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164th YEAR OF SERVICE

Immaculate Conception
307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

573.564.2375 Parish Office | Office Hours M-Th 9am-3pm
Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mciiparish.org
Parish Council Members: Dennis Benney-President, Jack Wells-Vice-President, Vicki Parker, Dennis Cobb, and Michael Smith

156th YEAR OF SERVICE

St. Patrick Parish
505 First St. | Jonesburg | Missouri | 63351

636.488.5623 Parish Office | Office Hours T-Th 9am-1pm
Debbie Enger, Secretary | stpats@centurytel.net | www.stpatricksjonesburg.org
Parish Council Members: Dan Schwartz (314-488-7118)-President, Michael Van Beek (641-275-5184)-Vice-President, Barb Turpin (636-368-2157)-Secretary, Jocelyn Schluss (573-953-0324), and Derrick Cobb (636-359-8959)

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631 Fr. Ernest Dike, Parochial Administrator, edike@diojeffcity.org Bulletin Deadline 9:00 AM on Wednesdays

February 22, 2026 - First Sunday of Lent

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exit in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

St. Patrick Parish Mission

As a church community here at St. Patrick, we want to know, love and serve Jesus in our efforts in: Christian formation/faith development; worship; social services; and stewardship of resources.

MONDAY
February 23
Lenten Weekday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY
February 24
Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

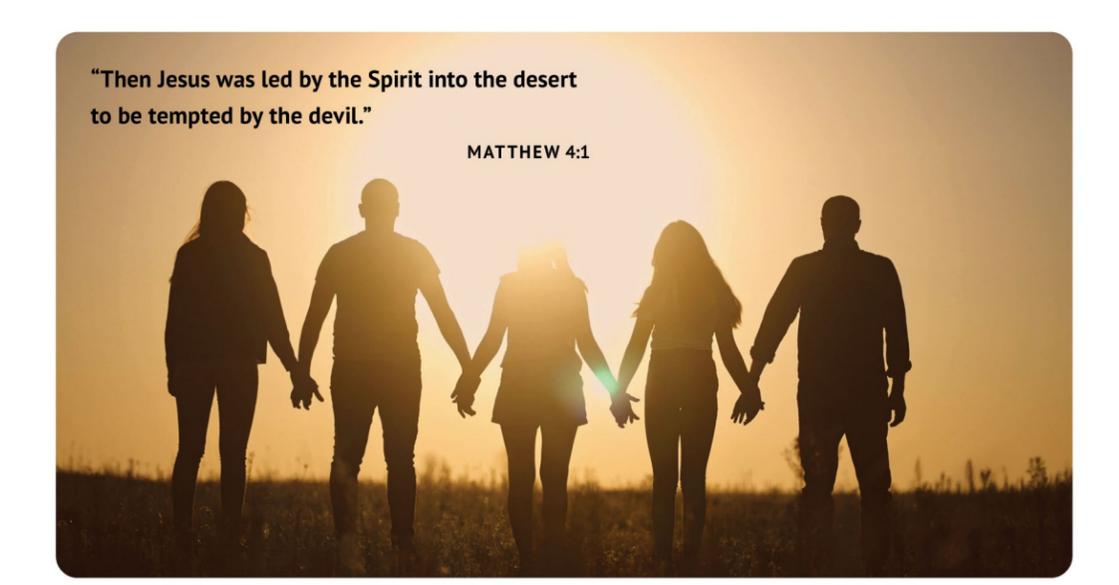
WEDNESDAY
February 25
Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY
February 26
Lenten Weekday
Est C:12, 14-16,
23-25
Mt 7:7-12

FRIDAY
February 27
Lenten Weekday
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY
February 28
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

SUNDAY
March 1
Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 2:1-4a
2 Tm 1:8b-10
Mt 17:1-9



Jesus for the Win
MIGUEL DULICK

The account of the temptations could be presented as a comical play. Pope Francis insisted, "Don't talk to the devil!" Indeed, Jesus does not engage in dialogue with Satan, much less any negotiation or any business. Stones become bread? Jesus may have fasted for forty days, but he's had plenty to eat—"every word that comes forth from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Nor will Jesus "test" his Father by jumping off the "parapet of the temple" (like the bell tower of a gothic church). (See Matthew 5-7.) You don't play God, and you don't play with God. Satan really beclowns himself with the last temptation—promising the whole world if Jesus would just take a knee? No one would fall for that, would they?

Except—most of us. We'd do the bread; we'd do the jump; we'd definitely do the world! Look at the first reading, from Genesis. Adam and Eve give up paradise for a piece of fruit! It's a sad story because Eve does chat with the serpent, answering questions, allowing for a different point of view. But, as they say on Facebook, Satan "destroys" her! And Adam, too. If they didn't sew fig leaves for each other, the whole story would be unbearable. Even as they realize their sin, there is a little tenderness.

Saint Paul explains it clearly. Sin entered the world, but with Jesus Christ, there is an "overflow" of grace for the many. (See Romans 5:15.) And that's what Lent is about—a flood of grace. ●

Reflect
What grace do I pray for this Lent—for myself and for someone who is struggling?



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY

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Mass Schedule & Intentions for Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick

Mon	February	23rd	NO Mass - Montgomery City
Tues	February	24th	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City +Susie Ryan
Wed	February	25th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg +Charmaine Post
Thur	February	26th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Barrie Pannett
Fri	February	27th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Ida Drake
Sat	February	28th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City +Donna Boes Whitehead
Sun	March	1st	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg +Herb Mertz Family 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Robert & Lorraine Brower

A reminder: If there is a funeral at any of the two parishes or a school cancellation due to weather, there will be **no** scheduled Mass.

Sacraments & Information

Parish Membership: Please call the parish office to register.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: IC Sat 4:15PM-4:45PM, SP Sun 7:15AM or by appointment.
Sacrament of Baptism/Confirmation: Call the parish office to set up an appointment.
Sacrament of Marriage: Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.
To Become a Catholic: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Please call for details. Classes on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM at ICS.
Hospitalization: If you are hospitalized or have a family member who is home-bound, please call the parish office.

Immaculate Conception Parish & School			
	Income	Expenses	Difference
Fiscal Jul 25-Jan 26	\$398,100.34	\$428,445.97	-\$30,345.63
January 2026	\$46,892.98	\$55,655.89	-\$8,762.91
	Church	ICS/Daycare	Total
February 1st	\$4,032.00	\$3,904.00	\$7,936.00
February 8th	\$3,161.90	\$4,608.00	\$7,769.90
February 15th	\$4,374.62	\$4,550.50	\$8,925.12
February 22nd			
Weekly Goal	\$13,768.96	Wkly Avg	\$8,210.24

Your Gifts to God!
Thank You!



St. Patrick Parish			
	Income	Expenses	Difference
Fiscal Jul 25-Jan 21st	\$52,978.90	\$46,514.13	\$6,464.77
January 1-21, 2026	\$5,093.65		
Capital Campaign (thru1/21)	\$1,000.00		
	Church		Total
February 1st	\$2,486.10		\$2,486.10
February 8th	\$1,306.00		\$1,306.00
February 15th	\$1,317.55		\$1,317.55
February 22nd			
Weekly Goal	\$1,964.42	Wkly Avg	\$1,703.22

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements/Maintenance - \$331.00
 First Offering - \$15.00
 Mass Intentions - \$30.00

Who is an Active Parishioner?

- ♦Registered in the parish.
- ♦Regularly participates in Mass and the Sacraments.
- ♦Supports the parish financially.
- ♦Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form

	Mass Ministries	February 21st & 22nd	February 28th & March 1st	March 7th & March 8th	March 14th & March 15th
IC SAT 5PM	Lector	Larry Brueggemann	Beth Cobb	Dennis Benney	Gary Hoette
	Eucharistic Ministers	Beth Cobb, Tom Cobb, Don Broz	Dennis Cobb, Gary Hoette, Mary Pottebaum	Beth Cobb, Tom Cobb, Don Broz	Dennis Cobb, Mary Pottebaum, Ruth Ann O'Keefe
	Ministers of Hospitality	Daryl & Nancy Cobb Bob Dryden	Cothren Family	Bill & Liz Huston Tom Cobb, Bob Dryden	Kasey Pottebaum Family
	Servers	Mercer Cothren Jacob Roesner	Lila Broz Malorie Schulte	Mercer Cothren Jacob Roesner	Lila Broz Beth Roesner
	Money Counters	Dottie Brueggen & Debbie Heidelberger	John/Aggie Baldetti & Daryl Rhoads	Don /Sandy Oakes & Judy Cobb	Dottie Brueggen & Debbie Heidelberger
IC SUN 10AM	Lector	Elizabeth Schierhoff	Mark Brower	Allie Johnson	Michael Readey
	Children's Liturgy	Dianne Talley	Geri Park	Rachel Rakers	Anna Harrell
	Eucharistic Ministers	Tudie Simpson, Jenidean Readey, Jack Wells	Gayle Adams, Megan Hans, Steve Williams	Dennis Cobb, Jacob Lotton, Tony Wessel	Eileen Lotton, Tudie Simpson, Jenidean Readey
	Ministers of Hospitality	Dana Schneider/Brady Craven Steve Williams & Julie Worsham	Dave & Janet Cobb Pat & Charlie Korman	Jeff & Amanda Arens Pat & Janet Stumbaugh	Ron & Dianne Talley Jerry Neale, Tony Wessel
	Servers	Kendra & Keagan Rakers	Josie & Wade Harrell	Axton Johnson & Ella Hans	Emilia Hans & Maverick Johnson
Money Counters	Rick/Gayle Adams & Dave Teeter	Mark Brower & Steve Williams	Megan Hans & Elaine Winford	Pam Schwartz & Cathy McCormack	
SP SUN 8AM	Hospitality/Usher	John & Nancy Cobb	Youth	Laurie Dothage & Terri Lenzenhuber	Farrar Family
	Altar Clean Up Only	Laurie Dothage	Jan Milzark	Laurie Dothage	Jan Milzark
	Lector	Londa Swoboda	Gracie Cobb	Bridget Cobb	Donna Cobb
	Servers	Jordon Finke & McCullie Schluss	Emma Cobb & Carl Johnson	Luke Farrar & Anna Johnson	Emma Cobb & Carl Johnson
	Eucharistic Minister	Nancy Cobb, Vickie Duenke, Barb Turpin	John Cobb, Sr., Terri Lenzenhuber, Sara Johnson	Bridget Cobb, Vicki Duenke, Barb Turpin	Nancy Cobb, Sara Johnson, Terri Lenzenhuber
Money Counters	Derrick Cobb & Karen Stenger	Gracie Cobb & Jan Milzark	Bridget Cobb & Laurie Dothage	Derrick Cobb & Brad Ellis	

Remember, if you are unable to complete your assigned time, you are responsible for finding a replacement! Thank you for your service!

Dear Padre,

I was taught that it is a requirement to fast at least one hour before receiving Communion. However, I've seen donuts out before Mass begins and hear candy wrappers being crumpled around me. This seems disrespectful to me.



It is important to use the correct words when describing a particular action. In this case, "requirement" does not really capture the full meaning and understanding of what the Church teaches. A better understanding is that it is a discipline and a practice of the Church to ordinarily observe the eucharistic fast for one hour before receiving holy Communion. If you are of a certain age, you may remember that there have been changes regarding the eucharistic fast. A "requirement" might suggest that the fast is integral to the sacrament itself. It is not.

The second part of your question seems to be a matter of perception. Based on your perception, you judge something to be not quite right. But, consider that there are many reasons why hospitality may be set up before Mass. The crumpling of wrappers could be something other than what you identify. Regardless, you are not required to assume the burden of policing what is taking place at Mass. It is much better to participate, celebrate, and be grateful for the sacrament that we gather to experience as a community of faith. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Pope Leo XIV's Prayer Intention for February

For Children With Incurable Diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.

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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today, signs of hope are increasingly found in care homes, communities for minors, centers for listening and acceptance, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and low-income schools. How many of these quiet signs of hope often go unnoticed and yet are so important for setting aside our indifference and inspiring others to become involved in various forms of volunteer work!

MESSAGE FOR WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, ROME, JUNE 13, 2025



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ST. PATRICK'S FISH FRY

4:00 PM-7:00 PM

February 20

February 27

March 6

March 13

March 20

March 27



COD AND POLLOCK

Dinner Plates \$16.00 - Includes: Fish, Frys, Cole Slaw, Baked Beans, Dessert and Drinks (dine in only)

Fish Sandwich & 1 Side \$8.00

Carry Out is Available – no drinks

Pound Fish Orders are available

Address: 509 N. First St. Jonesburg MO

2026 LENTEN FISH FRY



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20th

FOR 6 FRIDAYS

final one ON **MARCH 27th**

All you can eat...

LUNCH SERVED 11:00 AM till 1:00 PM

DINE IN & CARRY OUTS ONLY

DINNER SERVED 4:30 till 6:30 PM

DRIVE THRU* DINE IN* & CARRY OUTS

ADULT PLATE \$14 CHILD \$7.00

(Child is age 6-12) Under 6 and over 90 free

**FEATURING
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Benefits the school and many community projects



St. Clement Parish Fish Frys



St. Clement Knights of Columbus Hall
Corner of Hwy 161 & Hwy J

Dates: February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, & 27.
Serving from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

All you can eat!
(Dine in only, excludes shrimp)

Carry-outs available.

Prices:
Adults: \$15 Children 6-12: \$7 Children 5 and under: Free
Fish by the pound: \$15 (take out only)

Menu:
Fish, shrimp, hushpuppies, cheesy potatoes or potato salad, spaghetti, cole slaw, desserts, and tea/lemonade.

Additional beverages are available for purchase!

Gun Raffle tickets for sale, winner to be drawn at last date.

You're
Invited

Second Tuesday
of Every Month
March – November

Adoration
10:00 a.m.

Sacrament of
Reconciliation
11:15 a.m.

Benediction
11:30 a.m.

Rosary
11:40 a.m.

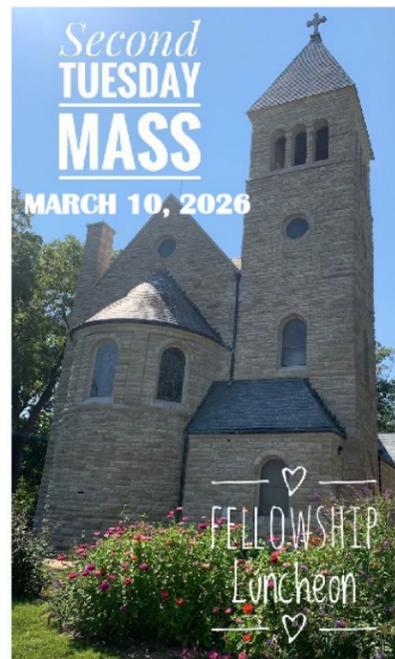
Lunch
Following Mass

Tours Available
10:00 a.m.

Call 573-236-4390 for details.

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of Sorrows

Starkenburg/Rhineland
197 Highway P



Rev. Philip E. Nickamp, Officiant

Light Lunch
served with
Dessert, Tea & Coffee - \$10.00

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Monday February 23rd	IC	5:30 PM - Choir Practice	
Tuesday February 24th	IC IC IC	6:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Adoration 5:00 PM Benediction & Devotion to Divine Mercy 6:30 PM - OCIA Class	
Wednesday February 25th	IC IC SP SP	9:00 AM to 1:30 PM - Quilting at the St. Vincent dePaul Building - all are welcome 5:30 PM - Stations of the Cross After Mass - Breakfast at The Warehouse - all are invited After Mass - Stations of the Cross	
Thursday February 26th			
Friday February 27th	IC IC SP	Fish Fry @ Knights of Columbus - 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM 2:45 PM - Stations of the Cross 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM Fish Fry @ Parish Hall	
Saturday February 28th	SP	Hall rented for the day.	
Sunday March 1st	SP SP	After Mass - Coffee & Donuts in the Parish Hall - all are welcome! After Mass - Catholic Faith Explained - Episode #6	



See!

I will not forget you, I have carved you on the palm of my hand.
Isaiah 49:15

Welcome everyone.
On Tuesdays starting at 6:00 AM we have Eucharistic Adoration: a special time to worship and praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and to deepen your intimate friendship and be nourished and strengthened by His presence and love.
At 5:00 PM Adoration will close with Devotion to the Divine Mercy and Benediction. Mass will start at 5:30 PM.

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.

Jeremiah 29:12

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

Residents of Aspire Nursing Home (formerly St. Andrews)
515 Picnic Street, New Florence, MO 63363
Bill Muenz, and Dorothy Bowman

Resident of The Arbors at South Pointe
5125 Old State Hwy 100, Room 13, Washington, MO 63090
Peggy Gardner

Residents of Stonebridge in Hermann
1800 Wein St, Hermann, MO 65041
Tony & Laverne Wessel, Sr.

Residents of Aspire Nursing Home
308 Cedar Avenue, Jonesburg, MO 63351

Residents of Oake Pointe
700 Forrest Ave, Warrenton 63383
Marion Bullerdick & Fr. Lou Dorn



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE STRUGGLING, SICK AND INFIRMED:

Al & Christine Barger, Vern Brand, Gail Burch, Mike Busken, Elizabeth Brueggen, Molly Brueggen, Larry Brueggemann, Marion Bullerdick, Parker Calbreath, Christopher Carey, Tom Carey, Robert Carillo, Bill Cobb, Clint Cunningham, Fr. Lou Dorn, Lori Dorsey, Ebbesmeyer Family, Nick Erbe, John Goodwin, Richard Grelle, Lucille Griesbauer, Anna Gross, Ed Grillo, Henry Hamill, Antoinette Hoing, Howard Hollensteiner, Jane Hubbard, Addie Johnson, Ingrid Keller, Genevieve Kelly, Annie Kempf, Darlie Lamb, Pat Merz, Kathleen Mohrmann, Nancy Nylund, Lyndsey O'Bryan, Alice O'Donnell, Clayton Parker, Paula Peatross, Avery Penn, Peggy Readey, Rae Jean Rhoads, Nick Schneider, Maggie Schiefelbein, Tommy Shine, Nancy Smiley, Eric Smith, Evelyn Strauss, Katherine Stroot, Ed Torbeck, Sue Umphenour, Sandy Waddell, Tom Waddell, Tony Wessel, Sr.



PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE ARMED SERVICES

Brandon Wells, Dylan Willis, Daniel Lohmann, Donnie Wisdom, Alex Brueggen, & Justin Beabout



Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. ~Ephesians 5:25

Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!

Brad & Julie Ellis - 21 years of marriage on February 26th

Green = St. Patrick Blue = Immaculate Conception



Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating in February at St. Patrick!

- 4th - Luke Farrar
- 12th - Elizabeth Barclay
- 13th - Sandy Waddell
- 20th - Adelaide Healy
- 26th - Donna Cobb
- 28th - Laura Hocke



Immaculate Conception School News

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Mrs. Anna Harrell, Administrative Assistant | 573.564.2679 - School Office | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org

Calendar

- Feb. 20- Stations of the Cross @ 2:45pm
- Feb. 27- Stations of the Cross @ 2:45pm

First off, all of us here at ICS want to send a heartfelt THANK YOU to every single parishioner who made it to Mardi Gras or sent in a donation. It is truly a blessing to have your support. We feel the love!

The school is buzzing with the sound of singing as the students practice the songs for our upcoming Spring Special, please come out and watch the performance on April 9.

Lent is here and we will be participating in the Stations of the Cross every Friday at 2:45 in the church and Living Stations taking place on April 1 at 2:00 P.M.

There has been a change to our Spring Special date, please mark your calendars for April 9. The matinee time will be announced in the future, so be on the lookout for that information, the evening performance is at 6:00. Both of the performances will take place at the Knight of Columbus Hall, THANK YOU, Knights, for your generosity in allowing us to use the hall.



Lent/ Easter 2026 Schedule

Stations of the Cross:

Wednesdays following 8:30 AM Mass at St. Patrick
Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at IC (including Holy Week)
Fridays at 2:45 PM (except March 6th) ICS Students at IC all are welcome

Penance Service for both Parishes:

Thursday 19th March at 6.30 PM at Immaculate Conception

2026 RETREAT for Both parishes:

Saturday, March 28th at 9:30 AM at Immaculate Conception

Easter Triduum:

Holy Thursday (April 2nd)

10:00 AM - Morning Prayer/ Office of Reading at IC
7:00 PM - Mass at IC (Holy hour/ Adoration following Mass until 10:00 PM.

You are encouraged to plan to keep vigil with the Lord for at least one hour just as Jesus requested Peter and the two most beloved Apostles.

Good Friday (April 3rd)

10:00 AM - Morning Prayer/ Office of Reading at IC
7:00 PM Evening Service of the Passion of the Lord at IC

Holy Saturday (April 4th)

10:00 AM - Morning Prayer/ Office of Reading at IC
8:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass at IC

Easter Sunday (April 5th)

8:00 AM Mass at St. Patrick
10:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception

Divine Mercy Sunday (April 12th)

3:00 PM Service of Divine Mercy at Immaculate Conception

The ICS kids will be doing the "Living Stations of the Cross" on Wednesday April 1st at Immaculate Conception Church

We will have sign-up sheets at the two parishes for ministries for Easter Triduum.

Thank You!

Charlie and I would like to thank the students and teachers at ICS for the wonderful meal, and the beautiful cards for Valentines Day. The meal was delicious and much appreciated.

Judy Nelson

St. Patrick's News

February Mass Intentions

- 1st +Charles Bextermiller
- 4th +Nick Ulett
- 8th +Ed Stenger
- 11th +Lillian Brune
- 15th +Tim Ebbesmeyer
- 18th +Joe Lenzenhuber
- 22nd +Tom Lenzenhuber
- 25th +Charmaine Post



Please remember that Episode 6 of "Catholic Faith Explained" will be shown next Sunday, March 1st in the Parish Hall after Mass.

Lenten Small Group Study

Lenten Small Group Study will begin on Ash Wednesday after the 8:30 AM Mass and a Tuesday evening group starting the 24th at 6:30 PM in the Parish House.

Community Lenten Food Drive

We need your help to spread the word about our Community Lenten Food Drive. Each week we have people from all over this community attend and enjoy our fabulous Fish Frys. We are asking you to help tell others that they can participate in donating non-perishable items or money that will all go to support the people in need of Jonesburg. Items donated will be placed into the Blessing Barn, and all money donated will go to buy groceries for goods. All donations can be placed in the parish hall during each of the weekly Fish Frys. In this season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving thank you for your support and all previous support for this cherished community.

Announcement - Desserts needed every week for the Fish Fry. If you need to drop off early, speak to Bart or Debbie so arrangements can be made. Thank you!

Capital Campaign - you may have heard we need a new roof here at St Patrick. The Diocese has given us permission to have a Capital Campaign to fund a new roof and assist with our remodeling projects. You will find a blue envelope in the pew labeled Capital Campaign to use any time you want to make a donation. Please fill out the envelope and drop it in the collection basket, mail it to the office or drop it off at the office. Thank you in advance for supporting this project.

HELP NEEDED - Fish Frys begin the 20th and we need your help preparing serving cleaning and baking desserts. Thank you for your support.



The Seedbearers are a youth ministry group that perform community services projects for people who cannot afford or are unable to accomplish on their own. They will be in Montgomery City July 19th through the 25th and are looking for projects in home maintenance and repair, landscaping, painting, carpentry, yard clean up and more. If you have a project request for them, please contact Aggie Baldetti (573) 835-3631, or Jack Wells (360) 377-6505. If you would like more information about this youth ministry check out the links below.

- <https://www.setonscene.org/youth-ministry>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrxLZy9wHYc>

Lenten Regulations and Admonitions for 2026

As another Lenten journey of conversion begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026 and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026, the Catholic Church calls all Catholics to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving and prayer, "which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others (Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1434 and 1969).

To foster a greater spirit of penance, reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, which guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, the Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent, and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship.

Abstinence

All who have celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

Fasting

Everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting means eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.

Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges. These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest.

Other recommended forms of fasting, as regards alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, Internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.

Almsgiving

The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity, and an expression of Lenten conversion. Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church: through regular stewardship to their parish and support of charities.

Prayer

To deepen one's love for Christ, Catholics are urged to participate in the sacramental life of the Church during Lent by attending daily Mass and frequenting the sacrament of Reconciliation.