



# Immaculate Conception

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

December 22, 2024

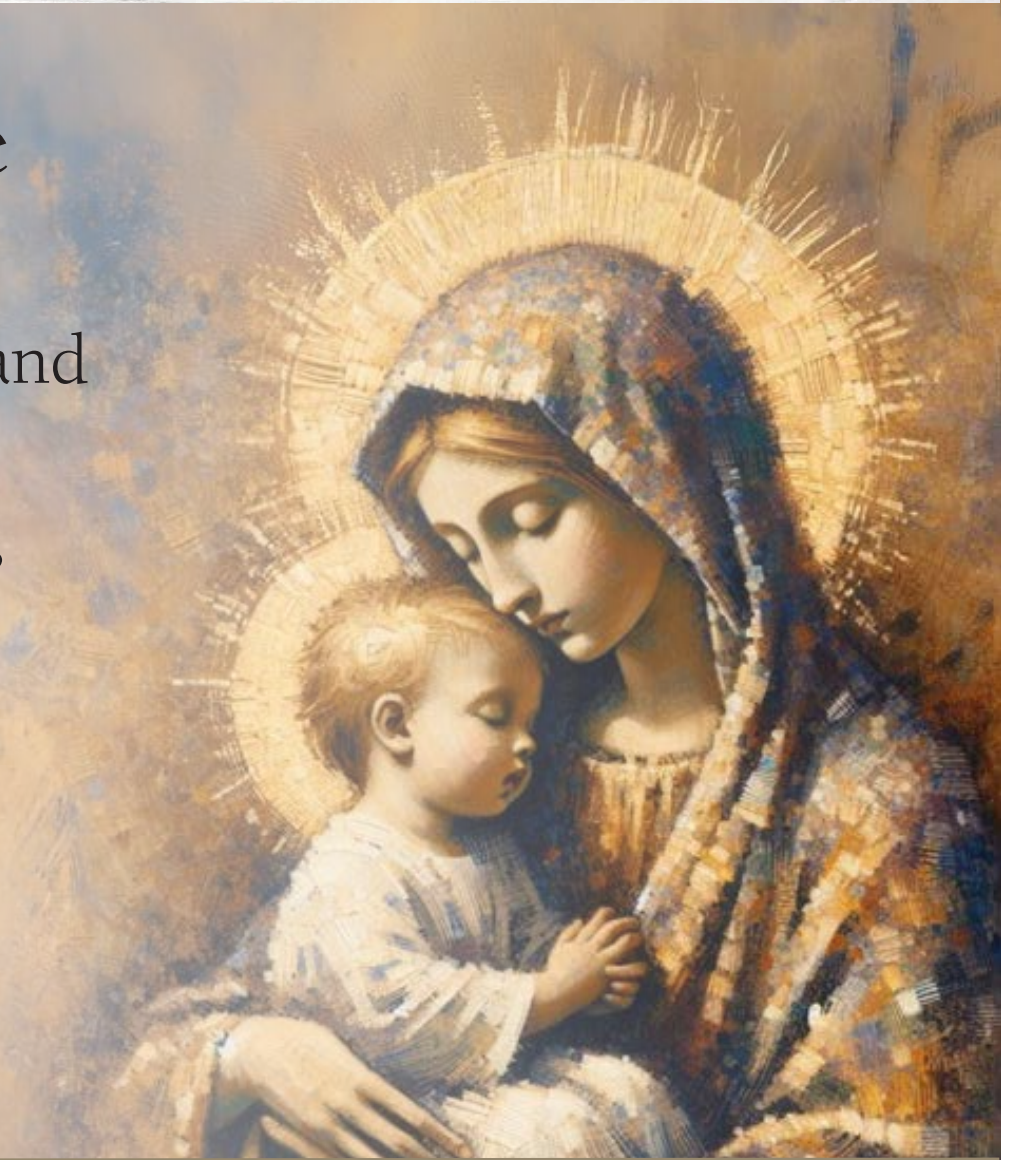
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

“And the  
*Word*  
became flesh and  
*dwelt*  
among us.”

- John 1:14

CHRISTMAS 2024



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@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, December 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, December 24	4:00 p.m.	We Remember Vernon & Ruth Frierdich, Bernie Kutz, & Laura Straub
	10:00 p.m.	We Remember Lawrence Spier
Wednesday, December 25	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Ed Janson
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Dean & Marian Keim
Thursday, December 26	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jane Stahlschmidt
Friday, December 27	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Saturday, December 28	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Ken & Florence Ducat & Joanne Hoffman
Sunday, December 29	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Lawrence Spier
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Josh Ritter
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Anna Lawlor



## *Please Pray For*

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

*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 Check:** Please take a moment and check on the prayer list above. The first weekend in January we will be starting a fresh list; sick and military. The list gets long throughout the year and during the holidays. Please call Michelle at the Parish Office at 281-5105 if you want your loved one to stay on or would like to add someone new.



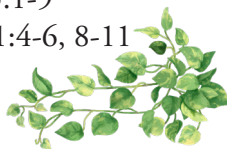
## *Weekly Reflections*

*December 8, 2024:*

**First Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6



## *Our Sympathies...*

To the family of Mary Reichert of Columbia who passed away at the age of 91.





## Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

### December 15, 2024

Actual	\$	89,185.74
Budget	\$	25,400.00
Actual YTD	\$	979,502.32
Budget YTD	\$	998,275.00
Over (under)	\$	(18,772.68)
Prior YTD	\$	918,694.93
Over (under)	\$	60,807.39

*\*The above totals include online giving through 12/15/24.*

Guatemala	\$	848.00
Capital Improvements	\$	174.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$	60.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	1,145.00
SVDP	\$	210.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	200.00
Christmas Offering	\$	1,325.00
Gibault	\$	205.00
Votive	\$	146.00
Human Development	\$	
Needy	\$	650.00
Retirement Fund for		
Religious	\$	650.00
Retired Priests Fund	\$	30.00
Phase 3	\$	37,308.19
CEAC	\$	675.00



### From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$52.00

Time and Talent: I helped take the dogs inside; I played the piano.

## 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...

## TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) is an opportunity for a young person's life. At TEC, you can experience that you are not alone at the in-between time of moving into adult life. In the three-day weekend of TEC, you can experience being part of a vibrant, loving, and supportive faith community in which the friendship of Jesus Christ becomes a real possibility that makes sense. TEC is open to Juniors and Seniors, and the next TEC will take place at Immaculate Conception on January 18-20, 2025. For more information and to apply to be a TECite or an adult observer, go to <https://bellevilletec.org/>.

We have **SCRIP** gift cards available for your holiday shopping – a percentage of all sales goes toward our Capital Campaign Fund! Here is a list of some of the cards you can purchase in the Church Office:

Amazon – \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100	Macy's – \$25, \$100
Applebees – \$25	Marshalls/T.J. Maxx – \$25
Arby's – \$10	McDonalds – \$10
Bath & Body Works – \$10, \$25	Old Navy/Gap – \$25
Best Buy – \$25, \$100	Outback – \$25
Bob Evans – \$10, \$25	Panera – \$10, \$25
Burger King – \$10	Papa Johns – \$10
Claire's – \$10	Red Lobster – \$25
Cracker Barrel – \$10, \$25	Red Robin – \$10, \$25
CVS – \$25	Reifschneiders – \$25
Dairy Queen – \$10	Shell – \$25, \$50, \$100
Denny's – \$10	Sonic – \$10, \$25
Dillard's – \$25, \$100	Starbucks – \$10, \$25
Dominos – \$10	Steak-N-Shake – \$10
Fridays – \$25	Subway – \$10, \$25
Hardees – \$10	Taco Bell – \$10, \$25
Home Depot – \$25, \$100	Target – \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100
JC Penney – \$25, \$100	Texas Roadhouse – \$25
JoAnn Fabrics – \$25	Visa Gift Card – \$25, \$50, \$100
Joe Boccardi's – \$25	Walgreens – \$25
Kohl's – \$25, \$100	Wal-Mart – \$10, \$25, \$100
Lowe's – \$25, \$100	Wendy's – \$10

## RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

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.

## PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:

### Christmas:

Monday, December 23rd:

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

December 24th-December 27th:

Closed

New Year's: December 31-January 2:

Closed

## BLOOD DRIVE

The next **Blood Drive** is January 3rd from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Garden Level.

Appointments can be made by visiting

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time?dt=WB:PL:DR:PM>

## 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.

## PARISH WORK DAYS!

January 11

February 8

## 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!

## Ministry News & Happenings

### 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.*

### Discipleship

"Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought." (Wisdom 6:12-16)



### Pope Francis Prays...

From the beginning of the world, but particularly through the incarnation, the mystery of Christ is at work in a hidden manner in the natural world as a whole, without thereby impinging on its autonomy." (Laudato Si 99)

**What can I do?** Look for God's presence in a fir tree, in a quiet snowfall, in the stars, in a Christmas card.

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

The next Pretzel & Donut weekend will be January 18 and 19. 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.

### ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



## THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

*Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100*

The true joy of Christmas is in the everlasting love of Christ. May you find His peace, love and joy now and in the coming new year. With deepest gratitude for your prayers and generosity,

– Bishop Michael McGovern and Ministries and Programs  
Funded by The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal

## SANCTITY OF LIFE

The Sanctity of Life Committee will be collecting new baby items for Life Network in Waterloo. Please pick up a tag from the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space and bring back your unwrapped item by Monday, January 6, 2025. Thanks for your support. Most needed items include:

- Aveeno Baby Lotion, Aveeno Baby Wash
- Butt Paste
- Diapers, especially Pampers or Huggies, sizes 4 and 6
- Infant Nail Clippers
- Laundry Detergent
- Pull-ups, especially for girls, sizes 2T-3T and 4T-5T
- Sensitive Wipes
- Sippy Cups
- Teethers
- Toddler Meals/Snacks
- Twin Blankets
- Walmart Gift Cards
- Washcloths




## 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**



### 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.

### IF YOU STILL NEED CHRISTMAS CARDS...

Christmas cards are available in the Parish Office during regular office hours. For a \$10.00 donation, you receive 10 cards featuring a beautiful scene of the Nativity. The ICC Sanctity of Life Ministry appreciates your year-round support of our efforts to restore the sacredness of all human life!

## 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.

### 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.

### 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 & Red Bud) 618-939-4224, [mylifenet.org](http://mylifenet.org)

-Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis) [birthrightstl.org](http://birthrightstl.org)

-Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by Abortion; Project Rachel, 618-722-5068 [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com)



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

School Principal: Dave Gregson, ext. 202 ~ dgregson@icsmail.org

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

Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh ~ ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings: January 13, February 10



ICS PARENTS & FRIENDS PRESENTS:  
**DERBY & DINNER**  
HORSES, HATS & HIGH BIDS

ICS DINNER AUCTION  
SATURDAY, FEB 22, 2025  
6:00 IN THE EVENING  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
409 PALMER ROAD, COLUMBIA, IL

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW




**GOLF BALL DROP**  
**FIFTY-FIFTY**  
Proceeds benefit ICS 7th Grade Trip to Space Camp  
**FRIDAY JANUARY 17, 2025**  
**Tickets -\$10 Donation**

- Purchase tickets from any participating ICS 7th grade student or from the church office
- Ticket sales end at 8:00 am on Jan. 17th
- Golf Balls will be dropped at ICS near the main entrance at 9:00 am
- All golf balls that land in the hole will split the prize money. If no golf balls land in the hole, the prize will be awarded to the closest to the pin.

Need Not Be Present to Win



**JUKEBOX BINGO**

Music themed bingo | 50/50 raffle  
Games | Gift-Card Prizes | No age minimum

7:00PM DOORS OPEN @ 6:30M SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 ICS GYM

\$25 per person  
Includes a card packet for all 10 games (1 card per game)  
Extra card packets available for \$5 each.  
Babysitting is available in Garden Level.

Purchase tix: Text ICSBINGO to 41444, Scan the QR, or visit:  
[HTTPS://FUNDRAISE.GIVESMART.COM/FORM/DTEMEA?VID=19MJNI](https://fundraise.givesmart.com/form/dteamea?vid=19MJNI)

A fundraiser to help launch the ICS 7th graders to Space Camp!



## What's Happening at Gibault?



**2024 GIBAULT BASEBALL**  
*Winter Camp*  
**FOR 5-8 GRADERS**

ALL current 5-8 grade baseball players are invited to the 2024 Baseball Winter Camp. This is a great opportunity to meet the coaches, current players, and take your game to the next level!

DECEMBER 26-28  
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
GIBAULT CATHOLIC FR. HUSTEDDE GYM

**REGISTER HERE**

USE THE QR CODE, COPY THE LINK OR TEXT "GIBAULTBASEBALL" TO 41444

[HTTPS://IGFN.US/FORM/A6YSXG](https://igfn.us/form/a6ysxg)

Please complete registration form by December 7 to assure your child's T-shirt order!  
(Late entries are still accepted)  
With any questions, please contact Andy Skaer - askaer@gibaulthawks.com



**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





# Diocesan and Area Interests...

## ASSISTED SUICIDE SENDS A MESSAGE TO PEOPLE THAT THEY ARE BURDENSOME

In Oregon, where assisted suicide has been legal for years, data shows people request suicide drugs not for pain but because they cannot do the same activities that they could before, such as control bodily functions. They feel they've lost dignity or that they are a burden. Assisted suicide can also promote the view that elderly relatives are not persons to be loved but burdens to be managed. Suicide drugs are not the answer.

Everyone deserves loving, supportive care, affirmation of their dignity, and to know that they are never a burden. Tell your state legislators to Vote NO on SB 3499 - assisted suicide. Visit [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for additional information and resources.

### ***THE MESSENGER:***

Give the Gift that keeps on Giving... *The Messenger!*  
To subscribe online for Family or Friends, go to [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org) or call 618-233-8670.



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS COATS!

Cold winter weather has definitely arrived and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council desperately needs coats to distribute to those in need. Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) are being requested. Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at 8800 West Main Street, Belleville, across from Blessed Sacrament Church, or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126 for additional information. Warm your heart by keeping someone warm and donate a coat today! Thank you very much.



St. Anne Cradle of Hope needs clothing donations to help families in need!

We are asking for summer clothing for boys sizes 2T-4T



To donate:

Drop off at 2015 W Main St suite b, Carbondale, IL 62901 on Mon or Wed 10-2 pm,  
Mail to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at 303 S Poplar St, Carbondale, IL 62901,  
Or visit our Amazon wish list at <https://www.dlobelle.org/stanne-coh>

## 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](http://www.pcchoirs.org).

## CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

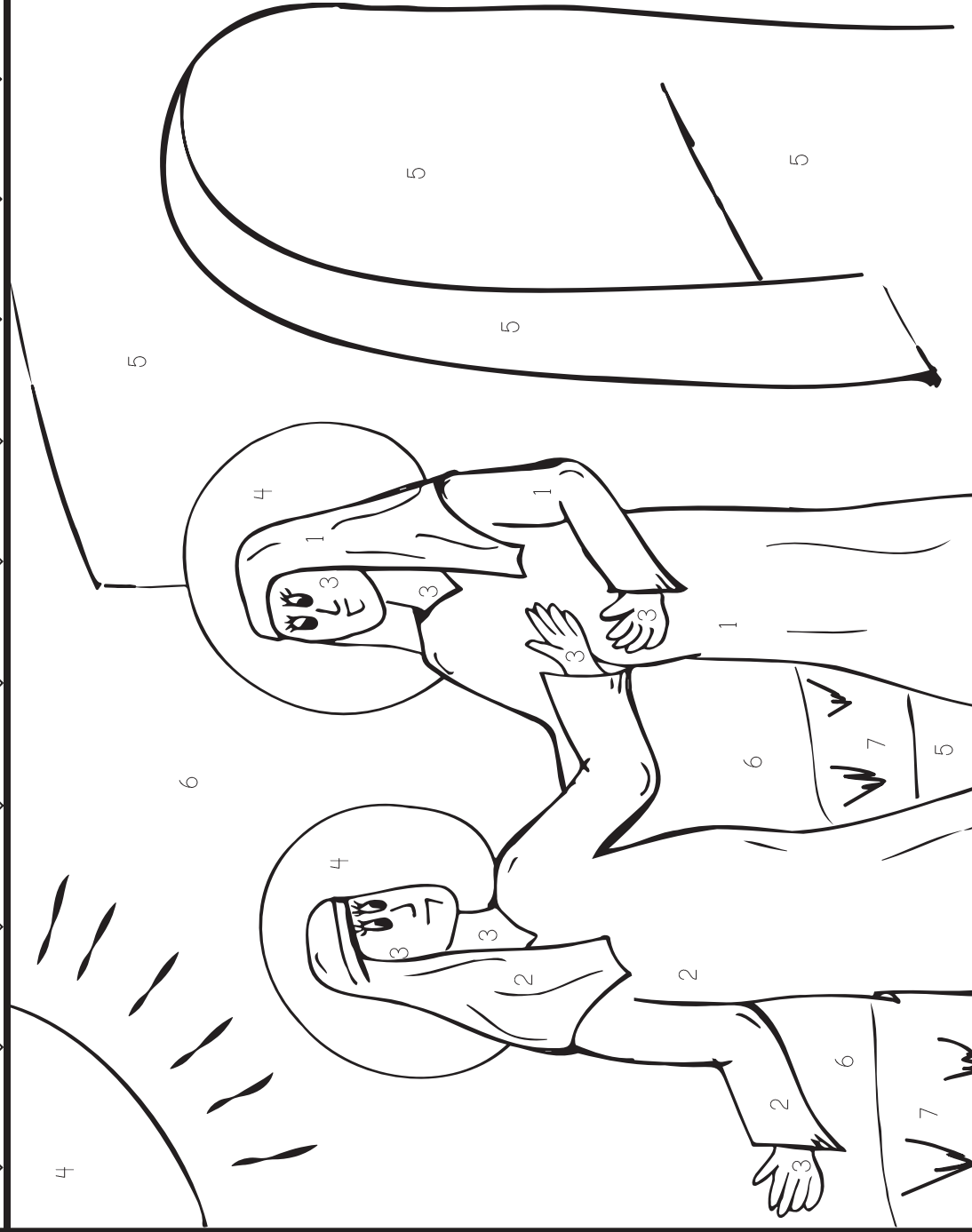
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Countdown  
to Jesus'  
Birthday...  
**1**  
Sunday!

**Color by Number**

- 1: Pink
- 2: Blue
- 3: Skin tone
- 4: Yellow
- 5: Grey
- 6: Light Blue
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**Gospel**

When Mary found out that she was pregnant with baby Jesus,  
she went to visit her cousin, Elizabeth.  
Elizabeth is the mother of John the Baptist.





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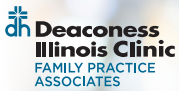


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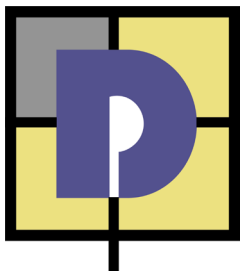


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