



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Elementary School

IC What's Happening!!

December 8, 2023

We had our Christmas program last night and the children sounded AMAZING!! Great job to all. A special thank you to Mrs. Miller for all her hard work and dedication to the program and to all our teachers and staff for helping everything run smoothly.

Morning meetings through December will include an Advent prayer service. Reconciliation services for the 3-5th grade students will be December 14th and 15th. Come, Lord Jesus!

Snow and cold have arrived! Please make sure your student has a hat, waterproof winter coat and gloves, snow pants and boots each day!

The Mitten tree is located outside the office and is ready to be decorated with mittens, hats and scarves. These items will be donated to the Sojourner House in time for Christmas. All donations should be in new condition, please.

CRAZY SOCK DAY! On December 12th, we will have a crazy sock day. Kids can wear crazy socks then they bring a donation of a pair(s) of socks for the Sojourner House.

Christmas Break this year will start Friday, December 22 with classes resuming on Wednesday, January 3rd.

Our School will be participating in the **Bloomer Jump Rope Contest** on January 27th. We will be holding a contest in the IC gym on January 12th to see what students (grades 1st-5th) will be competing based on the most jumps in 10 seconds. Mrs. Vallez will be introducing the jump rope unit to the students during PE classes. Students have to use a regulation rope for the contest which is a quarter inch hemp rope. She will be selling hemp jump ropes for \$2.00 during PE classes starting the week of **November 13th**. If your student would like to buy a jump rope to practice with at home they may bring \$2.00 on their scheduled PE day. It is not required to buy a jump rope. Jump ropes will be available to practice with in PE class during the unit.

The 2024-25 enrollment season is quickly approaching!

Current Regis Catholic Schools families will be provided a two-week priority enrollment period in January to re-enroll for the coming school year. Current families will have the opportunity to enroll current students and siblings (new students) during this time.

Once this two-week priority enrollment period has closed, current RCS families are no longer guaranteed enrollment within the system.

Following the priority enrollment period for current families, enrollment for the next school year will open for families new to the Regis Catholic Schools system.

Monday, January 15: Priority Enrollment Opens (Current Families)

Sunday, January 28: Priority Enrollment Ends (Current Families)

SEE NEXT PAGE

The enrollment fee for the 2024-25 school year will be \$150 for all families. (Paid once per family.)

If not enrolled by May 31, our current families will pay a \$200 enrollment fee.

As a reminder, if you choose to enroll outside the two-week priority enrollment period for current families, you also risk losing your child(ren)'s spot.

HEAD COOK NEEDED!! Calling all stay-at-home parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors and friends! Are you or someone you know looking for a part-time job opportunity within our schools?

Our Regis Catholic Schools Food Service program is looking for a kind and dependable person to fill the Head Cook position at St. Mary's Elementary School. This person will work approximately 24-28 hours per week during the school year and will be responsible for preparing and serving quality food to students in a quick and pleasant manner.

If you, or anyone you know is interested, please contact Jen Eager, Human Resources Director, at (715) 830-2273 ext. 1411 or at jeager@RegisCatholicSchools.

Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow

Regis Catholic Schools is dedicated to educating students of all faiths in a Catholic, Christ-centered environment. We are united by Our Core Values of *Living Faith, Accepting Responsibility, Promoting Teamwork, Achieving Excellence, and Inspiring Leadership.*

December 6, 2023

Dear IC Families,

As Christmas approaches, we want to take this time to reflect on the season and how much you, as our families, have meant to the school! We know this is also a time when you, as families, want to share your appreciation for Immaculate Conception Elementary's excellent teachers and staff.

In the past, we have collected donations for our teachers and staff outside of your child's homeroom teacher and left the option up to our room parents to decide if they wanted to do a class gift. This year, to limit the number of times our Room Parents ask for monetary donations, we are leaving homeroom teacher gifts for each family's discretion. All Room Parents should have communicated this to you at the beginning of the school year, and many have sent out homeroom teacher favorite things lists should you feel called to give your child's homeroom teacher a gift. Please know this is entirely voluntary. Homemade gifts of a card or picture made by your child(ren) to show their appreciation is a beautiful option we like to encourage.

Families often ask us how to show appreciation to those teachers and staff outside of our children's homeroom. This group of teachers and staff work with all children in the building, and many go beyond their required duties to help our children, homeroom teachers, and staff daily. This year, we will collect donations to show our gratitude to the teachers and staff outside your child(ren)'s homeroom teacher. If you would like to donate, please send cash (no checks, please) to school with your child in an envelope labeled IC Home and School Christmas by **Monday, December 18th**. Fifteen additional people help to make IC the wonderful place it is; these include our assistant and special teachers, custodial and maintenance staff, and other building support staff. We are so grateful that we have lovely and generous families.

Please know donations are entirely voluntary. There is *never* an expectation of giving or an expected minimum amount. No one is excluded from gift giving, and all donations are confidential.

We pray that you and your families have a wonderful and blessed Christmas, and thank you for the continued kindness and appreciation you show throughout the year.

We thank you for helping us wish IC staff a Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas,

Courtenay Bydash
Co-Chair

Kate Bobholz
Co-Chair

Ronda Ryder
Treasurer

Crystal Weiland
Secretary

Immaculate Conception Elementary Home and School Board

Partners in FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

December 2023

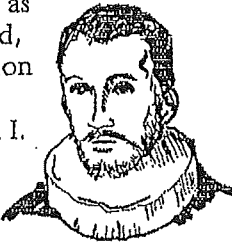
Regis Catholic Schools



Thoughtful Moments

St. Edmund Campion

St. Edmund Campion had a coveted position as lecturer at Oxford, and the admiration of his peers and Queen Elizabeth I. He renounced everything to become a Jesuit missionary. He traveled England secretly to administer the Sacraments to persecuted Catholics. He was betrayed by an informer pretending to be Catholic, and was taken to the Tower of London. He was martyred for refusing to deny his faith.



Our Lady of Guadalupe

At a time of great upheaval in Mexico (1531), Jesus' Mother appeared to St. Juan Diego with messages of hope, and conversions began occurring at an astounding rate. By 1539, almost nine million had converted. Mary is Jesus' first and best disciple to bring the message of hope and salvation.

"Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ"
(2 Corinthians 4:6).



Add peace to Advent this year

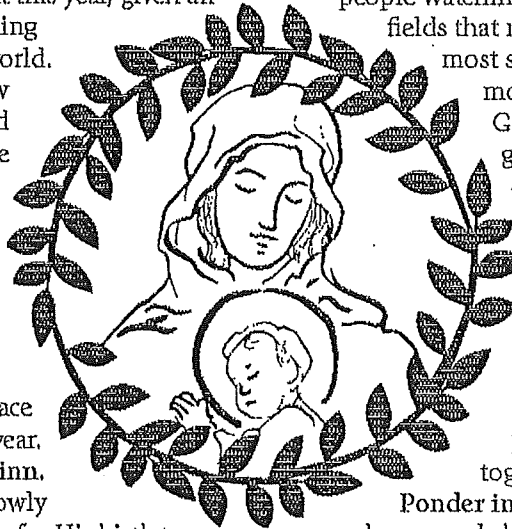
There is no denying that it may be more challenging to find peace and joy during Advent this year, given all that's happening around the world. Still, we know that the world isn't where we find our joy. Instead, try modeling your family celebration after the first Christmas to find more peace and joy this year.

Sweep the inn. Jesus chose lowly circumstances for His birth to encourage detachment from worldly goods. Together, choose clothing, gifts, and toys in good condition that you don't truly need and donate them to people who do. Then limit the number and value of gifts you give. This will free up attention and affection for

what really matters.

Select shepherds. Although the people watching the sheep in the fields that night weren't the most successful nor the most popular in town, God chose them to greet His newborn Son. Children benefit from healthy, loving company. Accept and extend only those holiday invitations that will provide precious, loving time together.

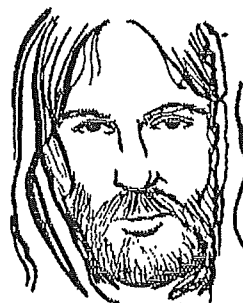
Ponder in your heart. When her remarkable Son was born, *"Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart"* (Luke 2:19) so she could savor the joy of each moment. Don't forget to savor time with your own remarkable family so that you can ponder every wonderful moment in your own heart.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

"... And his name shall be called Emmanu-el' (which means, God with us)" (Matthew 1:23). Jesus is God and He came, not just to save us, but also to be with us. In fact, He promised, *"I am with you always"* (Matthew 28:20).

Why do Catholics call Jesus "Emmanuel"?



Jesus is invisibly but powerfully present with us now in the Church, the Scriptures, the souls of the faithful, the priest celebrating the Sacraments, prayer, and, most especially, in the Eucharist. God is truly with us.

Make Christmas last ...

Christmas ends for some people when the stores are empty and the presents are unwrapped. For Catholics, the Christmas Season starts Christmas Day and ends January 8, The Baptism of the Lord. Let your Christmas joy last through the entire Season.

Stay decorated. Rejoice in the great mystery of the Incarnation. Displaying your manger scene until the end of the Season reminds your family of the deeper meaning of Christmas. Keep your Christmas lights up as a reminder that Jesus brought light to the darkness.



Host an Epiphany party. The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi and their gifts to the Christ Child. Host a party featuring candlelight, wonderful food, Christmas carols and hymns, and people who are a blessing to your family.

Make a visit. On that first Christmas, Jesus came to us and remains in the Eucharist. If you have days off from work and school, consider attending daily Mass or Adoration. Keeping company with the Christ Child is the gift that He desires from us.

Scripture LESSON

Luke 2:22-40, God fulfills His promises

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who did what their faith required to celebrate and thank God for the birth of their son. They couldn't afford the customary offering of a lamb, instead presenting two doves or pigeons. To the uninformed observer, Jesus' birth was unremarkable and His family quite ordinary.

Yet, Simeon immediately recognized Jesus as the Messiah. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he prophesied that Jesus would be *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel"* (Luke 2:32).



Simeon was not alone in recognizing the Lord's presence in the temple. Anna was also filled with the Holy Spirit and gave thanks to God. Her faith in God's promises gave her hope. The hope God places in our hearts gives us a desire for the kingdom of heaven.

What can a parent do?
Teach children to look for Jesus in the world and to pray to Him often. Tell them the Holy Spirit will reveal the presence of the Lord to those who want to know Him, receive Him, and to be with Him forever.

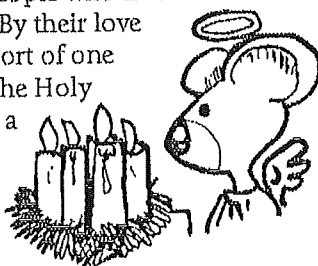
Feasts & Celebrations

December 3 - First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth and His second coming on the last day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of the light of Christ.

December 9 - St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak (tilma) retained the miraculous image of the Blessed Mother.

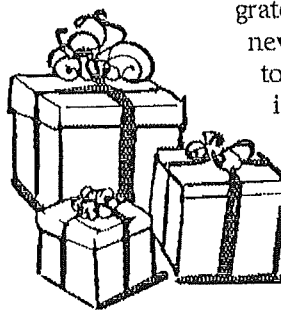
December 17 - St. Olympias (408). Born to a wealthy family in Constantinople, this holy widow devoted her large fortune to caring for the poor and supporting her friend, St. John Chrysostom, in his work.

December 31 - The Holy Family (1st century). We celebrate the family life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - three people who lived for God. By their love and support of one another the Holy Family is a model for all Christian families.



Parent TALK

I lost my job during the pandemic and fortunately got another one, but at a much lower pay rate. I am grateful that my new job allows us to pay the important bills and even save some, but it doesn't allow for extras. As Christmas

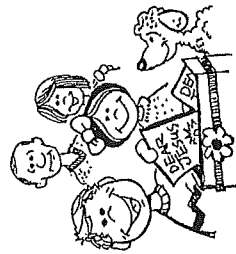


approached last year, we explained to the children that there were going to be fewer gifts under the tree and why, and asked them to pare down their Christmas lists.





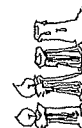












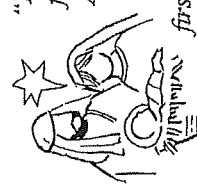
The girls spent a lot of time going over their requests, but they didn't seem to be upset. One night at dinner, they handed their lists to me and each one had just three gift requests. Chris explained that if three gifts were good enough for Jesus, three gifts were good enough for us. What they really wanted was family time. We agreed. And Christmas turned out to be a joyful, blessed celebration of Love.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children
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<http://www.partnersinfaith.com>
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)



2023 Family Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 December</p> <p>Buy or make an Advent wreath and bless it. Light the violet candle every night this week.</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>Assign "Advent Angels." Draw names at random and encourage good works in secret.</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>Set out the empty Nativity scene. Add characters gradually throughout Advent. Save Baby Jesus for last.</p>	<p>6 St. Nicholas of Myra</p> <p>Encourage everyone to perform an act of kindness in honor of today's generous saint.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Buy gifts for children in need. Consult your parish office for suggestions.</p> 	<p>8 The Immaculate Conception of Mary</p> <p>On this Holy Day of Obligation, attend Mass together. Pray for the United States of America.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Decorate a Jesse tree and discuss its meaning. Learn more at www.usccb.org.</p> 
<p>10</p> <p>Light two violet candles nightly this week. Sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>Call or email your parish office and ask how your family can help with upcoming preparations for Christmas.</p>	<p>12 Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p>Put a vase of flowers before a statue of Mary and sing "Hail, Holy Queen" to celebrate.</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>At dinner, ask each person to share one way God blessed him or her that day.</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Before bedtime, perform an examination of conscience using the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11).</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Contact Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS or www.catholicrelief.org). Ask how you can help.</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>Seek God's mercy in Confession as a family to greet the Savior with clean souls.</p> 
<p>17 <i>Gaudete Sunday</i></p> <p>Light two violet candles and one rose one for joy. Have a small treat to celebrate.</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>Place a candle in the window to welcome Baby Jesus. Light it nightly until Christmas.</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Encourage everyone to practice patience today.</p> 	<p>20</p> <p>Tonight, offer extra prayers for the troops who will spend Christmas overseas and for their families.</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>Share favorite Christmas family memories over hot chocolate and cookies.</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>Ask everyone to make a small sacrifice, just for God, just for today.</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>The King is coming! Tidy up the house and prepare to welcome Him.</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>Reveal Advent angels! Read about the good news the angel shared in Luke 1:26-38.</p> 	<p>25 <i>Rejoice!</i></p> <p>After Mass today, place Baby Jesus in the manger and sing, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing!"</p> 	<p><i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:1-7).</i></p>				

**DONATE BLOOD.
GET A T-SHIRT.
SAVE LIVES.**

EAU CLAIRE COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**HELD AT
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
1712 HIGHLAND AVE, EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
1:30PM TO 5:30PM**

**Sponsored by Knights of Columbus
Contact Bob Link with questions 715-614-1551 and
Immaculate Conception Church
Contact Karen Dolan with questions 715-579-5601**

**Appointments are appreciated, but walk-ins are always welcome.
Signup with the QR code.**

All that donate will get a FREE t-shirt and lunch will be provided!

