

Immaculate Conception

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

March 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Lent

www.icc-columbia-il.us



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



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@iccmail.org

Business Manager, Kara Dell-Hunt ext. 350, kdell-hunt@iccmail.org

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281-5353, ext. 202
dgregson@icsmail.org

Pastoral Council Chair, Tammy Hoeflinger parishcouncil@iccmail.org

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@iccmail.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, March 17 8:05 a.m. We Remember Michael Conrad & Babs Jackson

Tuesday, March 18 8:05 a.m. We Remember Kathy Rusteberg Wednesday, March 19 8:05 a.m. We Remember Mickey Beatty Thursday, March 20 8:05 a.m. We Remember Glenn Grayson Friday, March 21 8:05 a.m. We Remember Ruth Herrmann Saturday, March 22 5:00 p.m. We Remember Jim Vogt

> 7:00 a.m. We Remember Norm Schmidt 9:00 a.m. We Remember Shirley Friesz

We Remember Rich Dreher 11:00 a.m.



Donna Archambault-Kania

Please Pray For

Adam Brandt Curtis Sievers Shane Martin Craig Greer **Jacob Nelson Janet Michael** Patricia Pulcher Bob Beckert Amanda Boitano K. Myers Trace Ahrens Jane Menner Molly Blevins Maryanne Klosterman

Barbara Kendall Patricia Gober Iim Grau Dolores G. Nicole Pennington Harold Lutman

Elsa Wiemerslage Armin Weilbacher Florence Dorshorst

Bill Kutz

Sunday, March 23

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; Dustin Crawford, US Army

Jackie Lutman

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.



March 16, 2025

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Second Reading: Philippians 3:17–4:1 **Gospel:** Luke 9: 28b-36

Our Sympathies...

To Mary Gonzalez and her family on the death of her mother, Dorothy Goodwin, 85, of Leslie, MO. To the family of Evalee Roeder, who passed away at the age of 82. To Dawn Markus and her family on the death of her husband, Mike Markus, 69, of Columbia. To Joan Johnson and her family on the death of her sister, Mary Winkler, 84, of Waterloo.



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.



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.

Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

March 9, 2025								
Actual	\$	19,276.20						
Budget	\$	22,450.00						
Actual YTD	\$	1,575,353.05						
Budget YTD	\$	1,514,100.00						
Over (under)	\$	61,253.05						
Prior YTD	\$	1,466,751.76						
Over (under)	\$	108,601.29						
CEAC Debt Status Endowment Loan Diocese Loan	\$	625,000 918,998						
	\$	1,543,998						
Guatemala	\$	575.00						
Votive	\$	179.51						
Black & Indian Mission	\$	298.00						
Catholic Relief Services	\$	145.00						
Flowers	\$	300.00						
Capital Improvements	\$	235.00						
Gibault	\$	25.00						
Phase 3	\$	2,740.00						



From Bur Young Stewards

Treasure: \$1.80

Time and Talent: I made my sister breakfast; I cleaned my room; I took the dog out.

WHAT IS A DONOR-ADVISED FUND?

A donor-advised fund is a charitable gift fund administered by a third party public foundation created for the purpose of managing charitable donations on behalf of an organization, a family, or an individual. Donor-advised funds have become increasingly popular, primarily because they offer the donor greater ease of administration while still allowing them to maintain significant control over the placement and distribution of charitable grants after making a tax-deductible contribution.

Donor-advised funds offer the maximum tax benefit available for a charitable gift. Unlike private foundations, donor-advised fund-holders enjoy a federal income tax deduction of up to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash contributions and up to 30% of AGI for the appreciated publically traded securities in the year contributed. When donors contribute appreciated assets to donor-advised funds, they avoid long-term capital gains taxes and receive immediate fair market value tax deductions.

Many national and local foundations offer donor-advised funds. Each fund sponsor has different minimums to open, maintain, and grant. You may recommend an investment strategy for the assets in your fund for tax-free growth until you decide to recommend grants to the organizations you choose on your own timeline.

Donor-advised fund sponsors generally accept contributions of more complex assets like real estate or closely held business interests as well.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Donor-Advised Funds:

Pros

- Ability to recommend grants on your own timeline
- Maximum tax benefit available for a charitable contribution
- Allows donation of non-cash assets
- No required minimum distributions

Cons

- Contributions are irrevocable.
- Grants are subject to final approval of the fund sponsor
- Subject to administrative and investment fees

There are no specific tax laws stipulating how long after setting up a donor-advised fund it can be inactive, but many fund providers have their own timeline for giving.

Donor-advised funds offer both legacy and succession options which may vary with each fund sponsor. After the lifetime of the initial donor, the fund may be passed to children or trusted family members with full discretion to continue charitable grant-making or distribute the remaining funds to one or more approved charities.

For more information about Donor-advised funds, contact your financial or tax advisor.

- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News...

LENTEN SPEAKER SERIES

Each of these sessions will take place in church, at 7:00 p.m. on the designated Thursday. All are welcome!

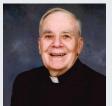


Accompany Loss: March 20

Share provides accompaniment for anyone touched by the tragic death of a baby, such as parents, grandparents, siblings, and others in the family, as well as professionals who care for grieving families.

Rose Carlson has been the Program Director at Share since 2004. She plans memorial events for Share families, teaches training workshops to those who care for grieving families, and facilitates

support groups. She is passionate about ensuring that parents grieving the death of their baby receive top notch care and feel empowered to honor their baby in meaningful ways over their lifetime. Rose is mom to four adult children and one grandchild. In her free time, she enjoys crocheting, hiking, reading and baking.



Building Church: March 27

Why was our new church building designed the way it is, and how does the architecture inform how we pray? And what's with all the octagons? Fr. Carl E. Scherrer will talk about "Building Church while building a church," and how the space welcomes generations of believers.

Fr. Carl is Pastor Emeritus at Immaculate Conception Parish, with more than 50 years serving the Belleville Diocese as a priest. When he's not traveling to visit family, his retirement includes

chaplaincy at St. Clair County Jail and the federal prison in Marion, IL, as well as helping out whenever he can at parishes around the diocese. He tries to play tennis at least twice a week, saying, "Love and Service, that's my racket!"

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Serving from: 3:00-7:00 p.m. Fridays – 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!

LENTEN PRAYER CARDS

Lenten prayer cards are available in the Gathering Space for those who want one and did not get one when they were passed out the weekend before Ash Wednesday. You make a commitment to pray during Lent for the person on the card (Confirmandi, Homebound, OCIA candidate, or Diocesan Seminarian) and return the card during Holy Week. It is a wonderful way to make prayer a part of your Lenten sacrifice.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

- Please remove any grave items that parishioners wish to keep before our April 12th cleanup.
- There is FREE walnut and hackberry firewood piled across from the cemetery shed.

PARISH WORK DAYS!

April 12, May 10

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 iccmail@iccmail.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.



D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

Thank you for supporting our 8th graders!! They will be on their way to Washington D.C. in a couple weeks.

Ministry News & Happenings

THEOLOGY ON TAP'S UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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

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...

"Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods." (Laudato Si #25)

What can I do? Come up with a list of some real world implications of climate change that you have noticed.

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.

ICCCW NEWS:

On Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., the CCW will be leading the Rosary in church. We will meet in the Gathering Space at 6:45 p.m. and sit together as a group. We hope a lot of ladies can attend.

We are also still looking for donations of cash or lottery tickets for our lottery board on the Spring raffle. Please put in the Sunday collection basket or take to the Parish Office.

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.



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

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Please attend the Bereavement Ministry sponsored presentation Accompany Loss, held during the ICC Lenten Speaker Series at 7:00 p.m. on March 20. Bridget Patrick, Executive Director and Rose Carlson, Program Director of Share Pregnancy and Loss Support located in St. Peters, MO, will be the featured speakers. This presentation is for parents, grandparents, siblings and friends who have suffered a loss of a baby, past or present. The information you receive will be helpful in moving forward.

Other Upcoming Memorial Events held at ICC – All are welcome!

May 18, 12:30 p.m. – Remembrance Memorial (Veterans, Fathers, Mothers)

October 19, 3:00 p.m. – Walk to Remember (Babies lost to Miscarriage, Stillbirth, SIDS, Lost Adoptions, Abortion) November 2, 11:00 a.m. Mass – Annual Candle lighting Remembrance for Parishioners.

ACTS





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.

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 or hopeafterabortion.com
- A caring place for women who are pregnant and experiencing homelessness; Fontebella Maternity Home, 618-406-4355.

If you, or someone you know, has an unborn baby diagnosed with "fetal abnormalities" or an "adverse prenatal diagnosis," please refer to: BeNotAfraid.net or PrenatalPartnersforLife.org. Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. Birthrightstl.org offers their Melissa's Smile program,

a counseling and supportive resource for mothers and fathers whose baby has been diagnosed prenatally with a genetic abnormality or whose baby has been born with a disability or serious medical condition.







IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

School Principal: Dave Gregson, ext. 202 - dgregson@icsmail.org School Administrator: Beverly Epplin, ext. 200 - bepplin@icsmail.org Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh, ext. 201 - ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings: April 14, May 12

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

Ticket \$10 50/50 raffle

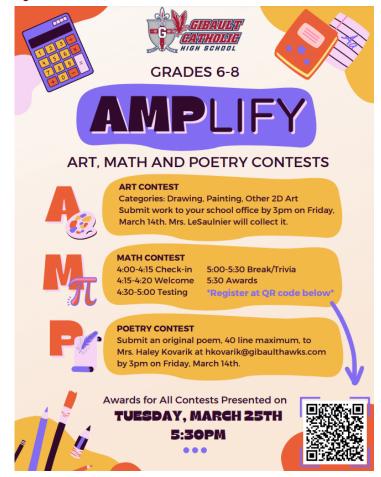


Proceeds benefit
ICS 7th Grade trip to Space
Camp

What's Happening at Gibault?

Freshman Registration will now be April 2-3. Course Recommendations will be sent in the mail soon, and a SignUpGenius will be emailed. If you have any questions, please call the school at 618-939-3883 or email Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com.





Diocesan and area Interests...

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING BIRTHRIGHT

Attend the St. Clement of Rome St. Gerard Majella's Annual GAME/CARD PARTY LUNCHEON Raffle Items - Attendance Prizes - Pot of Gold Come play any game you like or just come for LUNCH, Tuesday, April 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at St. Clement's Parish Center, 1508 Bopp Road, Des Peres, 63131. The cost per person is \$35.00. Please make your Reservation by April 1st. Send your name, those playing with you, your check made out to Birthright Counseling STL to: Birthright Counseling STL, 2525 South Brentwood Blvd. #102, 63144 Attention: Card Party OR visit the following website to register and pay with a credit card: https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ BirthrightCounselingStLouis_1/springcardparty.html. *** If you have dietary restrictions, please inform us in advance! Questions? Call or Text Jane at 314-570-6880.

Honor your Loved Ones on Easter With Your Personalized Tribute In *The Messenger*

Tributes will appear in our April 10th publication of *The Messenger*.

Sample Tributes:



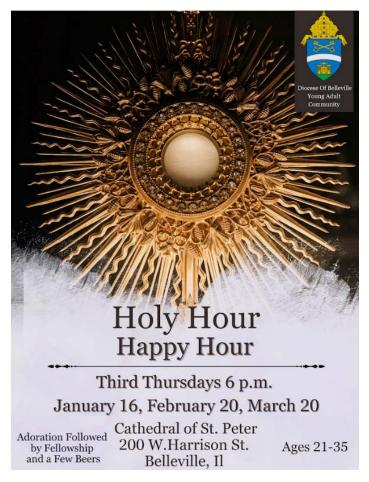


Please Print the name(s) of your deceased loved one(s) on the line(s) below. \$20 donation for each name.

In Loving Memory of:	
In Loving Memory of:	
In Loving Memory of:	

Please return your Easter Tributes to *The Messenger* (222 S. Third St. Belleville, IL 62230) by March 20, 2025. If you have any questions, please call 618-722-5047 or email *advertising@bellevillemessenger.org*.

Submitting Person's Name: _	
Address:	
Phone Number:	







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

God spoke from Heaven and said, "This is my beloved Son...

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Today's Gospel story is called the Transfiguration. Jesus went to the top of a mountain with some of His disciples, and He suddenly looked different. His clothes were bright white! Elijah and Moses appeared on the mountain with Jesus. **Ameriprise**

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Adams & Huetsch Attorneys at Law

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