

"We've come this far by faith"

MERRY CHRISTMAS



A CHRISTMAS GREETING

The Newsletter Staff would like to thank you for your support throughout this year. We hope you have found our articles to be informative and a way to reach out to our Church family during this very challenging time.

Remember- JESUS is the reason for this season! Believe it and receive it!!

Chib, Joanne, Kevin and Ramona

Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family



Deacon Rick and Bernadette

To the wonderful parishioners at ICSB Church - May the true spirit of Christmas shine in your heart and light your path and may God continue to bless and keep you and your family during the holiday season and all through the year.

Evelyn & Vincent Stroud

Maybe Snowflakes Are Letters God
Uses To Write Upon the Winter Sky

-
A Graceful Script of Peace, Hope,
and Love . . .

At Christmastime and always, may
the love of God surround you.



Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family cont'd



Tim Sullivan & Family

Emmanuel, God with us. The hush of expectation fills the air as Advent moves. For children or the child in us it may be the hope for something desired or a thing we desire to give, or for a moment of gathering, maybe a reunion, for which the heart yearns.

Beyond our wildest hope is the yet wilder idea of our Father, who yearns to send himself in a way we can understand: a Brother, our Brother.

“Emmanuel, God with us” -the phrase bounces through the season. Its reality is explosive; the waves of the explosion may hit us: we are called to be the Brother/Sister through whom God With Us becomes real, living, present.

May this Presence, Emmanuel, God With Us, reach our community, enlighten the space before us, open us to the presence of Emmanuel, God With Us, right here, now, this holy time. O Come!



Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family cont'd



George & Precious Fontenette

Merry Christmas to our IC/SB Family In celebration of the birth of Christ Our Savior let us spread Love, Peace and Joy Enjoy the prosperity and happiness of a New Year!



Kobe Barthelemy

Hello Church Family,
I hope all of you are doing well and staying warm! During this season, may God continue to bless each and every one of you with good health, wealth and happiness. You all mean very much to me being my church family and know that I pray for your safety and wellbeing. I hope to see many of you soon, but in the meantime, I am praying you all enjoy the holiday season and have a prosperous new year!



Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family cont'd



Maria & Tom Degan

Merry Christmas to All of our Beautiful Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget Church Family.

Lee & Mary Wingo

May the Blessings of the season be upon you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all



Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family cont'd



Pat Nguti

Merry Christmas and Seasons Greetings to our wonderful Church family. I praise God everyday for ask his wonderful blessings. God bless us all.

Robert Hoffman

“My first Christmas at Immaculate Conception/St. Bridget! Y’all welcomed me and made me feel at home. I love to sing, and ICSB Is the place to do that! Merry Christmas –Happy New Year!



Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family cont'd



Fugate Family

Merry Christmas and Season's Greeting to our dear Immaculate conception/St. Bridget's community. The Fugate family prays that God will continue to bless each and every one giving us Good Health and Peace of mind in the coming years ahead!



Walter DeRouen

I would like to express profound gratitude for my Immaculate Conception / St. Bridget's faith community. Within this community I feel grounded, connected to deep spiritual roots and a rich heritage. It is my home for praise, worship, and service to others. May God continue to reign over this family and shower us with his choices and richest blessings. Amen.



Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family cont'd



Catherine Pappin & Family

Wishing everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas. May the good Lord continue to shower you with all His wonderful blessings and I pray that the new year brings a world free of COVID and an end to all these useless killings.

Joanne, Julian, Alana and Alia

So many of us have suffered great losses this year. But we have to remember that Jesus is our Light in dark times. Jesus is the Gift!!
Merry Christmas & Blessings



Christmas Greetings from ICSB Family cont'd



Deacon Jeff

May God grant peace, health and happiness to His world in the feast of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Fr. Bradler

Wishing all of you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. I pray that God will give us a better year than we have been witnessing.

My Christmas message is one of peace and with 80 homicides so far, I hope and pray that peace will come in our city soon.



Novena to the Immaculate Conception

As the patroness of our parish, the Immaculate Conception provides love and security to all of us as we take time to pray and confide in our Mother's love for us. Mary has always been revered throughout the early years of the church to the present day, with high regard for her purity and holiness, in giving of herself to God our Father to bring our Savior into this world.

The Archangel Gabriel, in greeting her as "...Full of Grace," acknowledged the special relationship she had with the Father, and the grace given to her by God to be free from the stain of original sin.

The Church has always preserved this Tradition, and reverence and veneration for Our Lady has grown throughout the centuries. In the 1800's, the Church declared the Immaculate Conception to be a dogma in its' teachings. Several years later Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France and confirmed that she was "...the Immaculate Conception."

The novena to the Immaculate Conception is said over a nine-day period, to include your personal intention/request. Though the identified period of this special novena is from November 29th to December 7th, followed by the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th, the novena may be prayed over any nine-day period (as can any novena).



Novena to the Immaculate Conception cont'd

Pray:

Immaculate Virgin Mary, you were pleasing in the sight of God from the first moment of your conception in the womb of your mother, St. Anne. You were chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I believe the teaching of holy Mother the Church, that in the first instant of your conception, by the singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race and beloved Son, you were preserved from all stain of original sin. I thank God for this wonderful privilege and grace he bestowed upon you as I honor your Immaculate Conception.

Look graciously upon me as I implore this special favor: (mention your request).

Virgin Immaculate, Mother of God and my Mother, from your throne in heaven turn your eyes of pity upon me. Filled with confidence in your goodness and power, I beg you to help me in this journey of life which is so full of dangers for my soul. I entrust myself entirely to you, that I may never be the slave of the devil through sin, but may always live a humble and pure life. I consecrate myself to you forever, for my only desire is to love your divine Son Jesus. Mary, since none of your devout servants has perished, May I too be saved.



Novena to the Immaculate Conception cont'd

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death, amen.



(For more information on the various novenas and how to pray them, please check out Catholicnovenaapp.com. Devin Rose is a convert to the Catholic faith, and has established Lionheart Catholic, to support anyone wishing to develop a prayer life. He has a great listing of novenas, as well as other supports for those interested in growing their faith.)

And This is the essence of our faith:

“ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in

Him should not perish but shall have life and have it abundantly.” (John 3:16)

So: A Virgin conceived;

The world received;

If we believe,

Our sins are relieved,

And we are freed to live in the love of God indeed!

Jesse Tree

During Advent, which means “coming”, the coming of Jesus - it is important to remember not only the sentimental story, but the powerful story of Christmas. The Old testament prepares us for this child, this child born at Christmas, this child, Jesus, who would die on the cross to save us.

The Jesse tree is a way of preparing for Advent through the stories on Jesus’ family tree. The Jesse tree is rooted in Isaiah 11:1 “ a shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse and a branch shall grow out of his roots”. Jesse was the father of David and Jesus is descended from the line of David.

The Jesse tree helps tell the story of God's redemptive plan for the world. The tree is decorated with 25 symbols from the Old and New testaments – each symbol represents a story from Jesus' family tree – and traces the heritage of Jesus Christ from the beginning of creation.

As you leave church today, please take a few minutes to look at the Jesse tree. Firstly, you can see the work of our children. Secondly, a symbol or symbols might call you to a deeper meditation on Jesus' life.



Kwanzaa

A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture * of looking back to what our people have endured and risen above, and working hard for the future that we want to actualize. Celebrated December 26 – January 1

The traditional symbols of Kwanzaa:

The Mikeka (The Mat)- Symbolic of our tradition and history and thus, the foundation on which we build.

The Kinara (The Candle Holder)- Symbolic of our roots, our parent people-Continental Africans.

The Mazao (The Crops)- Symbolic of African harvest celebrations and of the rewards of productive and collective labor.

The Muhindi (The Corn)- Symbolic of our Children and thus our future which they embody.

The Mishumaa Saba (The Seven Candles) - Symbolic of the Seven Principles*, the matrix and minimum set of values which Black people are urged to live by in order to rescue and reconstruct their lives in their own image and according to their own needs.

The Kikombe cha Umoja (The Unity Cup):

Symbolic of the foundational principle and practice of unity which makes all else possible.

The Zawadi (The Gifts):

Symbolic of the labor and love of parents and the commitments made and kept by the children.



Kwanzaa cont'd

The Seven Principles

The traditional symbols of Kwanzaa:

First Principle: Umoja (Unity)-to strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Second Principle: Kujichagulia (Self-determination)- to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Third Principle: Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)- to build and maintain our community together and to make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

Fourth Principle: Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) - to build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit together from them.

Fifth Principle: Nia (Purpose)- to make as our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Sixth Principle: Kuumba (Creativity)- to do always as much as we can, in the way that we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than when we inherited it.

Seventh Principle: Imani (Faith)- to believe with all our hearts in our parents, our teachers, our leaders, our people and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Seventh Principle: Imani (Faith)- to believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Taken from : *Kwanzaa- A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*, by Maulana Karenga (1998, University of Sankore Press).



Happy Birthday!



December 1
Thomas Degnan

December 2
George Fontenette
Iala Cropper

December 3
Modupe Agunbiade

December 8
Carolyn Seide

December 20
Thomas Bostick

December 21
Musette Castle

December 25
Roxana Weber

December 26
Robert Burgess

December 31
Natalie Cropper
Walter DeRouen