



Est. 2001 Principal's Message - January 2018 - #3

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From Mr. Stone's Desk

Greetings Immaculate Conception School Community,

According to my National Catholic Educational Association Catholic School Calendar, this Thursday, January 18th marks the beginning of the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. Hmm, what is this? I am a baptized cradle Catholic, years of CCD classes, high school youth group, Confirmation, certified catechist, etc. However, obviously I must not have been very attentive at times because honestly I didn't know much about this yearly event. Who came up with it and what does it entail? Thus, I did a little online research and the following excerpts should provide all of us (or those of us in need of such, like myself), with a newly formed or developing general understanding of the 'Week of Prayer for Christian Unity'. Serviam, -David

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The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually between January 18-25. It is actually an octave, that is, an observance lasting eight days.

The Week of Prayer began in 1908 as the Octave of Christian Unity, and focused on prayer for church unity. The dates of the week were proposed by Father Paul Wattson, co-founder of the Graymoor Franciscan Friars. He conceived of the week beginning on the Feast of the Confession of Peter, the Protestant variant of the ancient Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, on 18 January, and concluding with the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul on 25 January.

Pope Pius X officially blessed the concept, and Pope Benedict XV "encouraged its observance throughout the entire Roman Catholic Church."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Week_of_Prayer_for_Christian_Unity

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Today, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity invites the whole Christian community throughout the world to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus "that they all may be one." (John 17:21)

http://www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/index.html

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

At least once a year, many Christians become aware of the great diversity of ways of adoring God. Hearts are touched, and people realize that their neighbours' ways are not so strange.

The event that touches off this special experience is something called the *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*. Traditionally celebrated between 18-25 January (in the northern hemisphere) or at Pentecost (in the southern hemisphere), the Week of Prayer enters into congregations and parishes all over the world. Pulpits are exchanged, and special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services are arranged.

Ecumenical partners in a particular region are asked to prepare a basic text on a biblical theme. Then an international group with WCC-sponsored (Orthodox and Protestant) and Roman Catholic participants edits this text and ensures that it is linked with the search for the unity of the church.

The text is jointly published by the *Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity* and WCC, through the WCC's *Commission on Faith and Order*, which also accompanies the entire production process of the text. The final material is sent to member churches and Roman Catholic dioceses, and they are invited to translate the text, contextualizing it for their own use.

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/programmes/unity-mission-evangelism-and-spirituality/spirituality-and-worship/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity.html>

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2018 Theme – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power," (Exodus 15:6) The theme and resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the churches of the Caribbean, by an ecumenical team of women and men under the leadership of His Grace Kenneth Richards, Catholic Archbishop of Kingston, the Antilles Episcopal Conference, together with Mr. Gerard Granado, General Secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC).

Throughout the Biblical narrative of salvation, an

unmistakable motif is the unrelenting determination of the Lord to form a people whom He could call His own. The formation of such a people, united in a sacred covenant with God, is integral to the Lord's plan of salvation and to the glorification of His name. The prophets repeatedly remind Israel that their covenant demanded that relationships among its various social groups should be characterized by justice, compassion and mercy. Reconciliation often demands repentance, reparation and healing of memories.

As Jesus prepared to seal the new covenant in His own blood, His earnest prayer to the Father was that those given to Him by the Father would be one, just as He and the Father were one. When Christians discover their unity in Jesus, they participate in Christ's glorification in the presence of the Father, with the same glory that He had lived in the Father's presence before the world existed. Therefore, God's covenanted people must always strive to be a reconciled community that serves as an effective sign of how to live in justice and peace for all the people of the earth.

http://www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/theme_announcement_2018.html

REMINDER

01/18-01/25 – Week of Christian Unity

01/19 – March for Life

01/26 – End of 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester

ICS Employment Opening: K-8 Tech Teacher

ICS will be interviewing two candidates this week. At the moment, this position remains open.

Immaculate Conception School seeks a 30-hours/week K-8 Technology Teacher for the remainder of this 2017-2018 school year. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and application forms: <http://diometuchen.org/schools/school-employment/>

Mrs. Kim Kimball is coordinating volunteers to represent ICS at all masses January 27-28. Opportunities for student participation includes Ushers, Gift Bearers, Readers, and Pulpit Talk. Parents are needed to help direct the children in their roles. Students will receive a dress down day for their mass participation. Please email Kim Kimball at Kimberlykimball11@gmail.com if you and/or your children are available to participate.

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.

2018-2019 Tuition and Registration Rates

In last week's newsletter ICS communicated our new incentivizing 10% recruitment discount program... 10% off for each new, full-time (K-8) referred to ICS, both for the recruiting family and for the new family, for the first year of the new family's enrollment, so long as the new family remains enrolled.

This week, I can tell you that Monsignor Benwell is putting together a letter for our community which will update us all with respect to 2018-2019 tuition and registration matters. Stay tuned!

Volunteerism: Integral to our ICS Community

Check out '**Sign-Up Genius**' on our website for available volunteer opportunities, including this:

Morning Care Duty - 7:15a.m.-7:50a.m. 'ish – Gym Monday-Friday mornings are needed. Choose a day, or choose multiple days a week! Help appreciated.

Catholic Schools Week – Jan. 28th-Feb. 03rd

While the faculty and administration are still fine-tuning some matters, the 'most likely' activities for Catholic Schools Week are as follows:

Jan. 27th-28th – All Masses – ICS Involvement

Sunday-28th – Open House – 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

Monday-29th – 8th Graders – Teacher and Administrator for the Day (Class Period)

Tuesday-30th – Fan Frenzy 'Souper Bowl' – Sports Apparel Dress for \$1 and Can of Soup

Wednesday-31st – Open House 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m. Silly Hat Day, and Buddy Class Activity (TBD)

Thurs.-01st – Mass, Faith Families, 'Stop and Stream'
Friday-02nd – Comfy/Cozy Dress, Movie, Concessions