

"I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God,  
who is sending a love letter to the world."

*- St. Teresa of Calcutta*

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Hello everyone! I hope your week has gone well. Sorry about the long update!

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Larry Mullins, longtime parishioner of Immaculate Conception and brother of parishioner Sue Mullins. Larry was baptized at IC and was a parishioner here his whole life. He was 79.

### **IC phones out**

The IC office phones were hit by lightning so they are not working. We have a temporary phone in place with the same office phone number which you can call during business hours, but you cannot leave voicemail. We are working on getting a new phone system installed. Thank you for your patience. You can still communicate with us through email.

### **Restroom unavailable after Sunday Mass at IC**

Because the diocesan protocol states that collection counters should be in a secure room when they count, they will have to lock those doors as they begin to count after Mass. Therefore, access to the restroom will be unavailable after Sunday Mass unless for emergencies. In that case, knock on the door and ask if you can come in to use the restroom. The exterior door by the restroom will also be locked. Cleaning supplies are now in the back of the church by the Pieta.

### **Clothing Giveaway at IC**

St. Vincent DePaul will be sponsoring a FREE Clothing Giveaway on Monday and Tuesday, September 21 & 22 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the St. Anthony Center Parking Lot. Infants thru adult size clothes and bedding items.

### **Ada Food Pantry Food Drive – Saturday, Sep 19th**

The food pantry was hit hard by the pandemic so the Religious Life Organizations of ONU are putting together a food drive for September 19th. See the attachment for details.

### **Introducing Vespers at OLL on Sundays at 6pm**

In the past few months, a handful of people have been meeting in the church on Sunday evenings to pray Vespers. Vespers is the Latin term for Evening Prayer. In the history of the Church, monks have prayed together at certain hours of the day. The most famous of these monastic communities are the Benedictines. Founded by St. Benedict in the 6th century, the Benedictines are known for their motto "Ora et Labora" meaning Pray and Work. The monks go out into the fields or to their assigned duties to work but come together to pray as a community at various times throughout the day. Priests and deacons follow this concept, and to this day, we stop our work periodically throughout the day to pray, having to do so 5 times a day. You might see us carrying what looks like a Bible but it may in fact be our Breviary. The prayers for us are called the Liturgy of the Hours because it sanctifies our hours of the day. It is really the prayer of the Church and belongs to the Church as a whole so everybody is welcome to pray it. That means all throughout the world, the whole Church is constantly at prayer, doing what St. Paul exhorts us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always. **Pray without ceasing.** In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." In the tradition of the Church, Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer are the hinge prayers of the day and are considered the chief hours. The Church, especially at the Second Vatican Council, earnestly desires that Vespers be celebrated in common in church on Sundays and more solemn feasts. Yes, the laity are encouraged to pray it as well. It is not just reserved for priests and monks! So, all are invited to come and pray Vespers with us. The prayers consist of psalms and Scriptures and takes about 15 minutes. The singing still needs some work but we're working on it! A good app to use on your Smart device is <http://www.ibreviary.org/en/> It will take getting used to but, in the church, we will have printouts available for the time-being.

### **Day of Prayer and Penance Thursday, September 24th**

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has called for a day of prayer and penance on Thursday, September 24th, the feast of Our Lady of Mercy. Inspired by the need for societal healing and personal conversion of hearts, this idea springs in part from the fact that President Lincoln on three occasions called the entire nation to fast and pray for God's mercy on our land. It seems to be a propitious opportunity to call all people of good will to "ask God for what only God can do." I ask you to join me, Fr. Ed, in a day of fasting or penance and prayer for societal healing and personal conversion of hearts. This initiative is spearheaded by Fr. John Riccardo and the ACTS XXIX apostolate in the Archdiocese of Detroit. See more here: <https://www.actsxxix.org/national-day-prayer-fasting>

### **Holy Land and Disaster Relief collection**

In addition to contributions for the Holy Land, the Diocese and the USCCB has asked that we contribute for disaster relief for those affected by the recent flooding and damage from hurricanes and for the terrible effects of the fires out west. Please be sure to indicate the purpose of your gift: "Holy Land" or "Disaster Relief." If you can, please contribute anytime from now until the second weekend of October.

## **Repeat:**

### **BAA**

We are just shy of our BAA goal for both parishes, by about \$2,000 each! It is good news that we are getting close! However, my earnest desire is that we have greater participation among all parishioners because when we give, we put our love for neighbor into action. Our contributions to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is a way to show that we are connected and concerned with our brothers and sisters in the entire Diocese of Columbus, from our corner all the way down to Portsmouth on the Ohio River. Yep, we're that big! And remember that all contributions over the goal comes straight back to our parish! Based on the goal set for us by the Diocese, if all contributions were evenly spread out, it would amount to about \$100 per family. It is a once a year gift and can be spread out over the year, but we at least need your pledge. If you haven't yet, please pledge or give the amount online at <https://columbuscatholicgiving.org/>

### **Speaking of giving...**

I know that it is hard to give to multiple places at once and some of you have to balance giving or even have to choose one or the other. I suppose if I have to ask you to give to one or the other, I would prefer that you give to the parish. We are behind in our offertory for both parishes which makes it hard to pay our bills! It looks like it has been this way for at least a couple of years so perhaps everybody who can give is already giving to the church. However, if you have not been giving, please make an effort to give. "Providing for the needs of the church" is one of the 5 Precepts of the Church that should be observed by one who considers him or herself a practicing Catholic. I don't want to alarm anybody as we are not in dire straits (not the rock band!), but it is not good to drawn down on our savings account that has been built up from the past. Please give regularly however you can – envelopes in the basket or mailed in, dropped off, online at <https://www.columbuscatholic.org/extreme-charity> (which is temporary through the end of this calendar year, so we are working on finding a better online solution).

### **Send us your pics!**

In a spirit of inspiring and encouraging the practice of the faith at home with the family, and as a fun thing to do, please send us pictures of the holy things or places in your homes to be shared on each parish's Facebook account. It can be anonymous, but let's show each other what you do in the home as a practice of your faith. For example, pictures of you and your family in your prayer room, or with your shrines to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, or some special crucifix, or pictures of saints, and so on. If you send us a pic, let us know how you want to caption it, such as "The Jones family in their prayer room" or "The Robinsons - Mary, Joe, and dog Cujo, praying the rosary together." Please send your pic via email to Deb

at [oll@wcoil.com](mailto:oll@wcoil.com) or to Patty Warner who does IC's Facebook page at [warner\\_patricia@yahoo.com](mailto:warner_patricia@yahoo.com)

### **Sacred Heart of Jesus enthronement**

This might be confusing if you've never heard of an enthronement but this is where you make a formal act of declaring Jesus as the king of your home. I did this at the rectory before I came here and the graces received are beyond measure! It's not a magic bullet or superstition, but the act of making this declaration brings blessings into the home just as Jesus said he would do in a vision to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1670: "I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored." Normally, parish representatives come to your home but during the time of Covid, the prayers are made available for families to do on their own through the following website: <https://welcomehisheart.com/>

I encourage you to enthrone your home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I would like to enthrone each parish to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the feast of the Sacred Heart next June with the goal of encouraging more to do it in the home.

### **RCIA**

Every year in late winter, all of those in the entire Diocese of Columbus who are in the process of becoming Catholic go through the Rite of Election, where they gather together in one church to sign their life away...I mean...to sign their names in the Book of the Elect indicating their intent to continue on to become Catholics at Easter. During Bishop Campbell's tenure, he would ask those members to stand if they decided to become Catholic because of something they read or saw on tv or the media. A few would stand. He would then ask members to stand if they decided to become Catholic because of someone they knew. Nearly all members stood. The vast majority of those becoming Catholic do so because of a personal invitation or because they saw someone living out their Catholic faith in a way that drew them in.

If you know of anyone who might actually be interested in becoming Catholic, please invite them to become Catholic and let them know about our RCIA which is the normal process to become Catholic. RCIA begins in October and they may email Deb at [oll@wcoil.com](mailto:oll@wcoil.com) or Kathy at [iccatholic@windstream.net](mailto:iccatholic@windstream.net) for more info.

### **Live-stream schedule this weekend**

The live-stream of the Mass will take place this weekend, Sep 20th at OLL at 11am.

Attached is this weekend's worship aid for Mass, the bulletins, and the food pantry info. Our Lady of Mercy, pray for us!  
God bless!  
Fr. Ed