

TRANSFORMED THROUGH CHRIST

"DO NOT CONFORM YOURSELVES TO THIS AGE, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND"



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH
2009 STEWARDSHIP HANDBOOK

“I URGE YOU THEREFORE, BROTHERS, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO OFFER YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND PLEASING TO GOD, YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP. DO NOT CONFORM YOURSELVES TO THIS AGE BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND PLEASING AND PERFECT.”

ROMANS 12:1-2



Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves.

Beginning in conversion, change of mind and heart, this commitment is expressed not in a single action, nor even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life.

It means committing one's very self to the Lord.

Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives.

From Stewardship: A Disciple's Response



FORMATION: TRANSFORMED THROUGH CHRIST

Dear Parishioner,

This year we are emphasizing the third pillar of parish stewardship – *Formation*. Formation is the process of studying Christ’s teachings and incorporating them deeply into our lives. It is a life-long effort by which we “put on Christ” (Rom 13:14) and are “transformed by the renewal of our minds” (Rom 12:2).

Above all, our formation should include studying Scripture and Church teaching. It should also include discussion with other Catholics and honest self-assessment. Its goal is to “discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

Because formation helps us understand God’s will, it therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. When our minds are transformed through Christ, we become like him: as Christ gave His life for us, so we give our lives to others.

During our Stewardship Renewal, in addition to our emphasis on formation, we continue to focus on prayer, ministry, and offertory giving – or what we call time, talent, and treasure. As your pastor, I ask you to take a step forward in each area. To do so, [please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on October 10 or 11.](#)

I am very happy and grateful to be your pastor, and I thank you for your dedication. I wholeheartedly welcome your involvement in our community.

In Christ,



Fr. Troha



THE PILLAR OF FORMATION



“BEING A DISCIPLE IS NOT JUST SOMETHING ELSE TO DO, ALONGSIDE MANY OTHER THINGS SUITABLE FOR CHRISTIANS; IT IS A TOTAL WAY OF LIFE AND REQUIRES CONTINUING CONVERSION.”

FROM STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE



CONVERSION: A FLASH OF INSIGHT

“Something else must come before the practice of stewardship,” the U.S. Bishops said in an important pastoral letter. “People need a flash of light—a certain way of seeing—by which they view their world and their relationship to it in a fresh new light.”

What is this flash of insight? St. Ignatius of Loyola famously described it in very simple terms: God created us for a reason—to be with Him forever in heaven. He created other things on earth to help us achieve this goal. As a consequence, we should use earthly things to grow closer to God, or remove them if they are a hindrance.

One could say that the “conversion to stewardship” comes when we truly believe that everything we have should be used for God’s purposes.



PRAYER: FORMING A FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

A man complained to his pastor that giving money to the Church was the hardest part of stewardship. The priest disagreed, responding: “For the next year, try setting aside 20 minutes every single day for uninterrupted prayer. And every week, give 5% of your income to the offertory. At the end of the year, tell me which was harder.”

Time is our most valuable commodity. Unlike our talents, which can be cultivated by practice, or our money, which can be recouped by more work, our time can never be recovered once it is spent. When we share our time—for prayer, service, friendship—we make a basic investment of ourselves. More than anything else, the way we spend our time reveals our priorities.

For reflection... _____

- ❖ How often do you spend time in uninterrupted prayer?
- ❖ How many kinds of prayer do you practice? Meditation, praise, Rosary, etc.
- ❖ How can you pray regularly with your spouse and children?

“IT IS OUR DUTY TO LIVE AMONG BOOKS; ESPECIALLY TO LIVE BY ONE BOOK, AND A VERY OLD ONE.”

JOHN HENRY CARDINAL NEWMAN



FORMATION IN SCRIPTURE & CHURCH TEACHING

The late Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply. As Catholic adults, it is our responsibility to take the initiative for our own formation.

This year, because our parish is emphasizing Formation, we need to pay particular attention to opportunities for studying our faith. This includes reading scripture (and perhaps scripture commentaries) and other Catholic material. It includes attending classes, going on retreats, and discussing our faith with others. There are also dozens of bookstores and Web sites that offer high-quality information about our faith. Make sure to include Catholic books, videos, and movies among your reading and viewing choices.

“IGNORANCE OF THE SCRIPTURES IS IGNORANCE OF CHRIST.”

ST. JEROME

For reflection... _____

- ❖ What can I do to put a greater emphasis on Catholic formation in my own life?
- ❖ How often do I read my Bible and other spiritual books?
- ❖ Do I participate in Bible study and discussion groups?



“WHOEVER SOWS SPARINGLY
WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, AND
WHOEVER SOWS BOUNTIFULLY WILL
ALSO REAP BOUNTIFULLY. GOD
LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER”

- 2 COR 9:6-7



PRACTICING FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

It's no accident that the fruit of our labor, the collection, is offered at the same time as the presentation of the gifts of bread and wine. In the same way that the bread and wine are “the work of human hands,” in modern society, money represents the result of our work. Our financial gift, then, is a gift of ourselves to God. God accepts our bread and wine, transforms them, and gives them back to us to convey His grace. In a similar way, God accepts our money and transforms it through the work of the parish.

Our parish asks each family to give 5% of its gross income to the offertory. This is only possible, however, when we are good stewards of the remaining 95%. And because consumerism is rampant in our society, this can be difficult to do. Part of our Catholic formation should include a serious look at where we spend our resources. If needed, seek out assistance with budgeting, fiscal discipline, and overall financial stewardship.

GUIDE FOR GIVING 5%:

Annual Income	5% Weekly Gift
\$10,000	\$10
20,000	19
30,000	29
50,000	48
75,000	72
100,000	96
125,000	120
150,000	144
200,000	192

For reflection... _____

- ❖ Do I believe that all I have belongs to God, and do I seek help to become more financially responsible?
- ❖ Does my spending reflect that God is a priority in my life?
- ❖ Have I made a good-faith effort to give 5% to the parish?

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers

Altar servers begin to serve at Immaculate Conception during the fifth grade. Many continue to serve at Mass and solemn occasions throughout high school, college and adulthood. Servers are needed for Sunday Masses as well as weddings, Eucharistic Devotions and other solemn occasions.

Kathy Doles, 440-942-4500

Adult Servers

Adult men of the parish serve at funerals. We welcome men whose mornings are free to serve funerals.

Fr. Lou Pizmoht, 440-942-4500

Adult Choir

This choir enhances the Liturgical Services of our parish. Many of our members have never sung in a choir before, but through commitment and rehearsals they are able to develop their musical talents. Choir Masses are sung on a rotating schedule, and rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Anyone high school age or older is welcome.

Michael Kelley, 440-953-1838

Cantor/Song Leaders

Song leaders assist in leading the singing at the Masses.

Michael Kelley, 440-953-1838

Church Cleaning "Angels"

The "angels" help in the weekly clean-up of the church on Monday mornings. They maintain all areas of the church to include vestibules, pews, sanctuary and sacristies.

Ron Felter, 440-942-4500

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at weekend liturgies.

Deacon Paul Hlabse, 440-942-4500

Eucharistic Ministry To The Sick

On Sunday morning, Eucharistic Ministers take Holy Communion to those parishioners unable to attend Mass, and those in nursing homes or hospitals.

Deacon Paul Hlabse, 440-942-4500

Family Choir

The Music Ministry Team combines the talent of both its Youth Choir and Teen Choirs into one joyous ministry. The Family Choir sings at the 10 a.m. Sunday Liturgy on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Rehearsals are on the 3rd Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Michael Kelley, 440-953-1838

Lectors

Lectors proclaim Scripture Readings at Mass and other services.

Deacon Paul Hlabse, 440-942-4500

Liturgy Commission

Members assist the pastor in promoting a proper understanding of the liturgy as well as preparing for liturgical celebrations.

Joe Balasz, 440-946-8386

Mass Greeters

Greeters welcome worshippers to Immaculate Conception's liturgies. Our purpose is to make parishioners and visitors welcome with a smile and greeting. Children are welcome to join their parents to act as a family group of greeters.

Meg Radtke, 440-942-2744

Ushers

The ushers are men and women who welcome parishioners and visitors at liturgies, assist in seating them, take up the collection and facilitate in the orderly reception of Holy Communion.

George Malec, 440-266-0441

Bereavement Ministry

This ministry helps families cope with grief. The sadness felt after the death of a loved one can bring life to a grinding halt. We offer a support session on the second Thursday of the month. Members gather informally following the 7 p.m. Mass.

Patricia Codney, 440-954-9087

Book Center

The John Paul II Book Center is open after each Saturday evening Mass and Sunday Masses for about 20 minutes. Volunteers are welcome to assist in staffing the Book Center.

Chris Hoag, 440-942-4500

Building Church/Welcoming All (BCWA)

This ministry is dedicated to reaching out to those with a variety of disabilities and ensure, as much as is possible, that they feel welcome in all ways at Immaculate Conception.

Jeff Mackey, 440-951-5481

Career Directions Ministry

Career advice from a Catholic perspective is offered on an appointment basis by parishioner and executive Jerry Cirino. Appointments are made through the Rectory Office.

Jerry Cirino, 440-942-4500

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Coaches

Our parish has over 30 sports teams in six sports for the youth of the parish. Women and men are needed to coach the various teams.

Pam Yert, 440-256-1937

Athletic Board/Booster Club

The Booster Club supports the athletic program through its fund-raising. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

Pam Yert, 440-256-1937

Elizabeth Ministry

Elizabeth Ministry is an international movement designed to support women and their families during the joys, trials and sorrows of the childbearing years and beyond. Elizabeth Ministry's mission is to cherish children, encourage families and build community. We offer peer support, mentoring and spiritual nourishment.

Jan Silvaroli, 440-942-5640

Evangelization Committee

This new ministry is being formed along with our cluster partner of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish. This committee will explore ways to evangelize inactive parishioners as well as reach out to the unchurched in our localities.

Fr. Michael Troha, 440-942-4500

Girl Scouts

Scouting is offered to girls of the parish from kindergarten through the eighth grade. It offers an opportunity to develop leadership skills and self-awareness through interaction with other girls the same age.

Janet Farroni, 440-943-1756

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee promotes a welcoming atmosphere in the parish. They host welcoming events like dinners for new parishioners and other get-togethers.

Mike Maniche, 440-943-6583

Immaculate Seniors Ministry

This new ministry is for any senior citizen to gather together with other seniors each Wednesday afternoon for prayer, learning, and socializing. All seniors from anywhere are welcome.

Ron Felter, 440-942-4500

Knights Of Columbus

The K of C is a Catholic men's fraternal organization. Fellowship is promoted through educational, charitable, religious and social service. While the Knights of Columbus is not an Immaculate Conception Group/Organization, it meets at our parish on the first and third Tuesday of every month.

Mark Seibert, 216-822-7789

Life Teen Core Team

Our parish joins with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in youth ministry through the Life Teen program. All high school youth are welcome. Adults 20 years and older are needed to plan and carry out the Life Nights, which begin with Mass at 5:30 p.m. each Sunday.

Greg Schmidt, 440-942-4500

Life Teen Support Team

Although parents of high school youth are not part of the Core Team, they are encouraged to be part of the Support Team, which helps to support the activities of the Life Teen program.

Greg Schmidt, 440-942-4500

Oktoberfest In July Volunteers

The entire parish comes together the third full weekend in July to sponsor the annual "Oktoberfest in July." The preparations involved are numerous, and we rely on the hands of many to successfully put on this event.

Shirley Marsh, 440-946-5775

Oktoberfest In July Committee

The core committee for Oktoberfest meets once a month from January until August each year. New members are most welcome.

Mark Dutton, 440-357-5036

Parish Beautification Team

Parishioners "take ownership" of the parish grounds by utilizing their labor along with any gardening and landscaping skills.

Mary Jo Timbers-Mrozek, 440-255-5961

Pro-Life Committee

The Pro-Life Committee seeks to educate parishioners about right-to-life issues, as well as promote events that celebrate the right-to-life. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

Julie Sbrocco, 440-943-5861

St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Society is a spiritual organization that carries out its mission by helping anyone in need of food, clothing or shelter from our parish or who lives in our parish territory. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month in the Rectory meeting room.

Kathy Hughes, 440-942-4500

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee supports a monthly meal at St. James Episcopal church in Painesville. The members are responsible for serving the meal on the first Sunday of every month.

Marty Hughes, 440-942-4500

Society Of Mother Teresa

Cooked meals are delivered to the homes of any person in our area who requests a meal for whatever reasons. Members not only deliver the meal but spend some time visiting as well.

Marty Hughes, 440-942-4500

Transportation Ministry

Our parish purchased a handicapped-accessible bus to assist parishioners in getting to Church on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Drivers are needed as well as transportation assistants. No special drivers license is necessary. Training is provided to drivers and assistants.

Ron Felter, 440-942-4500

Wellness Ministry

Health care professionals from the parish assist other parishioners and their families with health care needs. Members are available for educational events, as well. This ministry is in need of health care professionals willing to share their gifts with others.

Patricia Trolli, 440-516-0337

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry provides the opportunity for junior high school students to grow in their love for God and be involved as a

vital part of the parish through spiritual, service, and social activities. Parish adults are needed to be a part of this ministry in making a difference in our children's lives. Responsibilities include planning, guiding, and encouraging the students in the various activities.

Deacon Paul Hlabse, 440-942-4500

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

Finance Council

This council is mandated by Church Law and is a consultative body that makes recommendations to the pastor. The members of the Finance Council are appointed by the pastor and include persons with skills in finance, administration, and law. There are six voting members whose two-year terms expire in a rotating manner. *Fr. Michael Troha, 440-942-4500*

Parish Pastoral Council

The council is a consultative body to the pastor to ensure that the mission and ministries of the parish are carried out. The six members serve rotating three-year terms. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. *Dave Herpy, 440-942-7327*

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee implements stewardship as a way of life in the parish. Members act as models of stewardship for other parishioners by engaging in a life that is committed to the Eucharist, prayer, service and ongoing formation.

Fr. Michael Troha, 440-942-4500

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Catholic Parent Teachers Unit (CPTU)

Membership is open to any parent or guardian of an IC Student or member of the parish. The purpose of the organization is to be a voice in support of Catholic education, to provide financial support to the school and to encourage participation. All parents are encouraged to join.

ICS School Office, 440-942-2121

Fundraiser Volunteers

Throughout the school year, volunteers are needed to help with a variety of different fundraisers that benefit our school. They include a Magazine Sale, the Malleys Easter Chocolate Sale, Market Day (September to May), CPTU Certificate Sale, and the Chinese Auction.

ICS School Office, 440-942-2121

Sponsor-A-Student

Sponsor-A-Student is a combined parish effort enabling deserving students to attend our school. The funds raised are used for financial aid to children in our parish grade school.

Rectory Office, 440-942-4500

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament

The BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our Chapel has been open since 1986, and it takes 270+ dedicated people each week to spend an hour with our Lord.

Dennis Lann, 440-975-1740

AVILAS Prayer Group

AVILAS is a group of parishioners who meet to pray for an increase of vocations and for those who are priests and religious. AVILAS meets the third Tuesday of the month, beginning with the 7:45 a.m. Mass and one half-hour after Mass.

Mary Ingraham, 440-946-4879

Fatima Holy Hour—Blue Army

This group meets Wednesday evenings in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for prayer and the Rosary.

Eileen Morgan, 440-942-4131

Holy Name Society

The Society promotes the spiritual welfare of the men of the parish. The Society provides spiritual and social activities, as well as fundraisers for worthy causes. Meetings are held the Monday after the second Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the school library. All men of the parish 18 years and older are welcome.

Jack Petersen, 440-951-2045

Legion Of Mary

The Legion ministers to those who are living in nursing homes, hospitals, and shut-ins in their own homes. We enrich our own lives by serving the spiritual needs of the people. Active members meet every Monday at 7:30 p.m. in the CPTU room in the Church. Auxiliary members volunteer to pray the Rosary daily.

Charlotte Began, 440-975-1845

Pre-Cana Day

Married couples from the parish help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Once a year, a Pre-Cana Day

is held on a Saturday at which some couples from the team give a talk on various aspects of their married life for the benefit of the engaged couples.

Deacon Paul Hlabse, 440-942-4500

PARISH CATECHETICAL OFFICE

Pre-School Religious Program

Children ages three to five are introduced to God and His Church. Classes meet on Sundays in the school during the 10 a.m. Mass. Volunteer teachers and classroom aides are needed.

Heather Kinney, 440-749-0907

Parish School Of Religion

Youth are formed in the Catholic Faith through instruction that encourages growth in knowledge and the spiritual life. Classes meet on Saturdays: Grades 1 to 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Tuesdays: Grades 5 to 8 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Volunteers needed: catechists and classroom aides.

Chris Hoag, 440-942-2189

Adult Faith Formation

Faith enrichment sessions are held periodically throughout the year on various

themes. Volunteers needed: hospitality assistance, facility set-up.

Chris Hoag, 440-942-4500

Catechumenate (Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults)

The catechumenal process is the means by which unbaptized persons enter the Church. Additionally, non-Catholic Christians enter into full communion with the Church and Catholic adults prepare for the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation through this program. Volunteers needed: catechists, liturgy dismissal facilitators, hospitality assistance, sacramental sponsors.

Chris Hoag, 440-942-4500

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS is a one week long summer program for pre-K and elementary school-aged children. A theme is presented through interactive activities, such as Bible stories, songs, skits, arts and crafts, and team-building game activities. Junior high and high school students, and adults are needed prior to VBS week in the areas of planning, registration, decorating, and for all activities during VBS week.

Deacon Paul Hlabse, 440-942-4500