

October 17, 2025

Today we celebrate the feast of St. Hedwig of Silesia. St. Hedwig chose a life of humility and service over wealth and power. As a duchess, she used her position to care for the poor, support education, and promote peace. After her husband's death, she entered a convent and devoted her life fully to God. St. Hedwig is remembered as a woman of faith, compassion, and courage. Her life reminds us to serve others with humility, be peacemakers in our communities, and value learning as a path to grow in faith. May St. Hedwig inspire our school communities to lead with love and serve with joy. Let us pray:

Loving God, You filled St. Hedwig with faith and compassion. Help us to follow her example to lead with love, serve others, and bring peace to our school communities and world. Amen.

We are proud of our Cougars volleyball team as they enter the playoffs. We battle St. Mary Mount Clemens next Tuesday at 5:30 at Immaculate Conception. IF we win that, we head to St. Hugo of the Hills the next night to play the next level. We are proud of these ladies as they have given their all this season! Coach Mattie have faith in their abilities and drive. Let's bring home a win!

The basketball practices will start in early November. The 4th & 5th grade girls JV team will be coached by Ms. Barch. The coach for the girls' Varsity team is being finalized. The 5th and 6th grade boys JV team welcomes back Mr. and Mr. Joyce. The boys' Varsity team is still in need of a coach as you saw in the text blast Friday afternoon. If you have a background in or knowledge of basketball, please contact me at ricard@iccatholic.org. Thank you in advance. Please note that we have purchased a brand new hotdog cooking roller machine. Games will now provide hotdogs, popcorn, candy and drinks. All admissions are \$5/person (I.C. students are free). The admissions table will be moved into the athletic foyer and hand stamps used upon entrance. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this newer set up.

Our 2nd graders have their first 1st Reconciliation parent gathering next Tuesday starting at 6:30pm with Mass. Fr. Esper is excited to talk to the parents and students about this wonderful sacrament. The sacrament of reconciliation is important because it mends the separation caused by sin, reconciling individuals with God and the Church community, providing healing grace, and fostering spiritual growth and strength to resist temptation and build a more virtuous life. It serves as a means to receive God's boundless mercy, experience inner peace, and renew one's relationship with the Lord after sinning.

Thank you for all the pledges to our Fun Run 2025 as we hit our goal and then some (\$18,142.00). The school enjoyed an icee treat Thursday at the school's main entrance for reaching \$12,000 and the school has also earned an extra day off added to Winter Break which will be held on Fat Tuesday, February 17 because we hit the \$15,000 goal. But wait, I feel a draft. Since we hit the \$17,500 goal, I will be getting my hair shaved off on Halloween after the last recess in the gym in front of the whole student body. We will record it if your interested. Halloween will be chuck full of activities that day too. More to come.

Please remember that next Friday is records day... there is no school. Enjoy the weekend! Go Lions!

Mr. Lawrence Ricard - Principal

CRUCIFIX WALL

Thank you for those who have donated crucifixes and crosses. Take a look at our wall! This project, enhancing the school's Catholic Identity is off to the races! If you have a crucifix that you'd like to share or happen to see "that one" that captures your attention and heart on a vacation, we ask if you'd like to share with your school! We plan to cover the whole wall no matter how long it takes 😊

Have you ever wondered why the Catholic Church uses a crucifix as a symbol as opposed to other Christian churches that use an empty cross? It is common to hear from those outside the Church that He is risen, but we "leave Him hanging there" or that the crucifix reduces the power of the Resurrection.



Also, the crucifix is often thought of as gruesome or morbid. These misconceptions are due to a lack of understanding what the crucifix actually means to us as Catholics.

The crucifix also does something that a bare cross cannot do with the same impact, which is: illustrate the act of love by Jesus for each and every single one of us. Yes, Jesus rose from the dead, but that was not the act of love. The Passion and Crucifixion were the lengths to which Jesus was willing to go to save us from our sins, and the Resurrection revealed His power over sin and death. When you gaze upon a crucifix you are reminded of just how much God loves YOU and you can be moved by that fact.

The crucifix also reminds us that we are called to love to that same extent. Jesus tells us, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13) and St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "I have found the paradox, that if you love until it hurts, there can be no more hurt, only more love." It is not for Jesus alone to love to this extent, but a specific call to all of us to give everything we have in us to the love of God and the love of others. The crucifix reminds us of our own process of self-sacrifice out of love.

Like Jesus, we are also called to lay down our lives for our faith and for anything that is true, beautiful, and good, because it is of God. A crucifix can help convict our hearts in a way that an empty cross cannot.



On October 9th, I.C.'s 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students had the opportunity to visit the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center. The day was planned for all three classes to engage with a DNR instructor in a classroom or learning environment, as well as to spend time exploring the exhibits in the center.

The 6th grade class (shown above) was able to build upon their prior knowledge of photosynthesis using a deciduous forest as a model. They explored biodiverse ecosystems with the help of maps, animal skulls, and pelts. These added visuals helped them to understand the different species within a given area or habitat. All students participated in constructing a food web using a variety of plants and animals. The following quotes reflect what they learned:

- "I learned that flying squirrels only glide, not really fly."
- "You can identify how old an elk is by looking at its teeth."
- "I know that each thing in an ecosystem needs each other."
- "Raccoons have teeth like us."

The 7th and 8th grade classes explored the health of the Detroit River by conducting water chemistry testing. They found out just how clean it is. The students were instructed on how to collect plankton samples, along with a biological survey of the flora and fauna of the wetland area at Milliken State Park. These quotes highlight their learning experiences:

- "I learned that there are two types of plankton: plant and animal."
- "I was amazed to learn that the Detroit River used to be really dirty, but after a lot of teamwork and time, the community was able to clean it up."
- "Learning new species of insects that I never knew existed."
- "I learned the difference between different larvae, such as the Mayfly and Dragonfly."

Students from all three classes explored the center's three exhibit-filled floors. The following were among their favorites:

- "I liked riding on the snowmobile simulator."
- "Walking across the bridge and seeing everything below."
- "The fishing boat and being able to fish, it really felt like I was catching a fish."
- "Racing my friends on the bicycle simulator."

This field trip provided a valuable hands-on learning experience. Students came away with new knowledge, meaningful memories, and a deeper appreciation for the topics explored.

Mrs. Zelenock, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science teacher

If you took a donation tag for the Horn of Plenty, we thank you! Please send items to the school office or church office by Nov. 7th. Thanks for your generosity!

Important Dates!!

October 22 Picture Retakes and Preschool 4

October 23 NJHS Induction after Mass

October 23 End of 1st Quarter

October 24 No School - Records day

October 30 Report Cards

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Don't forget, by using RaiseRight scrip program you can apply 80% of the rebates from this program to your tuition account!

Get started by downloading the RaiseRight™ app on your phone or go to RaiseRight.com on your computer and use enrollment code: **AAAEFLL2716**. For step-by-step instructions, visit

RaiseRight.com/m/StartEarning. Paper order forms are available in the School and Parish Offices.

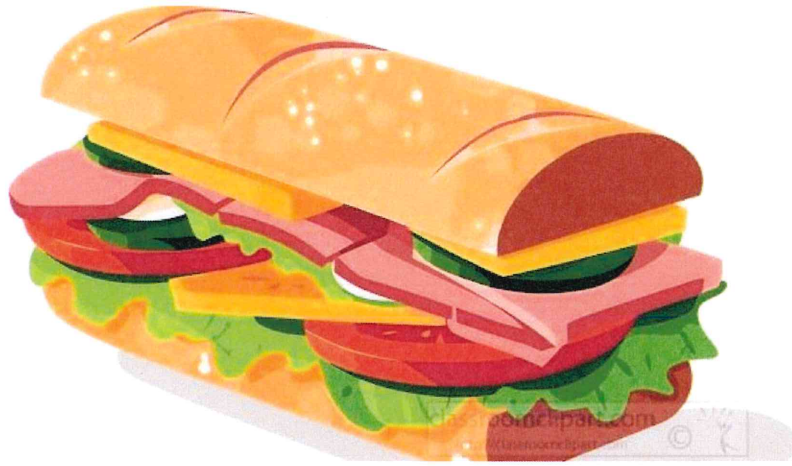
Orders are submitted every Monday and cards will arrive on Thursday. Use the QR Code for easy and quick enrollment!



Lunch Menu Offerings!

Students are getting another option for lunch.

They can order a sub sandwich in place of the main entrée. They will still receive the side items.



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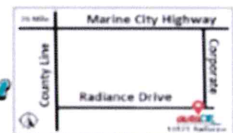
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