



# Immaculate Conception

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

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

[www.icc-columbia-il.us](http://www.icc-columbia-il.us)



**A**t Eastertime, Immaculate Conception Parish will reintroduce the opportunity to receive Holy Eucharist under the appearances of both bread and wine. We treasure this privilege.

We will be taking extra time with our students in grades 3-8 to reacquaint them with the chalice, and of course those celebrating First Eucharist after Easter will be introduced to both unconsecrated bread and wine at their retreat.

We look forward to giving additional training to our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and we will likely need extra hands. If you would like to rejoin or become a part of this special ministry, contact Lizanne Young at [lyoung@iccmil.org](mailto:lyoung@iccmil.org).

If you have any questions, Fr. Steve, Fr. Eric, or Lizanne will be happy to talk to you.

*Take this, all of you, and drink from it,  
for this is the chalice of my Blood,  
the Blood of the new and eternal  
covenant,  
which will be poured out for you and  
for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in memory of me.*

~Eucharistic Prayer II



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  
ericwagnercr1@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

**IC-PSR Coordinator,  
Rebecca Husman**  
ext. 353, 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@icmail.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@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, March 11	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Marcella Heiken
Tuesday, March 12	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Sylvester & Hildagard Schneider
Wednesday, March 13	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Bob Frey
Thursday, March 14	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Pearl Gruchala
Friday, March 15	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Saturday, March 16	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Laura Straub Buckley
Sunday, March 17	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Chester & Lillian Kopec
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Peggy Schutt



### *Please Pray For*

Danielle Dorlac	Chris Peel	Lynn Naumann Casey	Eris Wood
Donna Archambault-Kania	Joan Thoma	Kate Patterson	Katie Schoellhorn
Arlin Stechmesser	Grace Nolan	Ellen Dietz	Kristen Brewer
Catherine Marlo	Special Intention	Sharon Nealon	Jenny Candler
Dakota Schutt	Liam Pugh	Jamie Moravec	Rosina Belt
Mike Conrad	Baby Marcella	Elsie Hofstetter	Kasen Greer
Janice McDermott	Don & Shirley Mehrmann	Mary Lou Mees	Christine Baldas
Delores Deleveski	Dolores G.	Jean Conrad	Gary May
Brian Kreher	Elliana Cloin	Jim Grau	Irma Proffer
Rich Sambo	Earl & Arlene Kruse	Geri Griffin	Joanne Schilling
Catherine Sambo	Mrs. Steele	Donna Ritson	Bill Kessler
Nicole Pennington	Brian Hirsh	Owen Kinane	Beth Johns
Ruth Herrmann	The Kruse Family	Ken Breitenstein	Mike Gober
Bill Kutz	Betty Schmieder	Amy Adler	John Kennedy
		Wanda Schewe	Madeline Ritter

*Troops in Service...* SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn; Alex Lochirco, Lance Corporal, Marines; Samuel Campbell, Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, United States Air Force

**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*

*March 10, 2024:*

**First Reading:** Second Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:4-10

**Gospel:** John 3:14-21



## Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

March 3, 2024

Actual	\$	53,517.02
Budget	\$	66,450.00
Actual YTD	\$	1,448,375.21
Budget YTD	\$	1,538,975.00
Over (under)	\$	(90,599.79)
Prior YTD	\$	1,368,830.15
Over (under)	\$	79,545.06

*\*the above totals include Online Giving through 2/29/2024*

Capital Improvements	\$	447.00
Gibault	\$	300.00
Guatemala	\$	1,015.00
Votive	\$	139.00
Black & Indian	\$	80.00
Catholic Relief	\$	45.00
SVDP	\$	1,015.00
Easter Flowers	\$	105.00
Holy Land	\$	100.00
CEAC	\$	2,762.00
Phase 3	\$	701.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	343.00



### From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$18.20

Time and Talent: Helping to take my dog out; I played my trumpet; playing with my siblings.

## WHAT IS A DONOR-ADVISED FUND?

A donor-advised fund is a charitable gift fund administered by a third party public foundation created for the purpose of managing charitable donations on behalf of an organization, a family, or an individual. Donor-advised funds have become increasingly popular, primarily because they offer the donor greater ease of administration while still allowing them to maintain significant control over the placement and distribution of charitable grants after making a tax-deductible contribution.

Donor-advised funds offer the maximum tax benefit available for a charitable gift. Unlike private foundations, donor-advised fund-holders enjoy a federal income tax deduction of up to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash contributions and up to 30% of AGI for the appreciated publically traded securities in the year contributed. When donors contribute appreciated assets to donor-advised funds, they avoid long-term capital gains taxes and receive immediate fair market value tax deductions.

Many national and local foundations offer donor-advised funds. Each fund sponsor has different minimums to open, maintain, and grant. You may recommend an investment strategy for the assets in your fund for tax-free growth until you decide to recommend grants to the organizations you choose on your own timeline.

Donor-advised fund sponsors generally accept more contributions of more complex assets like real estate or closely held business interests as well.

### Advantages and Disadvantages of Donor-Advised Funds:

#### Pros:

- Ability to recommend grants on your own timeline
- Maximum tax benefit available for a charitable contribution
- Allows donation of non-cash assets
- No required minimum distributions

#### Cons:

- Contributions are irrevocable
- Grants are subject to final approval of the fund sponsor
- Subject to administrative and investment fees

There are no specific tax laws stipulating how long after setting up a donor-advised fund it can be inactive, but many fund providers have their own timeline for giving.

Donor-advised funds offer both legacy and succession options which may vary with each fund sponsor. After the lifetime of the initial donor, the fund may be passed to children or trusted family members with full discretion to continue charitable grant-making or distribute the remaining funds to one or more approved charities.

For more information about Donor-advised funds, contact your financial or tax advisor.

– 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 so grateful. For those who are a little behind, we are still accepting your pledges or donations. If you give in-person, you will have to specify CEAC on your envelope since those are no longer in the packets, or bring your offerings into the office. When you receive your stewardship envelopes now you will notice the purple ones removed and a new white envelope with a navy blue border inserted. This envelope is for our new Capital Campaign for Phase 3, (the Athletic Complex, Rosary and Stations of the Cross walk, the pavilion, and a new lighted sign).

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

## Parish Events & News...

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 15: 2:15 & 7:00, Church

March 22: 1:30 – Living Stations of the Cross, ICS Gym & 7:00, Church

March 29: 3:00 – Good Friday Stations of the Cross, Church

### PADRE ABDIAS IS COMING TO IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Sister Parish ministry is excited to announce that Padre Abdias, the pastor at St. Raymond's, our sister parish in Guatemala, will visit us this fall – from September 20th through September 27th.

Still in the early planning stages, this weeklong visit marks the first time that a priest from St. Raymond's will join us as part of a parish-wide event. While here, Padre's schedule includes: Meeting parishioners at a welcome ceremony, touring the church and school, concelebrating Mass, engaging with parish, school, and ministry leaders, spending time with ICS students and staff, visiting a local farm, touring St. Louis, attending a sports event, touring Our Lady of the Snows, visiting Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, St. Vincent de Paul, and Sister Thea Bowman in East St. Louis, and more.

If you would like to be part of organizing one or more of these activities, please contact Karen Waide at [cooperwaide@aol.com](mailto:cooperwaide@aol.com) or 618-281-4715. Additionally, the ministry is also in need of interpreters, drivers (to transport Padre/others to and from events), and help with occasional meal preparation. All help is greatly appreciated.

### Call To Lenten Conversion

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops ([usccb.org](http://usccb.org))

As we observe the time of Lent with the universal church, please take a minute to understand the three pillars of this penitential season: Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.

**PRAYER:** "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy." -St. Therese of Lisieux (*Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2558*). During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to practice self-control through fasting. Dive into God's word in Scripture this Lent or pray the rosary with your family.

**FASTING:** Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

**ALMSGIVING:** The foundational call of Christians to charity is a frequent theme of the Gospels. During Lent, we are asked to focus more intently on "almsgiving," which means donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity. As one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, almsgiving is "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." (*CCC 2462*). **Particular Opportunities for Almsgiving during Lent:** There are several special opportunities for almsgiving through donations to Church ministries for which collections are conducted during the Lenten season including: Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe, National Black and Indiana Mission Collection, Catholic Relief Services Collection, Pontifical Good Friday Collection for Care for Christians in the Holy Land, CRS Rice Bowl.

### ICY



gather your peeps for an  
**egg dying party**

- wednesday, march 27, 6-7:30pm
- immaculate conception garden level  
409 palmer road, columbia
- this is a fun family event - no drop-offs
- we will provide the dye, decorations,  
& a little help
- bring your own boiled eggs  
or pre-purchase boiled eggs using the  
link below

this free event is presented by  
immaculate conception youth,  
all are welcome.



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH  
MISSION TRIP TO  
CAIRO, IL  
JUNE 28-30, 2024**

**HOMEMADE  
PIE SALE  
FUNDRAISER**

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 22**

**MORE INFO  
TO COME**



## ICY'S SUCCESSFUL DEER HUNT AT BRIA

Nerf guns in hand, and some wearing antlers, teens from Immaculate Conception Youth headed to Bria after 11:00 a.m. Mass to stage a "deer hunt" for residents! Fun is always in season!



## CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

The cemetery mowing season is coming soon. To not hinder mowing and trimming, please remove any decorations that are on the grass that you wish to keep. Thank you.

## 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](mailto:iccmil@iccmil.org). If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

## SCRIPTURE DISCUSSIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

How's this for a plan? 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 DAYS!

April 13

May 11

# Ministry News & Happenings

## 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.

**March 18:** Trivia

## SVDP

During the next two weekends in March, SVDP is sponsoring a Food Drive in support of local food pantries. Please place the items on the table in the Gathering Space through March 24th so delivery can be made before Easter. Please provide canned fruit, canned chicken, canned chili, boxes of potatoes or macaroni. Thank you for your generosity.



## Pope Francis Says...

Together with the patrimony of nature, there is also an historic, artistic and cultural patrimony which is likewise under threat. This patrimony is a part of the shared identity of each place and a foundation upon which to build a habitable city. (LS 143)

**What can I do?** Discover the uniqueness of our town, find the art and culture we want to keep and promote.

## ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



## NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

### FISH FRYS ARE BACK

Fish Fry FRIDAYS (sides available) will be from 3:00-7:00 p.m. – March 15 and 29.

## Discipleship

In the February 15, 2024, issue of “*The Messenger*,” Ron Rolheiser’s column addressed how we are breaking faith with one another by failing to love our neighbors (including those who have done us wrong). “This is the very essence of Christian morality. Can you love someone who hates you? Can you do good to someone who wishes you evil? Can you forgive someone who has wronged you? Can you forgive a murderer? It’s this, and not some particular issue in moral theology, which is the litmus test for who is a Christian and who isn’t.”

## THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

*Serve the Lord with gladness*  
– Psalm 100

On behalf of Bishop Michael McGovern and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to The 2024 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there’s still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on “Giving to the Diocese”). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year’s Appeal and all those we serve.

Thank you and may God bless you always.

## ACTS



**Stay Connected with the ACTS Community!**

**Embrace the calmness and reconnect with the ACTS family. If you're not receiving emails from [acts@iccmail.org](mailto:acts@iccmail.org), you might be missing out! Update Your Info Now! If you're not on our mailing list, simply send us an email at [acts@iccmail.org](mailto:acts@iccmail.org) with your latest contact information. Let's keep you in the loop and build a stronger, connected ACTS family together!**

## MEN'S ACTS



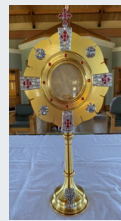
Men's ACTS Retreat  
We belong to You  
April 25-28, 2024



## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Looking for your place in the parish? Do you like helping others, providing comfort and being part of a larger purpose? The Bereavement Ministry is looking for new members. Our ministry is a support ministry for those who have experienced a loss in their family whether adult, child or baby. If you are looking for a way to support your fellow parishioners, let us be your path. Contact Kathy Fern to learn more at 618-719-1632 or email [kaammifern@gmail.com](mailto:kaammifern@gmail.com) with your interest.

– Members of Bereavement Ministry



## 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.

## COMFORT WITH A PRAYER SHAWL

If you, or someone you know, needs comfort and prayers, consider bringing them a Prayer Shawl, handmade by Immaculate Conception parishioners. Each crocheted or knitted shawl is unique, and prayers are said throughout the process of the creation. The goal is to provide comfort to the recipient, knowing that they are wrapped in the prayers of the parish.

The Prayer Shawl can be delivered to you, or you may stop in the Parish Office during business hours and pick up what you need. Prayer Shawls are available for children as well. 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.



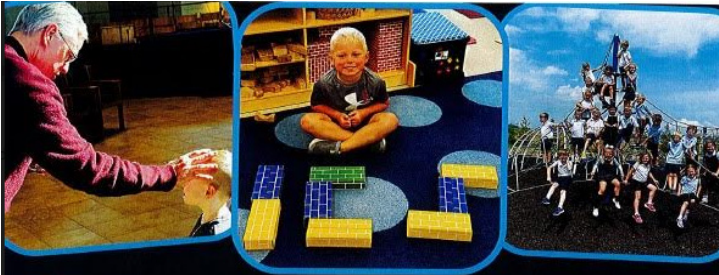
# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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



## THE ZAC EPPLIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, April 26, 2024, Annbriar Golf Course. 12:00 shotgun start. Registration opens on Saturday, March 9. Use the QR code to sponsor the tournament and/or to register your team.



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL**  
**NEW STUDENT REGISTRATION**  
 Mission Community Service  
 Preschool - 8th Grade  
 Sunday, March 17th  
 10am-12:30pm  
 ICS Main Entrance

For More Information  
 contact Bev Epplin  
 bepplin@icsmail.org  
 618-281-5353  
 icscolumbia.org

\*Please bring birth certificate & baptismal certificate.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PRESENTS  
**QUEEN OF HEARTS & 50/50 RAFFLE**  
 DRAWING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENINGS  
 6:30PM - TICKET SALES END  
 7:00PM - QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING  
 7:15PM - 50/50 DRAWING

LOCATION:  
 SUNSET OVERLOOK  
 11604 BLUFF ROAD  
 COLUMBIA, IL  
 TO BENEFIT:  
 ICS  
 COLUMBIA, IL

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](http://ICC-columbia-IL.us) for a link to our Queen of Hearts sign-up.

## UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS

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

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

# What's Happening At Gibault?

## VISIT GIBAULT

We are accepting Shadow Visitors for the second semester. 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>.




## ENROLLMENT NEWS

There's still time to become a Gibault Hawk! We are accepting students for the Class of 2027. Get started at: <https://bit.ly/GCHSApply>. Interested in learning more about Gibault Catholic? Contact Kelly Day at [kday@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:kday@gibaulthawks.com) for information on all things Gibault or to schedule a private tour of our campus.



## MATH & POETRY CONTEST


Save the date to be part of this year's event!



**Math, Poetry, & Art Contest**

**March 14 - Pi Day**

**Show off your skills!**



GRADES 6-8

# AMPLIFY


ART, MATH AND POETRY CONTESTS

**A** ART CONTEST  
Categories: Drawing, Painting, Other 2D Art  
Submit work to your school office by 3pm on Friday, March 1st. Mrs. LeSaulnier will collect it.

**M** MATH CONTEST  
3:30-3:45 Check-in      4:45-5:30 Break/Trivia  
3:45-4:00 Welcome      5:30-5:45 Awards  
4:15-4:45 Testing      \*Register at QR code below\*

**P** POETRY CONTEST  
Submit an original poem, 40 line maximum, to Haley Kovarik at [hkovarik@gibalthawks.com](mailto:hkovarik@gibalthawks.com) by 3pm on Friday, March 1st.

Awards for All Contests Presented on  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH**  
**5:30PM**



## *Diocesan and Area Interests...*

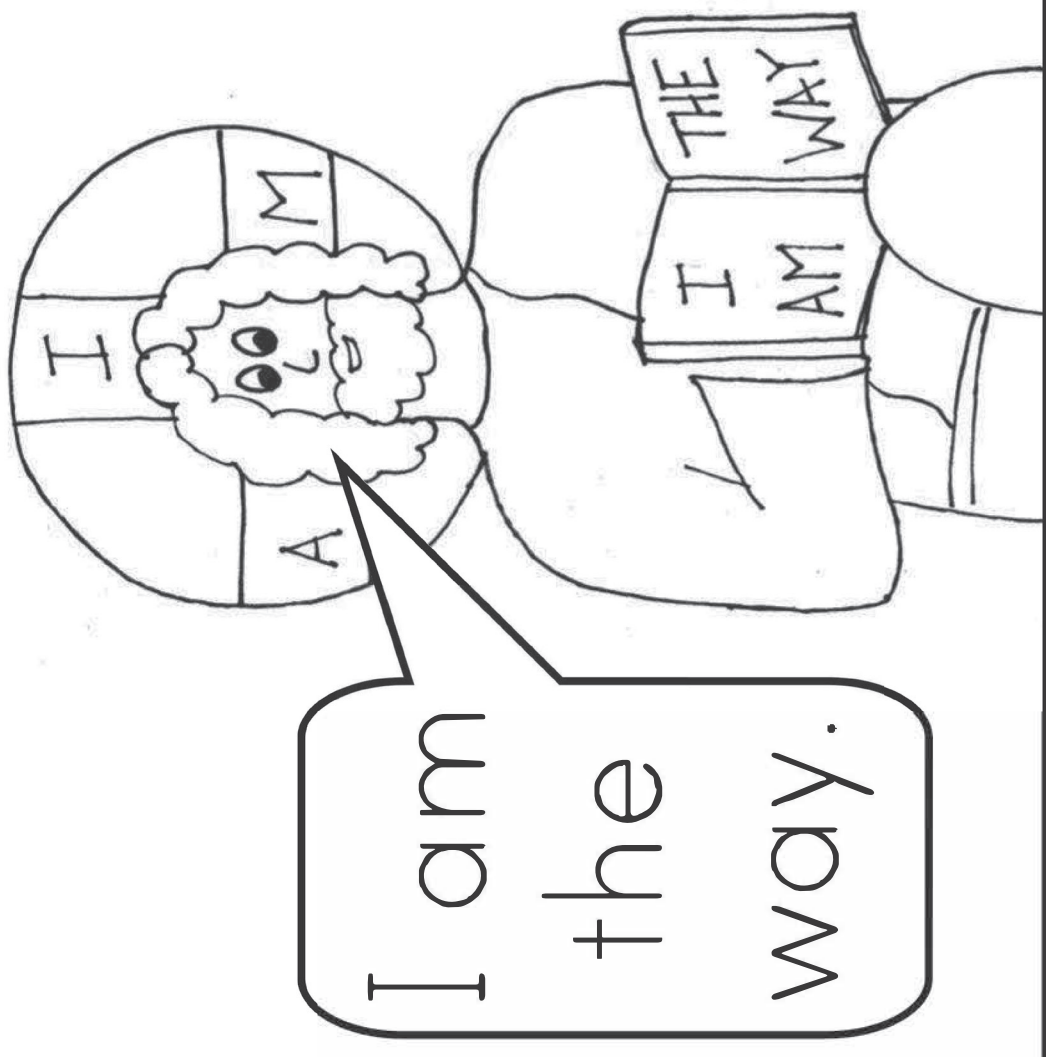
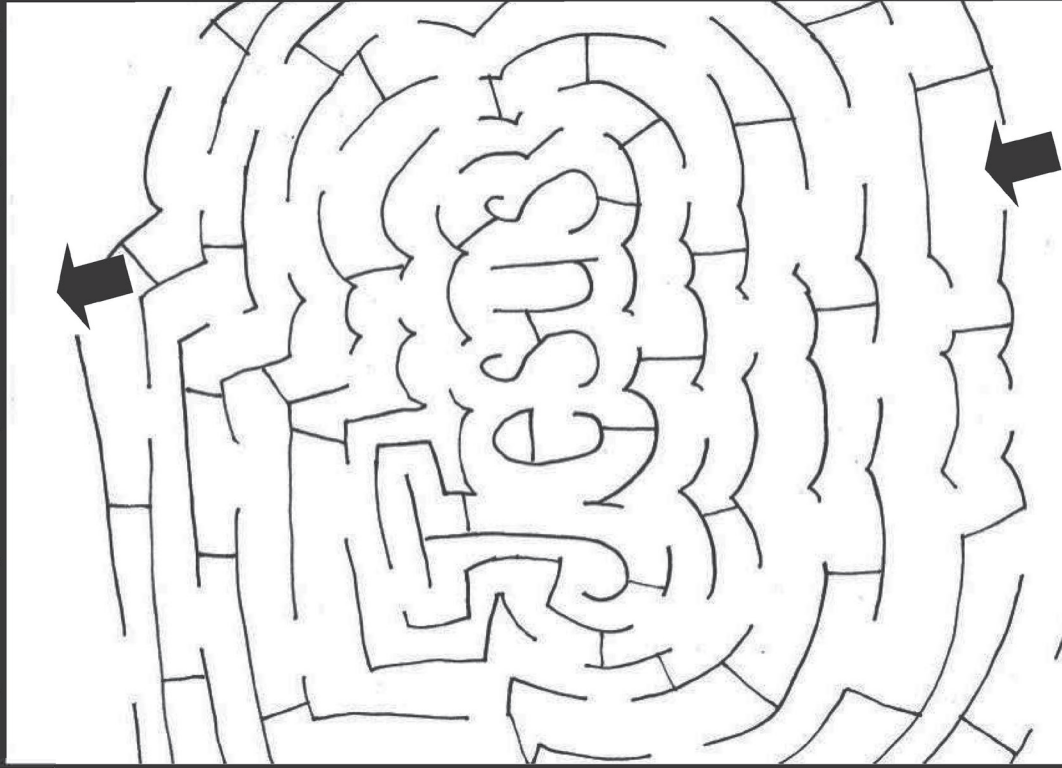
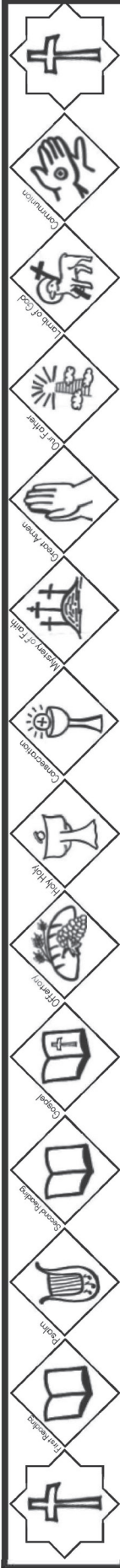
### CALL FOR LEADERS

The Metro-East Vicariate Council of Catholic Women (MEV CCW) is now accepting applications for leadership roles in the organization. Madonna Stapf of St. James parish, Millstadt the current president-elect will assume the Presidency at our April meeting. We need faith-filled Catholic ladies to step up and assist her as she leads the organization for the next two years. We seek a new President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. AND, since we are looking to grow this organization, we also have commission chair openings for those who are passionate toward leadership, service, and spirituality!

The Metro-East Vicariate Council of Catholic Women is a branch of the Belleville Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (BDCCW), which is a branch of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). The NCCW was created in 1920 by the USCCB in Washington DC. The USCCB recognized that women had a unique skill set and perspective when identifying problems and solutions. They realized if organized and working together, women could affect a powerful change for good. This national organization started in our nation's capital and developed further following the ecclesiastical divisions created by the church; spreading across the country. Bishop Althoff shared the vision and created our diocesan council in 1926. The BDCCW is divided into five vicariates (previously known as deaneries); Metro-East, North-Central, West, South, and East. For nearly 100 years, Catholic women across the diocese have stepped up to lead these organizations and make sure we stay connected with the national council.

Each role requires some skills. Experience is also helpful and may come from previous involvement in a CCW or may transfer from life and career learnings. One of the most important qualifications is a desire to work as a disciple of our God to build the church with your fellow sisters in Christ.

If you are seeking to focus more on your relationship with Christ and share your talents and skills to help bring others closer to Him, look no further! Application forms can be found on the MEV page under BDCCW on the diocesan website at Metro-East Vicariate CCW ([diobelle.org](http://diobelle.org)) or contact Maggie Burns to text or email you a form (618-792-4644 or [jmburns@htc.net](mailto:jmburns@htc.net)). There are special rewards to working with other Catholic women on such holy work. Be bold and courageous...join us on our journey! But – you must act now! Applications will be accepted until midnight on April 6th. Say “yes” and become a part of this joyful experience.



God loved us all so much that He sent Jesus to earth to help us!  
 Jesus died for our sins so we can live with God in Heaven.

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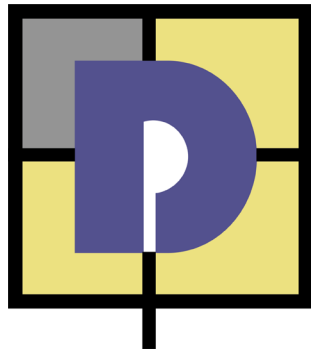
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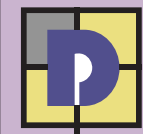
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