



Immaculate Conception

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

July 30, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

PARISH IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PICNIC

LABOR DAY
WEEKEND, 2023



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
2

Band & Food Event, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

- Live Music from Griffin and the Gargoyles.
- Food & Drink available for purchase.
- Adult Games, 50/50 Raffle, Activities for kids.
- Tickets go on sale August 5, \$10 per ticket, kids 5 and under free.
- More details coming soon on the Picnic Facebook page.



MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
4

Parish Picnic, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

- Raffle Stand, Adult Games
- Food: Chicken Dinner, Fish & Grill Stands
- Beer, Soda/Water, Iced Tea/Lemonade Stands
- Book Store, Dessert Stand, Homegrown Produce & Homemade Jellies Stand
- Kids & Adult Games
 - New this year: Youth Games Section!
- Quilt Bingo 11am-7pm (pay per game to play), \$500 final game!
- Live music through the day



Volunteer Signup will be available via the IC Picnic Facebook page beginning August 5.
Return sold raffle tickets in the collection baskets at masses or to the Parish Office.

We look forward to seeing you on September 2 and 4!

411 PALMER ROAD - COLUMBIA, ILLINOIS



Facebook:  @ImmaculateConceptionParishPicnic



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, lyoung@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@iccmil.org

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

**Pastoral Council Chair,
Bill Simmons**
wsimmons85@yahoo.com

**School Board President,
Kyle Doerr**
boardpresident@iccmil.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 lyoung@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 31	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Edith Sexauer
Tuesday, August 1	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Alma Buss
Wednesday, August 2	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Ellen Mae Drinen
Thursday, August 3	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Bruns
Friday, August 4	8:05 a.m.	We Remember John Hart
Saturday, August 5	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Angela Krupp
Sunday, August 6	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Charlie Farley
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Margie Pautler
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Rich Dreher



Please Pray For

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

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, call the Parish Office at 281-5105.



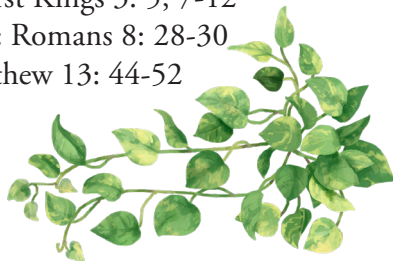
Weekly Reflections

July 30, 2023:

First Reading: First Kings 3: 5, 7-12

Second Reading: Romans 8: 28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44-52

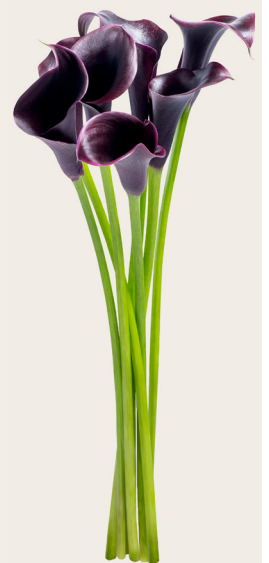


Our Sympathies...

To Joyce Rose's son and Scott Rose's brother and their family on the death Robert Rose, 62, of Columbia

To William Hoffman and their family on the death of Williams wife, Joanne Hoffman, 75, of Columbia

To Deborah, Peggy, and Mary and their family on the death of their mother, Geneva Lambert, 96, of Columbia



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 and 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.

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.

Pope Francis Says...

All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents. (LS 14)

What can I do? Conserve energy, lower house temperature in winter, raise it in the summer.

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 until August 4, 2023. The most needed items are: Diaper Bags, Bouncy Seats, Diapers and Pull-ups (especially sizes 6-7), Swim Diapers, and 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.

Vocations

God of all creation and giver of all life, inspire us with Your spirit that we may choose to follow wherever You lead us. Guide us in the pathways of knowledge and peace that we may truly be Your disciples, daily grow more and more into Your likeness, and finally dwell with You in life eternal. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

Discipleship

In serving God, I must grow in my holiness. If I am to grow in holiness, I have to say "yes" to God in all of my decisions. That's not always easy to do. It's easy sometimes to say "yes" to the Lord for the long haul decisions to be a member of the Church, to come faithfully to the Eucharist, to love my neighbor... The problem may be my short-term "yes's" to God – the daily decisions that, one by one, shape the direction of my life. I usually don't flat out say "no" to what the Lord is calling me to do in the situations of day-to-day life. Instead, maybe I say nothing. I simply go my own way. I don't say "no," I simply don't do what the Lord is calling me to do. In order to grow in holiness, I need to become more consistent in saying "yes" to God in both long-term and short-term decisions in my life.

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



The ICY group recently attended the Steubenville Youth Conference in Springfield, MO. 5,000 high school youth gathered to learn about our Catholic faith. The theme this year was *Refuge* where we learned ways to deepen our faith, attended Adoration, talks and Mass in a high energy fun atmosphere. If you want to learn more about this amazing experience, talk to an attendee and watch for information coming out January or February next year when we sign up for 2024. Hope you can join us!!



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

Baskets are due at the September 7th meeting. Contact Glenda Sexauer at glenda.sexauer@gmail.com or 618-520-9369 if you are interested.

Collecting items now for the Keeping College Kids Connected bags to be handed out to students heading off to college at the August 5th/6th 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.

All College Students – Wishing you the very best in your new school year. We hope and pray for your success in all your endeavors. Please be sure to sign up every year for the Keeping College Kids Connected program, so we have your updated information. *Parents can also sign up their kids. Forms found in the gathering space. Return in basket or to the office.*

Our next meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, August 3rd in the Garden Level.

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 and 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.

JUST FAITH:

**Consider a Regional JustFaith Small Group Program This Fall
How Do I Respond as a Catholic to Today’s Challenging Problems?**

Two regional JustFaith programs will be held this fall at **Immaculate Conception Church in Columbia.**

**Faith and Poverty: A Biblical Response Through Catholic Social Teaching – Mondays, September 11-November 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Facilitators: Kathy Daniels and Maria Renner.**

How are we being called to address poverty? What tools does my Catholic faith have to offer? With Pope Francis’ *The Joy of the Gospel* as a foundational document of this program, participants will emerge with a transformed understanding of who they are as God’s child and how God is calling them to use their lives. To register, go to <https://justfaith.org/faith-and-poverty-a-biblical-response-catholic-version-st-louis-fall-2023-small-group-immaculate-conception-columbia-il/>. For more information, contact Maria Renner at 314-750-3577 or JustFaith.com.

Sacred Land: Food & Farming – Wednesdays, September 20-November 15 (skipping November 1).

Facilitators: Sr. Marcia Kruse and Carol Waide.

How do we care for our common home? This 8-session program explores our connection with the land and our responsibility for it. With Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si* as a foundational document, participants learn how food and farming practices affect the climate crisis, marginalized communities, and their own health and spiritual wellbeing. The group explores practical ways to support, advocate for, and implement sustainable food and farming practices in the communities and the institutions of which they’re a part. Register at <https://justfaith.org/sacred-land-immaculate-conception-columbia-fall-2023-small-group/>.

Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

July 23, 2023

Actual.....	\$	23,892.00
Budget	\$	23,050.00
Actual YTD.....	\$	185,035.50
Budget YTD	\$	128,550.00
Over (under)	\$	56,485.50
Prior YTD.....	\$	101,696.25
Over (under)	\$	83,339.25
Votive.....	\$	219.75
Gibault.....	\$	135.00
Guatemala.....	\$	755.00
CEAC	\$	3,330.00
CI	\$	135.00
Easter	\$	500.00
DofB Retired Priests.....	\$	500.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	50.00



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$6.50

Time and Talent: Cutting grass, helping get ready for Utah, making my sister a necklace.

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 Eplin, Ext. 200 ~ bepplin@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Keep an eye out for your Latchkey registration email. Make sure you get your kids registered so they have a spot. For questions, contact the School Office.

HIRING!

We have two cafeteria positions available for the 2023/2024 school year. One position is Monday, Tuesday, Friday and the other is Tuesday, Thursday, Friday. The hours for both positions will be 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Duties include: set up cafeteria for students, get trays ready for serving, help with dishes, set out lunch for pre-s/pre-k, monitor students during lunch, help on serving line, help clean up cafeteria, take out trash, mop kitchen, help with dishes. For more information or to inquire about position, please call the School Office at 618-281-5353 or email Connie at mrshueber@icsmail.org.

Don't forget to come out on Tuesday nights for our Queen of Hearts drawing. Queen of Hearts drawing is at 7:00 p.m. and 50/50 is drawn at 7:15 p.m. Check back for monthly reports on how much we have been able to raise.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Visit the Parish website: ICC-columbia-IL.us for a link to our Queen of Hearts sign-up.

What's Happening At Gibault?

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.



We hosted a Scavenger Hunt and a trip to The Edge for the Class of 2027. These mixers were a fun way to meet classmates and make new friends. In a month and a day, we'll see these Hawks at orientation!

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>.

80th Annual Novena to Our Lady of the Snows

Friday, July 28 through Saturday, August 5 – Mass begins at 7:30 p.m.

“Mary the Dawn, Christ the Perfect Day!” – Each evening of the Novena includes Mass, special music, prayers, Scripture reflections and praying the Rosary. For more information, call 618-394-6276 or visit snows.org/novena.



NATIONAL SHRINE of
OUR LADY of the SNOWS
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

MASS AND DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

The parishioners of Our Lady, Queen of Peace in Belleville invite your participation in **8:15 a.m. Mass** and Devotional Prayers following Mass on the **First Thursday of each month** for the Intercession of **St. Peregrine** for all our brothers and sisters who are ill. Queen of Peace Catholic Church – 5923 North Belt West, Belleville, IL.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS!

St. Francis, Aviston, IL

August 5

Mass at 4:00 p.m.,

Quilt Bingo at 6:30 p.m.

(every game for a Quilt)

St. Joseph, Prairie du Rocher, IL

August 5

Dinner starts at 3:30 p.m.,

Mass at 4:00 p.m.,

Quilt & Cash Bingo from 5:00-11:00 p.m.

St. Anthony, Lively Grove

August 5

Polka Mass at 4:00 p.m.,

Chicken Dinner from 4:00-8:00 p.m.

Quilt & Cash Bingo from 6:30-11:00 p.m.

St. George, New Baden, IL

August 12

Dinner begins at 3:00 p.m.

Mass at 4:00 p.m.,

Quilt/Gift Card Bingo at 6:30 p.m.

St. Michael’s, Radom, IL

August 12

Dinner, 3:00-7:30 p.m.

Polka Mass at 4:00 p.m.,

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

St. Rose of Lima, St. Rose, IL

August 12

Mass at 4:00 p.m.,

Chicken Dinner, Quilt/Cash Bingo

ENCOUNTERING GOD

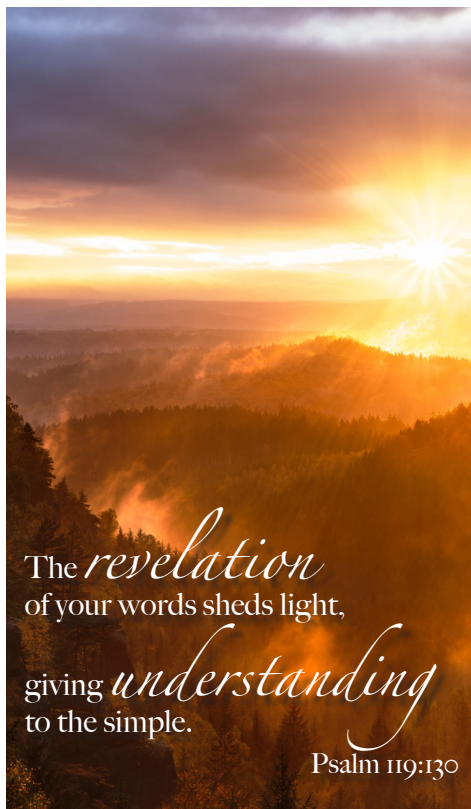
Reflection on Matthew 13:44-52

"The kingdom of heaven is like... a treasure buried in a field... a merchant searching for fine pearls... a net thrown into the sea..." With these compelling metaphors Jesus teaches us about the Kingdom – the presence and power of God's transforming love in human life.

How does God's love break into human life? How does God choose to come to us, to reveal Himself, to gift us with the Kingdom? The answer is: However God wants to! This is what strikes me about these parables. A search for a pearl, a hidden treasure in a field, a fishing net in the sea – all of these seem rather unlikely places to find God. But I think that is the point. Since the incarnation, God is likely to be found in all the most unlikely, surprising places. In fact, there is really no place in our human experience where, when we gaze closely, we will not find God present.

Thankfully, our Church gives us the privileged places and moments where we encounter God, especially in His Word (Scripture) and in the Sacraments. And gratefully, God surprises us with popping up in other places and moments – in creation, in smiles, in a book read, in a friendship, in everyday events, and in pearls, treasures, and nets.

~ Fr. Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, July 30, 2023

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 13:44-52

Monday, July 31, 2023

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

Ex 32:15-24, 30-34

Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23

Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28

Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13

Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Weekday

Ex 34:29-35

Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9

Mt 13:44-46

Thursday, August 3, 2023

Weekday

Ex 40:16-21, 34-38

Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11

Mt 13:47-53

Friday, August 4, 2023

Saint John Vianney, Priest

Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37

Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab

Mt 13:54-58

Saturday, August 5, 2023

Weekday

Lv 25:1, 8-17

Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8

Mt 14:1-12

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

SAINT ALPHONSUS LIGUORI

Feast Day: August 1

Patron Saint of: Theologians, Vocations

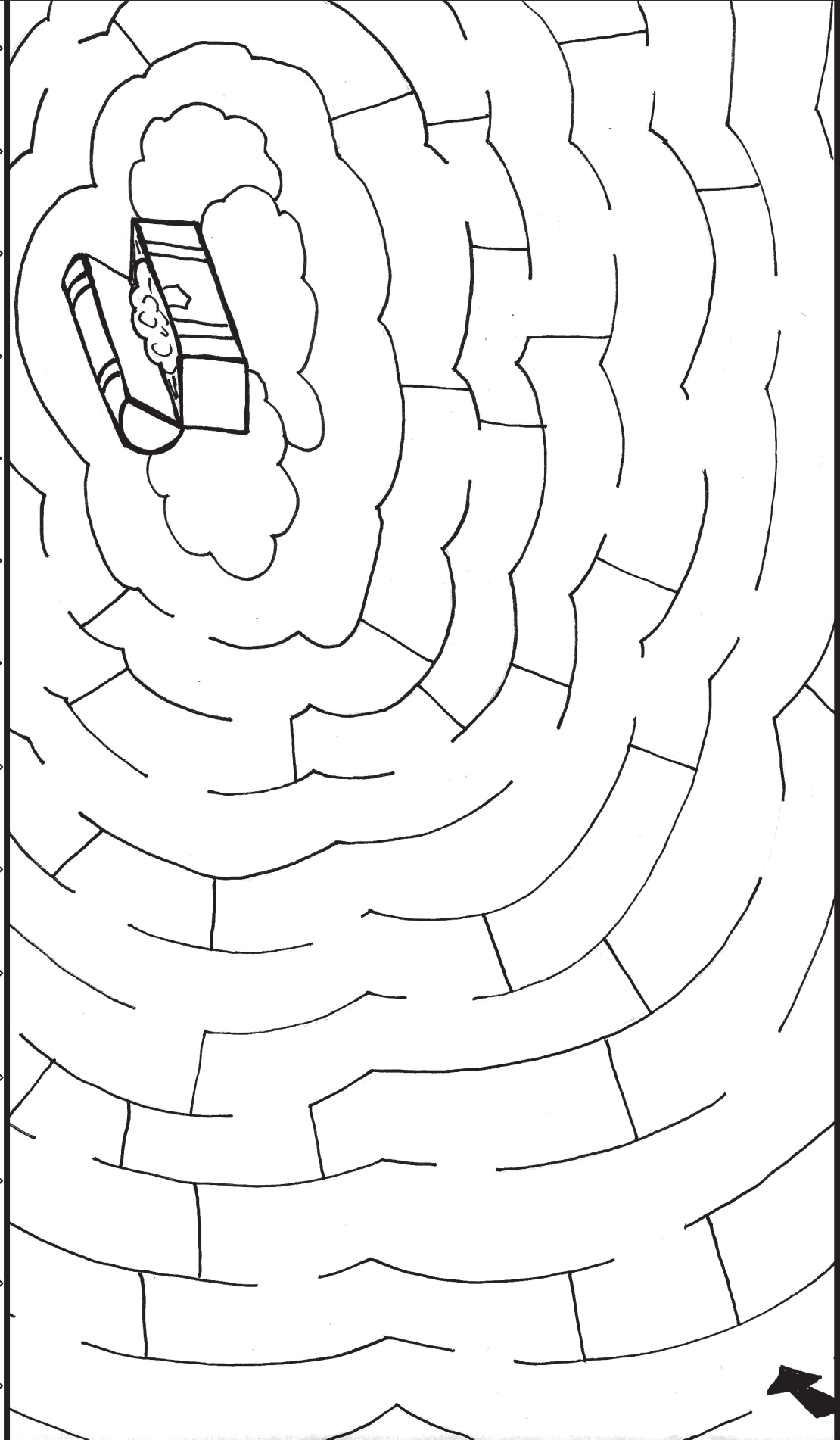
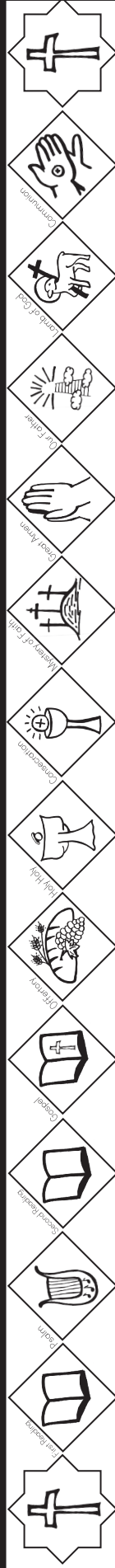
At the University of Naples, Alphonsus received a doctorate in both canon and civil law by acclamation, at the age of 16, but he soon gave up the practice of law for apostolic activity. He was ordained a priest, and concentrated his pastoral efforts on popular parish missions, hearing Confessions, and forming Christian groups.

He founded the Redemptorist congregation in 1732. It was an association of priests and brothers living a common life, dedicated to the imitation of Christ, and working mainly in popular missions for peasants in rural areas. Alphonsus' great pastoral reforms were in the pulpit and confessional—replacing the pompous oratory of the time with simplicity, and the rigorism of Jansenism with kindness.

His greatest sorrow came toward the end of his life. The Redemptorists, precariously continuing after the suppression of the Jesuits in 1773, had difficulty in getting their Rule approved by the Kingdom of Naples. Alphonsus acceded to the condition that they possess no property in common, but with the connivance of a high Redemptorist official, a royal official changed the Rule substantially. Alphonsus, old, crippled and with very bad sight, signed the document, unaware that he had been betrayed. The Redemptorists in the Papal States then put themselves under the pope, who withdrew those in Naples from the jurisdiction of Alphonsus. It was only after his death that the branches were united.

Alphonsus is best known for his moral theology, but he also wrote well in the field of spiritual and dogmatic theology. His *Glories of Mary* is one of the great works on that subject, and his book *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament* went through 40 editions in his lifetime, greatly influencing the practice of this devotion in the Church.

Read the full article: "Saint Alphonsus Liguori" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-alphonsus-liguori/>. (Accessed July 10, 2023).



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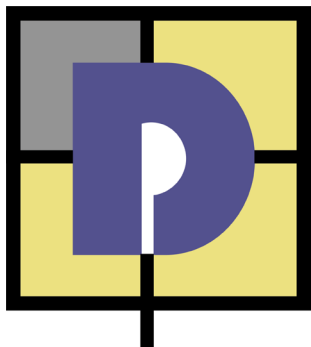
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