

# Newsletter — December 2023



## Society of St. Vincent de Paul ADVENT PROJECT

During the season of Advent, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) will sponsor a unique food drive for the Food Pantries in Fulton and Albany. The suggested items, listed below, are needed to support the typical pantry donations.

**Donations of canned vegetables and canned fruits are discouraged. But, please consider donating any of the following items:**

*Peanut butter, tuna, powdered milk, cooking oil, cake mixes and frostings, dishwasher soap, tissue boxes, paper towels, 4-pack toilet paper, cleaning products, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste.*



You may drop your donations at the back of each Church, or at the Parish Office, the entire month of December.

***Thank you for your generosity by serving those in need and by donating to the SVDP.***

## Decorate Immaculate Conception Church for the Christmas Season!

If anyone can donate a couple of hours on Saturday, December 23rd, at 10:30 am, to help decorate the IC Church for the Holiday Season, PLEASE let the Parish Office know if you can help, so we have an idea on how much decorating we can plan on doing.

***Thank You for Your Time & Service!***

## Christmas Poinsettias

**Immaculate Conception Church** donation forms, for poinsettias, are due in the Parish Office by Monday, December 11, 2023.

Forms and Envelopes are on the tables at the back of IC Church.

**St. Patrick Church** is taking donations for poinsettias. Look for the donation basket in back of St. Patrick Church.

***Thank You!***



**Advent Penance Service at IC, Fulton  
Tuesday, December 5, 2023, @ 6:30 pm**

**The Nativity of The Lord (Holy Day)**

**Christmas Eve Masses, Sunday, Dec. 24**

4:30 pm at St. Patrick Church, Albany

7:00 pm at Immaculate Conception, Fulton

**Christmas Day Mass, Monday, Dec. 25**

No Morning Mass at St. Patrick, Albany

10:00 am at Immaculate Conception, Fulton

**The Solemnity of Mary,**

**Holy Mother of God (Holy Day)**

**Holy Day Vigil Mass, Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023**

4:30 pm at Immaculate Conception, Fulton

**Holy Day Masses, Monday, January 1, 2024**

8:00 am at St. Patrick Church, Albany

10:00 am at Immaculate Conception, Fulton

## Parish Office CLOSED

The Parish Office will be CLOSED on the following:

2023 — December 8, 25 & 26

2024 — January 1, 8, 11 & 15

***Happy Holidays from the Parish Office!***



**IC/SP PARISH BLOOD DRIVE  
Wednesday, January 17, 2024  
2:45 pm to 6:00 pm @ IC Hall**

## Bulletin Info Due Dates

Because of the holidays, bulletins must be submitted much earlier than usual. Please submit your info to the

Parish Office for each bulletin, as follows:

12-10-23 Bulletin—Info due by 9 am, Mon. 12-4-23

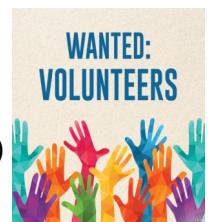
12-17-23 Bulletin—Info due by 9 am, Thrs. 12-7-23

12-24-23 Bulletin—Info due by 9 am, Thrs. 12-14-23

12-31-23 Bulletin—Info due by 9 am, Thrs. 12-21-23

**We need VOLUNTEERS  
for the following positions:**

- Lectors (IC & SP Masses)
- Greeters/Ushers (IC & SP Masses)
- Church Sacristans (IC & SP)
- Funeral Luncheons (IC & SP)



**PLEASE call the Parish Office if you can help  
out in any way (815-589-3542).**

Keep "Christ" in Christmas!



## Upcoming IC Building & Ground Projects

We will have three future projects for which we need to start saving for funding. We are hoping to work on these projects as money becomes available.

**1. IC Church Drainage:** Currently we have many areas of the church, and hall, that have standing-water, when we get heavy rains. A lot of this standing-water is draining into the church basement, from many different areas, and is puddling around one of the main support beams. Also, with most of the north side of the city block, draining to the church property, we have these waters sitting around the foundation of the church and hall, that also need to be addressed.

**2. IC Church Foundation:** We need to do many repairs to the church foundation where rain is draining into the basement. We also need to fix the church chimney (which is also used as a main support beam). The chimney mortar is turning into powder, and we need to fix the leak from on top of the chimney.

*Estimated cost: \$60,000*

**3. IC Parking Lot:** For the people who use the parking lot and see that the ground is settling and sinking in the middle of the IC parking lot, we need to cut open the parking lot and fill in the center hole with rock. So please be careful using the parking lot this winter. The sinking hole can get very slippery when ice forms on top of it!

Our best guess, financially, to complete all three projects for Immaculate Conception, we are looking at around \$150,000 to \$200,000. We cannot start any of these projects until we have at least 90% of the funding.

We are also in the process of asking for approval, from the Diocese, to bring back the Building Fund Envelopes, in order to support and complete all of these IC Parish projects.

### **Remember: SCRIP Gift Cards for X-mas!**

**We have one more SCRIP Order due-date left, on Monday, December 11th, by 9:30 am.** Please remember us as you buy your Christmas Gift Cards. Many organizations have \$10 Cards for the Christmas Season. Call the Parish Office, or see the complete SCRIP list at [www.raiseright.com/shop](http://www.raiseright.com/shop).

## **PARISH July - September 2023**

### **OFFERINGS**

#### **Quarterly Report**

##### Immaculate Conception Church

Offerings:	Envelopes	\$ 20,420
	Online	\$ 2,870
	Loose	\$ 4,597
<b>IC Total Offerings</b>		<b>\$ 27,887</b>

##### St. Patrick Church

Offerings:	Envelopes	\$ 10,070
	Online	\$ 1,885
	Loose	\$ 947
<b>SP Total Offerings</b>		<b>\$ 12,902</b>

#### **Year-To-Date (July 2023 through June 2024)**

	<b>IC Church</b>	<b>SP Church</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 30,021.69	\$14,510.30
<b>Expenses</b>	\$ 44,462.30	\$16,157.88
<b>Gain / (Loss)</b>	(\$ 14,440.61)	\$(1,647.58)
<b>Add Dial (Savings) Withdrawals</b>		
	\$ 14,109.55	\$ 3,789.96
<b>Gain / (Loss)</b>	(\$ 331.06)	\$ 2,142.38

## **Annual Diocesan Appeal 2023**

### ***As of November 16, 2023***

#### **Immaculate Conception      St. Patrick**

**Goal:**                      **\$11,781                      \$ 5,094**

**Pledged:**                **\$10,235                      \$ 4,965**

**Paid:**                      **\$ 9,845                      \$ 4,965**

#### ***Actual Refund***

***Actual Shortfall***      **(\$ 1,936)                      (\$ 129)**

This Appeal runs every year, from May to April. All shortfalls will be paid out of each Church's checking accounts.

### **Mission Appeal Collections 2023**

Immaculate Conception \$1,650

St. Patrick \$690

## **Year-End Taxes**

As 2023 comes to an end, we must think about the upcoming tax season. All the Diocese of Rockford Appeals, i.e. (National, Inter-National, Mission, and Diocesan Appeals), will need to be in the Parish Office no later than Friday, December 15th, for processing and mailing. All other 2023 donations must be in the Parish Office by mid-night, Sunday, December 31st. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office (815-589-3542).