

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 Stakk

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

Associate Pastor, Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R. 773-269-0227 ericwagnercr1@gmail.com

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

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

Director of Faith Formation, Lizanne Young ext. 354, lyoung@iccmail.org

IC-PSR Coordinator, Rebecca Husman ext. 353, rhusman@iccmail.org

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

Secretary, Michelle Muckensturm ext. 300, iccmail@iccmail.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, Bill Simmons wsimmons85@yahoo.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: The parish is happy to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony with adults who are currently registered members of Immaculate Conception Church (bride or groom). If you are one of many who would like to "come home" to celebrate the Sacrament with family and friends, please provide the name of the parish where you are now a member, along with contact information. We ask that you contact the IC Parish Office a minimum of four months prior to Marriage, but in most cases couples will need to allow time for Pre-Cana formation, and we suggest beginning to plan your Sacrament 12 or 18 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@iccmail.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, December 4	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls		
Tuesday, December 5	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Betty Becherle		
Wednesday, December 6	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Fr. Steve Gira		
Thursday, December 7	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Clara Naumann		
Friday, December 8	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Vivienne Keeven		
	7:00 p.m.	We Remember Pat & Cletus Whelan		
Saturday, December 9	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Carl & Bernice Riebeling		
Sunday, December 10	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Chester & Lillian Kopec		
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Marvin Eckart		
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Leonard & Isabelle Midyett		



Danielle Dorlac Donna Archambault-Kania Arlin Stechmesser Catherine Marlo Peggy Schutt Dakota Schutt Mike Conrad Janice McDermott Delores Deleveski Brian Kreher Rich Sambo Catherine Sambo Nicole Pennington Ruth Herrmann Bill Kutz

Please Pray For

Chris Peel Joan Thoma Grace Nolan Special Intention Liam Pugh Baby Marcella Norman Pautler Don & Shirley Mehrmann Dolores G. Elliana Cloin Earl & Arlene Kruse Mrs. Steele Brian Hirsh The Kruse Family Betty Schmieder Lynn Naumann Casey Kate Patterson Ellen Dietz Sharon Nealon Jamie Moravec Elsie Hofstetter Mary Lou Mees Kelsey Christensen Jean Conrad Jim Grau Geri Griffin Donna Ritson Owen Kinane Gina Haberl Alan Schertel

Troops in Service ... SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn

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.



December 3, 2023:First Reading: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7Second Reading: First Corinthians 1:3-9Gospel: Mark 13:33-37



Our Sympathies ...

To Greg Barbour and his family on the death of his father Paul Barbour, 90, of Columbia.

To Phillip Frey and his family on the death of his brother Robert, 70, of Columbia.



Stewardship... Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

November 2	6, 202	3
Actual	\$	19,684.80
Budget	\$	22,300.00
Actual YTD	\$	859,552.70
Budget YTD	\$	866,500.00
Over (under)	\$	(6,947.30)
Prior YTD	\$	746,272.66
Over (under)	\$	113,280.04
CEAC	\$	13,535.00
Capital Improvements	\$	75.00
Gibault	\$	70.00
SVDP	\$	2,171.00
Guatemala	\$	75.00
Votive	\$	98.00
Capital Campaign for		
Human Development	\$	145.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	40.00



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$7.00

Time and Talent: I helped someone do math; I helped decorate for Christmas; I helped little kids.

HOW TO SAVE TAXES ON IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM?

Distributions (RMDs) with charitable donations.

When do I need to take RMDs?

The SECURE Act 2.0 has changed the ages of eligibility for taking RMDs. The RMD beginning date gradually increases to 75 over the next decade. If you were born in 1950 or earlier your RMD start date is at age 72; Between 1951-1959 your RMD start date is at age 73; 1960 or after your RMD start date is at age 75.

How are RMDs taxed?

RMDs will be taxed as ordinary income in the year that you take them, although there are some opportunities that can eliminate the tax or defer when those RMDs must begin. Many accounts that require RMDs are tax-deferred accounts, which means that the contributions were made with dollars you hadn't paid taxes on, and your tax liability is due at the point of withdrawal. (Roth IRA accounts do not tax RMDs).

How to manage taxes on RMDs?

When you have money in retirement accounts, you'll generally have to pay taxes on that money at some point, depending on when each account is taxed. Once you withdraw your annual RMD, the money is taxed at your current income rate. The federal income tax impact is similar to the income you earn from working at a job—the higher your income for the year, the higher your tax rate. However, you might have some control over the timing and amount of your withdrawals. Any strategy has pros and cons, and it's critical to review your situation carefully with a certified public accountant (CPA) and financial advisor before making any decisions.

Explore qualified charitable distributions (QCDs).

If you give money to charity, QCDs offer a unique way to reduce taxes associated with RMDs. Money donated through a QCD counts toward your RMDs and may reduce your taxes since you can exclude the distribution from your tax return. Charitable giving is an important value for many. Using a QCD is one way to help reduce the funds you may have otherwise needed to withdraw as an RMD. The SECURE Act 2.0 caps the limit at \$100,000 per year, with inflation adjustments beginning in 2024. However, the SECURE Act 2.0 hasn't impacted the age you can take QCDs. That remains 70½. For these gifts to count toward your RMDs, the contributions must come from your IRA by December 31 each year. Contact your financial or tax advisor for further information.

- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

PHASE 3 IS COMING!

Phase 2 of our most recent Capital Campaign for the Catholic Education and Activity Center officially comes to an end on December 31, 2023. For those of you who were able to complete your pledges, we are grateful. Our debt is so much smaller because of your generosity! If you are still working toward completing your pledge—or would like to donate more—please continue to use the purple envelopes provided in your current packets, or bring your offerings to the parish office before December 31.

Your next packet of stewardship envelopes, arriving in December, includes a new white envelope with a blue border, titled, "Building the Church, Continuing the Dream, Campus Enhancement." This envelope is for Phase 3 of our Capital Campaign, (the soccer field, Rosary and Stations of the Cross walk, the pavilion, and a new lighted sign) which will be kicked off officially in January 2024. More about this in the new year, but you are most welcome to begin your donations now using the new white with blue border envelopes!

Thank you so much for your generosity... past, present, and future!

Parish Events & News...

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, DECEMBER 8

Join us for this feast and Holy Day of Obligation in which we remember our Patroness, Mary Immaculate, who was prepared by God to be the perfect mother for our Savior, Jesus Christ. We will celebrate Mass at 8:05 a.m. (with our school children) and 7:00 p.m.

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 iccmail@ iccmail.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend will be **December** 9 and 10. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

What's Ahead for ICY?

12/3 - Advent By Candlelight Prayer Service 7pm Gift Wrapping/Open Gym

12/17--<u>Youth Mass 11 am</u> Drive-By Caroling and Pizza 5pm-7pm

See our website for details!



Ministry News & Happenings

THEOLOGY ON TAP'S UPCOMING EVENT

December 11: Christmas Party & White Elephant At Sunset Overlook in Columbia, IL, 7:00 p.m.

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.

SVDP

SVDP is hosting a Food Drive for Christmas. We will do it for the weekends of DECEMBER, 9/10 and 16/17. This will support local food pantries. Please drop off food items (December 9 & 10, December 16 & 17) in the designated area at the back of Church in the Gathering Space. We will deliver the items prior to CHRISTMAS. The items requested are canned fruit, chicken, chili and chicken & dumplings and also boxed potato mixes. Any single-serve items are also much appreciated. **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...

How beautiful those cities which overcome paralyzing mistrust, integrate those who are different and make this very integration a new factor of development! How attractive are those cities which, even in their architectural design, are full of spaces which connect, relate and favor the recognition of others! (Evangelii Gaudium, 210, LS 152) **What can I do?** Greet strangers, welcome newcomers, refugees, migrants. Host an exchange student.

Discipleship

"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust" (Psalm 18:2). Sometimes we are left feeling tired, weak, and overwhelmed by the storms of life. We can find strength in God and rely on Him in times of need. In the Gospels, we read about Jesus' strength when He voluntarily endured the agony of the Cross to save mankind. His story teaches us that strength isn't just physical and involves courage, patience, and faith. The Bible reminds us of our strength from relying on God, trusting in His will, and having faith in His love for us. No matter what difficulties we face in life, we can draw on the strength of God to get through them. "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

THE 2023 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. — Psalm 15

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Fund for Ministry provides funding to parishes, schools and organizations throughout our diocese for local projects. A total of 17 grants were awarded throughout our diocese in the past year. Help this popular program, which funds local projects, continue through your gift to this year's Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal.

IC-CCW NEWS

Dates to Remember: NOTE DATE CHANGE!

- Wednesday, December 6th, Mass and Lunch with retired priests at Hincke House. Carpooling available. Leave ICC lower level at 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, December 7th, Christmas Party, 5:30 p.m. in the Garden Level. \$10.00 for dinner. Bring a gift for Gabriel's Retreat for pregnant women. Donation list will be posted on Facebook and was listed in November's Minutes.

RSVP BY DECEMBER 3rd! to Glenda Sexauer for both events at glenda.sexauer@gmail.com or 618-281-8452.

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

Congratulations to the Winners!

The November winner for the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Restaurant of the Month raffle is Wilbur Scheibe and the December winner is Jessica McClelland.

Tickets are still available for the remaining 9 months of the raffle. Please contact Wes Hoeffken at <u>hoeffken@htc.net</u> for inquiries.



SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Sanctity of Life Committee will be collecting new gifts for the babies and mothers served by Life Network. Please take a paper ornament from the Giving Tree with a reminder of what is needed. Please leave your unwrapped gift near the Christmas tree in the Gathering Space. Here is a list of needed items:

Amazon Gift Cards Aveeno Baby Lotion Baby Juice (any flavor) Baby Wipes (fragrance free) Booster High Chair Seat Boudreaux's Butt Paste Diapers (Pampers/Huggies preferred, sizes 4,5,6) **Disposable Nursing Pads** Gerber Lil Crunchers Good Nights (unisex, medium or large) Motrin (Children's or Infant's Liquid) Onesies (long-sleeved) Potty Chairs Pull-Ups (girls, all sizes) Sippy Cups Socks (for kids, any size) Toddler Meals **Toddler Snacks** Walmart Gift Cards Monetary donations may be mailed to Life Network

of Southern Illinois, 722 N. Market, Waterloo, IL 62298. Collection ends on January 5, 2024.

CHRISTMAS CARDS!

Need any Christmas Cards? These beautiful "Kissing the Face of God" Christmas cards are available for purchase in the Parish Office. A pack of 10 is \$10.00. Quantities are limited, so get them before they're gone! The inside says, "So gentle this time of wonder, so holy Christ's moment of birth, So wondrous the gift of life, When love was born on earth. A blessed Christmas!" The back says, "By sending this card, you are furthering efforts towards restoring the sanctity of all human life."

Vocation

The world needs you. God calls you. We invite you... with other Catholic Young Women to our Vocation Discernment Retreats or invite us to meet you where you



or invite us to meet you where you are.

El mundo te necesita. Dios te llama. Te invitamos... con otras mujeres católicas a nuestros Retiros de Discernimiento Vocacional o invita nos a encontrar contigo donde estés.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Spend some quiet time with the Lord.

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 Helen Csik at 314-651-5033 or the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

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.

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.



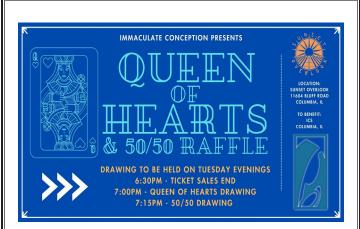


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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





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?

VISIT GIBAULT

Come see what life as a Gibault Hawk is like! On select Tuesdays and Fridays, your 7th or 8th grader or current high school student can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they'll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch in our cafeteria, and more! We also offer Private Tours for the whole family. See our campus and get your questions answered by our Director of Enrollment. Get started at https:// bit.ly/GCHSInquire.

MAGICAL BREAKFAST

WITH SANTA

Sunday, December 10th 9:00AM to 12:00PM

Gibault Catholic High School 501 Columbia Avenue | Waterloo, IL 62298

> RSVP REQUIRED @ https://gwcmagicalbreakfast.com/rsvp

> > Sponsored by Gibault Women's Club

Children of all ages can enjoy crafts, games, music, an adult & kid-friendly homemade breakfast including smoothie bar and a digital photo of your family with Santa & Mrs. Claus in their family room!



WINTER CAMPS

Join the Hawks for our Winter Camps! K-6th graders can join the Gibault Cheer Team for a fun mini-camp on December 8 & 9, with a performance at halftime of the varsity game on December 9. The State Champion Gibault Baseball team welcomes 5th-8th graders for its camp on December 27-29. For full camp info and registration forms, visit www. gibaulthawks.com/winter-camps.

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...



Discernment 101

Saturday morning talks, prayer, and discussion groups with the Daughters of St. Paul to explore God's will for your life





SEEDS OF HEALING THROUGH FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

Saturday, January 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Marianist Retreat and Conference Center, 4000 Hwy 109, Eureka, MO 63025 Losing a loved one to suicide or any tragic death is a pain that no one can prepare for. The roller coaster of emotions is enough to make one doubt God's presence in

the situation. This day of reflection is designed to help you journey through these emotions and come out renewed with confidence in God's love and care for each one of us.

Members of our ministry team for this day will include Father Tom Miller (pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace and St. Anthony Parishes), Deacon Rob Lawson (Incarnate Word Parish), Adam Bitter (Incarnate Word Parish), and the Jonah Prayer Teams from Incarnate Word, St. Alban Roe, and St. Anthony of Padua Parishes. There will be time for healing prayer, discussions, sharing, techniques for healthy outlet of emotions, and testimony from those who have healed from the same pain you may be feeling.

Attendance will be limited to 100 participants total for Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and include two meals for \$65.00. We are also offering the option for up to 45 participants to spend the night through 10:00 a.m. on Sunday which includes a private room and breakfast for \$155.00. For more information, call Barb at 314-910-3942, Mary at 314-210-5098 or Shelby at 636-288-9841. Registration: https://marianistretreat.com/events/seeds-of-healing-retreat-2024/



QUILT OF THE MONTH

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault, is sponsoring a Quilt-of-the-Month Raffle. From January through December 2024, a beautiful queen-sized handmade quilt will be given away each month. Tickets are \$25.00 each, and they give you 12 chances to win. Please pick up a ticket here at the ICC Parish Office. Our hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

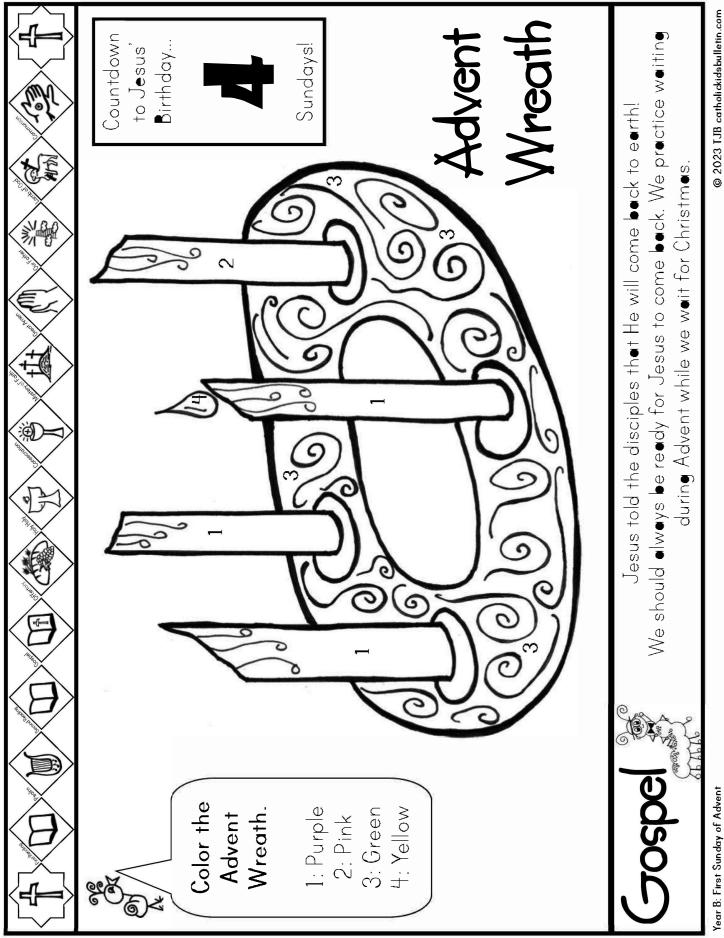


8:30 AM - 1:00 PM Includes Mass, talk and discussion, Eucharistic Adoration, and lunch

Pauline Books & Media | 9804 Watson Road, St. Louis

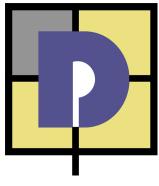
REGISTER

Email Sr. Amanda Marie at stlouisvocations@paulinemedia.com



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