



Immaculate Conception

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

February 16, 2025

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

*Blessed are they
who hope in the Lord.*

He is like a tree planted
near running water,
that yields its fruit in
due season, and whose
leaves never fade.

- Psalm 1:3

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, February 17	8:05 a.m.	We Remember JoAnn Sander
Tuesday, February 18	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jack Higgins
Wednesday, February 19	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Herb & Betty Lehr
Thursday, February 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Loretta Weiler
Friday, February 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Earl Niermann
Saturday, February 22	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Ralph Herrmann
Sunday, February 23	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Mary Lou Ratajczyk
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Dean & Marian Keim



Please Pray For

Adam Brandt	Curtis Sievers	Margie Kolaz	Jackie Lutman
Shane Martin	Craig Greer	Barbara Kendall	Donna Archambault-Kania
Jacob Nelson	Janet Michael	Patricia Gober	Shirley Friesz
Bob Beckert	Patricia Pulcher	Jim Grau	Bill Kutz
Amanda Boitano	K. Myers	Delores G.	
Trace Ahrens	Jane Menner	Nicole Pennington	
Molly Blevins	Maryanne Klosterman	Harold Lutman	

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

February 16, 2025

First Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Second Reading: First Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26



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!

February 9, 2025

Actual	\$	28,434.43
Budget	\$	22,425.00
Actual YTD	\$	1,379,317.94
Budget YTD	\$	1,380,925.00
Over (under)	\$	(1,607.06)
Prior YTD	\$	1,302,223.53
Over (under)	\$	77,094.41
Guatemala	\$	783.00
Votive	\$	136.00
Capital Improvements	\$	180.00
Gibault	\$	70.00
Phase 3	\$	2,361.06

Eugene J. Schorb – Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education

Memorial Donations:

JoAnn Sander	\$	185.00
Leo & Elsie, Robert, Marylin Koberlein	\$	1,000.00

Phase 3 Campaign Memorials:

Chester & Lillian Kopec	\$	1,350.00
Leo & Elsie, Robert, Marylin Koberlein	\$	1,000.00
Mary Reichert	\$	110.00
Mary Lou Ratajczyk	\$	850.00
Sharon Range	\$	1,165.00
JoAnn Sander	\$	7,000.00
James Michael Heller	\$	300.00
David Smith	\$	325.00
Alan Schmieder	\$	70.00



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$8.47

Time and Talent: I helped my friends get up; I picked up my room; I practiced patience with others.

PAYROLL TAX WITHHOLDING

As we start the new year 2025, it's time to consider reviewing your payroll tax withholding for the following:

- When the tax law changes
- When you have life changes:
 - Lifestyle – Marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, home purchase, retirement, filing chapter 11 bankruptcy
 - Wage income – You or your spouse start or stop working or start or stop a second job
 - Taxable income not subject to withholding – Interest income, dividends, capital gains, self-employment income, IRA (including certain Roth IRA) distributions
 - Adjustments to income – IRA deduction, student loan interest deduction, alimony expense
 - Itemized deductions or tax credits – Medical expenses, taxes, interest expense, gifts to charity, dependent care expenses, education credit, child tax credit, earned income credit

To Change Your Withholding:

- Complete a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, and submit it to your employer.
- Complete a new Form W-4P, Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments, and submit it to your payer
- Make an additional or estimated tax payment to the IRS before the end of the year.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As we begin a new year, we are excited to provide this capital campaign update. We are currently at \$3,615,000 in pledges or 80.3% of our goal. 470 families have made a pledge, thus far. We are so close to the goal of \$4,500,000 thanks to the generosity of so many families. If you have not yet made your pledge, please consider doing so today. Through your generous contributions and prayers, we can make the campus enhancement phase a reality and ensure that Immaculate Conception Parish continues to grow strong into the future. Let's work together to make 2025 a year of growth, impact, and blessings! Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

GOAL: \$4,500,000



Parish Events & News...

BLOOD DRIVE

Next Blood Drive is Friday, March 7th in the Garden Level from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time?dt=WB:PL:DR:PM&zipSponsor=62236>.

Are you a Catholic man looking to discern God's call in your life? Are you considering a vocation to religious life or the priesthood? Interested in learning more about the Congregation of the Resurrection and its way of life? Join Fr. Eric and Resurrectionists from the U.S. and Canada for a COME-AND-SEE WEEKEND. Presentations, discussions, prayer and discernment aim to foster greater awareness of God's call in your life. Food and accommodations are included, and travel assistance is provided as needed.



Join Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R., at Resurrection House St. Louis
4252 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
➔ RSVP to vocationoffice.usa.cr@gmail.com



A weekend of prayer and discernment for Catholic men ages 18-35

RESURRECTION VOCATION PROJECT

COME-AND-SEE

WEEKEND

March 14-16, 2025
RSVP by March 12

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.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS & ASH WEDNESDAY!!!

Serving from: 3:00-7:00 p.m.

March 5 – Ash Wednesday

Fridays – March 7, March 21, April 4, and April 18

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!

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.

PARISH WORK DAYS! March 8, April 12

Ministry News & Happenings

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.



Pope Francis Prays...

"If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good." (The Joy of the Gospel #9)

What can I do? This week, do one good action for someone without having to be asked.

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.

- **February 24** – Guest Speaker Sr. Mary Flick, CSJ on Ignatian Spirituality
- **March 9** – Family Gym Night at ICS, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - Open to all young adults (ages 18-35) with children
 - Come for fun games like Dodgeball, Spikeball, Cornhole and much more!
- **March 24** – Adoration & Board Games
 - Will attend Adoration at Immaculate Conception Church starting at 7:00 p.m., then head down to the Garden Level gathering space for board games and snacks

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

2025 K of C – 39th Annual/Catholic High School Scholarship

Essay Contest will be held on **Sunday, March 9 at 12:30 p.m.** (after 11:00 a.m. Mass). The Contest will be held in the ICS/CEAC – Room 225 (Mr. Kassebaum classroom).

In accordance with Contest rules: **No late entry/or make-up dates.** The Contest prize is one \$2,400.00 scholarship – payable in (4) installments of \$600.00 directly to the Catholic high school of winner's choice. The Contest participant must be an ICC Parish Member, who will be an entering freshman of a Catholic high school for the 2025-2026 school year. The Contestant must currently be attending either the ICS Grade School OR the Columbia public school system.

If questions, please contact Kevin W. Hutchinson, KC Council 6165 at 314-974-7072.



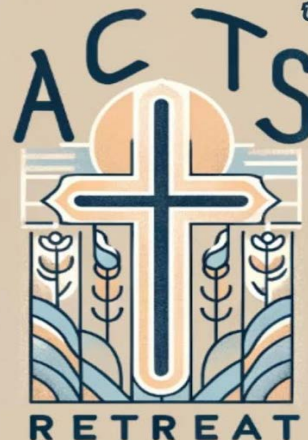
ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



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!

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY



In My Heart

I thought of you today.
But that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday.
And days before that too.
I think of you in silence.
I often speak your name.
Now all I have are memories.
And your picture in a frame.
Your memory is my keepsake.
With which I'll never part.
God has you in his keeping.
I have you in my heart.

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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



Want to help a new generation embrace their Catholic faith and God's call for their lives? Join Fr. Eric for three sessions to explore and discuss vocations in the Catholic Tradition. Together we will consider the nature, gift and task of baptismal callings and how they can be discovered and embraced in family life. Experience faith education in relaxed household setting. A light meal will be provided.



Join Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R., at Resurrection House St. Louis
4252 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
➔ RSVP to vocationoffice.usa.cr@gmail.com



An opportunity for Catholic individuals, and families with pre-teens, teens, and young adults

RESURRECTION VOCATION PROJECT

CATHOLIC VOCATIONS:

A (FAMILY)

CATECHESIS SERIES

March 21, March 28, April 4
6:30-8:30pm

RSVP no later than noon, day prior

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.

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.

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
- ~ 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.



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.

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, ext. 201 ~ ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE



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  

7th Grade Golf Ball Drop has been rescheduled.
Ticket sales continue.

Ticket \$10
50/50 raffle

Proceeds benefit
ICS 7th Grade trip to Space
Camp

Come watch!
9:00 am
on March 17th
at ICS



Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings:
March 10, April 14

GOALS MET!

ICS BOOK FAIR WAS A SUCCESS!

In just 4 days the ics bookfair not only met their sales goal of \$7,000 but exceeded it by over \$1,300.

TOTAL SALES \$8,327.60

Scholastic Dollars Earned for ICS

\$3,853.24

Congratulations to the entire immaculate conception parish for your support of our school.

A special thank you to the following volunteers who so willingly gave of their time:

Steve Herbel	Jenny Wynn	Catie Tyler
Emma Tyler (ICS Grad)	Michelle Muckensturm	
Kara Dell-Hunt & Family	Andrew Pretto	
Rhonda Daniels	Laura Peterson	
Darlene Letcher		

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE

TERESA DORSHORST - CHAIRPERSON



Discernment 101

Saturday morning talks, prayer, and fellowship with the Daughters of St. Paul to explore God's will for your life!

For single Catholic women ages 16-33 | Spring 2025

FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
15	15	12	10

- Where Do I Belong?**
Finding My Place in the Christian Community
- Live in Continual Conversion**
An Essential Attitude for Discernment
- Habits for Discernment**
Cultivating Virtues & Practices
- The Art of Decision-Making**
Choosing with Confidence & Trust

8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Mass | Talk & Discussion | Eucharistic Adoration | Lunch

To register, contact Sr. Amanda Marie:
stlouisvocations@paulinemediamedia.com or 617-413-1469

Pauline Books & Media
9804 Watson Road, St. Louis



Looking to explore God's call in your life? Considering priesthood or religious life? Join Fr. Eric to discuss and discern your vocation over a light meal in a relaxed, household setting.

Join Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R., at Resurrection House St. Louis
4252 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108
➔ RSVP to vocationoffice.usa.cr@gmail.com



An opportunity for discerning Catholics, ages 18-35
RESURRECTION VOCATION PROJECT

DISCERNER DINNERS & DISCUSSIONS

Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm

February 7, 14, 21, 28,

May 2, 9, 16

RSVP no later than noon that day

Young Adult

Catholic Speed Dating

Ages 21-33

Scan QR code to register





For questions contact mskorch@diobelle.org

Thursday, February 27th, 2025

Check in 6:30 PM, Event 7:00-9:30 PM

Holy Trinity Parish, Fairview Heights, IL

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Trivia

MARCH 15, 2025

Doors open at 6:00pm
\$100 per table of 8 max
paid in advance

All checks payable to Sacred Heart Church PO Box 35, Dupo, IL 62239

1st Prize \$200
2nd Prize \$100
3rd Prize \$50

What:
silent auction
50/50
lottery board
cooler of booze
attendance prizes
Mulligans \$10

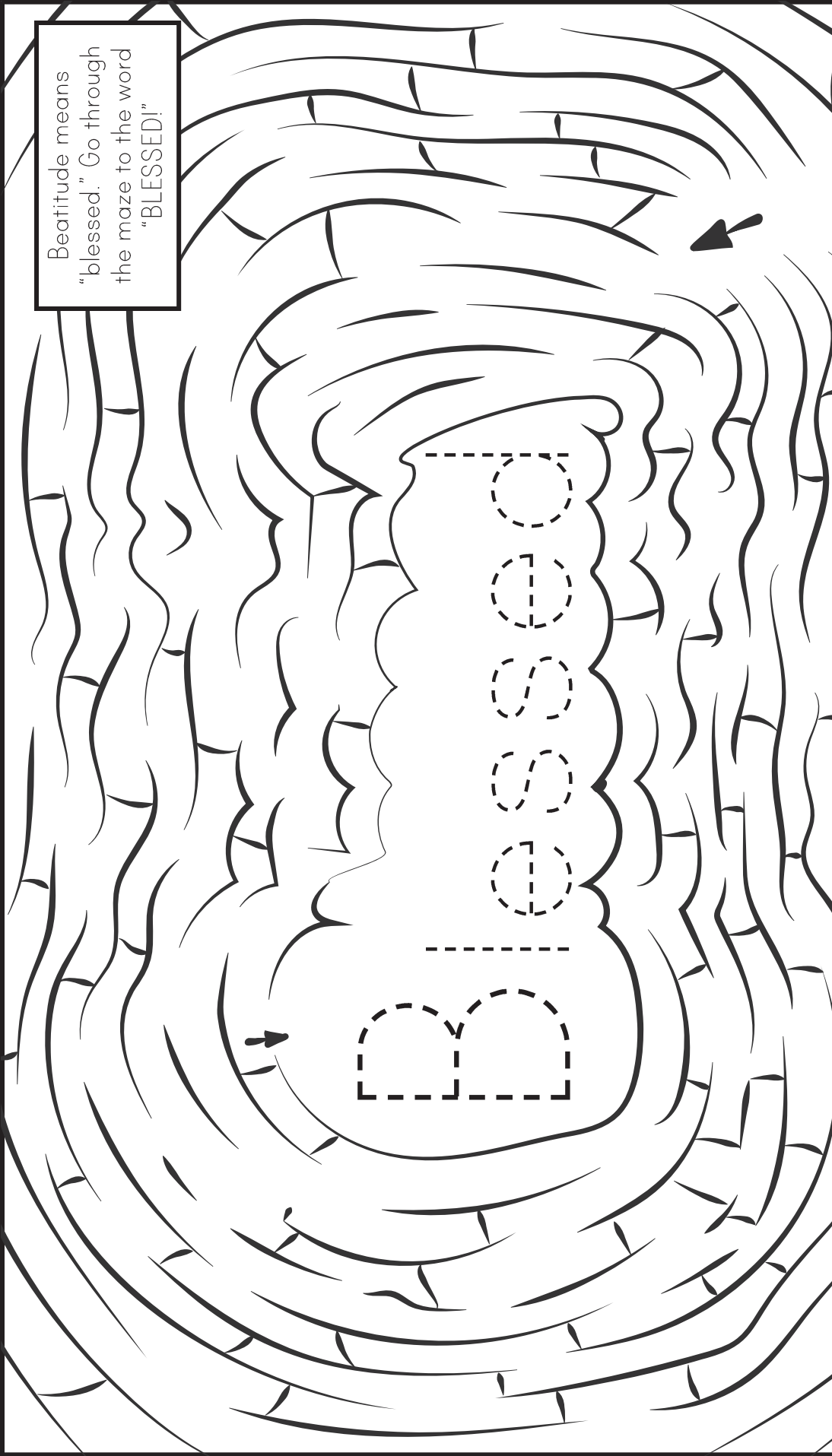
Where:
Sacred Heart Hall
124 South 3rd St
Dupo, IL 62239

Bring your own beverage and snacks
Auction items may be paid by cash/credit or bank card

Contact Sherri LaCroix 618-696-9451/Karen Pratt 618-541-8698



Beatitude means "blessed." Go through the maze to the word "BLESSED!"



Gospel

Jesus taught His disciples how to live a good life.
This lesson is called the Sermon on the Mount.



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TOM KEEVEN, Owner
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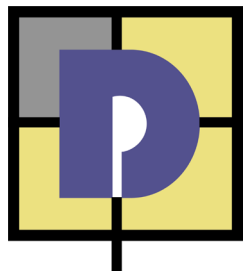
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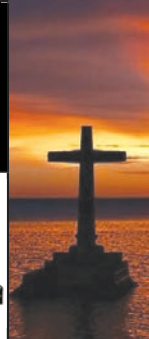
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