



Catholics urged to Vote Yes on Pro-life Amendment 3

We, the Catholic Bishops of Missouri, have a solemn duty to defend the dignity of every person and to stand for those whose lives and well-being are most vulnerable, including pregnant women, unborn babies, and children. On November 3, Missouri voters will consider Amendment 3, which would repeal the most harmful provisions of the 2024 amendment that regrettably enshrined a broad right to abortion in our state constitution.

Amendment 3 would restore meaningful protections for women and unborn babies that were stripped away in 2024. It would allow Missouri once again to require basic health and safety standards for clinics, safeguard parental rights, and substantially limit abortion in our state, while also ensuring that women continue to have access to medical care for emergencies, ectopic pregnancies, and miscarriages. Furthermore, Amendment 3 would permanently protect boys and girls by prohibiting destructive gender-transition procedures, including surgeries, puberty blockers, and cross-sex hormones, in the state constitution. Although Amendment 3 is not perfect, it would be a significant step toward restoring protections for women and children in Missouri.

As Catholics, we do not leave our faith at the door when we enter the public square. Our baptism calls us to follow Jesus Christ in every part of our lives, including the responsibilities we have as citizens. Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that "worship pleasing to God can never be a purely private matter," calling us to bear public witness to fundamental values, including the defense of human life from conception to natural death (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 83).

That witness begins with a truth that cannot be reduced to a matter of political preference: Every human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. The protection of innocent human life is therefore a matter of fundamental moral justice.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we cannot be indifferent when our own state constitution fails to safeguard those who most need its protection. We urge you to pray and fast, to speak with your family and friends, and to continue working to pass Amendment 3. Stand with the unborn child who cannot speak for himself or herself. Stand with the woman who deserves accompaniment and care, not an unregulated abortion at an unsafe clinic. Stand with the child who deserves the freedom to grow and mature without being subjected to harmful life-altering procedures.

Whether you vote early or vote on November 3, **vote YES on Amendment 3.**

CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI



+ Mitchell T. Rozanski

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
General Chairman
Archbishop of St. Louis



+ James V. Johnston, Jr.

Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr.
Vice Chairman
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph



+ Ralph B. O'Donnell

Most Reverend Ralph B. O'Donnell
Executive Chairman
Bishop of Jefferson City



+ Edward M. Rice

Most Reverend Edward M. Rice
Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau

Immaculate Conception School Board Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2026

Members Present:

Robert Holzum, President
Kelli Guyot, Secretary
Barbie Gibbs, Board Member
Sarah Lentz, Board Member
Kaitlin Roslen, Board Member
Brooke Deason, H&S President
Karen Engelen, Principal
Fr. Randy Tochtrop, Pastor

Principal's Report (Ms. Engelen):

- 2026-2027 school year current enrollment: 41 students in Pre-K, 142 students in K-8.
- Grades 3-8 are finishing up ITBS testing.
- An 8th grade retreat is booked at Camp Cana in Ste. Genevieve.
- Ms. Hope and Ms. Engelen are starting an afterschool book study with the 6-8 grade girls. There are plans to start one for the 6-8 grade boys as well.

Committee Reports:

- **Athletic Committee (Ms. Roslen)** – 7th–8th grade boys are partnering with St. Vincent for basketball. Plans are also underway to form 4th–5th grade boys' team to compete against area schools. St. Vincent's girls' team is using our gym while their facilities are under construction. Quotes for the gym floor are still pending.
- **Marketing Committee (Ms. Roslen)**– Digital billboard on Shawnee Blvd has been advertising IC events, and we have received positive feedback from community members. A content calendar is being developed for featured posts. We are appreciative of the work the marketing team has put into promoting IC.
- **Parish Council (Ms. Gibbs)**– no new business to report
- **Home and School (Ms. Deason)** – We have had three restaurant nights so far, and the next one is Jimmy John's on November 17. Mouse Races raised just over \$5,000. Next year's event will be held on September 10. Guardian Angel celebration on October 2, and each received a St. Michael keychain and refreshments. Trunk or Treat is on October 30, and the craft fair is on November 7. Most spots for volunteer opportunities are filled, and Ms. Deason will be reaching out to families who still need to fulfill their volunteer work. Extra treats are being purchased for teachers throughout the year.
- **Facilities (Ms. Lentz)**– Drafting is underway for upcoming projects, along with data collection and audits to help prioritize needs. They are also reviewing the businesses used for school facilities. Ms. Lentz will gather interest from those who would like to contribute to school beautification.

Old Business:

- Ms. Lentz is going to come up with a plan for landscaping needs and will contact current volunteers.
- Adoration is still going well with grades taking turns throughout the day on Tuesday to participate.

New Business:

- Looking to get our junior high students to create video clips with weekly updates from the school to share out with families.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten graduation was discussed; for now, the focus will remain on other positive primary-grade events.
- Mr. Holzum shared information about potential school safety grants, which Ms. Engelen will research. He also shared a utility audit service that identifies billing errors and corrects future bills, with the company receiving 50% of any savings recovered.

Pastor's Report (Fr. Tochtrop):

- The new air conditioners will be installed on October 16.
- The prayer box is going well. Teachers have said there have been quite a few intentions.
- Positive feedback about Sister Clara, and she will be here most Sundays for the 10:00 Mass. We are thankful to have her!
- Discussion over students doing daily Mass, and of rewards other than dress down days.
- Confirmation class has around 55 students. Confirmation will be held on January 28.
- Date for the new Church dedication is still pending.

Next Meeting Date:

- The next IC School Board meeting will be November 4, 2026 at 6:00pm.