



Est. 2001 Principal's Message - March 2018 - #3 Visit Us on the Web At: www.icsannandale.org

From Mr. Stone's Desk

Greetings Immaculate Conception School Community,

For many, the first thought that Lent brings to mind is giving something up. Perhaps you can identify with this story and message, first told to me by my previous pastor, Fr. Patrick McDermott (Sacred Heart, WA, 2014).

A father had urged his children to move beyond giving up candy to giving up some habit of sin that marked their lives. About halfway through Lent he asked the children how they were doing with their Lenten promise. One of his young sons had promised to give up fighting with his brothers and sisters during Lent. When his father asked him how it was going, the boy replied, "I'm doing pretty good, Dad – but boy, I can't wait until Easter!"

The boy had only partly understood the purpose of Lenten "giving up." Lent is about conversion, turning our lives more completely over to Christ and his way of life. That always involves giving up sin in some form. The goal is not to abstain from sin for the duration of Lent but to root sin out of our lives forever. Conversion means leaving behind an old way of living and acting in order to embrace new life in Christ. The three traditional pillars of Lenten observance are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The key to these Lenten practices is to see their link to living our baptismal commitment.

Prayer: Time given to prayer during Lent should draw us closer to the Lord. We might pray especially for the grace to live out our baptismal promises more fully. We might pray for the elect who will be baptized at Easter and support their conversion journey by our prayer. We might pray for all those who will celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation with us during Lent, that they will be truly renewed in their baptismal commitment.

Fasting: Fasting is one of the most ancient practices linked to Lent. The early Church fasted intensely for two days before the celebration of the Easter Vigil. This fast was later extended and became a 40-day period of fasting leading up to Easter. Fasting is more than a means of developing self-control. It is often an aid to prayer, as the pangs of hunger remind us of our hunger for God. Isaiah 58:6-7 tells us how the prophet Isaiah insists that fasting without changing our behavior is not pleasing to God. "This, rather, is the fasting that I wish: releasing those bound unjustly, untying the thongs of the yoke; setting free the oppressed, breaking every yoke; sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them and not turning your back on your own." Fasting forms a link with those who are forced to fast by their poverty, those who suffer from the injustices of economic and political structures, those who are in need for any reason. Thus fasting, too, is linked to living out our baptismal promises. By our Baptism, we are charged with the responsibility of showing God's love to the world, especially those in need. Fasting can help us realize the suffering that so many people in our world experience every day, and it should lead us to greater efforts to alleviate that suffering. Fasting can become a spiritual link to those whose diets are sparse and simple.

Almsgiving: Our almsgiving also forms a link to our baptismal commitment. It is a sign of our care for those in need and an expression of our gratitude for all that God has given to us. Works of charity, donations, and the promotion of justice are integral elements of the Christian way of life we began when we were baptized.

We just celebrated the fifth Sunday of Lent this past weekend. Let us pause to reflect on our own Lenten journey. Let us support one another by our prayers, sacrifices, and generosity. Serviam, -David

REMINDER

03/21 – \$1 Dress Down Day – Proceeds will go to supporting our Destination Imagination Team as they participate in the state tournament this Saturday, March 24th.

03/22-24 – Parish Children's Consignment Sale Event

03/23 – GALA T-Shirt Dress Day (2018 Gala Shirts)

03/25 – Palm Sunday

03/28 – Living Stations by ICS 8th Grade Students
1:15p.m.-2:15p.m. – All Are Welcome

03/29 – Holy Thursday – No School

03/30 – Good Friday – No School

03/31 – Holy Saturday

04/01 – Easter Sunday

04/02-06 – Easter Break – No School

CRS Rice Bowl brings Lent to life.

CRS Rice Bowl is a Lenten faith formation program that helps us to live in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable around the world.

We **pray** to reflect on what type of person we are called to be. We **fast** to remove the things that get between us and God, and to remember those without enough to eat. We **give** to honor Jesus' call to serve those in need. <http://www.crsricebowl.org> Additional/Extra Rice Bowls are available via the school office.



ICS School Counselor – Update

Recently hired Mrs. Mary Ann Di Marco resigned "due to personal reasons." Fortunately we have reached out to former ICS Counselor Dee Wright and she has graciously agreed to help us out through the end of this school year. Mrs. Wright will be here Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting after Easter Break and going through the first week of June. With her previous long-term ICS experience – she has even continued her Faith Family involvement to this day – we are very thankful to have Mrs. Wright agree to serve. Thank you Dee! □

PROMISE TO PROTECT

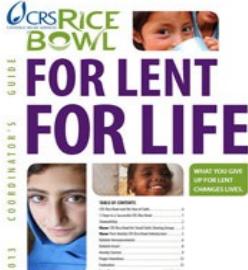


Attention: Virtus/Safe Environment Training

Spring is coming and you may want to accompany children on ICC/ICS activities. All adults involved with youth on our property or thru our organizations are required to take the 3-hour course - Protecting God's Children. Please pre-register for the Tuesday, April 24 class at virtus.org thru the Diocese of Metuchen. Classes will be in the Parish Hall in the church basement from 7p.m. thru 10p.m. This course is a required pre-requisite to volunteer with children.

Prayer for Immaculate Conception School:

Dear Lord, bless our Catholic school. Help us to continue to be a humble source of wisdom, always yearning to learn more about your tremendous love for us. May all who enter Immaculate Conception School be filled with the gift of your Holy Spirit, coming to know you in a more meaningful way. Guide us as a community that respects and welcomes everyone. May Catholic education continue to grow so that your good news can be taught to children throughout the world. In your son Jesus's name we pray, Amen.



2018-19
REGISTRATION
IS NOW OPEN
2-Year-Old Preschool - 8TH Grade
Register online at:
<http://www.icsannandale.org/2018-19-registration>

ICS GALA 'Tease Item' of the Week:

Flash back to the **EIGHTIES**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION GALA

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018 6:30PM



A Taste of Pinoy (Filipino) Fusion and a Flare of Vietnamese with Fr. Edgar and Sr. Anna

Let's get cooking!

Item #201

Join Fr. Edgar as he shares his home culture with you, your child and three friends. Shanghai Lumpia (Spring Rolls), Chicken Curry, and Pancit (Filipino Fried Noodles) are on the menu. Plus, Sr. Anna will add a splash of Vietnamese cuisine! Nothing brings people together like cooking in the kitchen!

Place your bid now at: www.501auctions.com/icsannandale

Saint of the Week: St. Joseph

Everything we know about the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus comes from Scripture and that has seemed too little for those who made up legends about him. Despite his humble work and means, Joseph came from a royal lineage. The angel who first tells Joseph about Jesus greets him as "son of David" a royal title used also for Jesus. We know that Joseph was a compassionate, caring man. When he discovered Mary was pregnant after they had been betrothed, he knew the child was not his but was as yet unaware that she was carrying the Son of God. He knew women accused of adultery could be stoned to death, so he resolved to send her away quietly to not expose her shame or cruelty. However, when an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins," he did as the angel told him and took Mary as his wife. (Matthew 1:19-25). We know that Joseph loved Jesus. His one concern was for the safety of the child entrusted to him. Not only did he leave his home to protect Jesus, but upon his return settled in the obscure town of Nazareth out of fear for his life. Joseph is the patron saint of the dying because, assuming he died before Jesus' public life, he died with Jesus and Mary close to him the way we all would like to leave this earth. (IC Parish Bulletin, March 17-18, 2018)

"Forgo The Status Quo"

"These works that I perform testify on my behalf." —John 5:36

Having the courage to be different is essential for survival. Each of us *is* different – this is our special gift to the world. How boring would it be if we all expressed ourselves in similar, predictable ways?

Some of us charge boldly through life, taking risks; others choose to play it safe. Some people are eager for interactions, while others are content to be loners. Some are spontaneous, while others plan everything methodically. Some are perfectionists; others are less exacting. The world is big enough for all our differences. We just need to be careful not to force our values upon those with different behaviors.

As long as we remain open to differences, we'll constantly be enriched. There are as many approaches to life as there are people in the world. The more of these we can understand and accept, the more complete our lives become."

Fr. Joseph Sica – Lent – *Wisdom in the Waiting*

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Upstairs/Big Kids

'Penny Wars'

Versus

Downstairs/ECE Bldg Younger Kids

The most recent tally, as of Monday, March 19th:

Upstairs: \$168.82 Downstairs/ECE Bldg: \$292.40

Yes, the Upstairs Big Kids are starting to make a comeback, though the downstairs youngsters still lead. The final turn-in and tally will take place on Wednesday, March 28th. The team with the highest total will win a free dress down day.

Note: All proceeds will be given to Catholic Relief Services via the CRS Rice Bowls program.

Thank you students/families for choosing to help those in need, supporting CRS Rice Bowls!

**COME FOLLOW
THE YELLOW
BRICK ROAD
TO THE
WIZARD OF OZ
AUDITIONS**



**Friday March 23rd
Grades 6-8 (2018-19)
After School**

**Monday March 26th
Callbacks &
Grades 1-5 (2018-19)
After School
For Details Visit:
<http://www.icsannandale.org/wizard-of-oz>**



Calling all ICS Families

Don't miss the biggest game of the 2018 season

Buy your tickets NOW!!!

Who: ICS Faculty and Staff versus ICS Students

What: VOLLEYBALL

When: Friday, April 13th at 7:30 p.m.

Where: ICS Multipurpose Room

Why: For fun and to raise money. The money raised from this event will be donated to the charity chosen by the winning team.

All students attending this event must be accompanied by an adult.

If you have any questions please contact Melinda Ulrich at njulrichs@aol.com or 735-4422.

Please return the bottom of this sheet with your payment (checks are payable to ICS) to the main office to the attention of Melinda Ulrich. No physical tickets will be distributed. Your name will be on a list at the door.

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I am interested in attending the ICS faculty/staff versus 8th grade students volleyball game.

Name: _____ Homeroom _____ Phone# _____

E-Mail Address _____

Number of tickets: _____ \times \$3 per ticket = Total amount included: \$ _____

Mr. Stone: "If we're going to win? Of course the staff is going to win!"

Mr. Stone's hand keeping the 8th graders from being able to put the ball over the net. → → →



GREAT JOB CYO/CYM BASKETBALL AND CHEERLEADER TEAMS!



Immaculate Conception's basketball teams finished up a very successful season over the weekend. We had a total of 13 teams with 84 of our 3rd-8th grade boys and girls participating, along with many children from our Parish. Twelve of the teams made it to the playoffs. Congratulations to all of our students for their successes on the court and most of all for the sportsmanship they showed as representatives of Immaculate Conception Church!

The following teams finished as qualifiers for the "B" Bracket Tournament in their respective divisions:

4th Girls – Coach Podchaski
4th Boys – Coach Kuster
5th Boys – Coach Readie
6th Girls – Coach Benson

The following teams received awards in their Division Tournaments:

7th Boys – Coach Ayotte – "B" Bracket 2nd Place
8th Girls – Coach Ulrich – "B" Bracket 2nd Place
5th Girls – Coach White – "B" Bracket 1st Place
6th Boys – Coach Dunn – "B" Bracket 1st Place
8th Boys – Coach Walsh – "B" Bracket 1st Place and shared Regular Season Division Title
7th Girls – Coach Rubito – "A" Bracket 4th Place
5th Boys – Coach Strauss – "A" Bracket 3rd Place
8th Boys – Coach Garvey-Blackwell – "A" Bracket 2nd Place

The Immaculate Conception Varsity Cheerleaders are a group of highly skilled and talented athletes who have a stellar reputation in the Diocese. We are very proud of their dedication and success this season.

1st Place – St. John Vianney Competition
1st Place – Our Lady of Victories Competition
3rd Place – St. Francis Competition

Special thanks and recognition as well to our own Mrs. Kim McCarron (Basketball) and Mrs. Teri Craig (Cheerleading) who put in countless hours helping to facilitate, organize, coach (in Mrs. Craig's case), liaise with the diocese and parish, etc. The combined volunteer efforts of our coaches, Mrs. McCarron, and Mrs. Craig all contributed mightily to providing students with the opportunity to engage in activities which allowed them to develop physically, further acquire skills, learn the value of team and teamwork, etc. while doing such via a faith-based organization and environment. THANK YOU!

Bonjour Mademoiselles!

You're cordially invited to

Our Annual
Father Daughter Dance

"A Night In Paris"

Ooh La - La!

Friday, April 20th, 2018

6:00 - 9:00 pm

\$25 per couple

\$5 per extra Mademoiselle

Candy Table

Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts

Dr. D Entertainment

***All Tickets must be purchased by April 13th. Merci!**

**Please direct questions to jodilukas@yahoo.com
or dclark74@comcast.net**



"A Night In Paris"

Our Annual Father Daughter Dance Registration Form

(All forms and money due by April 13th to Main Office. Checks payable to ICS)

Family Name: _____

Email: _____

\$25 per Couple: _____

\$5 per extra Mademoiselle: _____

Pre-order Wristlet Corsage & Boutonniere

Rose colors to include: Light pink, dark pink, lavender and white

Corsage \$18: _____ Color: _____

Boutonniere \$10: _____ Color: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____



A bien tout!

(See you soon!)