

The Connection

October 2026 - December 2026
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A publication of Immaculate Conception,
St. Patrick & St. Mary School

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icspcatholic.com

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New Richmond, WI 54017
(715) 246-2469
st-marysschool.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and time subject to change. Check icspcatholic.com for changes

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
October 11	Confirmation Mass	IC	9:00am
October 14	Catholic Essentials	SMS	6:00pm
October 18	St Patrick Fall Festival	SP	following 11am Mass
October 24	Parents' Night Out	IC	4:00 - 6:30pm
November 3 - 16	ICSP Pictorial Directory	IC & SP	various time slots
November 5	Becoming Fishers of Men	SP	6:30pm
November 11	Catholic Essentials	SMS	6:00pm
November 14	Artificial Intelligence: Technology vs. Faith	SP	8:45am
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner	IC	1:00pm
December 5	Christmas Fair	IC	4pm
December 6	Christmas Fair & Youth Ministry Breakfast	IC	following 9am Mass
December 20	Christmas Program	SP	following 11am Mass
December 22	SMS Christmas Program	IC	10:00am & 1:00pm

REFLECTIONS

THE HOPEFULNESS OF PURGATORY AND THE PROMISE OF HEAVEN

By The Catholic Formation Team



William-Adolphe Bouguereau,
The Day of the Dead, 1859

Purgatory is a tender and hopeful reality in the vision of life after death. Far from being a place of despair or punishment, it is a realm of mercy, a testament to God's unyielding love for the human soul. It reveals that even when we die imperfect, still marked by sin or selfishness, God still does not turn us away. He offers a final, loving purification, a grace-filled opportunity to be made entirely whole and capable of the

perfect love that heaven requires.

In purgatory, the soul's journey toward God continues. It is a place of longing, yes, but of a joyful longing, because the souls there already know their destiny: they are saved, embraced by divine mercy, and on their way to an eternal union with God. The very pain of purgatory springs from love, from a soul's awareness of the immense beauty of God and its own remaining impurities that still hinder perfect communion. This suffering is not punishment in the strict sense, but rather it's the fire of transformation. The soul consents to be purified, to let go of every attachment that keeps it from full communion with Love itself.

Purgatory reflects both justice and mercy perfectly joined. Justice, because sin has real consequences and wounds the soul. Mercy, because God provides the healing space where those wounds are mended. The hope of purgatory is profound. It proclaims that no sincere effort toward goodness, no desire for holiness, is ever wasted. Even our unfinished love is taken up by God and completed in His own time and way.

From this hope flows the greater promise of heaven. Heaven is not a reward for the righteous but the ultimate fulfillment of every human longing. It is the home for which we were created, a life of perfect communion with God and with one another, where love reigns without limit and joy is complete. If purgatory is the dawn of

hope, heaven is the full light of day.

In heaven, every tear is wiped away, every pain and loss is transfigured into joy. The deepest desire of the human heart, is to be known completely and loved without condition, and realizing that you are in the direct vision of God. There, love is no longer tested or purified. It is a pure gift, endlessly exchanged between Creator and creation. Heaven is the eternal unfolding of divine beauty, the soul's ceaseless delight in God's infinite goodness.

Together, purgatory and heaven reveal the boundless mercy and patience of God. They assure us that the story of our salvation is not easily lost or interrupted by failure. Even our imperfections become occasions for grace. The existence of purgatory means that God never gives up on us, that His desire for our holiness extends beyond death itself. And the promise of heaven assures us that this long journey of purification, faith, and love will one day end in perfect rest and radiant joy.

To believe in purgatory is to believe that holiness is possible. To hope in heaven is to believe that love never ends. Between the two lies the heart of hope: that every soul, no matter how wounded, is called to be healed, transformed, and united with God forever.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

ST. GERTRUDE'S PRAYER

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.

"Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, for those in my own home, and in my family.
Amen."

ICSP BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS

It has been a wonderfully busy season across our parish community! As we transition from the summer months into fall, we have been hard at work behind the scenes on several exciting updates!



REFRESHING THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CRY ROOM

We are excited to announce an upcoming refresh and new look for the cry room at Immaculate Conception (IC)! Our goal is to create a more welcoming, functional, and hospitable environment for our families with young children. The upcoming updates will include:

- Fresh paint to brighten up the space.
- New carpeting for a cleaner and more comfortable feel.
- Custom cabinetry to provide organized storage.
- Wall hooks for coats, diaper bags, and personal belongings.

We want to ensure that our youngest parishioners and their parents feel comfortable, supported, and fully at home in our community. These improvements will make the space more orderly and easier to use during Mass. **Thank you** for your continued support and patience as we work to improve our parish facilities. Stay tuned for updates on when the refreshed space will be ready for use!



THE CHOIR IS BACK!

The Immaculate Conception Adult Choir is returning this fall under the leadership of our new part-time Choir Director, **Eric Crandall**! Please join us in welcoming Eric to his new role.

We are incredibly grateful for this reprise. It will be a wonderful addition to our liturgical celebrations, helping us elevate our worship and bring new beauty to our Masses. We look forward to hearing the choir fill our church with music once again!

JOIN THE CHOIR

Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or simply love to sing in praise, we invite you to be a part of this exciting new chapter. Music is a powerful way to serve our parish and enrich our community's spiritual life.

How to Join: Contact Eric Crandall at e.crandall@ic-church.com

MODERNIZING OUR RECORDS AND LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

We are excited to announce that we have successfully completed another major layer of efficiency here at the church. In partnership with the technology experts at EO Johnson, we recently finalized a massive digital archiving project to better protect our history and streamline our daily operations. For years, **over 70 boxes of historical documents**, financial records, and ministry materials were housed in our basement. While these records were safely stored away, managing such a large volume of physical paperwork presented challenges for accessibility and long-term preservation. By systematically sorting through and scanning these 70+ boxes, we have achieved two critical goals:



- **Ensuring Record Integrity:** Digital copies protect our irreplaceable church history from the physical wear and tear of basement storage.
- **Meeting Retention Requirements:** We are now fully compliant with modern record retention standards, keeping our administration secure and organized.

This project is much more than a spring cleaning initiative. It serves as a fantastic jumpstart to future efficiencies within our church office. By reducing our physical footprint and moving toward a more digital environment, our staff and volunteers can spend less time searching through filing boxes and more time focusing on the ministries and people who make our congregation thrive. **Thank you** to everyone who supported this project, and to EO Johnson for their incredible partnership in helping us steward our resources wisely!

ICSP BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS

Welcome Beth Allen!

Director of Catholic Formation & Evangelization

"I am passionate about my Catholic faith and excited to join a strong team of compassionate leaders who share a common mission and purpose."



We are pleased to welcome Beth Allen to the Catholic Formation team as our incoming Director of Catholic Formation and Evangelization! Beth and her family moved to the New Richmond area in August 2025. She brings a wealth of experience in K-12 education, having served for thirteen years as the Assistant Principal at Pine City Junior/Senior High School in Pine City, Minnesota. In addition to her work in school administration, Beth taught at a variety of grade levels and schools, including Pine City Elementary, Oshkosh North High School, and Grafton High School in Virginia. Beth holds an Education Specialist License in Educational Administration from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Marian University, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. A Wisconsin native, Beth was born and raised in Green Bay and is a graduate of Notre Dame Academy High School.

Beth's husband, Kyle, teaches Social Studies at New Richmond Middle School and serves as the Head Boys Varsity Basketball Coach. They have three sons who are in 9th grade, 6th grade, and 3K. Outside of work, Beth enjoys cheering on her sons as they participate in basketball, football, baseball, cross country, and track. Please join us in welcoming Beth to the Catholic Formation team. We are excited for the gifts, experience, and faith she will bring to this important ministry!

2026 STAFF RETREAT

SMS and ICSP church staff came together on August 26th for a beautiful retreat at St. Patrick in Erin Prairie.

We were blessed to have Christine Newkirk from the Diocese of Superior lead us in a meaningful time of reflection, helping us explore what it means to recognize the Body of Christ within ourselves and live that out each day.



A special thank you to Father John for his prayer leadership and the Women of St. Patrick for the hospitality, along with those who helped coordinate this wonderful experience. What a blessing to begin the school year by preparing our hearts and minds to serve our students and bring the love of Jesus into our classrooms, school and church community.

We are ready for a wonderful school year!



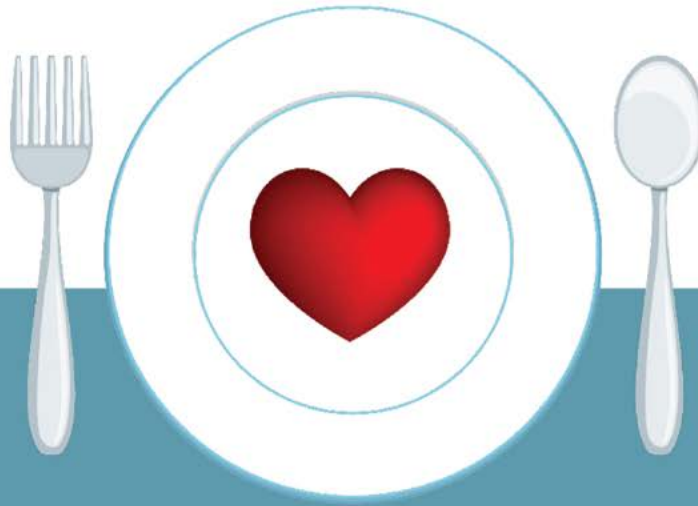
JESSICA JACKSON

Business and Development Manager

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ICSP CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES NEWS



COME AND SHARE A MEAL WITH OUR ICSP CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES!

This isn't just dinner; it's a chance to connect, share, and grow together in faith and fellowship. Everyone is welcome—whether you're a familiar face or new to our ICSP Catholic Communities we'd love to have you!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS MENU

5:00 - 6:20 pm

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
CORRIGAN HALL
FREE WILL OFFERING**

OCTOBER

- 7 - Baked ziti, garlic bread, salad & cooked vegetables
- 14 - Homemade soups, bread & vegetables
- 21 - Spaghetti w/ meatballs, garlic bread & vegetables
- 28 - French toast, egg bake & sausage

NOVEMBER

- 4 - Baked ziti, garlic bread, salad & cooked vegetables
- 11 - Taco bowls & salad
- 18 - Spaghetti w/ meatballs, garlic bread & vegetables



ICSP CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES NEWS

RESPECT LIFE GROUP

Supporting Grace Place

FAITH
IN
ACTION!

We're collecting donations through October

COLD WEATHER APPAREL (NEW /GENTLY USED)

- Warm gloves and hats
- Adult sweatshirts, sweaters, and sweatpants or casual pants.
 - Men | 2x, 3x, and 4x
 - Women | medium, large, & xl

PAPER GOODS AND SUPPLIES

- Toilet paper (1ply)
- Paper towels
- Kleenex



**DROP OFF BOXES ARE LOCATED AT THE
ENTRANCES OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION,
ST. PATRICK & ST. MARY SCHOOL**

Thank You for your continued support!

APPLE CRISP SOCIAL at IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

10 SATURDAY
OCTOBER
2026

following 5 PM Mass
Corrigan Hall

11 SUNDAY
OCTOBER
2026

following 9 AM Mass
Corrigan Hall

**Come meet our amazing volunteers and
members of the ICSP Catholic Communities!
On Sunday, we will also be giving a special
warm welcome to the newly Confirmed
joining our parish family.**

hosted by



Parents' Night Out

HOSTED BY

THE RESPECT LIFE GROUP

SAT **24** OCT

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Immaculate Conception | Corrigan Hall
151 S. Washington Ave. New Richmond, WI 54017

Free childcare will be provided!

Children will be given a snack and have
time to play and create with members
of the Respect Life group.



Sign Up Today!

BAKING FOR HAITI



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

November 7th & 8th
following all Masses

ST. PATRICK

November 15th
during Sunday Brunch

**Pick up delicious homemade treats
and goodies! 100% of proceeds
support the vital outreach work of
the American Haitian Foundation.**



Thank you for your sweetness and generosity!

hosted by Outreach Ministry & Women of St. Patrick



ST. PATRICK CHURCH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 18, 2026 | Following 11:00 AM Mass

MASS & FALL DINNER

- **11:00 AM Mass** featuring
"The Erin Prairie Folk Group"
- **Delicious Fall Dinner** - Chicken breast with a bacon cream sauce, cranberry wild rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, and dinner rolls. Includes homemade pie & beverage! (*serving until 1:00 PM*)

Suggested \$15 free-will donation for dinner

RAFFLES & PRIZES

- Money Raffle Drawing:
\$250, \$200, \$150
- Silent Auction
- Take-A-Chance Theme
Baskets

FAMILY FUN & GAMES

- Crafty Country Store
- Cakewalk
- Fish Pond
- Guess the Number
Candy Jars

RAFFLE TICKETS: \$1 EACH OR 11 FOR \$10

*Tickets are available for purchase from St. Patrick Parishioners
and through the ICSP Church Office.*

All Are Welcome!

ICSP CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES NEWS



Celebrating faith.

Connecting families.

Sharing hope.

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

Directory Committee

Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.

~ Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.

~ Every sitting photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!

~ Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finishes and framing options for the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to your family and friends.

**Set your appointment with
Universal today at ucdir.com!**

Gathering families, Connecting generations.



We are Creating a New ICSP Pictorial Directory! We Need YOU to Make it Complete!

These are Our Photography Dates:

Tue, Nov 3 @ SP | Wed - Sat, Nov 4-7 @ IC | Tue, Nov 10 @ SP | Tue - Sat, Nov 11-14 @ IC

You can go to either location for your portrait session! Choose the date that works best for your schedule.

Schedule your photography appointment online! Just scan the QR code to the right → → → → →

Or - go to www.ucdir.com & click the "Photography Session Sign-Up" button

Then, enter the "Church Code" & the "Church Password" for the desired location (these are case sensitive)

Immaculate Conception Church Code = **wi487a** St. Patrick Church Code = **wi487b** Password for both = **frjohn**

Online signup may not be available on Saturday & Sunday so we can have paper sign-ups at Mass on the weekends.

You get a free copy of the directory & a free 8 x 10 portrait just for being photographed. **All portraits will arrive before Christmas!**



An Invitation to Discover a Hidden Treasure

How Eucharistic Adoration Changed My Life and How It Can Change Yours

By Melanie House, ICSP Adoration Team

Discovering Eucharistic Adoration has completely changed my life, so I would like to share it with you, in hopes that it might change your life too.

I am a cradle Catholic, so I have a few faint memories of Adoration from my youth, but I more truly discovered it about 8 years ago. I was asked to chaperone a Catholic youth retreat and there I encountered Eucharistic Adoration in a powerful way. It was full of praise and worship and emotion, and I could really feel the true presence of God. I was hooked and wanted more, so I began to chaperone more trips, chasing this experience.

After chaperoning a few trips and sharing my newfound joy and love of Adoration with the group leader, she said to me, "you know that you can just sit in front of the tabernacle at church, right?!" My mind was blown! As a cradle Catholic, I suppose I already knew this, but I had never truly contemplated or understood the depth of this reality. The reality that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, body, blood, soul and divinity, and that same Eucharist remains night and day in our tabernacles.

So that's what I did. I began to sit with Jesus, in the quiet, empty church in front of the tabernacle. Sitting face to face and speaking heart to heart, sharing with Him my prayers and all that consumes me. Whether Jesus is exposed in the monstrance or in the tabernacle, His true presence is there in the Eucharist. I made Holy Hour after Holy Hour, week after week, year after year and spent hundreds of hours sitting with our Lord, adoring Him. I fell deeper in love with Jesus and developed an

intimate relationship with Him, simply by sitting at His feet. I spent time with Jesus. A giving and a receiving of love, adoring Jesus for His sake and being the friend of His heart. Imitating the Beloved Disciple, St. John, and resting on Jesus's heart. God wants to spend time with you. He already knows you and loves you. He knows the very depths of your being, and you do not need to impress Him or explain yourself to Him. Just BE with Him.

Eucharistic Adoration is like radiation therapy for the soul. I can pray at all times, but when I sit in front of the Blessed

Sacrament, I am literally sitting in the radiating presence of God. I cannot be that physically close to God and not be affected. When I sit in Adoration, I do not need to DO anything, I simply need to BE. I simply need to love and adore our Lord and let Him do the work; let Jesus heal me and purify me. As one of my favorite Bible verses testifies to: "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Exodus 14:14.



"Eucharistic Adoration is like radiation therapy for the soul"

Sitting before the Blessed Sacrament has strengthened my faith and has changed me. It has changed my perspective and my priorities. It has helped me to love my family and those around me more. To try to see how God sees, to desire what God desires, and to love as God loves. That it may be "no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Galatians 2:20. I am a work in progress and have a long way to go and a lot more purifying needed to ever be heaven ready, but I know that with God's grace and His help, He can transform me.

EVANGELIZATION:

GROW IN OUR FAITH & LEAD OTHERS TO CHRIST

During my Holy Hours I have received many graces and have received many gifts of spiritual consolation. I have laughed, I have cried, I have been filled with joy and I have also sobbed. I have received words of comfort and of clarity. I have had experiences where my whole body radiates and tingles. Most often, I am filled with an overwhelming peace, and sometimes I feel absolutely nothing. But regardless of how I feel or the spiritual gifts that I receive, God is at work. Sometimes I might only be physically there, and my mind will be elsewhere, but even my distractions and wandering thoughts during Adoration are no obstacle to God. He will make good of my time offered and it will still be fruitful.

God loves us and created us for union with Him. The Eucharist is a glimpse of heaven on earth. It is a foretaste of what is to come when we will be perfectly united with God in heaven in ceaseless love and adoration. To the world, Eucharistic Adoration is a "waste of time". It is quiet and hidden and to the world, seems unproductive. But what a gift it is to "waste time" with Jesus and be His companion. To keep watch with Him and console His Sacred Heart.

I feel like I have discovered an amazing treasure, a treasure that the saints knew well.

I invite you to spend some time with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration, it might just change your life!

ICSP CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

GO BEYOND SUNDAY MASS
IN HIS PRESENCE, *a single moment*
COULD TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE FOREVER!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

1ST FRIDAYS

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ST. PATRICK CHURCH

3RD THURSDAYS

9:00 AM - 9:00 AM
24 HR. ADORATION

*NOTE: St. Michael in Stillwater has perpetual Adoration (24/7). Or stop into any parish near you and just sit in front of the tabernacle.

Wisdom from the Saints on the Eucharist



"Do you realize that Jesus is there in the Blessed Sacrament expressly for you, for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart!"

- St. Therese of Lisieux



"A Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory."

- St. Padre Pio



"Every Holy Hour we make so pleases the Heart of Jesus that it is recorded in Heaven and retold for all eternity!"

- St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



"My Lord Jesus Christ, who for the love which Thou bears to men, remains night and day in this Blessed Sacrament full of compassion and of love, awaiting, calling, and welcoming all who come to visit Thee."

- St. Alphonsus Liguori



"When we face the sun we get a tan, but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints."

- St. Carlo Acutis



"Let Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is He who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us. Seek Him without tiring, welcome Him without reserve, love Him without interruption, today, tomorrow, and forever!"

- St. Pope John Paul II

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

ENDLESS "NEEDS" VERSUS OUR "NEED" TO GIVE BACK

Understanding Stewardship as a Grateful Response

The list of needs in our world is endless. There always seems to be a request for money. A day doesn't go by without some appeal. So many needs, choices, and opportunities.

Despite the abundance of charitable organizations needing our financial support, there is an even greater spiritual need that God gave each of us at birth; namely the need to give back based on our blessings and capacity to respond. We do this in gratitude, as a sacrifice, and as part of our belief system. This is the essence and true meaning of the term "stewardship".

As a Christian community we need the spirit-building social events that help bring us together as a community of faith and raise funds. At the same time, we need to develop a better understanding of stewardship, how money is referred to in Sacred Scripture and what that tells us about offering our tithes.

Stewardship challenges us to give back without regard to a list of church or school needs. It is our grateful response to God's daily blessings in our lives. Some parishioners in our church and school community already look at life in this manner. Others need time to grow in faith to accept stewardship and the richness of offering their tithe, as a principle that will dramatically improve how they live their life here on earth.

The irony is that God doesn't need anything from us. But offering a gift in sacrifice is something we each need to do for Him. What makes our response meaningful is not the amount of time, talent, and financial support, but that it first means something to us. When we give what we value, even when it costs us, that is a loving act. Love gives without expecting anything in return.

Jesus himself showed us this love and became the perfect example of stewardship. He gave himself without reserve, not only on the Cross, but in the daily offering of His whole life on earth. In doing so, He revealed the heart of His Father, who gave what was most precious to Him: His only begotten Son. God shows us that whenever we make a praiseworthy offering, no matter how small or great, His divine life is shared with us in return.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

"Stewardship is our grateful response to God's daily blessings in our lives."

PONDER YOUR PATH

† Are we giving now as a sacrifice based on our income and blessings?

† Are we giving when and in an amount that is only convenient?

† Are we giving as willingly and as joyfully to God as He gives to us?

JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome you to share in all of the benefits we have to offer through our parish ministries and services. At the same time, we invite you to share in the responsibilities of maintaining and securing all that we offer to help make the name of Jesus Christ known and loved.

In each publication, the Stewardship Committee will feature a ministry or two.

If you happen to have a group you would like featured, please reach out to Terry Palmer at stewardship@icspcatholic.com

CATHOLIC FORMATION NEWS



WE'RE
BACK

Welcome back to a new year of Catholic Formation sessions! It was another wonderful, fulfilling summer filled with many blessings including Extreme Faith Camp, Totus Tuus, the Catholic Heart Workcamp Mission Trip and Vacation Bible School. They were faith-filled experiences that brought those involved closer to God and each other in community.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve you and are looking forward to the year ahead and what God has planned. It is not too late to register and join youth formation classes! Please register at icspcatholic.com! We are excited to see you all!

Take care and God bless,

Arlene Tenner, Beth Allen, Kristin Dittman, Trevor Swanson, and Karen LaBossiere



THANK YOU!
For your prayers, donations & support making VBS a success!

135 CHILDREN & 60 VOLUNTEERS
learned to explore the nature of God. May He continue
to abundantly bless them and you!



Every year, thousands of poor children experience a Christmas without hope. We all can do our part and together we will bring joy and Christ's love to children in developing countries who wish for one gift. Please help by filling a box!



Cross Catholic Outreach

Shoe Box Collection
October 14 - November 8

Our 2026 Goal is 150 shoe boxes!

Boxes with more information will be near the parking lot entrances of Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick. Filled boxes can be dropped off at the ICSP Church Office. Questions? Contact Kristin Dittman at 715-246-4652, x260 or k.dittman@ic-church.com.

Thank you for your generous love and support!

Images from <https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/>

CATHOLIC FORMATION NEWS

HANDS, FEET, AND OPEN HEARTS IN KANSAS CITY

35 High School Youth & 8 Adults Answer the Call to Serve & Live "Blessed"



A team of 35 high school youth and 8 adults traveled to Kansas City in July to work on home repair projects, deck building, and assist at various non-profit and social agencies in the Kansas City area. We were part of a group of more than 250 campers gathered to share the Good News of Christ through our work.

**"It is more blessed to
give than to receive."**
Acts 20:35

LIVING THE MESSAGE

While focusing on the theme of the week "Blessed", we learned how to live blessed. We are called to see, receive, be, and live in the name of Jesus. Gratitude clears our vision to recognize God at work in the ordinary. We were challenged to reflect on how we can let humility and openness teach us to notice His presence in quiet moments, unexpected people, and the small gifts that shape our days. Being loved by God, we are called to let His love settle our heart and reshape the way we see yourself and the people around us. Mercy, patience, and quiet generosity turn ordinary moments of service into something holy. Then we were challenged to carry our blessings into the world with courage and joy, and we heard how we can let peace, purpose, and steady joy guide the way we live.



A MISSION POWERED BY PRAYER

Our trip was made possible by support of so many family members, friends, parishioners, and others who share our vision to help make the world a better place. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us before and during July's trip for safety, openness to all the lessons of the week, and the will of God to reign in our hearts during and after camp. God has been and continues to be so very good!

*Thank you for being part
of this journey!*



CATHOLIC FORMATION NEWS

PRAYER FOR OUR CONFIRMANDI

Holy Spirit, strengthen our students with your gifts of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.

May the confirmandi be inspired to serve as a disciple of Christ. Grant that they may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Fill them with the joy of your presence, and increase in them the fruit of your Spirit. Help them to experience and trust your dwelling within so they can count on Your guidance today and every day.

Show us the way to help one another become better disciples of Jesus Christ, sharing Your love with our world and with each person we meet.

You are invited to join
in the Confirmation Mass on
October 11 | 9AM | Immaculate Conception

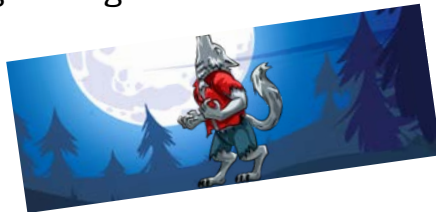
Come, Holy Spirit!



PULSE RETURNS!

GAMES ● FRIENDS ● FUN

Pulse returns again this year with a few of the favorites, including Jeopardy, Werewolf, and the board game night along with a few new activities yet to be announced.



Any middle school-aged child can register and join in the fun. Participants do not need to be members of Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick or SMS students to come enjoy the evening.

INTERESTED? CONTACT:

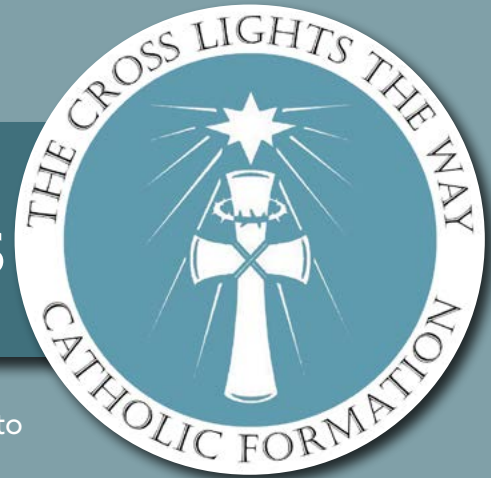
Trevor Swanson

Middle School Formation Coordinator

t.swanson@ic-church.com

CATHOLIC FORMATION NEWS

ADULT FORMATION UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES



Do you feel a hunger in your heart and soul? A longing for deeper purpose? Adult Formation opportunities offer a welcoming space to explore these questions and nourish your spiritual growth.

Join us to:

- Deepen your relationship with Jesus and experience His profound love.
- Grow in your Catholic faith and learn how it applies to your daily life.
- Discern your purpose and how God might be calling you to share Jesus with others.

For more information on these events
Website: icspcatholic.com
Email: adultformation@icspcatholic.com
Phone: 715-246-4652

CATHOLIC ESSENTIALS: FAITH, FAMILY & FORMATION *Facilitated by various presenters*

These classes are meant to fill in the gaps for information that may have been missed, or maybe misunderstood as a youth. Great way to learn the basics of our Catholic faith!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Sacrament of Baptism

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Theology of the Body - Part 2

6:00 - 7:00 pm

St. Mary School - Gr. 5 Classroom (upstairs)

BECOMING FISHERS OF MEN *Facilitated by Maria Helgerson & Alicia Powers*

Want to pray out loud or share your faith journey with confidence? Learn how to recognize everyday moments of grace and share your personal testimony. Discover how simple it is to lead others to Christ!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

6:30 - 8:30 pm

St. Patrick - Blarney Hall

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: Technology vs. Faith *Taught by Professor Trevor Tomesh*

This class uses Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical on Magnifica Humanitas (Humanity in its Grandeur) which looks at safe guarding the human person in this time of Artificial Intelligence.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:45 am - 12:00 pm

St. Patrick

ADVENT VESPERS *Facilitated by Deacon Mel Riel & others*

Join us Monday evenings this Advent for Vespers, a peaceful Catholic evening prayer with psalms and scripture. It's a beautiful way to pause, pray, and center your heart on the promise of Christ's coming during this sacred season.

**MONDAY EVENINGS
NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 21**

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Immaculate Conception

Can't wait to see you there!

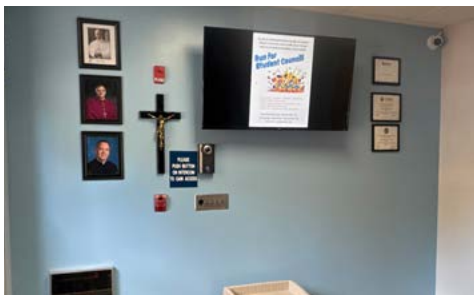
ST. MARY SCHOOL NEWS

EXCITING UPGRADES AROUND SMS

We've been busy making improvements around our school! This year, SMS has completed several upgrades to enhance our learning environment and support our teachers and students.

Some of our updates include:

- Fresh paint throughout the school
- New student Chromebooks
- New teacher laptops
- Fresh woodchips for our outdoor areas
- Improvements to the teachers' lounge
- Second Kindergarten classroom
- Brand new website! Visit us at stmaryschoolnr.com



We are grateful to everyone who helped make these improvements possible through our 2026 Gala Fund-a-Need and Scrip fundraiser. Your generosity continues to make a meaningful difference at St. Mary School!

As we look ahead, we are always seeking ways to provide our students and teachers with the technology and resources they need to succeed. If you would like to support our continued technology upgrades, simply scan the PushPay QR code and, under St. Mary School, enter "Technology" in the memo. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference and helps us provide our students with the tools they need for a strong education.



WELCOMING OUR NEW TEACHERS

Please join us in welcoming our new members of the SMS teaching team!

- Mr. Caleb Burbach – 2nd Grade
- Mrs. Kasey Lecy – Connect On
- Mrs. Carmen Anderson – 6th–8th Grade ELA



We are excited to have them join our SMS family and look forward to all they will bring to our school community!

GROWING OUR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Due to high registration numbers this year, SMS was excited to expand our kindergarten program!

Mrs. Nicole Schauer has moved into our second kindergarten classroom teacher position. To accommodate the additional class, we transformed the second half of our multipurpose room into a new kindergarten classroom.



We are thrilled to welcome our growing number of kindergarten students and grateful for the flexibility of our school community as we continue to grow!

MINISTRIES



IN CHRIST

Women's Group

Where women gather for prayer, scripture and community growing and serving together in Christ.



YOU CAN EXPECT:

- Scripture Discussion
- Meaningful Conversation
- Intentional Prayer
- Service Projects, Socials & Retreats
- Christ-Centered Friendships
- Refreshments
- Relaxed and Welcoming Environment



**September 18, 2026 -
April 30, 2027**

Every Friday

9:30 - 11:00 am

• Childcare Provided



**September 17, 2026 -
April 29, 2027**

Every other Monday or
every other Thursday

7:00 - 8:30 pm

You do not need to be Catholic to attend.

All are welcome!



Immaculate Conception
Corrigan Hall - Rm. 1

TO JOIN OR LEARN MORE:

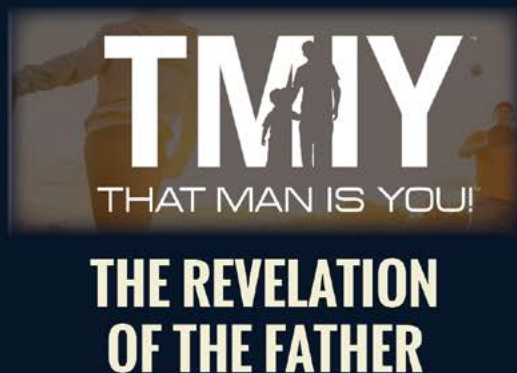
inchristwomensgroup@icspcatholic.com

MINISTRIES

NEW UPCOMING CONTENT



FOR MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL US AT
[reignitemensgroup@
icspcatholic.com](mailto:reignitemensgroup@icspcatholic.com)



Calls men beyond good intentions into legacy - preparing builders to lay foundations for their children, grandchildren, and a culture hungry for truth. It forms not spectators, but architects of a new springtime of Christianity.

SEPTEMBER 23, 2026 -
DECEMBER 23, 2026



SCAN QR
CODE TO
VIEW TRAILER

WHERE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CORRIGAN HALL

WHEN WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
5:30 AM - 7:00 AM
BREAKFAST, VIDEO,
GROUP DISCUSSION

AS IRON SHARPENS IRON, SO ONE MAN SHARPENS ANOTHER

PROVERBS 27:17

respect
life *called
to serve
moms
in need*



Pray the Oct. 22-30 Novena: Join thousands of Catholics praying daily for the protection of human life from conception to natural death. Get daily prayers sent to your email or phone at respectlife.org/respect-life-month-novena (or scan the QR code!).



October Pre-Mass Rosaries: The Rosary prayed before Mass throughout October will be offered for a renewed respect for the dignity of every human life.

Choose Life!
Pregnant? Need Help? → OptionLine.org

Pro-Life Bumper Stickers:
Free pro-life bumper stickers will be available in the church entrances starting in October. Be sure to pick one up!

If anyone has ideas or suggestions about ways the Respect Life Group could help someone in need please feel free to share that with us. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings and join our group if you are interested. We would love to have you join us!

*If you are interested in joining The Respect Life Group
please contact one of our members.*

Jackie Mitchell
Crystal Friske
Carol Lorentz
Kelly Fox

respectlife@icspcatholic.com

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you.
Jeremiah 1:5

MASS & ADORATION TIMES



WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY

5:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM

DAILY MASSES

TUESDAY

5:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

9:45 AM (school year)

8:15 AM (non-school year)

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

8:15 AM

RECONCILIATION

SATURDAY

4:00 PM - 4:45 PM or by appointment



WEEKEND MASS

SUNDAY

11:00 AM

DAILY MASS

FRIDAY

9:30 AM

Immaculate Conception Sunday Mass Live Stream

Immaculate Conception offers a live stream of the 9:00am Sunday Mass every week on both YouTube and Facebook.

This service allows parishioners and others to participate spiritually if they are unable to attend in person.

By sharing the video on YouTube and Facebook with others, you are evangelists, tellers of the Good News of Jesus!



CLICK HERE FOR LIVESTREAM!

ICSP CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

GO BEYOND SUNDAY MASS
IN HIS PRESENCE, *a single moment*
COULD TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE FOREVER!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

1ST FRIDAYS

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

ST. PATRICK CHURCH

3RD THURSDAYS

9:00 AM - 9:00 AM

24 HR. ADORATION

