



Immaculate Conception

A Full Stewardship Parish ~ Partner Parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupon, IL
411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL 62236 | 618-281-5105 | Fax 281-6848

July 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us



Happy Sunday!

My name is Rebecca Husman, and I am thrilled to be the new PSR Coordinator. I am excited to be joining this ministry. I am a Southwest girl living in a Midwest world. This is what happens when you go somewhere for college, and then meet a boy! I was raised in New Mexico, and have been in Columbia for 7 years. My husband, Craig, and I have been married for almost 17 years. We have one daughter, Calleigh, who will be 6 this fall, and a puppy who will be 1 this winter. Before my daughter, I was a Kindergarten teacher, so I am looking forward to rejoining my tribe. When I am not doing the momma thing I enjoy going to the Muny, reading, and working with my garden. I really enjoy attending the parades in town with my daughter. She loves them so much! When it comes to sports we are a house divided. My husband loves the Cardinals, and I am a Cubs fan. My daughter is currently a Cardinal fan... we will see! I look forward to getting to know all of you and helping your children to develop a loving, lasting relationship with Christ. The Immaculate Conception Parish School of Religion (PSR) provides religious formation for students in grades Kindergarten through 8th who attend public schools. So if you are at Eagleview, Parkview, or the Middle School, please join us on Wednesday evenings. Our goal is to instruct the youth of our parish family as a community of believers in the Catholic faith. Volunteers are always welcome. You can teach, or assist. If you are in high school you also receive service hours. If this ministry is your tribe, please contact me; I would love to help you find your place!

ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND IN THE TRADITION OF CATHOLICISM AND UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF MARY IMMACULATE, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO BE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH, WORSHIPPING WITH GENERATIONS OF BELIEVERS AND SERVING GOD IN ALL PEOPLE.

Welcome New Parishioners

If you are new to our parish and reside within the parish boundaries, and would like to be members, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105, and our secretary will be happy to help make that happen!

Hola, Bienvenidos – a la iglesia Catolica en Immaculata Concepcion. ¡Que tengas una bendita semana!

We livestream! To participate, please use this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmaculateConceptionCatholicChurchColumbiaIL>

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday,
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-281-5105

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Steve Thoma, C.R.
ext. 358 or 805-670-3541
frsteve@iccmil.org

**Associate Pastor,
Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R.**
773-269-0227,
ericwagnercrl@gmail.com

**Business Manager,
Kara Dell-Hunt, ext. 350,**
kdell-hunt@iccmil.org

**Director of Music,
Karen Lundy, 618-719-1815,**
karenlundy@gmail.com

**Director of Faith Formation,
Lizanne Young**
ext. 354, lyounge@iccmil.org

Liturgy Coordinator, TBA

**IC-PSR Coordinator,
Rebecca Husman**
ext. 320, rhusman@iccmil.org.

Bookkeeper, Sheryl Oglesby
ext. 351, soglesby@iccmil.org

**Secretary,
Michelle Muckensturm**
ext. 300, iccmil@iccmil.org

**Spiritual and Mental Health
Advocate, Shea Christensen**
ext. 352, schristensen@icsmail.org

**ICS Principal,
Dave Gregson**
281-5353, ext. 202
dgregson@icsmail.org

**Pastoral Council Chair,
John Adams**
John.ADAMS@ampf.com

**School Board President,
Kyle Doerr**
boardpresident@icsmail.org

Sacramental Information

Baptisms: Parents/guardians are asked to attend a Preparation Seminar scheduled on the second Sunday of the month after 9:00 a.m. Mass (approximately 10:00 a.m.) in the lower-level library. We celebrate Baptisms on the first Sunday of the month during any Mass, and the third Sunday of the month after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. (No Baptisms are scheduled during Lent.) Please call the office to schedule at 281-5105.

Weddings: Please contact the Parish Office a minimum of four months prior to Marriage.

Anointing of the Sick & Funerals: Since individual needs differ, please contact the Parish Office at 281-5105 for pastoral care. Do not hesitate to call; we are grateful for the opportunity to open our hearts to you and your family and offer these sacramental services.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): The RCIA is for everyone who has been drawn by God to form a deeper relationship. Wherever you are in your faith practice – baptized in another Christian faith, starting from the beginning, or simply enriching your Catholic practice – consider the RCIA. Get to know God better and find out what it means to be Catholic. We meet in the Parish Office on Sundays (September-Easter), starting with “Breaking Open the Word” dismissal from 9:00 a.m. Mass, and catechetical sessions from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Contact Lizanne Young at the Parish Office at 281-5105, ext. 354, or email lyounge@iccmil.org.

Reconciliation: Reconciliation is offered from 4:00-4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and by appointment.

IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER INFO!

Anyone who wishes to volunteer at school or church when there are children present **MUST** be compliant with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy. Please be proactive! ***EVERYONE** must have an IL state background check, as well as doing the online refresher and filling out CANTS forms. ***Coaches** and employees will need to be fingerprinted in addition to the usual Child Protection paperwork. Contact Kara at the Parish Office if you have questions. ***The initial course is now available online.** Please contact Kara at the Parish Office for directions. Not sure if you are compliant? Contact Kara at the Parish Office. ***The refresher course for 2023-2024 IS AVAILABLE ONLINE!** Follow the link on our website! If you can't find it there, it is also on the Diocesan website at <http://diobelle.org/b.aspx>. Questions? Contact Kara at the Parish Office at 281-5105. ***Sexual Abuse Hotline:** Anyone wishing to report an allegation of sexual misconduct by a Priest or other Diocesan personnel, please call the hotline at 800-640-3044.

*Purchase Scrip Gift Cards from all of
your favorite stores, restaurants, etc...
in the Parish Office!*

This Week's Liturgical Celebrations

Masses – Saturday, 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, July 17	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Job George & Family
Tuesday, July 18	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Fr. Steve Gira, C.R.
Wednesday, July 19	8:05 a.m.	We Remember John Woods
Thursday, July 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Ray & Velma Budde
Friday, July 21	8:05 a.m.	In Honor of Tom and Betty Wolfmeier
Saturday, July 22	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Melvin Bond, Sr.
Sunday, July 23	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Berni Kutz
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Norm Schmidt
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Earl Niermann



Please Pray For

Steve Dressler	Brian Kreher	Baby Marcella
Patty Pulcher	Rich Sambo	Norman Pautler
Danielle Dorlac	Catherine Sambo	Don & Shirley Mehrmann
Donna Archambault-Kania	Nicole Pennington	Dolores G.
Arlin Stechmesser	Ruth Herrmann	Elliana Cloin
Catherine Marlo	Bill Kutz	Earl & Arlene Kruse
Margaret Ann Conrad	Chris Peel	Mrs. Steele
Peggy Schutt	Joan Thoma	Brian Hirsh
Dakota Schutt	Jodie Ward	Bob Frey
Mike Conrad	Grace Nolan	The Kruse Family
Janice McDermott	Special Intention	Betty Schmieder
Delores Deleveski	Liam Pugh	Lynn Naumann Casey
Ginny Lambert	Jill Bean	

Troops in Service... SGM Joseph Pope, US Army

Prayer List Guidelines: Please be mindful if your loved one no longer needs to be on the Prayer List, and call the Parish Office at 281-5105.



Weekly Reflections

July 16, 2023:

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11
Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23
Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23



Parish Events & News...

REMINDER TO GET YOUR PSR STUDENTS REGISTERED!

All registrations received after July 30 will have an additional \$10.00 per student late registration fee. You can register at the link on our website. Contact the Parish Office for any questions.

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend will be **August 5 & 6**. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

BULLETIN DEADLINE...

All submissions for the bulletin will need to be in to the parish office two Thursdays before you need it in the bulletin. Submissions will need to be sent to iccmil@iccmil.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR INFO...

In preparation for this year's guidebook and ministry catalogue, please let us know if your Name, Address, Phone Number, or Email has changed. We only know to change it if you tell us! Send all changes to iccmil@iccmil.org. Thanks!



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
PARISH
PICNIC
SAVE THE DATE!
411 PALMER ROAD - COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS

LABOR DAY WEEKEND, 2023

Interested in joining the planning committee?

Contact:
ICCPicnicChairs@gmail.com
to get more information!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2

Evening Band Event

- Live Music: 7pm-10pm
- Food & Drinks
- Select Booths & Games



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4

Parish Picnic, 11am-7pm

- Chicken Dinner, Fish & Grill Stands
- Book Store, Dessert Stand
- Kids & Adult Games
- Quilt Bingo 11am-7pm
- Live music through the day



Ministry News & Happenings

MEALS FROM THE HEART...

Meals from the Heart is still available to those in need! We have volunteers ready to provide meals on a temporary basis to any parishioner experiencing a death, illness or trauma in their family. Please contact the Parish Office for assistance.

TRAINING FOR MASS MINISTRIES

Looking for a more active way to participate in Mass? Teens and adults (if you're Confirmed, you're qualified!) are invited to a training session for Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Ministers of Hospitality (ushers) on either of the following dates: Thursday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m., OR Sunday, July 30, 12:00 p.m. (immediately following 11:00 a.m. Mass). These sessions are for new ministers and anyone who would like a refresher. *Would you like to assist with training?* Shoot an email to Lizanne at lyoung@iccmil.org.

THEOLOGY ON TAP'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and Topics are below. All dates are at Sunset Overlook in Columbia, IL at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

August 7: Purgatory & Afterlife

August 21: Hiking – location TBD

September 4: None

September 18: Service Outing – details TBD

October 2: Book of Leviticus

October 16: Game Night!!

October 30: Image of God

November 13: Social, no topic

December 11: Christmas Party & White Elephant

ST. ANNE CRADLE OF HOPE COLLECTION

The Sanctity of Life Committee will be collecting items for the St. Anne Cradle of Hope from July 1 until July 31, 2023. The most needed items are:

- Diaper Bags
- Bouncy Seats
- Diapers and Pull-ups, especially sizes 6-7
- Swim Diapers
- Car Seats

Of course, cash is always appreciated since it allows the volunteer staff at St. Anne's to buy exactly what is needed as well as making it easier and more convenient than transporting large items. The address is:

St. Anne Cradle of Hope
C/O Mary Fleming
222 South Third Street
Belleville, IL 62220

Or, if it's easier, you may drop your check in the collection basket or leave it in the parish office.

Thanks in advance for your generosity. Please place your donated items in the baby crib or in the bins next to it in the Gathering Space.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. in the library. All are welcome! Contact Lizanne for more info at 618-281-5105, ext. 354.

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

Every Sunday with an odd date is an Odd Sunday ICY Meeting. Check out the QR code for more details.



Pope Francis Says...

The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. (LS 123)

What can I do? Use less water, create less trash.

Discipleship Corner

Planet Earth is getting warmer. Bad things accompany a warmer earth. Regardless of the extent of mankind's contribution to global warming, there are steps we can take to diminish its magnitude and impact. Those statements are facts, and "Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." (Aldous Huxley). Our response to global warming is a social justice issue because we know poor people and impoverished nations will suffer disproportionately. "Climate change is a global problem with grave implications." (Pope Francis). Floods, draughts, wildfires, hunger, disease, death!! "Why stand we here idle?" (Patrick Henry). Are we or are we not good stewards?



ASSISTING WITH TUESDAY ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

If you would like to assist in transferring the Blessed Sacrament for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays, training will be held on **Tuesday, July 18th**. Training for **Exposition** will be held at 3:30 p.m.

in Church, Adoration will follow from 4:00-8:00 p.m., and training for **Reposition** will follow immediately at 8:00 p.m. This beautiful, rewarding, needed ministry is open to all practicing Catholics who have been Confirmed.

THE 2023 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL...

"The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord" – Psalm 15

Did you know YOUR GIFT to The 2023 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at www.diobelle.org and click on "Giving." It's that simple! Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on YOU. Please visit www.diobelle.org today!

PILGRIMAGE UPDATE

Thank you to all those who emailed me their interest in a potential pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There was plenty of interest, so I will be contacting my friends at Catholic Travel and inviting them to put together a pilgrimage for the end of April, 2025. When I receive the details I will let you all know, and we will schedule a meeting. Until then, thanks for your interest!

– Fr. Steve

Vocation

On July 14th we celebrated the feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, a native American woman. At 19 she converted to Catholicism against her family's wishes. She knew that God loved her and called her into a deeper relationship. She found happiness in serving God.

As many of our young people struggle to hear God's call, in prayer let us ask for vocations to the priesthood and religious life through the intercession of St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

— Fr. Steve

PRAYER SHAWLS AVAILABLE!

Do you know someone who needs prayers? Why not bring them some comfort with a handmade Prayer Shawl, from our Prayer Shawl Ministry? Each Shawl will wrap your loved one in the prayers of our parish! Even during this vastly different time with COVID, we can get your loved one a Prayer Shawl. We deliver in sanitized bags and will leave on a porch or you can still pick up at the office during office hours. Call Marsha Narzinski at 314-517-4927 or the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

PRO-LIFE/PREGNANCY RESOURCES...

- ~ Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support: Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo & Red Bud) – 618-939-4224/mylifenet.org.
- ~ Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis) – birthrightstl.org
- ~ Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by abortion; contact Project Rachel at 618-722-5068 or hopeafterabortion.com.
- ~ A caring place for women who are pregnant and experiencing homelessness; contact Fontebella Maternity Home at 618-406-4355.

If you, or someone you know, have an unborn baby diagnosed with “fetal abnormalities” or an “adverse prenatal diagnosis,” please refer to: BeNotAfraid.net or PrenatalPartnersforLife.org.

Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. Birthrightstl.org offers their Melissa's Smile program, a counseling and supportive resource for mothers and fathers whose baby has been diagnosed prenatally with a genetic abnormality or whose baby has been born with a disability or serious medical condition.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE A BASKET FOR OUR FALL RAFFLE?

Baskets are due at the September 7th meeting. Contact Glenda Sexauer if you are interested at glenda.sexauer@gmail.com or 618-520-9369. Collecting items now for the Keeping College Kids Connected bags to be handed out to students heading off to college at the August 5/6 Masses. We will fill 20 bags at our August 3rd meeting. If you have items to be picked up, please call or email Glenda Sexauer. Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 3rd in the Garden Level.

Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

July 9, 2023

Actual	\$ 14,762.50
Budget	\$ 21,500.00
Actual YTD	\$ 59,603.80
Budget YTD	\$ 43,000.00
Over (under)	\$ 16,603.80
Prior YTD	\$ 34,314.05
Over (under)	\$ 25,289.75
Guatemala	\$ 586.00
Peter's Pence	\$ 95.00
CEAC	\$ 12,765.00
CI	\$ 380.00
Gibault	\$ 20.00
Newman Auxiliary	\$ 20.00



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$6.50

Time and Talent: Sharing a snack with my sister, cutting the grass, I help take the dog out.

QUILTERS' CORNER...

Join our super fun quilters' group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome and appreciated, even beginners! Contact Carlene at 281-5877.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

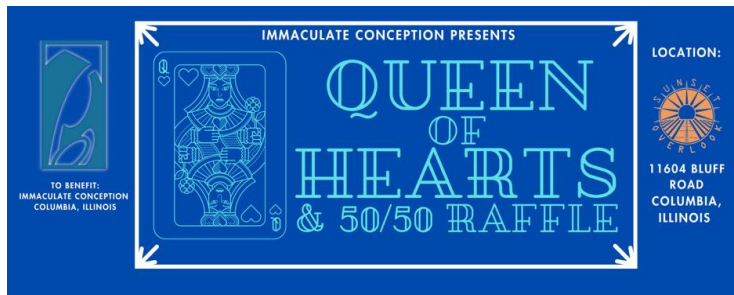
409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

School Principal: Dave Gregson, Ext. 202 ~ dgregson@icsmail.org

School Secretary: Beverly Epplin, Ext. 200 ~ bepplin@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

We still have a few open spots available. Please contact the school for more information.



We hope you were there to experience all the excitement of our first Queen of Hearts drawing. We appreciate the support of all those who came out or purchased tickets. Please continue to come out and enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun. Don't miss your chance to win big while supporting ICS! Check back for monthly reports on how much we have been able to raise.

***VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED!** Visit the Parish website: ICC-columbia-IL.us for a link to our Queen of Hearts sign-up.*

What's Happening At Gibault?

Pass. Set. Hit. Never Quit! Gibault Hawks' Volleyball Camp 2023!

Thanks to all the campers for attending and our boys' and girls' players and coaches for leading a fun camp!



ENROLLMENT NEWS:

There's still time to become a Gibault Hawk! We are accepting students for the Class of 2027, as well as transfer students for Fall 2023. Get started at <https://bit.ly/GCHSApply>.

Interested in learning more about Gibault Catholic? Contact Kelly Day at kday@gibaulthawks.com for information on all things Gibault or to schedule a private tour of our campus.

Diocesan and Area Interests...



NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS – VISITORS CENTER

Journey to Nicaea: The Evolution of Christianity from Gospel to Creed

Presenter: Mark Etling, PhD

Saturdays, August 5 and

September 2 – 10:00 a.m.-Noon

The first four centuries of the Christian era saw an incredible evolution – from a tiny movement in Israel to a vast, thriving institution in much of

the Roman Empire. In its earliest days, the Christian movement was a disorganized network of communities with no Bible, no central authority, and no unified system of beliefs. But by the year 400, the Church had adopted a universal statement of faith – the Nicene Creed. In this three-part series, we will explore Christianity's historical and theological journey from Jerusalem to Nicaea.

Cost: \$10.00 per session/\$30.00 for the series.

For more information, call 618-394-6281.

Register online at <https://snows.org>.



REFLECT RETREAT FOR MID-LIFE SINGLES

Friday, July 21, 2023 at
4:45 p.m.-Sunday, July
23, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

Mid-life Singles: Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose and belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at La Salle Retreat Center, Wildwood, MO (35 minutes from downtown St. Louis), on July 21-23, 2023. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it!

Cost is \$250.00 including meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, email reflect.stlouis@gmail.com, or call 314-283-0044 for details.

NOW HIRING!!! ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The Diocese of Belleville is seeking a full-time Associate Director of Education. The Associate Director of Education supports the Office of Education in ensuring that Catholic schools are academically sound and able to carry out their mission by promoting a strong Catholic education identity.

To apply, send cover letter with résumé to Human Resources, Diocese of Belleville, 222 S. 3rd Street, Belleville, IL 62220 or by email at humanresources@diobelle.org.

Application deadline: July 21, 2023

THE SERRA CLUB

The Serra Club of St. Clair County is an organization of Catholic men and women dedicated to fostering and affirming vocations to the Priesthood and vowed religious life. Our purpose is to pray for vocations and inform our community of the need for vocations. We provide many social events for our Priests, Deacons and Nuns. We sponsor occasional visits to the Seminaries for our grade school and high school students guided by a priest or a seminarian. Our group meets every first and third Friday of the month at Corpus Christi Parish Hall, 206 Rasp Street, Shiloh, IL 62269. We begin Mass at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and a brief meeting, and a prominent speaker. Additional information? Please call Marvin Winkeler at 402-214-1155 or Mel Lucash at 618-531-4244.

Serra has a new webpage: serrastclair.org.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

CHURCH PICNICS

St. Charles Borromeo, Dubois, IL

July 22 – Polka Mass at 4:00 p.m.

St. Boniface, Germantown, IL

July 25 – Chicken Dinner starts at 3:30 p.m.

Quilt/Cash Bingo at 6:30 p.m.

THE WORD

Reflection on Matthew 13:1-23

I don't remember where I first heard of this image, but it was most likely in a Scripture study class in the seminary. We were trying hard to offer interpretations of a section of St. Paul's letter to the Romans, when our professor said, "Forget what the words on the page say, what is The Word of God burning away? What do you see when the curtain is lifted?"

The words of Scripture are like a curtain in a theater; when you first sit down, the curtain is the focus. But it opens to reveal the action on the stage, and you no longer focus on the curtain. We struggle with the words of Scripture in order to discover The Word, which is always living, active, and inviting us to transformation.

So the Word comes down from heaven, and does not return until accomplishing the work for which it was sent. God indiscriminately and with great generosity continually sows the seeds of The Word in the soil of our lives, where rocks and thorns may at times deter its growth, or even choke it off. But the seeds are not sown just once, but over and over again, waiting for us to be fertile soil that will produce a grand harvest.

~ Fr. Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, July 16, 2023

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:10-11

Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

Rom 8:18-23

Mt 13:1-23 or Mt 13:1-9

Monday, July 17, 2023

Weekday

Ex 1:8-14, 22

Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8

Mt 10:34-11:1

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest

Ex 2:1-15a

Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34

Mt 11:20-24

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Weekday

Ex 3:1-6, 9-12

Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7

Mt 11:25-27

Thursday, July 20, 2023

Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr

Ex 3:13-20

Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27

Mt 11:28-30

Friday, July 21, 2023

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Ex 11:10-12:14

Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18

Mt 12:1-8

Saturday, July 22, 2023

Saint Mary Magdalene

Sgs 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17

Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9

Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Access Daily Readings from
the New American Bible,
Revised Edition (NABRE) online at
<https://bible.usccb.org>

SAINT LAWRENCE OF BRINDISI

Feast Day: July 21

Patron Saint of: Brindisi, Naples

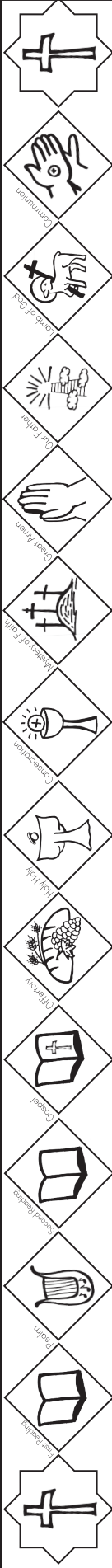
Lawrence was born on July 22, 1559, and died exactly 60 years later on his birthday in 1619. After the early death of his parents, he was educated by his uncle at the College of St. Mark in Venice. When he was just 16, he entered the Capuchin Franciscan Order in Venice and received the name of Lawrence. He completed his studies of philosophy and theology at the University of Padua and was ordained a priest at 23. With his facility for languages, Lawrence was able to study the Bible in its original texts. At the request of Pope Clement VIII, he spent much time preaching to the Jews in Italy. So excellent was his knowledge of Hebrew, the rabbis felt sure he was a Jew who had become a Christian.

Lawrence's sensitivity to the needs of people – a character trait perhaps unexpected in such a talented scholar – began to surface. He was elected major superior of the Capuchin Franciscan province of Tuscany at the age of 31. He had the combination of brilliance, human compassion, and administrative skill needed to carry out his duties. In rapid succession he was promoted by his fellow Capuchins and was elected minister general of the Capuchins in 1602. In this position he was responsible for great growth and geographical expansion of the Order.

Lawrence was appointed papal emissary and peacemaker, a job which took him to a number of foreign countries. An effort to achieve peace in his native kingdom of Naples took him on a journey to Lisbon to visit the king of Spain. Serious illness in Lisbon took his life in 1619.

In 1956, the Capuchins completed a 15-volume edition of Lawrence's writings. Eleven of these 15 contain his sermons, each of which relies chiefly on scriptural quotations to illustrate his teaching.

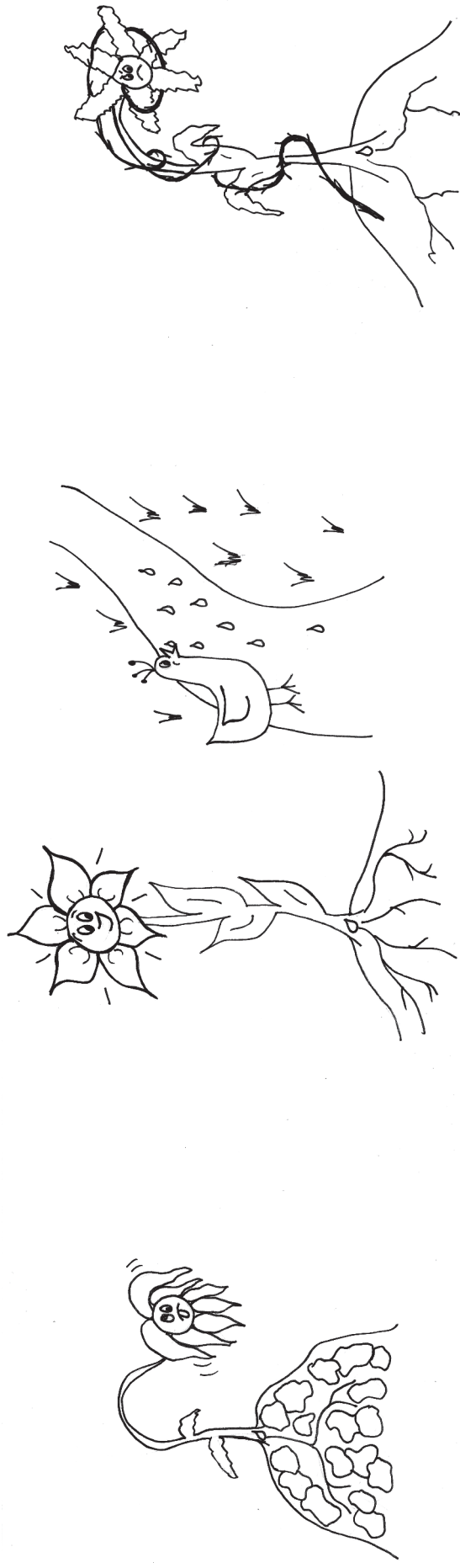
Read the full article: "Saint Lawrence of Brindisi" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars,
<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-lawrence-of-brindisi/>. (Accessed June 30, 2023).



Connect the words with the seeds.

Circle the seed that will grow and produce fruit.

Seed on good ground	Seed on rocky ground	Seed growing with thorns	Seed on the road
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Gospel

Jesus tells a parable about seeds. The seed that grows in good soil will grow fruit. What can you do to be a seed that grows on good ground?

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Pete & Julie Ingold,
Parishioners

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120 S. Moore St., Waterloo 618-939-7727
Amy Hoffmann-Rohlfing, Salon Owner



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Financial Advisor

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9859 Big Bend Blvd, Suite 105
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Dr. Ken Kloess



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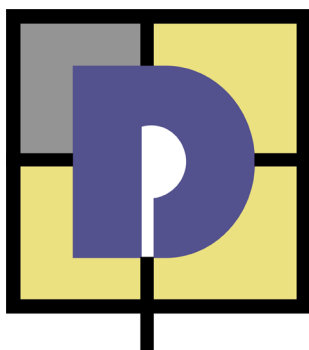
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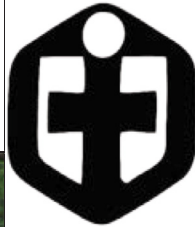
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