



It is our responsibility  
to equip God's people  
to do his work and  
build up the church,  
the body of Christ.

**Ephesians 4:12-13**



**FAITH  
GROWS  
HERE**

**DEVOTIONAL BOOK**

**October 14th - November 11th 2018**

Entering our 2018 capital campaign, our parish leadership and capital campaign committee decided to develop a 28-day devotional booklet that we hope will add to your daily prayer life. Using this tool, we hope you will give prayerful consideration to how you will participate in this important step in our parish growth. We are grateful for those parishoners who have come before us and set the cornerstones of our parish family. Let us now move forward in setting the cornerstones for the future, as we continue to celebrate, grow and share our faith. At Immaculate Conception, you can simply look around and see that Faith does, indeed, Grow Here.

## INTRODUCTION:

*My soul magnifies  
the Lord  
And my spirit rejoices in  
God my Savior;  
Because He has regarded  
the lowliness of  
His handmaid;  
For behold, henceforth all  
generations shall call  
me blessed;  
Because He who is mighty  
has done great things  
for me, and holy is  
His name;  
And His mercy is from  
generation to generation  
on those who fear Him.  
He has shown might with  
His arm,  
He has scattered the  
proud in the conceit  
of their heart.  
He has put down the  
mighty from their thrones,  
and has exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry  
with good things,  
and the rich He has  
sent away empty.  
He has given help to Israel,  
his servant, mindful*

*of His mercy  
Even as he spoke to our  
fathers, to Abraham  
and to his  
posterity forever.*

*- Luke 1:46-55*

**W**hen Mary met with her cousin Elizabeth, these words were proclaimed by Mary, words that give hope and consolation, words that speak of who Mary is and who we are called to be. Our spirit needs to rejoice in God our Savior. Jesus needs to be the center of our life, as it was for Mary. As each of us in our own particular lives give praise to Jesus, we are called to, like Mary, serve Him. Each, in our humble ways, can find methods to praise our God. These words have echoed in my life since my ordination retreat, and today, 35 years later, continue to fill me with joy. May each of us look at our life and see what we are doing to give praise to our God through our words, our thoughts, and our actions.

**– Fr. Martin Schratz,  
O.F.M.Cap.**

**OCTOBER 14TH, 2018**

*Blessing in the Chaos*

**T**o all that is chaotic in you,  
let there come silence.  
Let there be a calming  
of the clamoring,  
a stilling of the voices  
that have laid their  
claim on you,  
that have made their  
home in you,  
that go with you even to the  
holy places  
but will not let you rest,  
will not let you hear your life  
with wholeness or feel the  
grace that fashioned you.

Let what distracts you cease.  
Let what divides you cease.

Let there come an end  
to what diminishes and de-  
means, and let depart all that  
keeps you in its cage.

Let there be an opening into  
the quiet that lies beneath  
the chaos, where you find the  
peace you did not think possi-  
ble and see what shimmers  
within the storm.

I think why this blessing reso-  
nates with me is the “realness”  
of the words. It describes with  
gut-check honesty what chaos  
feels like to many of us. But the

blessing doesn't just name the  
chaos, it offers a way out. To  
me, this blessing is ultimately  
a blessing of hope, which in  
this lifetime is a powerful force  
indeed. Maybe all we need is  
to simply see a shimmering ray  
of hope in the chaotic storms  
of our life. And maybe that is  
enough.

**PRAYER:**

**Lord, we come before you  
during the storms of our lives.  
We ask for strength and cour-  
age; to not be afraid or terri-  
fied because of them. For we  
know you are our God and you  
go with us. You will never leave  
us or forsake us. When we are  
lost, we ask you to hold out  
your hand so we may grasp it  
tightly. When we are weary, we  
ask you to let us lean on you  
when we can't go on. When  
we are hurting, we ask you to  
wrap your arms around us and  
let us shed our tears. When we  
are despairing, we ask you to  
warm us in the cold bitter air.  
And when we are scared, we  
ask you to light a candle in the  
dark places of our lives. We  
know you have a plan for us.  
But, it is so very hard. Please  
Lord; help us to trust, to hope  
and to know our future is safe  
with you. We ask you.**

**– Bob Lange**

**OCTOBER 15TH, 2018**

*I can do all things in him  
who strengthens me.*

*- Philippians 4:13*

**L**ife is full of ups and downs. We all have mountain top and valley experiences. Life offers us many extremes to bear, from peace and prosperity to affliction and destitution. Jesus Christ gives us the strength we need in every situation. When we keep ourselves fixed on Jesus and detach from worldly allurements, enticements and comforts, we are strengthened through the complete benefits and power of His Cross. As our safety net, Jesus always envelops us and consumes as we give ourselves in faithfulness to receive our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist, Eucharistic Adoration and continuous communion through prayer. Let us all be challenged to greater heights in perfection, holiness, sanctification, and righteousness.

**PRAYER:**

**Father in whom all grace flows forth, help us at Immaculate Conception Church to find our strength in you in all areas of our life. Through your strength we can accomplish all things through you and your perfect will. We set our eyes upon you, knowing with confidence that you will fulfill your plans and perfect will for this parish. We hold nothing back and surrender all that we have and all that we are over to you that you may be glorified in everything.**

**– Byron Phillips**

## OCTOBER 16TH, 2018

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.....Let your light so shine before men, that they see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

*- Matthew 5:14 & 16*

**I**mmaculate Conception Catholic Church is that light of Christ in the mountains of western North Carolina. Jesus calls us to “put that lamp on a stand” so that it can give light to all. When Fr. Nick was our pastor, he said that the Holy Spirit was calling us to be the “light in the mountains.” That light has been growing for 7 years now. We must provide room for it to continue to grow.

Immaculata School is one of only 2 Catholic schools in the western part of our state. Our youth are our future. With this capital campaign, we will make Immaculata safer and more modern to insure that this light of Catholic education grows brighter and brighter.

### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we ask You to continue to bless Immaculate Conception church and Immaculata school with the light of your love; help us to reflect that love to everyone around us; and lead us in this capital campaign.

**“We are the light of the world.”**

**– Colin Thomas**

**OCTOBER 17TH, 2018**

*We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.*

*- Romans 8:28*

**T**his has been a verse that I come back to time and time again, particularly in times of uncertainty and confusion. It reminds me that if I just trust the Lord to work through the details of my life, while continuing to show my love for Him by serving him and loving others, He will ultimately bring confusion to clarity and uncertainty to certainty. And best of all, the worst of times somehow prove to be the best of times. My times of spiritual growth have always occurred during the most trying times of my life.

So how does this apply to our upcoming capital campaign? I have heard some folks ask “why are we buying a building - we don’t need it”. And “why do we even have a school”? Well, one compelling answer to both of these questions is that we are investing in the future of the children of our Parish. So I will contribute to this campaign as a loving response to the Lord,

the same Lord who has taken me through many difficult times, and each time helped me grow in my faith. And I will do so knowing that many of our Parish children will also have the opportunity to grow to know the Lord, and to love Him and to return and serve Him either here or in another Parish. In closing, I offer this prayer:

**PRAYER:**

**Dear Father, may all of us at ICC take time during this campaign to reflect on our faith journey. May we come together as a community seeking Your will, not ours, for our Parish. And may we all respond with a heart of gratitude for all you have done for each one of us during our life’s journey to Heaven. Amen.**

**– Doug Miller**

**OCTOBER 18TH, 2018**

*“...but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.”*

*- Romans 5:3-5*

*I have become quite dependent upon hope, clinging to hope, even coming to believe and know that in hope I am saved*

*- Romans 8:24*

**H**ope can be a curious thing. But for the Christian, hope can be everything! In our world today, especially in our church, it can be hard to find a reason to hope. We've experienced disappointment, hurt, fear, anger, depression, rejection, despair and the list can

go on and on. And so often we entertain that list, and beyond, so much so that we cannot find our way out. It can feel like the weight of our own cross is too much to bear, that the sufferings are too great.

And in these times, by God's grace alone, I am reminded of Christ's own sufferings and torment. The reality He lived reminds us there can be no resurrection without the crucifixion. In this truth I place my hope, again, and again, and again. For "hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into [my] heart through the holy Spirit that has been given to [me]." God's merciful, abundant love has not just been given to me, but poured upon me. That visual of God pouring his love upon me, washing over me, filling me to overflowing capacity, is stirring. It reminds me of something I once heard many years ago: if the Lord allowed us to feel (experience) the weight of His love for us, it would crush us. So great is His love that it would literally crush us. What Love!!! In this I have hope: that the afflictions, trials, sufferings, setbacks, disappointments, etc. all lead to greater reliance on God, and the glory that is always to come. For God makes all things work for good.

**PRAYER:**

Oh Lord my God, direct my outlook each day toward you. No matter what may come my way, be it sufferings or joy, trials or celebrations, help me to see you through it all and choose to hope in You and your great abiding love for me.  
Amen

– Emily Sevier

**OCTOBER 19TH, 2018**

*“But now finish doing it also, so that just as there was the readiness to desire it, so there may be also the completion of it by your ability.”*

*-2 Corinthians 8:11*

**A**s a 1959 graduate of Immaculata, I give thanks often for the foundation I received. This foundation has stayed with me throughout my life. As we go forward, we must prepare the parish for growth and make sure our students are safe and secure.

**PRAYER:**

Lord, instill in our hearts a spirit of charity. Help us to be open to ways that can make a difference in our parish community by being generous with our abilities and treasure. As we embark on our parish Capital Campaign, to include the support of Saint Joseph Center and the much needed improvements to Immaculata School, let us pray for its success.

– Jay Thorndike

## OCTOBER 20TH, 2018

*“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to Jews or Greeks or the Church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of many, that they may be saved.”*

*- 1 Corinthians 10:31-33*

**T**he road to heaven can be challenging, as we face many temptations every time we step into our day. Committing ourselves to God every morning can be a challenge. We often get caught up in the busy schedules of our lives, forgetting our true purpose on earth: to become saints. Community is so crucial in our faith journeys, as the people we surround ourselves with impact the way we live our lives. The community at Immaculate Conception constantly strives to know Jesus more deeply and encourages every member to center their lives around God. This community leads by example and has shaped us into firm believers

that whatever we do should glorify God. God calls each of us to love one another and to invite everyone into our lives. The community at Immaculate Conception truly lives by this verse. They glorify God through their actions and seek to invite everyone into the Church, not for their own benefit, but to lead them to heaven. It inspires us to live our lives glorifying God so that we can lead our brothers and sisters in Christ to God just as the community has done for us.

### PRAYER:

**Lord God, we thank you for a community who invites us to know You more deeply. We commit ourselves to You today and every day. You are our everything Lord and we ask for your guidance. Help us to overcome the temptations of the world. Help us to invite every neighbor to know you more deeply. Bless all of us at Immaculate Conception, help us to always put You first, to always do Your will, and to always keep You at the center of our lives.**

**– Maddy Shand and  
Ethan Burns  
Graduates of Immaculate  
Conception’s Life  
Teen Program**

**OCTOBER 21ST, 2018**

*“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

*- Mark 10:43-45*

**PRAYER:**

Lord, as we enter into this 2nd week of our 28-day Novena, we ask you to open our hearts and minds for how we may continue to serve you and our parish family. Help us not take for granted the gift of sharing your gospel with others. Help us have eyes for the needs around us and to respond to those needs in joy and hope. Thank you Lord for your love and care that you continue to provide to our parish. In your name we pray, Amen.

## OCTOBER 22ND, 2018

*“Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where moth and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will also be.”*

*- Matthew 6:19-21*

**W**hen we moved to NC, my children were young, I was working, and never took the time to give back to the Lord. Once I retired, I began to think of all the Lord had given to me. Reflecting on Matthew 6:19-21 I began to ask myself if I was storing up treasures on earth or in heaven. How could I give back? The answer is different for each of us, but for me I try to give back by doing whatever I can to help my church, parish family, and community in any way I can.

### PRAYER:

Father, we know you accept our gifts, great or small, and do great things with them. Help us to remember that you have done so much for us. In return, what can we give back? Our time... our talent... our treasure? What is the right answer for each of us? To discern what is best, as a parish we seek the help of your Holy Spirit to help each parishioner with their decisions concerning this capital campaign. Father you know the needs of everyone. You also know the desires of all who want to give back in some way. Please help each parishioner discern what will be best for them. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

*– Margaret Cavagnaro*

**OCTOBER 23RD, 2018**

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have the desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

*- Thomas Merton,  
Thoughts in Solitude*

**W**hen I was around 35 years old, I attended a weekend retreat run by the Jesuits. It was a weekend of prayer and solitude. I am accustomed to being around people and talking and laughing, so a whole weekend in solitude was very foreign to me. The big benefit is that it allows you to pray and focus on what is important in your life and the lives of your family. We do not know what lies ahead, but we must have faith that God knows and He will lead us down the right path. As we embark on this capital campaign to raise \$2.5 million, we know that it will be difficult and there will be mountains to cross and seas to navigate. We also know that God will not allow us to take this journey and fail. He will guide us through the challenges and lead us down the right road to success.

**PRAYER:**

**Do not fear—He will be by our side forever!**

**— Gayden Gauthier**

## OCTOBER 24TH, 2018

*“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”*

*-II Corinthians 9:7-8*

**D**o you remember those times when you have joyfully given something to someone? It can be something as easy as helping someone across the street, yet it meant everything to the friend who needed it. Now we are called to respond to the opportunity before us with the same giving-from-the-heart spirit. Opening doors to welcome and serve is our greatest desire.

### PRAYER:

Loving God, we ask you to fill our congregation with cheerful hearts as we dedicate ourselves to this mission. Thank you Lord. All is well.

– Jane Ward

## OCTOBER 25TH, 2018

*6 [a]Then the wolf shall be  
a guest of the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie  
down with the young goat;  
The calf and the young lion  
shall browse together,  
with a little child to  
guide them.*

*7 The cow and the bear  
shall graze,  
together their young  
shall lie down;  
the lion shall eat hay like  
the ox.*

*8 The baby shall play by  
the viper's den,  
and the child lay his  
hand on the adder's lair.*

*9 They shall not harm or  
destroy on all my holy  
mountain;  
for the earth shall be  
filled with knowledge of  
the Lord,  
as water covers the sea.*

*-The Peaceable Kingdom  
Isaiah 11: 6-9*

Indeed we often wonder and ask Jesus what the kingdom of God is like. He gives us many wonderful, yet perplexing, images of smallness and hiddenness. He invites us to consider the kingdom like a mustard seed or the yeast a woman uses for making bread; a merchant looking for fine pearls or a farmer stumbling upon a hidden treasure in a field. What does this mean? We discover that inconspicuously the kingdom grows; it transforms and changes; it is beautiful and worthy. We see God's gift to us in every parable and we hear an unspoken invitation to collaborate with him.

In Isaiah's prophecy, he offers us yet another image; a quite different image; one that we all secretly long for; one that speaks of every creature living in harmony. We perceive equality, justice and peace. A time when the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as water covers the sea... and we continue to ponder what our role is. How can we help to bring about this Kingdom? What can we do to assist?

## **PRAYER:**

Dearest Lord, you have gifted us with every good gift on this earthly kingdom and you have filled us with a longing for the fullness of life that only you can offer. Strengthen us Lord that we may become a living sacrifice for you, that we may contribute a grain of sand to the building of your Kingdom as we faithfully pray...Thy Kingdom come.

Amen.

– Claudia Frias-Garces  
de Yopez

**OCTOBER 26TH, 2018**

*Ordinary Miracles*

**M**any years ago while preparing for a Catechetical Conference Presentation I was to give to 250 Catholic School teachers in Chicago, I heard a song by Barbra Streisand that changed not only my presentation, but my life. We read in Scripture of Jesus' many miracles, and we are in awe and wonder of his love, his generosity, his care for the poor and suffering but rarely do we recognize the "Ordinary Miracles" of our daily lives – "miracles" that depend on each of us. I can't put the entire song here, so I give you this prayer and have underlined and put in italics, our "Ordinary Miracles."

**PRAYER:**

**Lord God – Father, Son, and Spirit,  
We recognize your love and caring for each of us gathered in our parish and our community. We pray that through your love for us, we may begin to bring about the quiet changes needed in our daily lives and parish. May we see each new**

**day as an open door to do your will and live your mission here on earth. May we recognize that we can each be quiet heroes who together light the spark of change and joy and wonder in those around us. As together we embody endless possibilities, may we also recognize the ordinary miracles that surround us, and with your guidance, may we watch them multiply every blessed day! - Amen.**

**– Kathy Meersman**

**OCTOBER 27TH, 2018**

*“...Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name and you are mine....”*

*-Isaiah 43:1-7*

**W**hen I hear these Bible verses, I always think of the song “You are mine”

“Do not be afraid I am with you. I have called you each by name. Come and follow me. I will bring you hope. I love you and you are mine...Be still and know I am here...”

A sense of belonging is so important. I love knowing that I’m part of something much bigger and better than my small, beautiful world. I love knowing that God created me for a specific purpose and will continue to put people in my life and put me in the right places to help me on that journey. It’s a little daunting knowing that I need to be aware of these influences and I need to be willing to respond to His call whenever and however it comes. I know from experience that sometimes the situations of my life will be difficult and scary, but when they are God will provide what I need to get through those times, and that

as difficult as those times may be for me, they may also be life-changing for those around me, so my actions and my attitude will always matter. It will be up to me to trust that God’s will for my life is going to be infinitely better than my own will and desire for my life. I’m humbled and honored knowing that God is reaching out to me to help build His kingdom and share His love with those around me and at the same time will provide everything that I need to complete my journey back home to Him.

**PRAYER:**

**Heavenly Father, You have called us each by name. You created us individually and uniquely with specific talents and abilities. You have a plan for our lives that is so much bigger and so much better than anything we can plan for ourselves. Please help us to open our hearts and to allow Your Holy Will to be done in our lives. Help us to be moved by Your Holy Spirit to reach out to those around us in love and support, to help build Your Church, one step at a time. Show us the people that you’ve placed in our lives to help us through our own crosses. Help**

us to accept Your loving support and to provide the same loving support to those around us in Your name. We pray Lord, that you will show us what your plan is for our parish and how we can use our talents and abilities to accomplish Your will for this campaign. Know that you can count on us Lord, and that we will do our best to respond whenever you call. We love you and we are yours. Amen.

– Terry Fishleigh

**OCTOBER 28TH, 2018**

*Then they came to Jericho.*

*As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

*Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*

*Jesus stopped and said, "Call him."*

*So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."*

*Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.*

*"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him.*

*The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."*

*"Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he*

*received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.*

*- Mark 10:46-52*

**PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, as we enter into this 3rd week of our Novena, we ask you to continue to open our eyes to the needs of our parish family. We thank you for the abundant blessings You have given our parish and pray that we may continue to serve you in faithfulness and love. Help us to work together to serve you and each other for the good of the Church, for the people of our parish family and for Your greater glory. Amen

**OCTOBER 29TH, 2018**

*Trust His Abundance.*

*“Look at the birds in the sky; they do not sow or reap, they gather nothing into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are not you more important than they? Can any of you by worrying add a single moment to your lifespan? Why are you anxious about clothes? Learn from the way the wild flowers grow. ...If God so clothes the grass of the field... will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith?”*

*- Matthew 6:26-28a, 30*

I've been thinking a lot lately about God's abundance. It's so easy for me to doubt Him, worrying about money or relationships instead of trusting that He'll take care of me. But then I have to remind myself that He's always taken care of everything I need, and then some. He doesn't pass out blessings to some people and stop at others, saying "well, it looks like I've

run out." His blessings may look different for each person, but He definitely has enough to go around. In Matthew 14, He not only feeds five thousand people, but makes sure there are leftovers. "They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over— twelve wicker baskets full" (Matthew 14:20).

As we begin our capital campaign, we can trust in the Lord's abundance. He will care for our needs when we place our trust in Him. In the same way, we are called to share our abundance with others. God works in many ways, and most often through other people; by being generous with what we have, we let the Lord use us to demonstrate His abundance to those around us.

#### **PRAYER:**

**Dear Lord, we know that You have great plans for each of us, and that Your goodness doesn't run out. Help us to trust in Your abundance, and to be generous with the blessings You have given us. Holy Spirit, open our eyes so we can see the need around us, and open our hearts so we can fill it.**

**— Hailey Kater**

## OCTOBER 30TH, 2018

*If you pass through raging  
waters in the sea, you shall  
not drown*

*If you walk amid the  
burning flames, you shall  
not be harmed*

*If you stand before  
the power of hell and death  
is at your side, know that  
I am with you  
through it all*

*Be not afraid  
I go before you always  
Come follow me, and  
I will give you rest*

I used to sing this hymn to my kids when they were little, and I think it stuck with them. And whenever I have faced difficulties in my life, these words have remained with me to remind me that nothing I face, do I face without God. He's also given me this amazing parish to be a part of, where people I don't even know have prayed specifically for me and my family during very scary, uncertain times. What a blessing!! And to see our community grow, is an even bigger blessing!

### PRAYER:

Dear Lord, in these times of what seems to be constant turmoil, help us to remember that we do not need to be afraid with You close by our side. That this parish, which you have blessed us with so abundantly, is a place to find support and love in times of fear and uncertainty. And through our capital campaign, let us continue to share that support, love and faithfulness with all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Amen

– Marybeth Burns

## OCTOBER 31ST, 2018

*Dear Jesus, help me to  
spread Your fragrance  
wherever I go.  
Flood my soul with Your  
spirit and life.  
Penetrate and possess my  
whole being so utterly,  
that my life may only be  
a radiance of Yours.  
Shine through me,  
and be so in me  
that every soul I come in  
contact with may feel Your  
presence in my soul.  
Let them look up  
and see no  
longer me, but only Jesus!  
Stay with me and then I  
shall begin to shine as You  
shine,  
so to shine as to be a light  
to others.  
The light, O Jesus, will be  
all from You; none of it  
will be mine.  
It will be you, shining on  
others through me.  
Let me thus praise You the  
way You love best, by shin-  
ing on those around me.  
Let me preach You without  
preaching, not by words*

*but by my example,  
by the catching force of  
the sympathetic influence  
of what I do,  
the evident fullness of the  
love my heart bears to You.  
Amen.*

*—Blessed John Cardinal  
Newman*

**T**his prayer was written by Blessed John Cardinal Newman (1801-1890). I was introduced to it while reading the life of Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata. She prayed it daily after Holy Communion. I often pray it as a reminder of my call to radiate Christ to whomever I meet along the journey of life. It is an invitation to all of us to keep in mind that each one of us has been entrusted with the mission of bringing the fragrance and light of Christ to those we encounter along our way.

### **PRAYER:**

**May the Lord inflame our  
hearts with an ardent desire to  
radiate Christ to all we meet.**

**— Brother Roberto,  
ofm cap.**

**NOVEMBER 1ST, 2018**

*Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

*-Matthew 5:12*

**PRAYER:**

O Lord, we give you thanks for all of the saints, for the work they did on earth and their intercessions they provide today. We give you thanks for the tremendous sacrifices made by all of those that came before us, especially those throughout the generations that have laid the cornerstones for the wonderful parish that we have today. We ask you to continue to guide us as we become the cornerstones for the continued growth of our parish of the future. In Your name we pray, Amen.

## NOVEMBER 2ND, 2018

*Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!*

*-Matthew 13:8*

**O**ur family has been blessed to be a part of this parish and school for over 25 years. In it we have watched our children grow both physically, mentally and spiritually. We are so appreciative of those who planted seeds before us on this fertile soil of Immaculate Conception Church

### PRAYER:

**Gracious God, you have blessed the Immaculate Conception family with a renewed vision of our mission for the future, and you have bestowed on us a rich heritage of faith and service from the past. As we move forward in this capital campaign that plants seeds for our parish family's future, we ask that you give each of us your Spirit of**

**trust, unity and generosity so that generations to come may continue to be nourished here and empowered to love and serve the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**– Chris Burns**

## NOVEMBER 3RD, 2018

*Dear Jesus,  
Please be with me today;  
make me aware of your  
Holy Spirit; help guide me  
in what I do and what I  
say. Keep my tongue from  
unkind and careless words  
and keep my mind pure.  
Help me to be diligent in  
my activities, cheerful and  
thoughtful of others. Res-  
cue me when I am in dan-  
ger of giving in to temp-  
tation. Help me to always  
see the good in others and  
to make good decisions.  
In Your name I pray  
- Amen.*

**T**his is a prayer I would read from a small prayer book that my mother gave me as a middle school student called “Prayers for Girls”. I kept this book for many years, but as I married and moved around, it was lost or packed away somewhere and I haven’t been able to find it. Even though I don’t have the book anymore to share with my children, this is a prayer I say with them as we travel to school and work each day. I

don’t know if they have it memorized but by saying it each day, I hope it becomes a part of their daily prayer routine too.

### PRAYER:

Dear Lord, help me and our parish to remember that with our prayers and the education we provide at Immaculata Catholic School, we are guiding our children and the children of the community to a life lived closer to You. Bless those who support our capital campaign that will make our school safer for our students, teachers and all of our school family. Amen

– Meredith Canning,  
parisher, principal,  
Immaculata Catholic  
School

# NOVEMBER 4TH, 2018

*Lord, make me an  
instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred,  
let me sow love;  
where there is injury,  
pardon;  
where there is doubt,  
faith;  
where there is despair,  
hope;  
where there is darkness,  
light;  
where there is sadness,  
joy.*

*O divine Master, grant  
that I may not so  
much seek  
to be consoled as  
to console,  
to be understood as  
to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that  
we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we  
are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we  
are born to eternal life.  
- Amen.*

I liked this prayer from the time I joined in the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin. We used to pray everyday this prayer. Though written in simple language, the Peace Prayer provides rich material for spiritual reflection.

These are the five lines that I liked most.

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.**

Like that of Christ, our mission on earth is to bring to others God's peace

**Where there is hatred, let me sow love,**

In his 9th Admonition, called Charity, Saint Francis tells his followers, "Our Lord says in the Gospel, Love your enemies (Matthew 5: 44). A man really loves his enemy when he is not offended by the injury done to himself, but for love of God feels burning sorrow for the sin his enemy has brought on his own soul, and proves his love in a practical way."

**Where there is despair, hope/  
Where there is darkness, light,**

Think of Saint Francis embracing lepers and lovingly washing their sores. Surely, many of those suffering souls felt an inner surge of hope and human dignity when they experienced our brotherly and sisterly care.

**It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.**

Like that of Christ, our mission on earth is to forgive the sins and wrong doings of others. **For it is in giving that we receive.**

**PRAYER:**

God, You have blessed me with many gifts. The best gift is a share in Your priesthood. I gave myself to You and You blessed me with many gifts. If we want to receive, we have to give. If we give little You will give us more. Help us remember that as we journey through our capital campaign. Amen

— Fr. Praveen Turaka.

**NOVEMBER 5TH, 2018**

*It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.*

*The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts; it is even beyond our vision.*

*We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.*

*Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.*

*No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith.*

*No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.*

*This is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need*

*further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.*

*We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.*

*We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.*

*We are prophets of a future not our own.*

*- The Archbishop Romero Prayer*

**T**he Archbishop Romero Prayer was given to me during a time of stress and anxiety as a way to seek the Lord's guidance. I have since used it in times of stress and happiness as a way of keeping me grounded in what we do as disciples of Christ.

**PRAYER:**

**Loving Father, the source of every good gift, we praise you for all your gifts to us and we thank you for your generosity. Everything we have, and all that we are, comes from you. We commit ourselves to being good stewards. Help us to be grateful, accountable, generous and willing to give back. Amen**

**– Jim Welter**

## NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018

*Where your treasure is,  
there your heart  
will be also.*

*- Matthew 6:21*

**A**s a fundraiser for many local charities, I've always been awed by people's generosity. It is true, people follow their hearts with their money.

### PRAYER:

**Bountiful God, may the ledger of our money be the measure of our love. Touch our hearts so that we may put our resources at your service. Amen.**

**— Renee Kumor**

## NOVEMBER 7TH, 2018

*After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. Jesus said to the twelve “will you also go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of everlasting life; and we believe and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.*

*- John 6:66-69*

**D**uring difficult times, we must always keep our focus on Jesus and trust in Him. He has promised us that His church, the body of Christ, would last forever (“the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” Matt 16: 18). As we go forth trying to do God’s work in this imperfect world, we must let the light of Christ always lead us in the right direction. If we focus on Him and not on ourselves, He will work miracles through us.

### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we ask You to guide our every action during this capital campaign as we try to do Your work in this world. Open our hearts to Your call and help us to generously give back from all the treasures You have graciously bestowed on us. Help us to work together as brothers and sisters of Your beloved son, Jesus Christ, always letting love be our guide. Amen

— A Faithful Parishioner

## NOVEMBER 8TH, 2018

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock...”*

*- Revelations 3:20*

**M**editation based on the spiritual teachings of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta:

“It is true. I stand at the door of your heart, day and night. Even when you are not listening, even when you doubt it could be Me, I am there.

And I want you to know that whenever you invite Me, I do come always without fail... I come with My mercy, with My desire to forgive and heal you and with a love for you beyond your comprehension- a love every bit as great as the love I have received from the Father. [John.15:9]

I know you through and through - I know everything about you... Nothing in your life is unimportant to Me. I have followed you through the years, and I have always loved you - even in your wanderings...

I know what is in your heart- I know your loneliness and all your hurts- the rejections, the judgments, the humiliations. I carried it all before you. And I carried it all for you, so you might share My strength and victory... Do you thirst for love?

(John 7:37) I will satisfy you and fill you. Do you thirst to be cherished? I cherish you more than you can imagine - to the point of dying on a cross for you. I thirst for you. Yes that is the only way to even begin to describe My love for you: I THIRST FOR YOU. I thirst to love you and to be loved by you - that is how precious you are to Me...

Don't you realize that My Father already has a perfect plan to transform your life, beginning from this moment? ...All I ask of you is that you entrust yourself to Me completely. I will do all the rest...”

### PRAYER:

**Jesus, may all my words and deeds console your heart and satiate your thirst for me. I pray that I would come to know and accept your love for me, that I would respond generously and then take your love to all those I meet. May every meeting, every youth group night, every Bible study, and all our efforts advance your kingdom here.**

**— Bertha Medina**

# NOVEMBER 9TH, 2018

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”*

*- Matthew 5:14-16*

I am always reminded by this Scripture and this prayer, that I can be a light to those who are in the darkness of despair, hurt, anger, loneliness, and suffering. By letting my light shine (the works and acts that I do through God’s grace), I can show others a way to dispel the darkness and enter the light of God’s love for each of us.

## PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, Light of the world, give us your light this day. Light to see the truth plainly. Light to see ourselves as we are. Light to see the way we should go. Light to see you in your majesty, your humility, and your love. Amen.

– Jim Meersman

## NOVEMBER 10TH, 2018

*“Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’”*  
- Matthew 26: 26-28

“**D**id not Jesus institute the Eucharist in a family-like setting during the Last Supper? When you meet for meals and are together in harmony, Christ is close to you. And he is Emmanuel, God with us, in an even greater way whenever you approach the table of the Eucharist. It can happen, as it did at Emmaus, that he is recognized only “in the breaking of the bread” (cf. Lk 24:35). It may well be that he can enter and eat with us (cf. Rev 3:20). The Last Supper and the words he spoke contain all the power and wisdom of the sacrifice of the Cross. No other power and

wisdom exist by which we can be saved and through which we help to save others. There is no other power and no other wisdom by which you, parents, can educate both your children and yourselves. The educational power of the Eucharist has been proven down through the generations and centuries.” John Paul II, Letter to Families, 18.

### PRAYER:

**Lord Jesus, we pray that our families may be strengthened through the Eucharist. We ask that the Eucharist will truly be the power of love for every family. We implore you to transfigure us to become as life-giving bread for one another, that we may joyfully and faithfully lay down our lives for the greater good of the family. By the power of your Body and Blood, grant that our body and soul are filled with your Holy Spirit, His gifts and grace. Grant us the joy of loving and serving one another in humility. As often as we receive you in the Eucharist, grant that we reaffirm our commitment to live our vocation as family and thereby increase your presence on earth.**

– Bob Gray

## NOVEMBER 11TH, 2018

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”*

*-Mark 12:41-44*

### PRAYER:

Lord, we thank you for these past 28 days of prayer and time to reflect about our parish family...how we are growing in our works, in our reach and in our faith. We pray that over these past four weeks, we have come to know our parish community better and have deepened our relationship with both our parish family and with You. As we conclude these 28 days of reflection and prayer, we pray for a successful conclusion to our capital campaign and we ask You to be with us and continue to open our minds and hearts as move ever closer to the season of Advent.

**- Your 2018 Capital Campaign Committee**

