

Christmas 2023

Glory

to God in
the highest
and on earth
peace to those
on whom his
favor rests.

Luke 2:14



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

411 Palmer Road
Columbia, IL 62236
618-281-5105
www.icc-columbia-il.us



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,

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773-269-0227

ericwagnercr1@gmail.com

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Director of Faith Formation,

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IC-PSR Coordinator,

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Secretary,

Michelle Muckensturm

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Advocate, Shea Christensen

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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@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, January 8	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls
Tuesday, January 9	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Bob Frey
Wednesday, January 10	8:05 a.m.	We Remember John, Catherine, & Jane Mallet
Thursday, January 11	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Harold Netemeyer
Friday, January 12	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Donald & Josephine Raney
Saturday, January 13	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Joanne Hoffman
Sunday, January 14	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Kenneth Mohr, Sr.
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Catherine Linnemann
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Judy Metter Sharky



Please Pray For

Danielle Dorlac	Grace Nolan	Elsie Hofstetter
Donna Archambault-Kania	Special Intention	Mary Lou Mees
Arlin Stechmesser	Liam Pugh	Jean Conrad
Catherine Marlo	Baby Marcella	Jim Grau
Peggy Schutt	Don & Shirley Mehrmann	Geri Griffin
Dakota Schutt	Dolores G.	Donna Ritson
Mike Conrad	Elliana Cloin	Owen Kinane
Janice McDermott	Earl & Arlene Kruse	Gina Haberl
Delores Deleveski	Mrs. Steele	Alan Schertel
Brian Kreher	Brian Hirsh	Ken Breitenstein
Rich Sambo	The Kruse Family	Amy Adler
Catherine Sambo	Betty Schmieder	Wanda Schewe
Nicole Pennington	Lynn Naumann Casey	Eris Wood
Ruth Herrmann	Kate Patterson	Madison Bueltemann
Bill Kutz	Ellen Dietz	Katie Schoellhorn
Chris Peel	Sharon Nealon	
Joan Thoma	Jamie Moravec	

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.



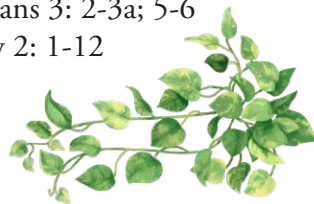
Weekly Reflections

January 7, 2024:

First Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a; 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12



Our Sympathies...

To David, Brian, Marc, and Lisa and their family on the death of their mother Cheri Garcia, 74, of Columbia

To Charles and Marianne and their family on the death of their son, Thomas Lepp, 57, of Waterloo.



Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

December 24, 2023

Actual	\$ 34,231.36
Budget	\$ 31,675.00
Actual YTD	\$1,051,734.39
Budget YTD	\$1,090,925.00
Over (under)	\$ (39,190.61)
Prior YTD	\$ 941,721.63
Over (under)	\$ 110,012.76

CEAC	\$ 44,955.00
Gibault	\$ 125.00
SVDP	\$ 45.00
Guatemala	\$ 400.00
Votive	\$ 166.98
Christmas Flowers	\$ 80.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$ 25.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 350.00
Diocese of Belleville – Christmas –	
For those in need	\$ 675.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 3,345.00
Human Development	\$ 10.00
Mission Sunday	\$ 30.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 40.00

December 25, 2023

Actual	\$ 17,614.96
Budget	\$ 29,750.00
Actual YTD	\$1,069,349.35
Budget YTD	\$1,059,250.00
Over (under)	\$ 10,099.35
Prior YTD	\$ 941,721.63
Over (under)	\$ 127,627.72

CEAC	\$ 320.00
Gibault	\$ 10.00
Guatemala	\$ 55.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 5.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 50.00
Diocese of Belleville – Christmas –	
For those in need	\$ 1,205.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 9,638.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 5.00

From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$14.75

Time and Talent: Helped Jade get an ice pac; I gave presents to others; I spend time with my brother; I did the dishwasher.

WHY DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK TO CHARITY?

Giving stock instead of cash as a charitable donation can greatly benefit the donor as well as the recipient. You will find that many charities, churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations will accept stock as a gift.

Tax Benefits of Donating Stock to Charity

If the stock has increased in value from the time of purchase, the owner can avoid paying capital gains tax by donating the security to a qualified charitable organization. When an appreciated security held for at least a year is donated to a charitable organization, its fair market value may be itemized as an income tax deduction. The resulting tax savings could be factored in to make a larger donation. For publicly traded shares, the fair market value is the average of the high and low price on the transfer date.

Considerations:

- Many nonprofits, such as hospitals, schools, and various other organizations, will accept stock as a gift or donation.
- Giving stock often results in a larger donation to the organization, as the gift is tax-deductible and there are no capital gains taxes to pay.
- If your stock has risen in value since purchase, donating it directly is preferable, but if it has lost value, it may be more advantageous to sell it first and then donate the proceeds, so the giver can take the tax loss.
- Most organizations will immediately liquidate the donation, converting the stock to cash.
- Depending on the organization you donate to and your adjusted gross income, a varying amount of your donation may be able to be deducted on your taxes.

Consult your tax or financial advisor for more 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 came 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 previous packets.

Your next packet of stewardship envelopes, which should have arrived 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...

ICY

Attention all current 8th-12th graders!!

Wouldn't it be fun to spend the weekend with your friends at a fun, faith-filled weekend? Our parish is gathering a group of teens to go to the Steubenville Conference on July 12-14th, 2024 at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO.

More information to come; registration will be due February 1, 2024.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

How's this for a New Year's Resolution: Come to Mass on Sunday ready to engage in the Gospel, Old and New Testament Readings and even the homily by spending an hour praying with them in advance, with friends!

- Women's Bible Study meets every week in the Library on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- The Pathfinders Men's Group meets every week in the Knights of Columbus Room on Saturday mornings from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Just show up, you're more than welcome!

PARISH WORK DAY – January 13

FAITH AND FICTION: WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

We will meet on Sunday evening in the Library from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to apply the lens of Catholicism to classic and contemporary works of fiction. (Sunday evening meetings let you catch up on your chapter Sunday afternoon!) Our first meeting, featuring an overview and to make our first fiction selection, will be Sunday, January 7! If you have questions, contact Lizanne at lyoung@iccmail.org.

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend will be **January 20 and 21**. 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 iccmail@iccmail.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

Ministry News & Happenings

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...

It is verifiable that specific climate changes provoked by humanity are notably heightening the probability of extreme phenomena that are increasingly frequent and intense... If it should rise above 2 degrees C. the icecaps of Greenland and a large part of Antarctica will melt completely, with immensely grave consequences for everyone. (Laudate Deum 5)

What can I do? Save energy by washing clothes in warm or cold water, not hot.

Discipleship

I was lost, looking around for a peace I'd never found. I prayed, "Dear Lord, be known to me." Then I saw Jesus on the Cross. Now, I'm a sinner, just like we all. I try to do good, I often fall. But I've found Jesus. He is my King. I may fall, but still I sing, "I found the Lord, He walks with me. I was in bondage, He set me free. I'm still not perfect, but God and I will make of me a holy life. Perhaps, some of these words resonate with you.



EUCCHARISTIC 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.

THE 2023 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

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

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

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.

Vocations...

The Diocese of Belleville is hosting an informational meeting for men (and their spouses) who are interested in the Permanent Diaconate. This meeting will take place on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Undercroft of the Cathedral of St. Peter, 200 W. Harrison Street, Belleville, IL 62220.

The Office of Permanent Deacon is considering another new class of aspirants starting in the fall of 2025. Eligibility is extended to men who have reached the ages thirty-three (33) to fifty-six (56) by September 2025. *Men older than fifty-six may still apply but require special approval from the Deacon Formation Office and the Bishop.*

The formation process is a five-year commitment, including academic studies conducted by St. Meinrad School of Theology, spiritual direction, and learning about the deacon's role. Participants are required to attend a three-day meeting once per month over the course of the five-year program.

Interested individuals should first discuss their interest with their pastor. For those unable to attend the initial meeting, another session will be scheduled later. This meeting is an opportunity to learn about the process and requirements for becoming a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese.



*Start the New Year
with the
Women's ACTS Retreat*

January 25 - 28th

To Register go online to <https://icc-columbia-il.us/acts-retreats/womans-acts-retreat/>



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

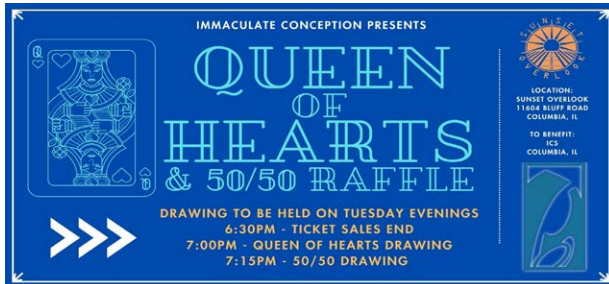
MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS

January 8, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Garden Level

February 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Garden Level

March 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. – Garden Level



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?

RAFFLE-MANIA

Raffle-Mania is back with bigger prizes! This year's grand prize has **DOUBLED** to **\$5,000.00!** Visit givebutter.com/Raffle-Mania to purchase your tickets!

GRAND PRIZES of \$5,000.00, \$1,000.00, \$500.00, and \$250.00, and 6 at \$100.00

Prizes will be drawn on February 1st during Catholic Schools Week.

Tickets are being sold exclusively online. If anyone has difficulty with their online purchase, contact Desiree Frasure at Gibault Catholic High School (dfrasure@gibaulthawks.com or 618-939-3883).

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>.

APPLY TO THE CLASS OF 2028

Winter break is the perfect time to get your application in! Apply by January 26, 2024, in order to be part of this year's Acceptance Day festivities. Application available at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSApply>.

FAMILY SPORTS PASS

Show you're #gibaultproud all year long! For \$125.00, Hawk Fans can purchase a Family Pass that covers admission to most of our home games (some exclusions apply.) This pass is valid for girls' and boys' volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' soccer, softball, baseball, and select boys' soccer home games throughout the 2023-2024 school year! Visit GCHSSportsPass.givesmart.com to purchase your pass!



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 the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. 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...

JUST FAITH:

Just Faith Sacred Land Meeting is set for January 10 at 6:30 in the Fr. Steve Gira Library. All are welcome.

QUILT OF THE MONTH

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault, is sponsoring a Quilt of the Month Raffle. Beginning 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.



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 in the 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, contact 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/>



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

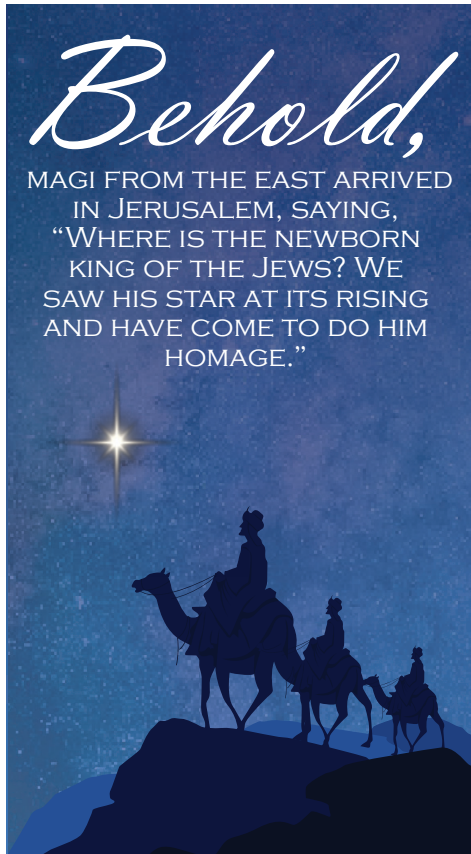
Reflection on Matthew 2:1-12

The Prophet Isaiah foresees all the nations of the earth, with their wealth, streaming toward the radiant Jerusalem, which stands as a beacon of God's glory. This pilgrimage of nations begins in the Epiphany story, as the Magi from the East arrive in Jerusalem seeking this radiant glory, this Light, the newborn King of the Jews.

Naturally, the Magi go to the palace, where one expects to find royalty. But instead, as they follow the light of the star, they are led to a humble house. A birth in humble surroundings, a visitation by these exotic foreigners, a frightening flight to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous wrath – these are not the kind of great events one would expect to accompany the arrival of a new King. Yet this is precisely where God's glory and light are revealed.

We see in the Incarnation, and in all the experiences that unfold around the birth of Jesus (as well as in His life, death and Resurrection), God's determined will to bring light to darkness, hope to the oppressed, meaning to suffering, peace to turmoil, new life to death.

~ Fr. Jay



WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

Sunday, January 7, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6
Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Thursday, January 11, 2024

Weekday

1 Sm 4:1-11
Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25
Mk 1:40-45

Monday, January 8, 2024

The Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 55:1-11 or
Acts 10:34-38 or 1 Jn 5:1-9
Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Mk 1:7-11

Friday, January 12, 2024

Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a
Ps 89:16-17, 18-19
Mk 2:1-12

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

Weekday

1 Sm 1:9-20
1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd
Mk 1:21-28

Saturday, January 13, 2024

Weekday

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1
Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7
Mk 2:13-17

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Weekday

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20
Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10
Mk 1:29-39

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

SAINT MARGUERITE BOURGEOYS

Feast Day: January 12

Patron Saint of: Poverty and Orphans

Born the sixth of 12 children in Troyes, France, Marguerite at the age of 20 believed that she was called to religious life. Her applications to the Carmelites and Poor Clares were unsuccessful. A priest friend suggested that perhaps God had other plans for her.

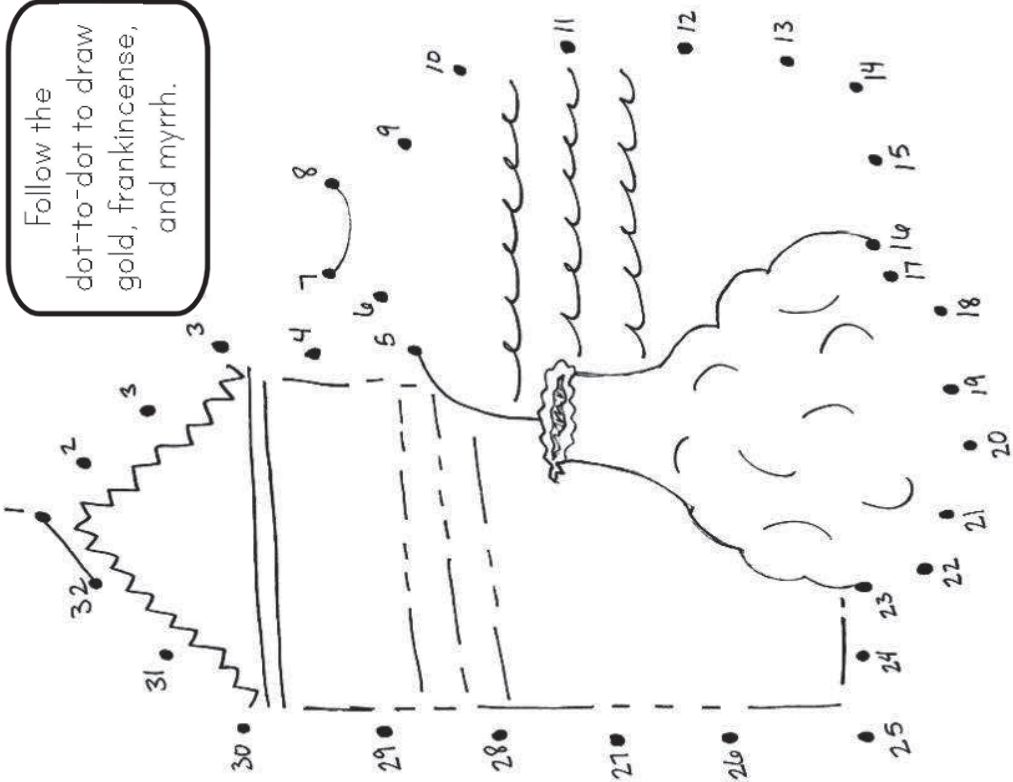
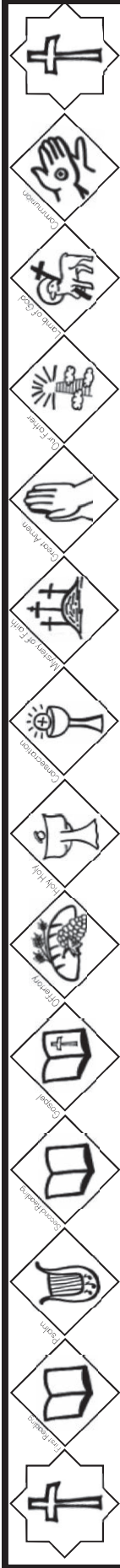
In 1654, the governor of the French settlement in Canada visited his sister, an Augustinian canoness in Troyes. Marguerite belonged to a sodality connected to that convent. The governor invited her to come to Canada and start a school in Ville-Marie (eventually the city of Montreal). When she arrived, the colony numbered 200 people with a hospital and a Jesuit mission chapel.

Soon after starting a school, she realized her need for coworkers. Returning to Troyes, she recruited a friend, Catherine Crolo, and two other young women. In 1667, they added classes at their school for Indian children. A second trip to France three years later resulted in six more young women and a letter from King Louis XIV, authorizing the school. The Congregation of Notre Dame was established in 1676 but its members did not make formal religious profession until 1698 when their Rule and constitutions were approved.

Marguerite established a school for Indian girls in Montreal. At the age of 69, she walked from Montreal to Quebec in response to the bishop's request to establish a community of her sisters in that city. By the time she died, she was referred to as the "Mother of the Colony." Marguerite was canonized in 1982.

It's easy to become discouraged when plans that we think that God must endorse are frustrated. Marguerite was called not to be a cloistered nun, but to be a foundress and an educator. God had not ignored her after all.

Read the full article: "Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars, franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-marguerite-bourgeoys/. (Accessed December 27, 2023).



Follow the dot-to-dot to draw gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Where is the newborn King of the Jews?



We have come to give Him homage.

Homage means worship!

Gospel

The Magi saw a star rise over Bethlehem and followed it to visit baby Jesus. They brought Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

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JAY M. HUETSCH Tel. 618/939-6126 Waterloo Waterlooo jay@jayhuetsch.com



618-281-7867
11604 Bluff Rd, Columbia, IL
Pete & Julie Ingold, Parishioners

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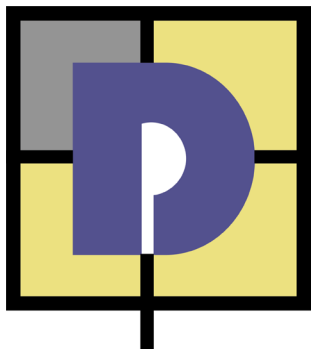
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