

FAMILY TIES

Immaculate Conception ~ St. Joseph Parish



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LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 8

A Catholic Saint from 20th Century Kansas?

by Tom Graham



Consider a pilgrimage to visit Father Kapaun's remains at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Kansas.

Kansas is close to another first. We may soon have our very own, recognized by the Church, 20th century saint. Father Emil Kapaun is now a Servant of God, the first step in becoming an "official" saint.

Father Emil Kapaun was from Pilsen, Kansas. He was born in 1916 on the family farm. He discerned a calling to the priesthood, was educated at the Benedictines' Conception Seminary and studied at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. Father Kapaun was ordained a priest in 1940 at Sacred Heart College (now Newman University) in Wichita.

As the U.S. was about to enter World War II, Father Kapaun volunteered to be a Catholic chaplain. He went overseas in 1945 and served in Burma and India. When the war ended, he went to graduate school and then to the Diocese of Wichita.

Father Kapaun served for a few years but felt the urge to return to the Army. His request was granted and he was assigned to the First Cavalry Division on occupation duty

in Japan. Then the Korean War started; he and the First Cav went to Korea. After initial triumph, the war went badly for the U.S. when the Chinese attacked.

Father Kapaun volunteered to stay with wounded soldiers. From his capture in November 1950, through a brutal march in winter to a prison camp in North Korea, to his death, Father Kapaun was a heroic figure. He inspired all around him to survive and resist. He was only 35 when he died in May 1951. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in 2013. Father Kapaun's mortal remains were brought home to Kansas at the end of September 2021 and given a resting place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita.

Read more about Father Kapaun's virtuous life at www.frkapaun.org, created by the Diocese of Wichita. The Wikipedia entry for Father Kapaun is Emil Kapaun. If you want to see Father Kapaun's home parish, it is now a part of Holy Family Catholic Parish in Marion County, Kansas. They have an excellent website with more information about his cause for sainthood and directions to his original parish (www.hfpmc.org). You can also find many interesting articles and videos about Father Kapaun at FORMED (If you are a registered parishioner at Immaculate Conception - Saint Joseph you can register for free at www.formed.org.)

(Images in this article used with permission from Father Emil Kapaun Case for Sainthood, Diocese of Wichita, Kansas.)

FATHER KAPAUN PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
in the midst of the folly of war,
your servant, Chaplain Emil Kapaun,
spent himself in total service to you
on the battlefields and in the prison
camps of Korea, until his death at the
hands of his captors.

We now ask you, Lord Jesus,
if it be your will,
to make known to all the world
the holiness of Chaplain Kapaun
and the glory of his complete
sacrifice for you
by signs of miracles and peace.

In your name, Lord, we ask,
for you are the source of peace,
the strength of our service to others,
and our final hope. Amen.

Chaplain Kapaun, pray for us.



My Journey to the Catholic Faith

By Marie Blakeman



Continued prayers for the Blakemans as they join our family of faith!

November 21, 2021: ***Bang, bang*** Deacon Pat knocked LOUDLY on the door entering the Sanctuary of Immaculate Conception Church, and with that knock, the Rite of Welcoming began. My husband, a Catechumen, and I, a Candidate, had been attending the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) since the beginning of September, along with 3 others. We were now being welcomed by the congregation of Immaculate Conception - Saint Joseph Parish.

My faith journey began as an infant, I was adopted from Korea by a loving family in rural Minnesota. On August 11, 1974, I was baptized into the Lutheran Faith. I attended Sunday School, received my first Bible from the Trinity Lutheran Church Women on October 11, 1981. (*How I love that Bible since my name is embossed on the front of it signifying MY BIBLE*). I continued with religious education and was confirmed on October 20, 1988.

I went through all the motions, but looking back, I lacked the ability to understand and the willingness to learn and experience God's word and Jesus' teachings. I graduated high school, moved out, quit going to church on a regular basis and drifted away from the Church. While my belief in God didn't waiver, my belief in organized religion did. I gravitated to the mind, body, and spirit harmony, with an underlying love for God and Jesus.

My three sons were born and were all baptized in Lutheran Churches. Baptism of my sons was a priority of mine, even though organized religion and teaching my children about God and Jesus wasn't in the forefront of my priorities.

I have dabbled in trying to read the Bible several times, since my childhood and into my adulthood, but it never came to fruition. I'd get to the middle of Genesis, and then stop. But Spring of 2020, I started looking for a podcast to guide my way through the Bible because I felt a calling to rediscover the Bible. I tried a couple of apps, it was a no go...and then I found The Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Father Mike Schmitz. This podcast was unique because not only did it include the Bible readings, Father Mike discussed the readings, providing further insight to what was just read. These narratives drew me in and after a couple of months of listening to it, I was hooked. In July, I had a discussion with my husband, David, that I was interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and that I really thought that was my calling. He was elated, he had wanted to dive back into the faith as well. The end of July we attended our first Mass at Immaculate Conception. We haven't missed a Mass since.

On September 1, 2021, we attended our first RCIA meeting. We didn't know anyone in the Catholic Church; we didn't have a clue what we would be required to do for this class. We had no idea who would sponsor us (a requirement that was explained to us on the first night), and yet after we met the RCIA team and the other inquirers, like ourselves, we both were committed to continue the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes and looked forward to whatever the journey required of us, with the intent of conversion to Catholicism.

In reference to the sponsor requirement...we were blessed with a couple, members of the RCIA team, who contacted us after a couple weeks of RCIA and asked if we wanted them to be our sponsors. It just so happened, they made contact with us the day after I had told David I wanted to ask them to be our sponsors. *The Holy Spirit had guided us together!*

Mike and Mary Jo Simonis have been amazing to work with. They are a shining example of a couple who value and honor the Catholic faith and as guides, have provided support and insight when we have questions. We have felt like we have our very own cheerleaders encouraging us to continue our journey.

At the second RCIA meeting we received a copy of the Catechism, and I have been diving into the readings that are associated with the reading of our assigned book "We Believe." On September 15, David started to listen to The Bible in the Year podcast with me when the book of Matthew was being read and discussed. I bought us both the Great Adventure Bible and we've listened and read the Bible together since and it's provided another way for us to strengthen our relationship and grow as individuals through the grace of God's word.

(Continued on Page 3.)

Back to November 21st, I stood in the aisle of the sanctuary, face-to-face with Mary Jo. She signed the Cross on my senses, as I struggled with heat and sweat, not because I was nervous, but because my body was overheated (*let's blame hormones*).

I looked at her, and her sweet smile and wink put me at ease. I made it through the ceremony and was able to cool myself down once I was seated.

At the end of the service, Father David asked the members of the congregation to stand who had converted to Catholicism, and the number of people who stood amazed me. *I was not alone, others have traveled this journey that I have chosen to be part of.* That Rite of Welcoming was so special to me, being welcomed as a Candidate, my husband being welcomed as a Catechumen, my senses signed with the Cross, the Cross signed on my forehead by Father David, and the entire service provided a feeling of love, meaning, peace, and justification that I made the right decision to initiate this faith journey.



Parishioners Mary Jo and Mike Simonis, members of the RCIA team, have provided support and insight as sponsors for Marie and David on their journey.



Sign up for
The Bible in a Year
(with Father Mike Schmitz)
at
www.ascensionpress.com
or subscribe to the podcast from
your wireless device.



Why Get Baptized?

By Sharon Kirby

January 6th is a significant date in the Church. It is the day Jesus, our Lord was baptized. Now you might ask, as I did, why would our Lord, who was born sinless, need to be baptized? But Jesus, in his own words said, "It was necessary for the fulfillment of all righteousness." He was sent to us by his Father as a gesture of His love, and to bring salvation and forgiveness of sins.

So why get baptized? We as Catholics know baptism washed away the original sin. Baptism does many things for us. One, is the forgiveness of sin. We receive forgiveness that Jesus provided us through His death and resurrection. And in turn, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Baptism gives us faith. The faith we have in Jesus, accepting His salvation, being buried and risen to life. Baptism is the beginning of a new life; a life in which we have the Holy Spirit with us constantly.

Many of us were baptized as an infant. Not knowing what we were doing, yet believing our parents knew what was best for us. Some people later in life are baptized through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Regardless of how we do it, we realize it is important. It is an individual choice of course. Some believe it is up to the child to make their decision as they mature. Somehow I don't believe Jesus will turn away anyone regardless of their baptismal status, but having the Holy Spirit in your life is such a great thing.

The best thing we can do as Catholics is to encourage baptism as a way of life and continue to pray for those who are still skeptical.

"What happens in baptism is the beginning of a process that embraces the whole of our life — it makes us fit for eternity, in such a way that, robed in the garment of light of Jesus Christ, we can appear before the face of God and live with Him forever."

Pope Benedict XVI
Homily at the Easter Vigil,
Saint Peter's Basilica
April 3, 2010

Elijah's Supper Ministry . . . how much better can it get? by Mitzie Frietchen

The title of this publication "*ties*" well with the mission of the Elijah's Supper ministry as our Parish family materially responded to the will of God to reach out and help the less fortunate. It provided a way for our parishioners to get to know each other beyond the "Hi's" and Bye's" said during and after Masses.

But how did it come about?

After Jerry and I retired, we began to do volunteer work at the Leavenworth Assistance Center. It was there we met a couple from St. Paul's Lutheran Church who told us about their monthly free community meal program.

We thought that was a good idea so we approached Father David to start our own. Not to compete with St. Paul's, but to complement what they were doing.

He supported the idea, but knowing it would take a lot of work, thought it best to see if other parishioners would be interested in this ministry. We initially were going to meet in the Cook Room, but after hearing from so many parishioners who were interested in it, moved the meeting to Kinzler Hall.

Well, about 80 parishioners came to that meeting! Since there was considerable interest, we began what Father David named the Elijah's Supper Free Community Meal Program. Initial funding came from a grant provided by the Carmelites. Subsequent funding came from parishioners. While most of the funding was from our parish family, we have received financial assistance from individuals from as far away as New York and California. But the main source of funding came from our parishioners. In fact, our parishioners supported this so well that we never had to have a special collection nor beg the Archdiocese for financial assistance.

Equally generous were those who signed up to help, and/or brought food products such as brownies, cakes and



Volunteers put together carry-out dinners for our guests. (Photo courtesy of The Leaven.)

fruit. There were several times when we had too many volunteers. What a healthy problem to have!

When other parishes in the area found out what we were doing, they came to see what was going on and subsequently started their own community meal ministry. At one time, every Thursday night was hosted by a Catholic parish.

When added to the community meals hosted by other churches, there were no less than two community meals every week. Lastly, and more recently, the Mission Thrift Store on Spruce Street, in partnership with Second Harvest began providing two large boxes of food twice a week.

Our Elijah's Supper ministry ran for nine years. In that time, our parish provided over 37,000 meals for the less fortunate in our area.

The Sisters of Charity, in partnership with Wallula Christian Church, south of Lansing also began a similar program, but because so many of the less fortunate live in northeast Leavenworth, use Kinzler Hall as their source of distribution.

Perhaps the biggest benefactors of this ministry have been ourselves because it made us realize how blessed we've been to be able to come together as a parish family and materially do the will of God. It also made us more aware there are many individuals and families in Leavenworth who need help.

Out of this ministry, we also established a partnership with St. Paul's and other Christian congregations in providing free Thanksgiving dinners. On Thanksgiving, a division of work takes place whereby carry-out meals are available at the St. Paul's school while meals to be delivered originate from



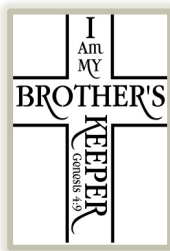
Delicious meals and friendly smiles were always in abundance! (Photo courtesy of The Leaven.)

(Continued on Page 8)

Kinzler Hall. Members of St. Paul's do all the fund raising and purchasing of product, and also smoke the turkey all night. On Thanksgiving morning, they bring to us the smoked turkey and volunteers from our Parish and other Christian congregations prepare, assemble and deliver meals. This last Thanksgiving, St. Paul's provided about 650 carry out meals and we delivered almost 900 meals.

What a wonderful experience this has been. It has allowed us to meet many other parishioners and to work side by side for the good of others. How much better can it get?!

Are you interested in volunteering to continue the Elijah's Supper ministry? Perhaps with a group of fellow parishioners? Contact the Parish Office at 913-682-3953.



Novena Prayers

by Patty Scharinger

Are you looking for a way to deepen your prayer life? I have found that praying novenas has enriched my prayer life in many ways.

A novena is a nine-day period of prayer offering petitions or prayers for a specific intention. But why nine days? The word novena comes from the Latin word "novem", which means nine. After Jesus' ascension into heaven, He directed the disciples to pray together. They did so, in the company of Mary in the upper room for nine days. This led up to Pentecost at which time the Holy Spirit descended upon them as "tongues of fire", coming to rest on the head of each one of them. The nine days of novena prayer are representative of this time.

After losing my sister and mother within the span of eight months, I turned to my faith and the comfort that comes from prayer to help ease my grief and sorrow.

Among the things I treasure most are my mom's prayer books and holy cards. Morning prayer was the most important part of her daily routine. (Along with the daily phone call from my brother Michael in California each morning at 8:00!) If Mom said she would pray for you, that meant devoting a decade of the Rosary to you. She also prayed novenas for various special intentions regularly.

Up until these past few months, I prayed an occasional novena when encouraged to do so leading up to a particular Feast Day, such as Divine Mercy Sunday. It has been most recently, through the novenas in Mom's prayer booklets that I have grown to appreciate and rely on the peace that comes from novenas. They have become a consistent part of my daily prayer life. The nine days of focused prayer provide much-needed routine and there is solace in the words of prayer.

Novenas are a beautiful way to bring a special intention before God. Are you contemplating a big decision? Looking for peace in the midst of the challenges facing our society and world? Or are you simply looking for spiritual comfort on your journey?

Do you have a devotion to a particular saint? There are many novenas devoted to the saints. Saint Therese of Lisieux, Saint Joseph, Saint Michael, Saint Jude, Saint Peregrine and Saint Anne to name a few.

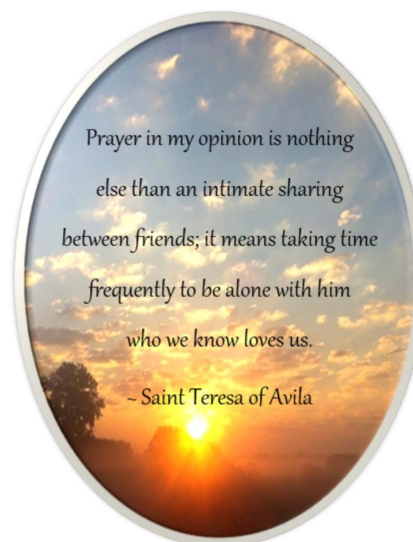
Many Novenas call upon the Blessed Mother in her many titles - Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal come to mind.

"Jesus, I Trust in You," is a mantra we rely on as Catholics. The Surrender Novena echoes this powerful statement and emphasizes laying our burdens at the foot of the Cross. "O Jesus, I surrender myself to You, take care of everything," is repeated throughout the novena. Trust!

The daily prayers of a novena are usually somewhat short. Some repeat the same prayer(s) each day while others offer something different to contemplate each of the nine days. Many times they will include a unique novena prayer accompanied by familiar prayers such as the Hail Mary, Glory Be or Our Father.

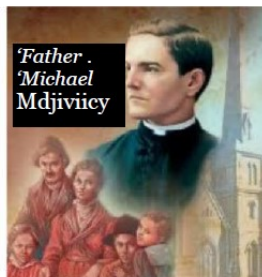
There are many online sources for novenas. You can sign up for daily email reminders and pray a novena as a group at www.praymorenovenas.com. There are also a variety of apps available - Laudate, Hallow: Catholic Meditation and Pray Catholic Prayers for instance.

Consider inviting a family member or friend to join you for a special intention! While novenas are not a guarantee that our intentions will be answered in the way we choose, they help us to remain steadfast in prayer and trust that God's will be done!



The Knights of Columbus

by Marty Moreno



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Immaculata Council 900



Family is the cornerstone of our society

In the spring of 1882, a parish priest Father Michael J. McGivney clearly saw the problems that Catholic families faced. To resolve those problems, Father McGivney conceived the idea of an organization of Catholic men to band together to strengthen themselves and each other in the Faith. Strengthen families and family life. Be a strong pillar of support for their priests and bishops and serve the church and community by aiding those most in need in society.

Knights of Columbus (Continued)

Immaculata Council 900

Leavenworth Council 900 was chartered in the summer of 1904 under the leadership of Joseph D. Hurley as the first Grand Knight. In July, 1952, Council 900 announced the five-point program committee, around which all functions of the Knights of Columbus revolved. Thanks to Father McGivney's persistence for the Knights of Columbus, Council 900 continues to serve the Leavenworth community with 288 current members, they are able to support Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph Parish and Sacred Heart-St. Casimir Parish in Leavenworth, KS. Today's fundraising efforts help support numerous charitable organizations in the community and surrounding area.

Religions Education, Knights provide both parishes with financial grants for their religious education program, Xavier's Catholic School Religion programs, Adult Religious programs and RCIA programs

Scholarships, each year the Knights provide scholarship funds for students attending Xavier Catholic School. Amount varies based on the amount of children who qualify for the Knights of Columbus scholarship.

Seminarians, supports seminarians and postulants who are currently in our formation to become priests. Often provide financial support and adopting a seminarian, the Knights provide moral support and prayers for their success as part of the Knights pledge.

Food for Families, each year the council donate and support community food pantries, community food banks, and soup kitchens. Food drives such as 40 Cans for Lent support heavily to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and Interfaith Shelter of Hope in Leavenworth

Pennies From Heaven, money is raised monthly to provide the revenue for the Emergency Disaster Aid Program (EDAP) by replenishing the funds used to assist those who have suffered material losses due to natural disasters such as fire, floods, and tornadoes. These funds are normally available to ANA family regardless of race, creed or color. This is usually collected as "A penny per member, per day."

Leavenworth Knights in action



Knights of Columbus (Continued)

Tootsie Roll Drive, annually joins in a State-wide Tootsie Roll Drive raising up to \$400,000 each year. This effort fully supports the Leavenworth Special Olympics, Leavenworth Resource Center and Special Needs Advocacy Partnership (S.N.A.P.) of Leavenworth County.

Annual Baby Shower, January is Pro Life month for the Knights of Columbus, this effort is used to support pregnancy centers in Leavenworth, the council helps by providing women and families with the often-expensive necessities to care for a newborn child. Council 900 often promote a Pro-Life Baby Shower for diapers, wipes, clothes, furniture and other necessities, in addition to hosting a reception to raise funds for the local pregnancy center.

Coats for Kids, donations are made by the Knights annually to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for children who have very little during difficult times. Tire council ensures every child receives a coat during the winter months.

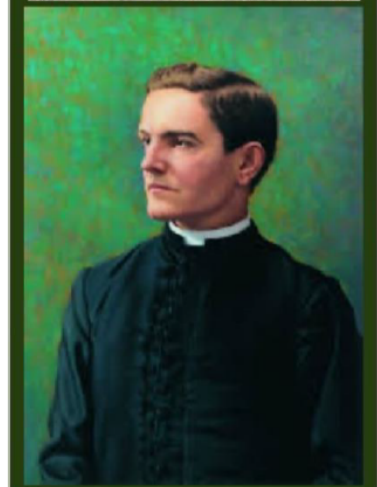
Veterans Day and St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Knights stay ready and prepare for the planning and execution of both parades each year, often by providing the man power for the parade committee to ensure routes are covered and help clean the city afterwards.

Benedictine college, fund donations are made periodically by the council for selected students preparing for an overseas mission trip as part of their studies. This usually requires a well hand written letter by the students to the Knights of Columbus explaining in great detail about the purpose of the mission trip.

Global Wheelchair Mission, Tire Knights continue this effort throughout the year for both Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph Parish and Sacred Heart-St. Casimir Parish by providing wheelchairs for parishioners in need. Often times making repairs and getting them back to their owners or donating a wheelchair for those who simply can't afford the cost.

Online E-Membership Application for Catholic Men, for men age 18 years and older who are looking to join, go to KofC.org/joinus . Membership is free for the first year giving you the freedom to learn about the Knights of Columbus. Must be a practicing Catholic, meaning a Catholic who accepts the teaching authority of the Catholic Church on matters of faith and morals, aspires to live in accord with precepts of the Catholic Church, and is in good standing in the Catholic Church. For additional information, contact Marty Moreno at (913) 702-4168.

Leavenworth Knights in action





Our deepest sympathy to the families and friends of those parishioners who passed away in 2021.

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



Edward Bergman, Jr.
Raymond Boyd
Jerry Bradley
Regina Brown
Regina Burton
Mary Donnal
Michael Dunn

William Fink
Michele Forge
Richard Gallagher
Joyce Grape
Grace Haas
Joseph Harnish
Carol Ann Heim

Howard Kennedy
Catherine Knowles
Carl Kreuger
Jeanie Lawrence
Rob Lemke
Doug Mauton
Ana Rodriguez

Elias "JR" Rodriguez
John Rutledge
Helen Schmidling,
Mary Steinbach
Halene White
Thomas Ziegler
Anna Zink



Congratulations to our newlyweds, married in 2021!
**May God be the Center of your marriage and the
foundation of your family!**

Jeremy and Brittany (Sheehan) Shields
Brigham and Marissa (Wiley) Robbins

*love is patient
love is kind*
1 CORINTHIANS 13:4



We welcome those baptized in 2021!
May the waters of Baptism guide you along each step of your journey!

Eric Felipe Arriquives
Brigid Anne Bristow
Haisley Ryann Forge
Lucas Daniel Garcia
Colin Patrick Goldak
Shane Stephen Goldak
Kiara Alessandra Grimes



Daniel Nichols Harper
Bradley Joseph Hill
Brielle Elisabeth Hoppe
Blair Emily Jackson
Gabriel Dominic Matteo
Grace Kelly Gloria Murphy
Ember Lynn O'Donnell



Jude Michael O'Donnell
Aria Celine Edrosa Rogers
Everett Benson Rogers V
Sophia Pauline Edrosa Unruh
Kheira Rowan Warfield
William Arthur Welte

**Remember to register your children for
CCD for the upcoming 2022 - 2023
school year.**

**Contact the Parish Office
for more details!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◇ **Titus Brandsma Canonization** - Sunday, May 15 (the next issue of Family Ties will contain more information about this future Carmelite Saint - stay tuned for more details!)
- ◇ **Parish Bazaar (SJ Site)** - June 12; volunteers are needed!

ONGOING WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

- ◇ Weekday Masses:
 - Monday - No Mass
 - Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday - 8:30 AM (SJ)
 - Wednesday and Friday - 8:30 AM (IC)
- ◇ Confessions are each Saturday 1:00 - 1:30 PM (IC)
- ◇ Saint Joseph Church is open for prayer 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Monday - Friday, if the parish office is open for business.
- ◇ Eucharistic Adoration is each Wednesday from 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM (IC)
- ◇ The Rosary is prayed each Tuesday at 6:00 PM (SJ)
- ◇ The Rosary for Prodigals and Vocations resumes Thursday, May 5 at 6:25 PM in the Cook Room (SJ)

Looking for a bit of good news each day?

Don't forget to check out Father Glenn's website "So Here's the Good News."

Available at

www.goodnews.ecarmel.org

Welcome! We're glad you're here! Just reading this means that you are open to what God has in store for you! Thank you for including us in your faith journey!

Do you have an idea for our Family Ties newsletter?

We'd love to hear it!

Please contact Patty at

913-651-0271 or

pscharinger65@gmail.com

FAMILY TIES

ICSJ Parish Newsletter

Fr. Glenn Snow, O.Carm.

Publisher

Marie Blakeman,

Tom Graham and Patty Scharinger,
Co-Editors

Connecting @ Immaculate Conception ~ St Joseph Parish

Did you know we have a website and Facebook page? Take time to connect with all the sources of information for our parish!

Parish Website: www.icsj.org

- Quick links to bulletins
- Parish information
- Mass schedule
- Registration information

Facebook: Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph Church

- Upcoming events
- Prayers and inspiration
- Photos
- Like us and share!



YouTube: Immaculate Conception - St. Joseph Parish

- Mass livestream

