or to purchase a plot in advance, call the **Parish Office, 636-583-5144**.

## **DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA - Circle 391**

The women's counterpart to the Knights of Columbus, the members of the D. of I. are a service organization who work to assist both the parish and the Catholic faith in its mission. Open to all women who are practicing Catholics, this organization is a group with a lot of energy. For more information on membership please contact the current Regent, **Jo Noelker, 636-584-9257**.

## **DINNER AUCTION**

Each year I.C. parishioners gather for an evening of fun to raise funds for the school and parish. Involved are a Silent Auction, a Super Silent Auction, a delicious dinner, a Super Raffle and finally a fun Oral Auction of items mostly donated by I.C. Parishioners, young and old. Watch the bulletin for information. If interested in joining the Dinner Auction team, contact **Shelly Jensen, 314-808-7882**.

## **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

An adorer is one person of a prayer team who is scheduled to make a specific holy hour at the same time of day each week in front of Christ in the "Real Presence." This will provide a chance for listening and solitude all in an effort to deepen our friendship and closeness to him. If interested, please contact **Jo Arand, 636-584-5313**.

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Men and women of Immaculate Conception not only help with distribution of Holy Communion during Mass, but are also authorized to bring the Sacrament to the sick at home. Eucharistic Ministers need to be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church and at least 18 years old. If interested, please contact **Rev. Peter Blake, 636-583-5144.**

### **FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE**

Immaculate Conception School benefits each year from the proceeds of our annual major Fall Fundraiser. All proceeds are used to pay for books and educational materials that benefit the students of Immaculate Conception School and the Parish School of Religion. All School families are expected to support this one-day event by selling raffle tickets, helping with set-up & clean-up, working in booths, and other activities that surround this event. For more information, contact **Mr. Craig Edmister, 636-583-2998.**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee is appointed by the Pastor and deals with all matters of parish finance, including fundraising for the parish as well as the archdiocese (ACA). It is responsible for the parish's accountability maintenance, projects and overall stewardship. To learn more, contact the **Parish Office, 636-583-5144 ext. 3.**

### **GIFT BEARERS**

During the Offertory at Mass, scheduled volunteers take the gifts of bread, wine and water up and present them to the Celebrant. Immaculate Conception parishioners/families are encouraged to become a Gift Bearer. For more information, please contact **Mark Voss, 573-484-3670.**

### **GOLF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

Immaculate Conception Parish hosts an annual golf tournament in May. It is a 4-man scramble with lunch, dinner and beverages included. For more information contact **Tim Richardson, 636-744-4633.**

### **HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

Immaculate Conception Home and School Association promotes the involvement of parents in creating a supportive rapport between home and school. An active member is one who volunteers to help coordinate activities designed to improve the school environment. Meetings are held four times a year. The president is **Adrienne Bailey, 865-406-5550.**

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - Council #1576**

The Knights are a fraternal organization of Catholic men who zealously promote and defend the Catholic faith. Founded in the last century by Fr. Michael McGivney to assist the needs of immigrant families, this international organization continues to provide support to the Church by its charitable endeavors and support of Church teachings. All Catholic men in good standing with the Church are eligible for membership. For more information, contact **Jim Noelker, 636-283-1100.**



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## **LECTORS**

Men and women of Immaculate Conception gifted with good public speaking are encouraged to become Proclaimers of the Word for worship at our parish. Lectors read the Word of God, lead the Prayers of the Faithful and make the announcements at weekend, Holy Day, and special celebrations. Lectors need to be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. If interested contact the **Parish Office, 636-583-5144.**

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Members are all elected for three-year terms of service to advise the Pastor. Parishioners with ideas or concerns for the well-being of the parish are encouraged to address the Council. For more information, contact **Mr. Patrick Wilson, 636-583-5844.**

## **PARISH DAY SCHOOL**

Immaculate Conception Parish Day School is an educational institution founded for the purpose of assisting parents in providing a quality and distinctively Catholic education for the children of Immaculate Conception Parish, Preschool through eighth grade. Immaculate Conception Day School helps children receive the Word of God and act upon it. To enroll or to volunteer, contact the **School Office, 636-583-2641.**

## **PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR) EVENING SCHOOL**

The Immaculate Conception Parish School of Religion (PSR) Evening School strives to teach the Gospel values to children from first grade through eighth grade who attend public schools. Its purpose is to educate children and young people to hear and live the Good News, to proclaim it, and to translate that proclamation into action. To enroll or to volunteer, contact **Mrs. Janelle Gildehaus, 636-259-6358.**

## **PRAYER INTENTIONS**

Requests for Prayer Intentions for Immaculate Conception parishioners are printed in the bulletin upon request. Please email your request to [icubulletin@gmail.com](mailto:icubulletin@gmail.com) or call the **church office, 636-583-5144.** Please inform the church office when the need for prayers has passed so names are kept current.

## **PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE**

All Catholics by Baptism are Pro-Life. The committee at I.C. keeps before the parish the sanctity of life, especially the elderly and those waiting to be born. Monies raised through an annual rummage sale go directly to support shelters and organizations providing care to pregnant women needing assistance. The committee also supports the work of Pro-Life on the diocesan and national levels. Pro-Life chairwoman is **Jean Marquart, 636-583-3259.**

### **QUILTERS: (Part of the Altar Society)**

Members of the I.C. Altar Society meet weekly to quilt. Women with sewing ability and those wishing to learn are encouraged to join the women on Wednesday and Thursday mornings and Thursday afternoon in the quilters' room. For information contact **Mary Jo Wilding, 636-583-2072.**

### **R.C.I.A.-CONVERT CLASSES**

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is an opportunity for instruction, dialogue, faith sharing, and growing in community in the Catholic Faith. This prepares a non-Catholic person for full active membership in our community of faith. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, contact the **Parish Office, 636-583-5144.**

### **ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY**

The tireless work of ministering to the poor among us is carried out in a special way by our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society. Persons with needs are assigned to volunteer members of the society who visit with them, assess the situation and make a response according to guidelines of the organization. New members are welcome. Contact **S.V.D.P., 636-583-5144 x 5.**

### **SERVERS**

Young men and women are invited to become servers beginning in 5th grade. After one year, servers advance to Server Level II, after two years, to the Ministry of Sacristan. All boys & girls in 5th grade and above are eligible to serve for Sunday Mass, Holy Days and special celebrations. Training is coordinated by **Andy Guidry, icmcserver@gmail.com.**

### **SCHOOL BOARD—DAY SCHOOL**

Immaculate Conception School Board's purpose includes establishing the philosophy and goals for the educational programs consistent with the vision and mission of the church; interpreting and applying the policies established by the Archdiocesan Board of Education; and adding or modifying policies to fit parish educational needs. All recommendations made by the Board are subject to pastoral approval. A term on the School Board is 2 years. For more information, contact **Mrs. Tessa Stowe, 636-221-5446.**

### **SCRIP PROGRAM**

SCRIP is an ongoing fundraising program where gift cards are used to make everyday purchases at local and national vendors and a percent of the purchases goes back to the school. Individual families are allowed to use a portion of the percent toward their student's tuition at Immaculate Conception Day School or PSR or toward their tuition at St. Francis Borgia High School. Families may also choose to donate their percentage back to the schools' operating budget. Any family can participate in the SCRIP program. They need not have children in school to participate. For more information, call the **Parish Office, 636-583-5144.**

### **USHERS**

Men and women of I.C. parish are invited to exercise the Ministry of Hospitality for Masses and special celebrations. The ministry involves greeting people as they enter Church, assisting people with seating, taking up the offering as part of the Offertory and distributing bulletins as people leave Church. Any parishioner is invited to join the Ministry of Usher provided they are practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church. Coordinator of the Usher Ministry is **Mark Voss, 573-484-3670.**

### **WESTERN CATHOLIC UNION**

Primarily a fraternal life insurance society for the whole family, the WCU supports the parish in many ways and is a worthy organization with many parish members. The current branch of the WCU meets monthly, except during the summer months, and is active in promoting the values of the Catholic faith. Parish contact person is **Gary Sieve, 636-583-4120.**

## ***Parish Calendar Monthly***

First Monday.....	Western Catholic Union .....	7:00 P.M. in Marian Activity Center
Seasonally – as need .....	Athletic Association .....	7:00 P.M. at IC School
First Tuesday.....	Altar Society Meeting .....	7:00 P.M. in Quilters Room
First Friday.....	K of C Fish Fry .....	Nov. - Lent at K.C. Hall
Second Monday.....	St. Vincent de Paul Mtgs .....	1:00 P.M. Off Site
& Fourth Monday.....	.....	7:00 P.M. in Marian Activity Center
Quarterly on Third Tuesday .....	Home & School Mtg. ....	6:30 P.M. at IC School
Second Tuesday.....	Daughters of Isabella Mtg. ....	7:00 P.M. at KC Hall
Second Wednesday .....	Knights of Columbus Mtg. ....	7:30 P.M. at KC Hall
Third Wednesday .....	School Board Mtg. ....	5:00 P.M. at IC School

## ***Special Events***

First Saturday in March .....	I.C. Dinner Auction
April (date t/b/a).....	Athletic Association Banquet
May (date t/b/a).....	I.C. Golf Tournament
Second Saturday of September .....	Apple Butter Cook for Fall Festival
Thursday before Fall Festival.....	Slaw making
Saturday before Fall Festival .....	Set-up for Fall Festival
Fourth Sunday of September.....	Fall Festival
Monday after Festival.....	Clean-up day
First Sunday in October .....	Pro-Life Life Chain



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# *Immaculate Conception Parish History*

The history of Immaculate Conception Parish dates back to the late 1800s when a small group of Catholics settled in Union. On Dec. 26, 1866, St. Mary's Catholic Church of Union was born in an existing building located at the corner of State Street and Church Street. Due to a shortage of priests, Mass was offered once a month by diocesan priests from St. John's Gildehaus. From 1870-1894, Jesuit priests from St. Francis Borgia Parish, Washington, were placed in charge of the parish. In 1894, the Franciscans took over care of the parish. The pastor from St. Gertrude's in Krakow was in charge until 1900. In 1900, the parish was served by the pastor of St. Ann's in Clover Bottom.

In 1901, the first resident pastor was appointed to reside in Union, Franciscan Father Damasus Erkins, O.F.M. As the parish was growing, a new church was built at the present site after a generous parishioner donated a block of land. The first Mass was celebrated on May 4, 1902. On June 1, 1902, during the formal dedication of the new church, the parish was rededicated to Our Blessed Mother under the title of her Immaculate Conception. From that time on St. Mary's Parish, Union, became Immaculate Conception Parish.

In 1902, the first school began in the church basement with 30 students.

A school building was built in 1905. Three Franciscan Sisters from Lafayette, Indiana, began teaching the students.

Immaculate Conception Parish was served by several Franciscan pastors from 1906 until 1948.

In 1948, Archbishop Joseph Ritter appointed the first diocesan priest, Father Lawrence Rost.

In April, 1952, ground breaking took place and the cornerstone was laid for the present Church on June 15, 1952.

Building of a new school wing began in the spring of 1961 and the project was completed for the opening of school in 1962. In 1990, ground was broken for another needed addition to the school. By 1991, the new rooms were completed. In 1996, the Parish Center was added to the school.

From the original twelve families in 1866, Immaculate Conception Parish has continued to grow as a community of Catholic Christians. Now ready to face the future with faith, hope and love for our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church, we are a parish of just over 1,000 families and still growing; building upon the rich heritage of the past and committed to God for the future.

## ***Pastors of Immaculate Conception***

1. Rev. Damasus Erkins, OFM (1901-1906)
2. Rev. Burchard Dietrich, OFM (1906-1908)
3. Rev. Hyacinth Schroeder, OFM (1908-1914)
4. Rev. Bernard Zehnle, OFM (1914-1916)
5. Rev. Anastasius Rhode, OFM (1916-1922)
6. Rev. Agatho Anklin, OFM (1922-1928)
7. Rev. Hubert Pfeil, OFM (1928-1948)
8. Rev. Lawrence Rost (1948-1955)
9. Rev. Raymond Schuermann (1955-1965)
10. Rev. Sylvester Schiene (1966-1983)
11. Rev. Theodore Burghoff (1983-1992)
12. Rev. Jerome Billing (1992-1997)
13. Rev. Peter Blake (1997-2001)
14. Rev. Msgr. Matthew Mitas (2001-2014)
15. Rev. Joseph S. Post (2014-2023)
16. Rev. Peter M. Blake (2023 – present)