



# Immaculate Conception

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

November 24, 2024

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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

**A NEW TRADITION, DECEMBER 12 AT 8PM:**

## *Advent By Candlelight* FOR WOMEN

Our first annual **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT** is an opportunity for the women of our parish and their guests to set aside the hustle of holiday preparation, and focus minds and hearts on the Advent season—the joyful anticipation of our Messiah’s incarnation. In fellowship, and fortified by music and delicious desserts, we will explore the theme *“Feeding Our Souls This Advent Season”* with inspiring speaker and retreat facilitator **Karen Seaborn, MDiv.** This event, Thursday, Dec. 12, from 8-9:30pm in the Garden Level, will provide a delightful atmosphere to grow closer to our Lord and one another. All women are welcome, and we encourage parish ladies to host a table of 8-10, and provide dessert and decor for your table. (Coffee, tea and water will be provided, BYOB is optional.)

*To host a table or come as a guest, please see the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space, or contact Beth Pembrey at [beth.s.pembrey@gmail.com](mailto:beth.s.pembrey@gmail.com) or 636-328-6556.*

### *Parish Mass of Thanksgiving*

◆ Thursday, November 28, 9am

### *Additional Advent Opportunities*

- ◆ Sacrament of Reconciliation open to everyone, each Saturday of Advent (beginning Nov. 30) from 3-4:30pm
- ◆ Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Masses on Monday, Dec. 9 at 8:05am and 7pm
- ◆ ICS Student Reconciliation, Thursday, Dec. 12 from 1-3pm
- ◆ PSR Student Reconciliation & Family Advent Activity, Saturday, Dec. 14, 1:50pm-3pm (*no PSR Sunday, Dec. 15*)
- ◆ Decorate for Christmas, Sunday, Dec. 22, after 11am Mass

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 Liturgy & Music,  
Theresa Flores**  
ext. 312, tflores@iccmil.org

**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, shoglesby@iccmil.org

**Secretary,  
Michelle Muckensturm**  
ext. 300, iccmil@iccmil.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,  
Jolene Sasser**  
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.

**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, November 25	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, November 26	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad
Wednesday, November 27	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Bob Stadler
Thursday, November 28	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Carol Merz
Friday, November 29	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Josh Ritter
Saturday, November 30	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Ken & Florence Ducat
Sunday, December 1	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Robert Smith
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Eugene Gilbreth
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson



## *Please Pray For*

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

*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*

*November 24, 2024:*

**First Reading:** Daniel 7:13-14  
**Second Reading:** Revelation 1:5-8  
**Gospel:** John 18:33b-37



## Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

November 17, 2024

Actual	\$	75,653.42
Budget	\$	66,300.00
Actual YTD	\$	775,167.97
Budget YTD	\$	816,175.00
Over (under)	\$	(41,007.03)
Prior YTD	\$	739,409.45
Over (under)	\$	35,758.52

*\* The above totals include online giving through 11/15/2024.*

Guatemala	\$	1,296.00
Capital Improvements	\$	176.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$	280.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	1,695.00
SVDP	\$	335.00
Gibault	\$	250.00
Votive	\$	151.00
Human Development	\$	170.00
Phase 3	\$	9,435.86
CEAC	\$	731.00



### From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$50.40

Time and Talent: Helped my mom make lunches; I took the dogs out; cleaned my room.

## SAVE TAXES ON IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS

Individuals subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) have an opportunity to use the distributions for charitable giving instead of taking a taxable distribution.

If you are age 70 ½ or older, the IRS will allow you to distribute up to \$105,000 annually directly to qualified nonprofit organizations without incurring any taxable income. The benefit is known as the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable to a qualified charity, like Immaculate Conception Church. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year, if certain rules are met.

Here are the requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes non-deductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$105,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly, your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$105,000.)
- For a QCD to count towards your current year RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.
- Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year.
- The QCD must be paid directly from your IRA to the charity to qualify.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Also, QCDs require that you itemize, which, due to the tax law changes means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.

Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD.

There are some other tax rules that may also apply to your situation, so consult with a financial professional for more details about this strategy.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

# Parish Events & News...

## WELCOMING RECEPTION

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to Immaculate Conception Church on Sunday, December 8th after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the garden level. Breakfast items will be served. Help us to help them feel a warm welcome.

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ANNOUNCEMENT

As the year draws to a close, we invite you to join us in making a lasting impact through our capital campaign. Your generosity enables us to expand, improve, and enrich our parish's future. With your help, we can bring transformative changes that will benefit countless lives in the years to come. Whether you've supported us in the past or are considering your first gift, year-end donations provide a wonderful opportunity to make a difference. Every contribution brings us closer to reaching our goal, and no gift is too small.

Help us end the year on a high note! Together, we can build a brighter future. Thank you for your support and for considering a year-end donation.

## HOLIDAY PARISH

### OFFICE HOURS:

#### Thanksgiving:

Wednesday, November 27:

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 28: Closed

Friday, November 29: Closed

#### Christmas:

Monday, December 23:

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

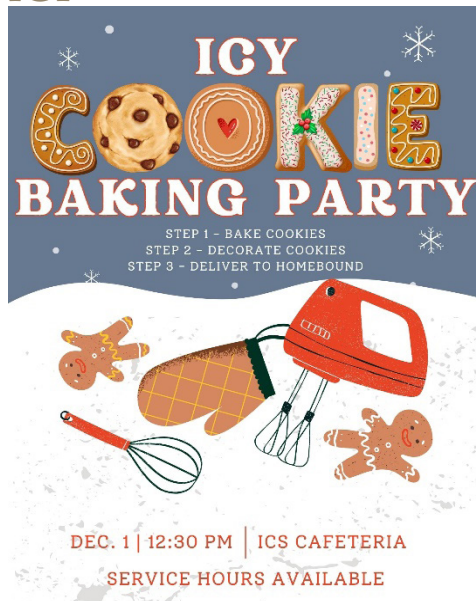
December 24th-December 27th:

Closed

#### New Year's:

December 31-January 2: Closed

## ICY



**ICY**  
**COOKIE BAKING PARTY**

STEP 1 - BAKE COOKIES  
STEP 2 - DECORATE COOKIES  
STEP 3 - DELIVER TO HOMEBOUND

DEC. 1 | 12:30 PM | ICS CAFETERIA  
SERVICE HOURS AVAILABLE

## ICY - SAVE THE DATE

DECEMBER 2024

SUN  
01  
12-30PM

ICY  
COOKIE BAKING PARTY

SERVICE HOURS AVAILABLE  
MEET IN THE CHURCH GATHERING SPACE

SUN  
15  
11-00AM

ICY MASS  
GET INVOLVED



SUN  
15  
12-30PM

ICY  
REINDEER GAMES

MEET IN THE CHURCH GATHERING SPACE  
BRING A FRIEND!

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

After serving as the Head of Funeral Lunches for many years, Judy Kinane wants to retire from her position. Since this is a service of the Council of Catholic Women, she asked that we find her replacement. Please prayerfully consider taking the lead on this wonderful service to our parish family. Judy would be happy to explain what is involved and what she and her crew are responsible for to put on a funeral lunch. Please call or text Lori Doerr at 618-210-5881 if you would like to know more.

## 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!

## D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel & Donut weekend will be December 14 & 15. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

## BULLETIN DEADLINE

All submissions for the bulletin will need to be in to the Parish Office two Thursdays before you need it in the bulletin. Submissions will need to be sent to [iccmil@iccmil.org](mailto:iccmil@iccmil.org). If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

## PARISH WORK DAYS!

December 14, January 11

# 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.

### Theology on Tap's Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday, December 3** – An Introduction to Adoration at 7:00 p.m. at ICC Gathering Space
- **Monday, December 16** – Theology on Tap Christmas Party at 7:00 p.m. at ICC Garden Level

## 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.*

## ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



## CHILDREN'S CHOIR

### THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR BEGINS AGAIN!

- WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL CHILDREN GRADES 3-8 WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SINGING TO SIGN UP FOR CHOIR. WE WILL FIND ADDITIONAL ROOM IF NEEDED!
- WE REHEARSE MONDAY NIGHTS FROM 6-7PM IN CHURCH.
- OUR FIRST IMPORTANT MASS WILL BE CHRISTMAS EVE AT 4PM, AND WE WILL SING ONE SATURDAY 5PM MASS PER MONTH BEGINNING IN 2025.
- REHEARSALS BEGIN MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18.

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP: [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/GHXKWVZT-VAV3JJPS9](https://forms.gle/GHXKWVZT-VAV3JJPS9)

PLEASE CONTACT MRS. THERESA FLORES, THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND LITURGY, WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

TFLORES@ICCMAIL.ORG

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is to fulfill two great commandments: Love of God and love of neighbor. We seek to grow spiritually in our efforts to help those in need and to share our faith with those we serve.

During the fiscal year October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024 a total of \$27,466.00 was donated to our St. Vincent de Paul Society through the donation boxes at the church entrances, the Thanksgiving Day and Holy Thursday collections, memorials, and special individual and community organization donations. Another \$4,233.00 was collected from our various fundraisers.

Adverse economic conditions greatly affected parishioners of Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart as well as non-parishioners from our neighbors in Columbia, Dupo and East Carondelet. During the fiscal year, we assisted 216 people by distributing \$25,484.00 for housing, utilities, food, medical expenses, transportation, Christmas children's gifts, and special needs.

We provided support to Cosgrove Kitchen in East St. Louis totaling \$9,789.00 for monthly lunches and weekly breakfasts, as well as for toiletries. We gave support and food for the Belleville Council Soup Bus totaling \$780.00, and support to C.U.P. (Catholic Urban Programs, East St. Louis) for essential needs items totaling \$934.00. We also distributed frozen casseroles totaling \$2,141.00. And, at our local nursing home, we provided a total of \$3,100.00 for monthly Bingo games, monthly birthday cupcakes, and Christmas gifts, plus we prayed the Rosary with them on Mondays.

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart parishes are grateful for your generous donations of money which provide immediate assistance to those individuals and families when they need it most. We are also grateful for your donations of food and clothing for our Drives; your preparation of casseroles, and your prayers which enable us to continue to do God's work within our community.

Note: If any parishioner is aware of a person(s) in Columbia, Dupo and East Carondelet in need of temporary assistance due to unforeseen circumstances, whether it is food, clothing, utilities or housing, please do not hesitate to call the Parish Office at (618) 281-5105 and follow prompts to the St. Vincent de Paul line. Calls will be answered as soon as possible. All cases are strictly confidential.

Thanks again and God Bless You.

## St. Raymond's Corner

Did you know that St. Raymond's sends us a six-month financial report detailing how they use the money we send to them? Below is the biannual report we received.

For background reference:

- According to the IMF the average Yearly income in Guatemala is \$5,580.00.
- 20% of the GDP in Guatemala is in the form of remittances (money sent to Guatemala by someone in the household working in another country).
- 60% of the population lives below the poverty line
- The WHO says 21% of the population lives on less than \$1.00 a day.
- Sometimes the only good meal a family will get is the one provided by church at the end of Mass.

St. Raymond's received a total of \$17,619.00 between January and June of 2024.

\$	Description
\$2,643.00	Given to Diocese to help with health care for priest, catechism materials, and training
\$830.00	Repairs to vehicle
\$520.00	Gas for vehicle
\$1,084.00	Training lay ministers
\$1,319.00	Repairs to chapel
\$3,267.00	New building project
\$702.00	Retreats
\$819.00	Church supplies
\$767.00	Food
\$650.00	Education for youth
\$520.00	Utilities
\$260.00	Development of sustainable projects/fair trade
\$943.00	Seminarian fund
<b>\$3,250.00</b>	<b><u>Help to Nuestra Señora de Candelaria in Buena Vista (see right)</u></b>
\$17,574.00	Total

Nuestra Señora de Candelaria is an extremely remote portion of St. Raymond's parish. Due to the remoteness, St. Raymond's is supporting Candelaria in establishing itself as a parish. There are certain building projects that must be met in order to submit an application to be a stand-alone parish. So, St. Raymond's forwards a portion of the money we send down to help this sub-parish achieve their goal.

This second set of numbers is how Nuestra Señora de Candelaria uses the \$3,250.00 from St. Raymond's.

\$	Description
\$325.00	Given to Diocese to help with health care for priest, catechism materials, and training
\$936.00	Repairs to vehicle
\$214.00	Gas for vehicle
\$204.00	Training lay ministers
\$258.00	Repairs to chapel
\$191.00	Retreats
\$307.00	Church supplies
\$236.00	Food
\$159.00	Education for youth
\$420.00	Utilities
<b>\$3,250.00</b>	<b>Total</b>

Side note – if we send in a dollar figure with change attached - Missions International, the organization who facilitates the sister parish program, takes money out of their general fund to round up to the nearest whole dollar to make things easier with the exchange rate.



## Pope Francis Says...

God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. (*Laudato Si* 246)

**What can I do?** Give special thanks for all the creatures, plants and animals that have contributed to our Thanksgiving feast.

## Discipleship corner

“The promotion of the practice of stewardship is important for the mission of the church and for the spiritual well-being of each individual Christian. Everyone benefits from the sacrificial gift one makes of time, talent, and treasure.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Fund raising has to do with paying bills, with raising the money needed to run an organization.

Fund raising is like bringing your fair share of food to a potluck.

Fund raising is a financial matter.

Stewardship is also a financial matter but, more fundamentally, a *spiritual* matter.

## ICCCW NEWS:

Come join the CCW for our Christmas party on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Cost is \$10.00 per person for the Fried Chicken entree. Bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

Join the CCW for some Holiday Cheer! Reservations required by Sunday, December 1st.

Please call or text Lori Doerr at 618-210-5881.

CCW will be visiting the retired Priests at the Hinke-Sense Home in Belleville on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

We will meet at 10:45 a.m. and carpool from the Garden level at church. We will join the Priests for Mass at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and some caroling. Please call or text Lori Doerr at 618-210-5881 so we can let them know how many will be attending. It is always an enjoyable visit that is greatly appreciated by the retired Priests.

## SVDP

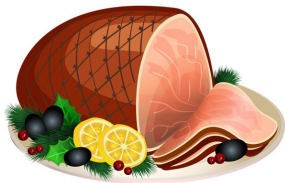
Thank you to all those who took the time to make casseroles. Those receiving these casseroles are very appreciative!!

– The St. Vincent de Paul Society

## NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

*Too busy to order your Christmas ham? Let the Knights do it!*

The Knights of Columbus will be selling Wenneman's hams after all weekend Masses on December 7th and 8th, and December 14th and 15th. You can pick them up at the chicken coop on the lower level (or have them delivered for a \$10.00 delivery fee) on Saturday, December 21st or on Sunday, December 22nd. Will accept cash, check, credit card, or Venmo at pickup. Questions? Email [gk@kofc6165.org](mailto:gk@kofc6165.org) or call 314-494-8874.



## THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

*Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100*

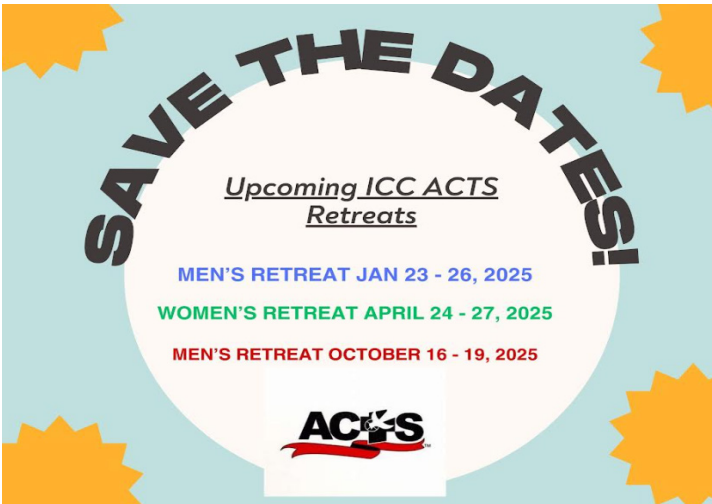
On behalf of the ministries and programs funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal and those they serve, we thank you for your prayers and continued generosity to the 2024 campaign. May you and your families feel the warmth of God's love and the comfort of His peace at Thanksgiving and always.

## 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!



**SAVE THE DATES!**

Upcoming ICC ACTS Retreats

**MEN'S RETREAT JAN 23 - 26, 2025**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT APRIL 24 - 27, 2025**

**MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2025**

**ACTS**

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

### Tips about Grieving over the Holidays

If you have lost a loved one, there is NO right way to grieve that loss. Grief is individualized. Take away the "shoulds" about how to behave. There are no "have to's." The only way to heal is your way and letting "it" happen. And, "it" will happen!

- 1) Grief will happen – acknowledge it and accept it.
- 2) Expect the unexpected – you will see triggers everywhere – and allow yourself to feel.
- 3) Speak up – seek support, say NO, let friends be there when needed.
- 4) Invent new traditions – family, friends, all are sharing the void.
- 5) Remember them, honor them, let them live on in the new; share stories, donate.
- 6) Set realistic expectations for the future – spiritually, emotionally, physically, mentally.
- 7) Take care of yourself! Stay nourished physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally.





## 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.

## Vocation

Is the Lord calling you to be a priest? It's hard to know for sure, but there are ways to discern! It all starts with listening to God in prayer. If you are male, between the ages of 18 to 35, and would like to deepen your spiritual life and develop a personal relationship with God, join Fr. Eric Wagner to discuss faith, spirituality, and priesthood, and practice prayer techniques.

**When:** December 4, 11, 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Where:** 4252 West Pine Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63108

For more information, please contact Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R. at 773-269-0227 or Fr. Steve Thoma, C.R. at 805-670-3541.

(IC parishioners: If you know a young man who you think would make a good priest, please tell them, and show them this bulletin announcement!)



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School Administrator: Beverly Epplin, ext. 200 ~ bepplin@icsmail.org

Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh ~ ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

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# What's Happening at Gibault?



ALL ALUMNI ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR

## Thanksgiving Lunch

GIVE THANKS AND CELEBRATE WITH GIBAULT

NOVEMBER 26, 2024  
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM  
GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S CAFETERIA

All Alumni are welcome.  
Use the link to RSVP  
Please RSVP by November 19!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4CACAF2CA5F9C07-52907416-alumni>

Please contact 618-939-3883 with any questions



## SOFTBALL

### Winter Warm Up

FOR 5-8 GRADERS

December 26, 27 & 28  
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM  
Fr. Hustedde Gymnasium @ GCHS

**Register Here!**

Scan the QR code, use the link or text "gibaultsoftball" to 41444 to register

Please register by December 8, 2024 to ensure your athlete's T-shirt order

<https://igfn.us/form/SBiBWQ>  
Text "gibaultsoftball" to 41444

## 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>.

## THE PLACEMENT TEST FOR INCOMING FRESHMEN IS SOON!

The test will be on December 7, 2024 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. All students looking to enroll as a Freshman at Gibault for the 2025-2026 school year should plan to attend. The test is free – just email Pam Kueker at [pkueker@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:pkueker@gibaulthawks.com), or use the SignUpGenius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AAAC28A5FEC16-52414519-freshman>.

## Diocesan and Area Interests...

“Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.”

*USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities,  
“A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe”*

“Virgen de Guadalupe, patrona de los niños en el vientre materno, te imploramos tu intercesión por cada niño en peligro de ser abortado. ... Guía a nuestros funcionarios públicos a defender cada vida humana mediante leyes justas. Inspíranos a todos a traer nuestra fe a la vida pública, para hablar por aquellos que no tienen voz. Te lo pedimos en el nombre de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, quién es Amor y Piedad. Amén”.

*USCCB Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida,  
“Oración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe”*

## ILLINOIS RESIDENTS DESERVE EXCELLENT PAIN MANAGEMENT, NOT ASSISTED SUICIDE

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Visit [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for additional information and resources.



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