



# 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

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

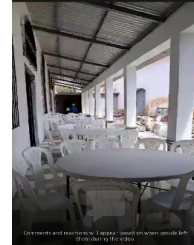
[www.icc-columbia-il.us](http://www.icc-columbia-il.us)

## Sister Parish Update!

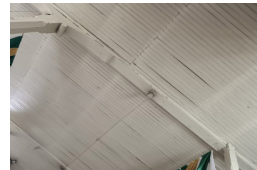
Hello,

I want to start off by introducing myself. I am Catie Evans, the new coordinator for the Sister Parish program as well as the Spanish teacher at ICS. Karen Waide did an excellent job leading this ministry over many years and brought new life/energy to the program with the two trips she has helped coordinate to Guatemala as well as arranging Padre Abdias' trip here in September. Now I am trying to fill the void she left and hoping I can do it justice.

Many of you send money to our sister parish and I can tell you they are extremely grateful for the assistance we send down. The money is used for the benefit of the parish for things like training lay ministers, meals after parish events, gas and vehicle repairs. The largest portion of the money is used in building projects. St. Raymond's undertook an expansion of their "Parish Center" to be able to have more space to hold parish functions and better serve the parishioners. Below are some before, construction and after pictures (the Church is the structure with the orange stripe)



While we were visiting in July, Padre Walver (the new priest) said the next big project they need to undertake is the renovation of the roof for the church. They are having problems with leaking and the trusses need to be replaced. The photos below show the condition of the roof and ceiling of the church. Many people ask what they can do to help. The answer is to keep contributing to our sister parish and join the sister parish committee! They take great pride in what their parish is able to accomplish and the ministries they are able to provide with our help. Thank you for all that you do to help our sister parish. Dios le bendiga! (God bless you!)



~ Catie Evans - St. Raymond's Sister Parish Coordinator

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,  
Tammy Hoefflinger**  
parishcouncil@iccmil.org

**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, January 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Lawrence Beckerle
Tuesday, January 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jack Higgins
Wednesday, January 22	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Thursday, January 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mickey Beatty
Friday, January 24	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Robert J. Schaefer
Saturday, January 25	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Eugene & Pat Gilbreth
Sunday, January 26	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Carl & Bernice Riebeling
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Elsie Hofstetter
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Ed Janson



### *Please Pray For*

Adam Brandt	Trace Ahrens	Patricia Pulcher	Barbara Kendall
Shane Martin	Molly Blevins	Jim Vogt	Patricia Gober
Jacob Nelson	Richard Burroughs	K. Myers	Jim Grau
Bob Beckert	Curtis Sievers	Jane Menner	Mike Heller
John Kirk	Craig Greer	Maryanne Klosterman	
Amanda Boitano	Janet Michael	Margie Kolaz	

*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 and call the Parish Office at 281-5105.



### *Weekly Reflections*

*January 19, 2025*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 62:1-5

**Second Reading:** First Corinthians 12:4-11

**Gospel:** John 2:1-11



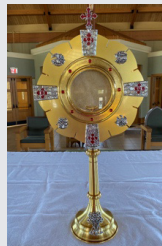
### *Our Sympathies...*

To Carolyn Smith and her family on the death of her husband David, 74, of Columbia



## 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.*



## 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.

## Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

January 5, 2025		
Actual	\$	8,829.71
Budget	\$	23,000.00
Actual YTD	\$	1,186,100.51
Budget YTD	\$	1,156,575.00
Over (under)	\$	29,525.51
Prior YTD	\$	1,081,176.68
Over (under)	\$	104,923.83
Guatemala	\$	340.00
Votive	\$	222.00
Capital Improvements	\$	255.00
Christmas Offering	\$	370.00
Needy	\$	15.00
Diocese Retired Priests	\$	50.00
Retired Religious Fund	\$	15.00
ICCCW Dues	\$	390.00
Phase 3	\$	1,013.00

January 12, 2025		
Actual	\$	10,139.16
Budget	\$	23,000.00
Actual YTD	\$	1,196,739.67
Budget YTD	\$	1,179,575.00
Over (under)	\$	17,164.67
Prior YTD	\$	1,196,650.93
Over (under)	\$	88.74
CEAC Debt Status		
Endowment Loan	\$	625,000
Diocese Loan	\$	<u>1,484,542</u>
	\$	2,109,542
Guatemala	\$	407.00
Gibault	\$	10.00
Capital Improvements	\$	55.00
Christmas Offering	\$	80.00
Retirement Fund		
for Religious	\$	25.00
ICCCW Dues	\$	60.00
Phase 3	\$	1,081.00

### From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$2.12

Time and Talent: Helping my dad run errands; helped move my bed; helped my grandparents with decorations; I cleaned up my room; helped my mom and dad shovel snow; made my bed.

## WHY DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK TO CHARITY?

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

### Tax Benefits of Donating Stock to Charity

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

### Considerations:

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

Consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

## 2024 ANNUAL TAX STATEMENTS

Your 2024 tax statements will be emailed to you by January 31st (if you have an email on file). If you do not have an email on file, then we will mail your statements to you. Please let the Parish Office know if you have any questions.



# Parish Events & News...

## CHRISTMAS & WINTER THANKS

The Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas Ham Sale. It was a huge success!

The Parish Staff would like to thank everyone who helped with putting up and taking down our Christmas decor, especially the Tinkers and a few very dedicated families.

On behalf of the parish, we also thank our Children's Choir, Adult Choir, and Guitar Choir for making such a joyful noise to celebrate our King.

Last, but certainly not least, our gratitude to those who removed the ice and snow to make it safe for all of us to return to school and worship.

Stewardship takes so many beautiful forms!

## 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.



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

The next Pretzel & Donut weekend will be February 15 and 16. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

**PARISH WORK DAYS!** February 8, March 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

## ACTS



**Stay Connected with the ACTS Community!**

Embrace the calmness and reconnect with the ACTS family. If you're not receiving emails from [acts@iccmil.org](mailto:acts@iccmil.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@iccmil.org](mailto:acts@iccmil.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**

## 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 Prays...*

“The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder.” (Laudato Si #97)

**What can I do?** Consider a passage in the Gospels where Jesus was in touch with nature. (Luke 12:27) Reflect on the “wonder” of nature evoked in this passage.

## SVDP

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank everyone for their continued support of our ministry here at Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart during 2024. Your generosity in the Thanksgiving and Holy Thursday envelopes, the SVDP boxes at church, and the casserole and pantry food collections continue to help fund our work to help the less fortunate in our area. We are grateful for other monetary donations, all of the clothes, coats and warm items, the essential needs for C.U.P., and canned foods that were collected and distributed. Best wishes for 2025!

## THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

*Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100*

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

## 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

### "Happy New Year" with Families Who Are Grieving

It’s not easy to find hope or joy in the middle of grief. And oftentimes, well-meaning friends and loved ones wouldn’t know what to say or do to ease the pain one is experiencing. That’s why in these moments, it can be helpful to turn to words from others who have also experienced grief during the holidays. Here are a few comforting words to share when you feel you don’t know what to say:

“You shared an unspeakable love, and it’s okay if you don’t have words for those you still have in your life. Your voice will come back when you need it.”

“Remembering our loved ones who are no longer here brings both joy and pain. The only cure to grief is holding onto the memories that make us smile and find peace in knowing we were loved deeply.”

“There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love.”

– Washington Irving

“The pain of grief is the price we pay for love.”

– Queen Elizabeth II

“Grief changes shape over time, but it never ends.”

– Keanu Reeves

“The journey of grief is not a linear path. There will be ups and downs, good days and bad days. Don’t feel guilty for having moments of joy or happiness.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

*For more information, see website:*

*Home Faith Family, 45 Quotes to Help Conquer Grief by Micah Klug, a Hospice Chaplain*

Happy New Year from the Bereavement Ministry. May your year be filled with comfort and hope!

## QUILTERS' CORNER

Join our super-fun quilters' group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome and appreciated, even beginners! Contact Carlene at 281-5877.

### PRO-LIFE/PREGNANCY RESOURCES...

- ~ Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support: Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo and Red Bud). 618-939-4224, [mylifenet.org](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)
- ~ 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](http://BeNotAfraid.net) or [PrenatalPartnersforLife.org](http://PrenatalPartnersforLife.org). Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis.

[Birthrightstl.org](http://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](mailto:dgregson@icsmail.org)

School Administrator: Beverly Epplin, ext. 200 ~ [bepplin@icsmail.org](mailto:bepplin@icsmail.org)

Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh ~ [ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org](mailto:ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org)

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings: February 10, March 10



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL**  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
Preschool - 8th Grade  
Sunday, January 26th  
10am-12:30pm  
ICS Main Entrance

All Are Welcome!

Mission  
Community  
Service

For more Information:  
[icscolumbia.org](http://icscolumbia.org)  
618-281-5353



*Boy Scout Troop 320*


### SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR A CAUSE

A Fundraising Effort to Help Feed the Less Fortunate

FEBRUARY 1, 2025  
4 - 7 PM  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
LOWER LEVEL,  
411 PALMER RD, COLUMBIA, IL

\$10 per person  
kids (under age 5) eat free!

Carry Outs Available  
(Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, breadstick, and dessert)




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 



**Chicken Wing, Toasted Ravioli & Pizza Fundraiser  
Immaculate Conception School Fathers' Club**



**Jumbo Cut Chicken Wings**  
20 pieces for just \$30

Deep Fried, light dash of seasoning salt.  
Your choice of sauce on the side:  
Syberg's & Hot



**Toasted Ravioli Local Made**  
20 pieces for just \$15

Deep Fried, light dash parmesan with  
Marinara



**Syberg's Signature Frozen 12" Pizzas \$12/each**

Triple Cheese - Joe Mama Meat Lovers - Double Pepperoni - Signature Chicken

**Big Game "Square Board" available for just \$25/square**

**Drive Thru Pick up from Noon to 4 pm, Sunday Feb 9<sup>th</sup>** ICS Lower Level North of  
ICS Gymnasium. Please use the same route as the KC fish fry.

To Order, scan the QR code or text **icswings** to 41444

Questions? Email: [icsfathers@gmail.com](mailto:icsfathers@gmail.com)  
Thank you for your support!



*Diocesan and Area Interests...*

**ILLINOIS PRO-LIFE MARCH**



**SAVE THE DATE 3.25.25**

Join the Diocese of Belleville at the Illinois  
Pro-Life March in Springfield, Illinois, on  
Tuesday, March 25, 2025!

The day will include Mass with Bishop  
Michael McGovern as homilist, followed by  
the Rally and March around the Illinois State  
Capitol building.

Parishes, schools, & individuals are  
encouraged to attend!

Registration coming soon!



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT [MKING@DIOBELLE.ORG](mailto:MKING@DIOBELLE.ORG)**

**Holy Hour  
Happy Hour**

Third Thursdays 6 p.m.  
January 16, February 20, March 20

Adoration Followed  
by Fellowship  
and a Few Beers

Cathedral of St. Peter  
200 W. Harrison St.  
Belleville, IL

Ages 21-35

**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.



January 24, 2025  
**Nationwide  
Prayer Vigil for Life**

St. Teresa Catholic Church  
Belleville, IL  
8:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Adoration Chapel  
Silent Prayer  
11–11:40 Confession  
Noon – Holy Mass

St. Boniface Catholic Church  
Germantown, IL  
6:30 pm–7:30 pm  
Eucharistic Adoration



Pray for an end to  
abortion and  
greater respect for  
human life

For information contact [mking@diobelle.org](mailto:mking@diobelle.org)

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH  
HECKER, ILLINOIS  
(15 miles South of Belleville on State Route 159)

**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY**



**QUILT/CASH BINGO**

**FEBRUARY 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Hecker Community Center  
230 E. Washington Street, Hecker, Illinois  
Smoke Free Facility

**Lightning Round Prior to Bingo**

**BINGO 1:30 P.M.**

No one under 18 allowed in hall during bingo. BL #50884

Attendance Prizes – Raffle – Pot of Gold

**Fried Chicken & Pork Sausage Plates**

Serving 10:00 am-1:00 pm

**Seeds of Healing through Faith, Hope, and  
Love**

Please join us for our 2nd annual Seeds of Healing retreat on Saturday, **January 18, 2025**, from 9 am – 7 pm, at Marianist Retreat Center. This event is designed to bring God's healing touch to anyone who has lost a loved one to any tragic death, including suicide. This day of reflection is designed to help in the journey through grief emotions and come out renewed with confidence in God's love and care for each one of us.

There will be time for healing prayer, discussions, sharing, learning techniques for healthy outlet of emotions, and testimony from those who have healed from the same pain you may be feeling. For more information, don't hesitate to reach out to Barb @ 314.910.3942 or Mary @ 314.210.5098 or Shelby @ 636.288.9841

<https://marianistretreat.com/events/seeds-of-healing-retreat-2025>



**DOCTORS OPPOSE  
ASSISTED SUICIDE**

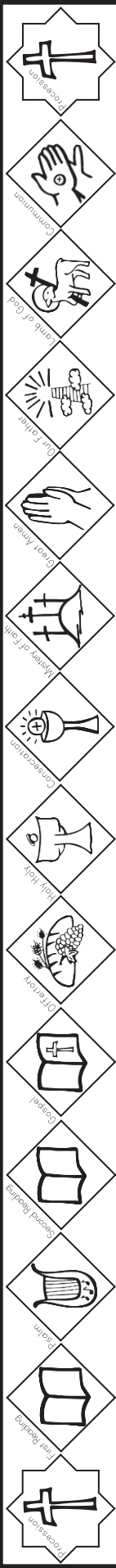
The American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychiatric Association, and dozens of other medical groups oppose assisted suicide. The AMA says "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer." Physicians are entrusted with saving lives, not ending them, and assisted suicide violates the Hippocratic Oath. 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.

**CATHOLIC HOME  
MISSIONS APPEAL**

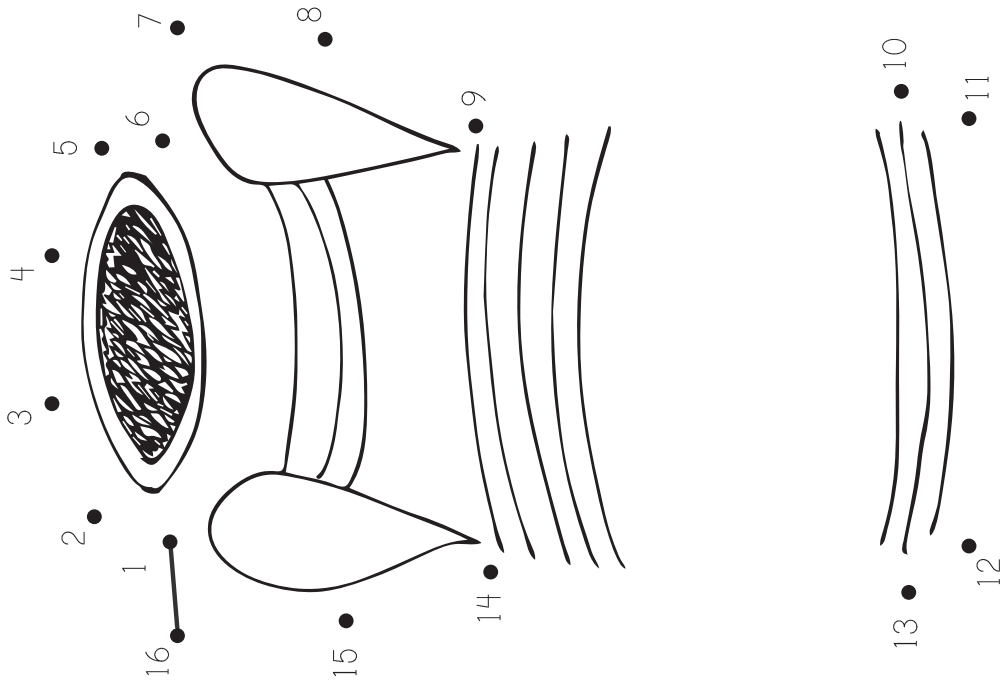
Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States, including in our own Belleville Diocese. Please be generous. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).

***THE MESSENGER:***

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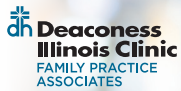
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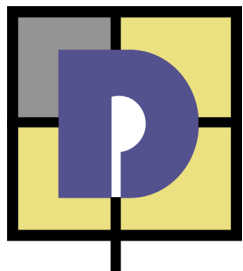


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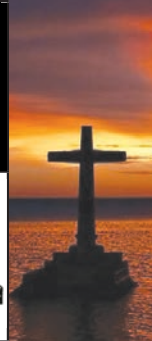
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