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Dear brothers and sisters,

Lent is a time in which the Church, guided by a sense of maternal care, invites us to place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives, in order to find renewal in our faith and keep our hearts from being consumed by the anxieties and distractions of daily life.

Every path towards conversion begins by allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit. There is a relationship between the word, our acceptance of it and the transformation it brings about. For this reason, the Lenten journey is a welcome opportunity to heed the voice of the Lord and renew our commitment to following Christ, accompanying him on the road to Jerusalem, where the mystery of his passion, death and resurrection will be fulfilled.

Listening This year, I would first like to consider the importance of making room for the word through *listening*. The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone. In revealing himself to Moses in the burning bush, God himself teaches us that listening is one of his defining characteristics: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry" (Ex 3:7). Hearing the cry of the oppressed is the beginning of a story of liberation in which the Lord calls Moses, sending him to open a path of salvation for his children who have been reduced to slavery.

Our God is one who seeks to involve us. Even today he shares with us what is in his heart. Because of this, listening to the word in the liturgy teaches us to listen to the truth of reality. In the midst of the many voices present in our personal lives and in society, Sacred Scripture helps us to recognize and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering. In order to foster this inner openness to listening, we must allow God to teach us how to listen *as he does*. We must recognize that "the condition of the poor is a cry that, throughout human history, constantly challenges our lives, societies, political and economic systems, and, not least, the Church."^[1]

Fasting If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity."^[2] Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

However, in order to practice fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly."^[3] As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic."^[4]

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

Together

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

I impart my heartfelt blessing upon all of you and your Lenten journey.

From the Vatican, 5 February 2026, Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

LEO PP. XIV

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, February 21, 2025

3:30 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.—Confessions

4:30 p.m.—Macon—*Don Johnson* †

Sunday, February 22, 2025

11:00 a.m.—Macon— *Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick, St. Mary Parishioners*

Wednesday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8am to 6pm

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

5:00 p.m. —Bevier — **NO MASS**

Thursday, February 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. — Macon — *Students, Faculty & Staff*

****Confessions before and after Mass on First Fridays**

7:30 a.m. — 7:50 a.m. —Confessions

Friday, February 27, 2026

8:00 a.m. — Macon — *Students, Faculty & Staff*
Java with Jesus in the cafeteria following Mass

Saturday, February 28, 2026

3:30 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.—Confessions

4:30 p.m.—Macon— *Charles Stokes* †

Sunday, March 01, 2026

11:00 a.m.—Macon — *Bridget Healey Gentner* †



Join Us for Supper-6pm and Stations of the Cross-7pm

February 20 Sacred Heart at Sacred Heart

February 27 Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

March 06 IC Parish Council

March 13 CCD Students

March 20 OCIA

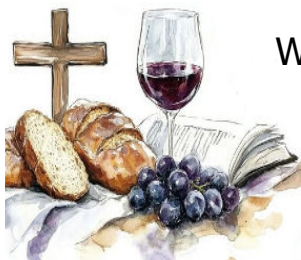
March 27 ICS Home & School

The Season of Lent



Mark Your Calendars and Join ICS Students Every Tuesday for Stations of the Cross beginning Tuesday, February 24th 2:45pm to 3:15pm

Wine, Women and the Word



will meet at 2 pm on Wednesday, March 4th in the basement of Sacred Heart. We will be reviewing St. Faustina **All are welcome!!**

The Bible Teaches It

Malachi 3:10-12

We Believe It

Act 4:32-25

God Honors It

Genesis 14:18-20



SACRED HEART

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT	Offertory Envelopes/ Plate
February 01	\$490.00
February 08	\$550.00
February 15	\$335.00
February 22	

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT	Offertory Envelopes/ School/ Plate/ ACH	CARES FUND	Building & Maintenance
Budgeted Monthly Goal	\$38,000.00		
February 01	\$13,723.70	\$480.00	
February 08	\$8,326.33	\$972.00	\$970.00
E/Giving	\$5,278.00		
February 15	\$8,712.85		\$200.00
February 22			



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

FISH FRY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, 2026

4:30 pm. — 7:00 pm.

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Please keep in prayer Deacon Bruce and those attending Cursillo this weekend.

High School Youth Group is being rebooted!

We will be meeting each Wednesday from 6-7:30pm at St. Patrick Basement lounge. Please encourage you 9th-12th graders to join us. They are always welcome to bring a friend. Transportation available from both Shelbyna and Macon/Bevier. Call or text 660-415-7362. Our first group is Wednesday, February 25th.

Dinner is provided!



Immaculate Conception Church

402 N. Rollins, Macon, Missouri 63552

Welcome...

Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart invites you to take advantage of "belonging" to your Parish and School.

Register, ask questions, volunteer, get involved and enjoy our parish events and activities. Stop by the Rectory to register or complete a registration card available at the front entrance of church.

Mass Schedule

M (Macon) B (Bevier) S (Shelbina) C (Clarence)

SUNDAY - 9:00 (S) & 11:00 (M)

TUESDAY - 8:00 (S) 12:00 (C)

WEDNESDAY - 12:15 (S) 5:00 (B)

THURSDAY - 9:00 (M) (12:15 Summerlime from 5/29 to 8/7)

FRIDAY - 8:00 (M)

SATURDAY 4:30 (M) 6:30 (S)

1st Saturdays 9:00 (M)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Every Wednesday & 1st Friday - 9:00 am to 6:00 pm (M)



Sacred Heart Church

301 N Macon St, Bevier, MO 63532

Baptism & Marriage

Preparation required, please contact the rectory.

Adult Education/RCTA/PSR:

- Watch the bulletin for opportunities and announcements for these programs
- Non-Catholic adults interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith can do so through Rite of Christian Initiation (RICA)
- Youth Ministry, Outreach and Communications

PASTOR: Fr. Bill Peckman

Rectory Phone: 660-385-3792

Church Email: icchurchmacon@gmail.com

DEACONS: Rev. Mr. Lloyd Collins

Rev. Mr. Bruce Mobley

Rev. Mr. Greg Duffley

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (DRE):

Amanda Durbin

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS & MINISTRIES

Parish Council - David Ancel

Finance Council - Ron Fessler

Building & Maintenance

Bobby Petre, Chair & Mike Doorack, Co-Chair

RCIA - Deacon Lloyd Collins

Tim & Sue Conover

St. Charles Cemetery - Tim Johnson

St. Mary's Cemetery - Ron Fessler

Server Training Scheduling

Deacon Collins & Deacon Mobley

Server Scheduling - Angela Niemeier

Confirmation Catechists

Deacon Mobley & Lisa May

Annulment Coordinators - Tim & Sue Conover

Liturgical Ministries Coordinator - Sarah Jensen

Music Coordinator - Michole Anderson

Join Us for our Annual Oktoberfest First Sunday of October

Stop Abortions - Pray the Rosary

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 3769

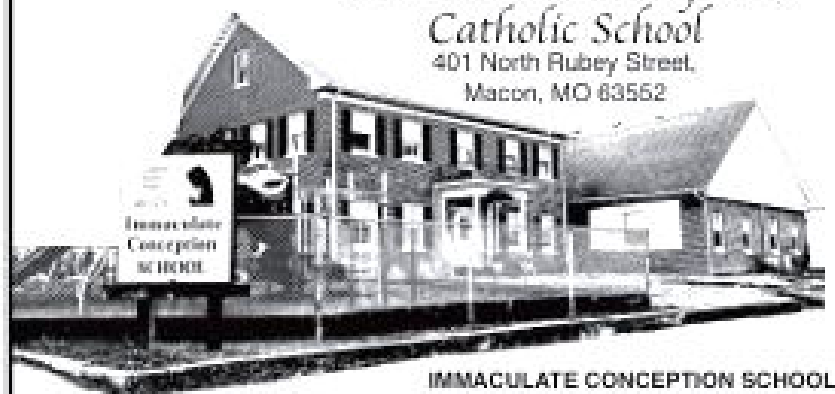
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Immaculate Conception Altar Society: Janet Walker

Sacred Heart Altar Society: Patty Cheever

Immaculate Conception Catholic School

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Please remember
your parish in your will

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School Office - 385-2711

School Email - principal@icsmaconk8.org

Pre K-8th Grade

SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

School Board - Will Marshall

Home & School Association - Will Marshall



Immaculate Conception Church
Sacred Heart Church
Immaculate Conception School
St. Mary's Church, Shelbina
St. Patrick's Church, Clarence

Check out our Website:

<https://nmcatholic.diocjefcity.org/>

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