



Immaculate Conception

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

October 6, 2024

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

Never Too Late:

BECOMING CATHOLIC AS AN ADULT

Everyone we know is on a faith journey, and each person's journey is as individual as his or her fingerprint. Many of us have similar paths on the journey: baptized into the Catholic faith as an infant, reception of First Eucharist around the age of seven, and Confirmed some time later, often at junior high or high school age. Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are known as the Sacraments of Initiation, and – as the name implies – the completion of all three indicates that we have full membership in the Catholic faith.

The journey to full communion takes a more winding path for others, perhaps even for you or someone you know. Perhaps they were baptized in a different Christian denomination, or perhaps they were not baptized at all. Maybe they began their journey in the Catholic faith with infant Baptism, but did not complete all the Sacraments of Initiation.

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, these people may be drawn to our Church and our practices, seeking to know God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – through our community, the living Body of Christ.

How do we respond to this grace? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formerly RCIA) is a beautiful series of rites to guide those seeking Baptism or full communion. The OCIA formation process helps each person discern how God is moving through their lives, leading them to become a member of the Body of Christ in the Catholic tradition. Inquirers work with our director of faith formation, Lizanne Young, and a team of volunteers to break open Scripture, and begin to understand our teachings and practices. As most Catholics already know, this learning is a lifetime process, but it has to start somewhere.

Every year at the Easter Vigil, we – along with Catholics around the world – welcome those who are newly baptized or newly received into full communion. We as a parish accompany our inquirers over weeks and months of preparation and prayer. The best thing we can do as the Body of Christ is to provide a warm welcome to those inquirers!

If you would like to know more about becoming Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation, please reach out to Lizanne Young at lyoung@iccmil.org or 618-281-5105, ext 354. She and the team are excited to meet all inquirers and start the discussion and discernment.

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

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@iccmil.org

ICS Principal,

Dave Gregson

281-5353, ext. 202

dgregson@iccmil.org

Pastoral Council Chair,

Bill Simmons

wsimmons85@yahoo.com

School Board President,

Jolene Sasser

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: 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.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults): OCIA (formerly known as 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 OCIA. Get to know God better and find out what it means to be Catholic. Individuals will meet with our director of faith formation (Lizanne Young) to discuss the process. We meet as a group on Sundays (from Autumn through the Triduum just before 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 at the Parish Office, 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. *The initial course is now available online. Please contact Michelle at the Parish Office for directions. *The refresher course for 2024-2025 IS AVAILABLE ONLINE! Follow the link on our website! If you can't find it there, it is also on the Diocesan website at <https://diobelle.safeenvironment.org/login/index.php>. Not sure if you are compliant, or have additional questions? Contact Michelle 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, October 7	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Joseph Colley
Tuesday, October 8	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad
Wednesday, October 9	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Robert & Loretta Schwer
Thursday, October 10	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Ruth Herrmann
Friday, October 11	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Margie Passananti
Saturday, October 12	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Ken & Florence Ducat
Sunday, October 13	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Mary Wessel
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Fr. Gene Linnemann
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Ralph Herrmann



Please Pray For

Danielle Dorlac	Liam Pugh	Geri Griffin	Doug Mercille
Donna Archambault-Kania	Don & Shirley Mehrmann	Donna Ritson	Brian Hirsh
Arlin Stechmesser	Dolores G.	Owen Kinane	Don Day
Dakota Schutt	Elliana Cloin	Ken Breitenstein	Brother John Ritter
Janice McDermott	Earl & Arlene Kruse	Wanda Schewe	Mary Schroeder
Delores Deleveski	Mrs. Steele	Katie Schoellhorn	Roger Karsten
Brian Kreher	The Kruse Family	Kristen Brewer	Barbara Kendall
Rich Sambo	Betty Schmieder	Kasen Greer	Adam Brandt
Catherine Sambo	Lynn Naumann Casey	Bill Kessler	Shane Martin
Nicole Pennington	Ellen Dietz	Sandy Kirpatrick	JoAnn Sander
Bill Kutz	Jamie Moravec	Darrell May	Jacob Nelson
Chris Peel	Mary Lou Mees	Beth Johns	
Joan Thoma	Jean Conrad	Hope Weinhoff	
Special Intention	Jim Grau	Mark Belt	

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

October 6, 2024:

First Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16



Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

September 29, 2024

Actual	\$	16,895.93
Budget	\$	22,700.00
Actual YTD	\$	469,551.57
Budget YTD	\$	493,025.00
Over (under)	\$	(23,473.43)
Prior YTD	\$	491,477.86
Over (under)	\$	(21,926.29)
Guatemala	\$	377.00
Capital Improvements	\$	25.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	500.00
Gibault	\$	85.00
Votive	\$	158.00
Retired Priests	\$	130.00
World Mission Sunday	\$	30.00
Phase 3	\$	10,156.00



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$1.38

Time and Talent: Helped my mom cook; took the dog out; helped my mom with the dishwasher.

WHAT IS A 529 PLAN?

A 529 plan is an investment account that offers tax-free withdrawals and other benefits when used to pay for qualified educational expenses. You can use a 529 plan to pay for college, K-12 tuition, apprenticeship programs, and even student loan repayments. Any leftover funds can be used in different ways, including funding a Roth IRA. There are two primary 529 plans: education savings plans and prepaid tuition plans.

Education Savings Plans

Also known as 529 college savings plans, these are tax-advantaged investment accounts that are designed for educational savings. They work much like a Roth 401(k) or Roth IRA by allowing you to invest your after-tax contributions in mutual funds or similar investments. 529 plans offer several investment options from which to choose. The 529 plan account will go up or down in value based on the performance of the investment options.

Prepaid Tuition Plans

These plans let you prepay all or part of the costs of an in-state public college education. You may also convert them for use at private and out-of-state colleges. The Private College 529 Plan is a separate prepaid plan for private colleges sponsored by more than 250 private colleges. Educational institutions can offer a prepaid tuition plan but not a college savings plan.

Tax Advantages of 529 Plans

529 plans offer federal tax benefits and may offer state tax benefits depending on the state where the account owner or person contributing to the plan lives. Earnings in your account accumulate tax-free. In other words, no income taxes are due on earnings as long as the money stays in your account. You will not have to pay federal income taxes on withdrawals as long as the money is used to pay for qualified educational expenses. In most cases, these withdrawals will also be exempt from state income taxes. Contributions to a 529 plan are not deductible for federal income tax purposes, however. Some families use 529 plans as an estate planning vehicle because contributions are considered completed gifts to the beneficiary. Up to \$18,000 per donor, per beneficiary, qualifies for the annual gift tax exclusion in 2024. Depending on where you live, you may also qualify for a state tax benefit. Over 30 states offer either state income tax deductions or state tax credits for 529 plan contributions. The tax benefit is typically available for residents who invest in their home state's 529 plan. However, many states offer a tax benefit for contributions to any state's 529 plan. These tax benefits make 529 plans more valuable for college savings than traditional savings or investment accounts.

For more information about 529 plans, contact your financial or tax advisor.

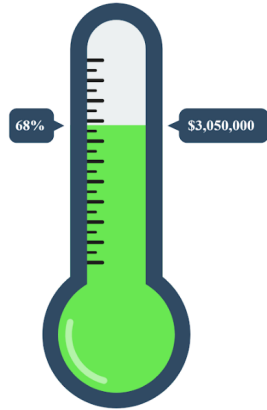
– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News...

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE 3 UPDATE

Your generosity is at work enhancing Immaculate Conception Parish in a truly amazing way. We have received responses from over 250 parish families with a total of \$3,000,000 pledged. We are getting close to reaching our goal of \$4,500,000. However, we need YOUR help. If you have not turned in your pledge card, please consider doing so today. The pledge card provides many ways to show your support.

GOAL: \$4,500,000



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!

October 12
November 9

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.



D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel & Donut weekend will be October 19 & 20. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

Ministry News & Happenings

THEOLOGY ON TAP'S UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- October 7 – Knights of Columbus Speaker Series, location TBD
- October 21 – Board Game Night!

OUR CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You have created us in Your own image, to love, serve and honor You with our lives. You have tasked us with building Your Church, and passing from one generation to the next the treasure trove of our faith. Bless the work of our hands as we undertake our next phase in serving You. Keep us strong in faith, hope, and love, so that all we do may bring glory and honor to You, forever and ever.

AMEN.

ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COAT & WINTER ITEMS DRIVE

The Drive will be held the weekend of October 19-20, 2024. All items of warm clothing and bedding will be accepted. Sizes of clothing range from infant to adult and bedding items include blankets, quilts, throws, pillows, and sheets. There is a particular need for adult men's jeans. Items collected will be distributed to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and Overnight Shelter in East St. Louis. Questions: Carol or John Waide at 281-4186, or 619-910-1648. We appreciate your help.

ICC St. Vincent de Paul Society

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...

All Powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. (*Laudato Si 246*)

What can I do? As we close the Season of Creation on October 4th, write down ten qualities you like in your pet, or the tree in your yard, or the bluffs along the road, and thank God for it.

ICCCW NEWS:

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

Thursday, November 14, 2024 is our annual Bunko Night of Fun! We will also be drawing our Fall Raffle winners on this evening. More details to come.

Thursday, December 5, 2024 – IC Council of Catholic Women Christmas Extravaganza.

PUBLIC ROSARY

Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024



The Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women invites you to join them in praying the Holy Rosary for peace in our world and for the sanctity of human life on Saturday, October 12, 2024, at 12:00 noon, by the fountain in front of Columbia City Hall.

All are welcome and encouraged to join in this powerful 30-minute prayer event which is being coordinated across the country by over 22,000 other groups at the same time.

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.

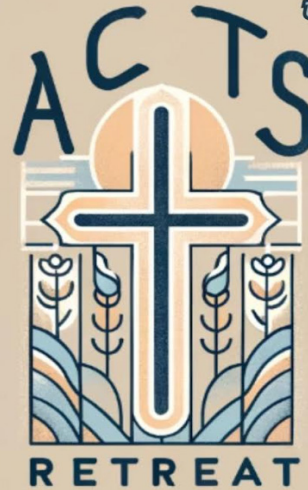
THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100

The homebound, sick and seniors living in the southernmost part of the state are assured they will have food to eat thanks to Daystar Community Program's mobile food pantry, which delivers groceries on a regular basis to those not able to visit Daystar's on-site food pantry. YOUR GIFT to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal makes Daystar's truly life-saving ministry possible. If you haven't already done so, please donate today and help Daystar to serve truly the poorest of the poor; they are counting on YOU!

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, 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 with your latest contact information. Let's keep you in the loop and build a stronger, connected ACTS family together!

SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming ICC ACTS Retreats

WOMEN'S RETREAT OCT 17 - 20, 2024


MEN'S RETREAT JAN 23 - 26, 2025

WOMEN'S RETREAT APRIL 24 - 27, 2025

MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2025

ACTS

SANCTITY OF LIFE



Respect Life Month

I CAME SO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE
LIFE

MASS FOR LIFE


CELEBRATED BY BISHOP
MICHAEL MCGOVERN

OCTOBER 16, 2024

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
COLUMBIA, IL

6 PM

ROSARY AND RECEPTION TO
FOLLOW



Sponsored by the
Catholic Diocese of Belleville

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.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

All members of a family, no matter what age, who have lost a loved one suffer from grief. From toddlers to adults, a death in the family creates a void where it was once filled. A wide range of emotions occur, and these emotions come and go over time. The grieving process can take years. Learn more about grief, its stages and effects, in this section in upcoming Sunday bulletins. Contact Kathy Fern at 618-719-1632, if you have any questions about our activities or the Bereavement Ministry.

Upcoming events:

October 20th: Walk to Remember – 3:00 p.m.

November 2nd: All Souls Mass – 5:00 p.m.

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.

PRO-LIFE/PREGNANCY RESOURCES...

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

Congratulations to the Girls Cross Country team on 2nd place finish in the Diocesan Meet!



8TH GRADE SOCCER NIGHT



Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings:
October 14, November 11



1/2 Hog Raffle

4 chances to win

Custom processing included by Wenneman Meat Co.

\$20 each, 3 for \$50, 7 for \$100

Drawing: **October 17th, 2024**

After Mass sales Oct. 12th and 13th

Proceeds support Immaculate Conception School

Tickets can also be purchased on-line via below QR code:



TRICK OR TRIVIA

ICS TRIVIA NIGHT

OCTOBER 18TH 2024

Doors at 6 p.m., Trivia Starts at 7 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Garden Level
409 Palmer Rd., Columbia IL

\$200 PER TABLE OF 10

MULLIGANS, GAMES AND RAFFLES FOR PURCHASE

OUTSIDE FOOD AND DRINK WELCOME

Halloween Costume Contest!

Questions?
Contact Jackie Weaver at
schmidjk@gmail.com



What's Happening at Gibault?

ENROLLING FOR FALL 2024

There is still time to be a Gibault Hawk this fall! We are accepting incoming freshmen and transfer students at all other grade levels. To learn how you can be part of the Gibault family, visit <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>.

GIBAULT INVITES YOU TO
ENCHANTED MASQUERADE

OCTOBER 26, 2024
REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.GIBAULT2024.GIVSMART.COM
FOR ANY QUESTIONS: (618)-939-3883

BEHIND EVERY MASK
THERE IS A FACE &
BEHIND EVERY FACE
THERE IS A STORY







ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR
OPEN HOUSE 2024

OCTOBER 6, 2024
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES


CURRENT FRIENDS OF GCHS


SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR NOW

ALL FRIENDS, CURRENT AND PAST FAMILIES, AND ALUMNI ARE WELCOME

- Guided Tours
- Student Wellness Presentation
- And MORE!

(618)-939-3883

Diocesan and Area Interests...

DIocese OF BELLEVILLE

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2024
ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL UNDERCROFT
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Holy Mass at 12:00
with Bishop McGovern

12:30 Registration and Light Lunch

1-5 pm Speakers

5:30 pm Dinner and Presentations

Come for One Session or Both!

\$10 Afternoon | \$25 Dinner | \$30 for Both
Ages 13-21 are \$10 for dinner
12 and under - dinner is free

Special Drury Inn, Shiloh, hotel rate, contact Molly King for info

Contact Molly King for more info
mking@diobelle.org
Register now w/QR code or at
www.diobelle.org/respectlife





2025 ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN YOUTH CHORAL FESTIVAL & MASS

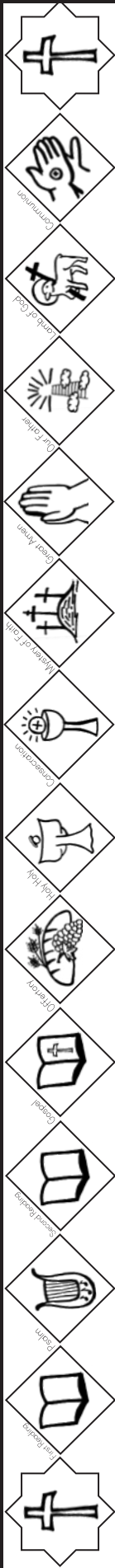
March 8, 2025
Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, IL
Bishop Michael G. McGovern, Celebrant



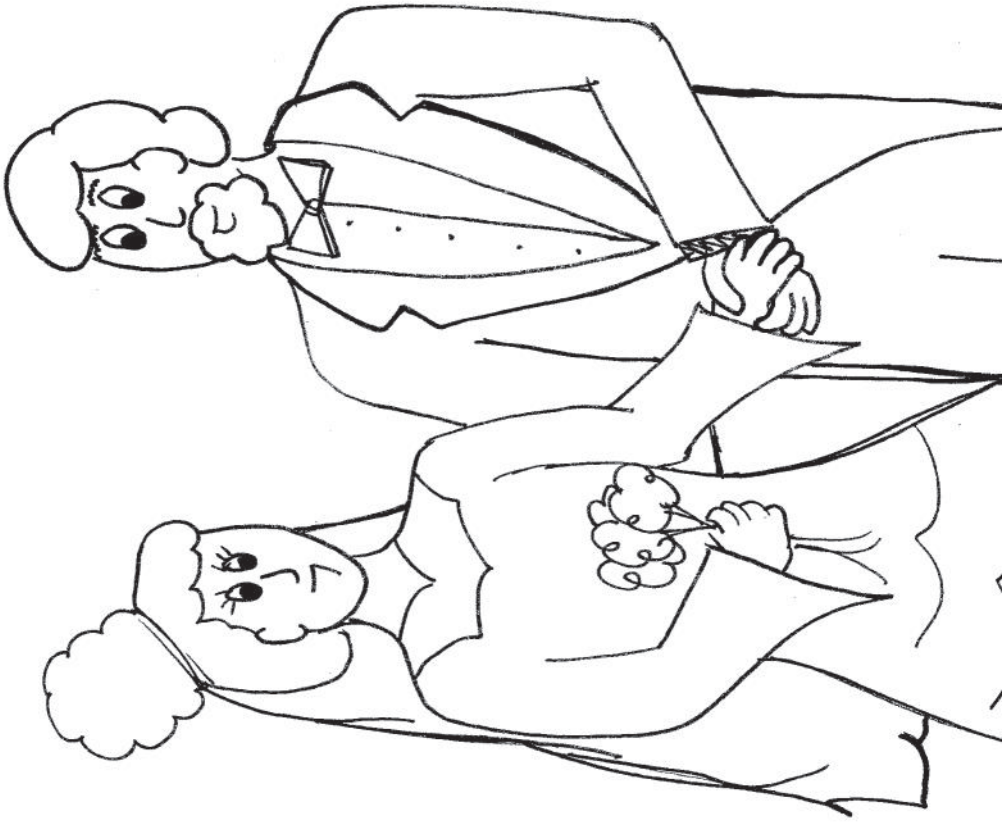



Pueri Cantores, the national student choral organization of the Catholic Church, invites all parish & school treble and mixed voice choirs (grades 4-12) in the region to participate in a Festival & Mass.

Singers will unite with hundreds of their peers as one combined choir to sing beautiful music from the Church's rich historical repertoire. More information will be available soon at www.pcchoirs.org.



Listen to the story about Adam and Eve
 in the first reading.
 Draw a picture to tell the story.



Gospel

Today's readings are about marriage. The first reading tells the story of Adam and Eve. God takes a rib from Adam and uses that to make a wife for him. In the Gospel, Jesus talks about the sacrament of marriage.



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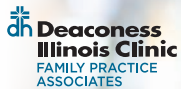


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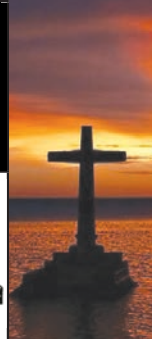
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