

# 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 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

www.icc-columbia-il.us

## Would you like to...

- Meet fellow parishioners?
- Learn more of God's will for you?
- Be part of a welcoming community of faith?
- Serve your friends and neighbors who share your beliefs?
- Get more involved in God's work?

## Come be a part of the Women's ACTS Retreat!

**WHEN:** April 24-27, 2025

**WHERE:** National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows There will be another retreat for the men of the parish later this year. The Men's Retreat is scheduled for October 16-19, 2025.

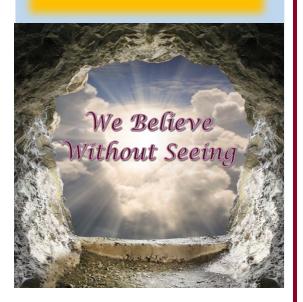
## Testimonials from Members of the Team:

"My first ACTS retreat opened my spiritual life. I saw my life in a more positive and grateful manner. I felt comfortable to reach out to others who had love and compassion in their hearts."

"ACTS opened so many doors for me. I was relatively new to the parish and knew no one. My husband and I would attend Mass and leave without a single conversation, besides with each other. We now have a large circle of friends who share our faith and support us when needed."



Women's Retreat
April 24-27, 2025



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

Director of Liturgy & Music, Theresa Flores ext. 312, tflores@iccmail.org

Director of Faith Formation, Lizanne Young ext. 354, lyoung@iccmail.org

IC-PSR Coordinator, Rebecca Husman ext. 353, rhusman@iccmail.org

Bookkeeper, Sheryl Oglesby ext. 351, shoglesby@iccmail.org

Secretary, Michelle Muckensturm ext. 300, iccmail@iccmail.org

Spiritual and Mental Health Advocate, Shea Christensen ext. 352, schristensen@icsmail.org

ICS Principal,
Dave Gregson
281-5353, ext. 202
dgregson@icsmail.org

Pastoral Council Chair, 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 24 8:05 a.m. We Remember Al Lehr, Jr. Tuesday, March 25 8:05 a.m. We Remember Eva Roeder Wednesday, March 26 8:05 a.m. We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad Thursday, March 27 8:05 a.m. We Remember Betty Beckerle We Remember Loretta Weiler Friday, March 28 8:05 a.m. We Remember Josh Ritter Saturday, March 29 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 30 7:00 a.m. We Remember Steve Carter 9:00 a.m. We Remember Catherine Linnemann 11:00 a.m. We Remember Charles & Amelia Menner



## Please Pray For

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

Troops in Service... SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn, Samuel Campbell, Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, United States Air Force; Captain Alex Kawalec,

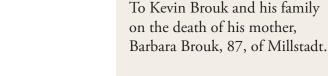
United States Air Force; Dustin Crawford, US Army

**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 23, 2025

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
Second Reading: First Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Gospel: Luke 13:1-9



To Mike Eckelkamp and his family on the death of his mother, Jane Eckelkamp, 74, of Columbia.

Bur Sympathies...



## **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 16, 2025				
Actual	\$	81,580.82		
Budget	\$	60,450.00		
Actual YTD	\$	1,656,933.87		
Budget YTD	\$	1,574,550.00		
Over (under)	\$	82,383.87		
Prior YTD	\$	1,551,536.81		
Over (under)	\$	105,397.06		
* The above totals include online giving				
through March 16, 2	025			

11104811 11141611 10, 202)	
Guatemala	\$ 1,367.00
Votive	\$ 154.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 136.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$ 50.00
Eugene Schorb Edu.	
Endowment	\$ 53.00
The Messenger	\$ 40.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 165.00
Flowers	\$ 383.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 1,668.00
SVDP	\$ 75.00
Gibault	\$ 225.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$ 1,545.00
Phase 3	\$ 9,939.29
CEAC	\$ 585.00



From Our Young Stewards
Treasure: \$66.45

Time and Talent: I have been nice to my friends.

## 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

This session will take place in church, at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

## **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!"

# CMETABLE

### **VBS**

## VBS Volunteer Registration!

We are getting ready for an amazing VBS summer. If you would like to volunteer, please go to the ICC website and fill out the Volunteer form. VBS is July 28 to August 1, with setup on the 27th. It will be

from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., except setup, which will be Sunday evening. Please pray about it, we would love to have you join us. Questions? Contact Rebecca Husman at rhusman@iccmail.org. Thank you for all that you do!

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Immaculate Conception's sign is up, and it looks great! The plans for the Rosary Walk are coming into focus. The athletic field and pavilion are moving toward a ground breaking! Immaculate Conception's Phase 3 and Capital Campaign are moving forward. If you are interested in an update on both, please join Fr. Steve after the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 6 for a Town Hall. Where we are, and what can we hope for moving forward will be shared. Please come to share in the good news as we move forward with both important projects for our parish. The meeting will take less than thirty minutes, so there will be time for questions as well. Please mark your calendar for this important update, and plan to attend.

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

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the incoming 8th graders will be March 29 and 30. 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 iccmail@iccmail.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

### FISH FRY FRIDAYS

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

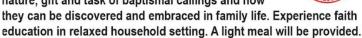
April 12, May 10

## Ministry News & Happenings

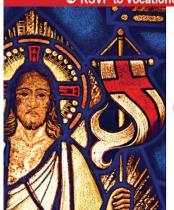
## THEOLOGY ON TAP'S UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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

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. Expe



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

## 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...

"There has been a tragic rise in the number of migrants seeking to flee from the growing poverty caused by environmental degradation." (Laudato Si #25)

What can I do? Spend a few minutes looking at the "Climate Refugees" organization website at https://www.climate-refugees.org/.

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. in the library. All are welcome! Contact Lizanne for more info at 618-281-5105, ext. 354.

## 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**

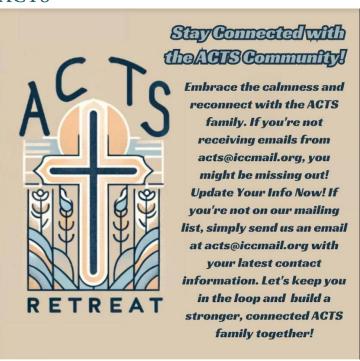
Join our super-fun quilters' group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome and appreciated, even beginners! Contact Carlene at 281-5877.

## **ICY ODD SUNDAYS**

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



## **ACTS**





#### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

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.

## 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 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

## What's Happening at Gibault!

## SHADOW DAYS & FALL REGISTRATION

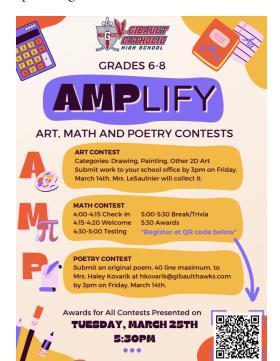
We are still taking applications and scheduling shadow visits - seventh graders are also encouraged to shadow for a day! Contact Pam Kueker to sign up for a shadow visit. Registration for all new students for the 25-26 school year is scheduled for April 2nd and 3rd. Recommendations will be mailed this week, and the sign-up will be sent out next week. All scholarship applications are due to Gibault by Monday, March 31st. Please address them to Pam Kueker. Visit https://www.canva.com/ design/DAGZvUJYfF8/7c4n-\_IRe1AP\_5O3J3\_ T2A/view?utm content=DAGZvUJYfF8&utm campaign = share\_your\_design&utm\_ medium=link2&utm\_source=shareyourdesignpanel for the the Future Hawks Newsletter - check out some upcoming events!

7th grade had a great time on their field trip to Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.



The 3rd graders enjoyed a fun field trip at the Butterfly House.





## **IOIN THE SOFTBALL TEAM AT HOME GAMES!**

We would love for your daughter or son to join the softball team at home games! Please remember to bring a helmet for your child, as they will need to wear it while retrieving bats for the team. They are also welcome to join the team for warm-ups before the game. The team will be on the field for warm-ups no later than 3:30 p.m. If your child is unable to make it by 3:30 p.m., please ensure they arrive by 4:15 p.m. at the latest so they can be introduced with the starting lineup. We look forward to seeing you there! Thank you! Sign up today at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAAAD23A5FDCF8-55121680-hawk#/. It is a busy time to be a Hawk!



## Diocesan and area Interests...

# Empty Bowl

## Soup Luncheon

Supporting Catholic Urban Programs

Sunday, April 6, 2025 Noon Holy Trinity Parish Center





## 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 and your check made out to Birthright Counseling STL to: Birthright Counseling STL, 2525 South Brentwood Boulevard #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.





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!





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** 

Belong? Finding My Place in the Christian Community

MAR

Live in Continual An Essential Attitude for Discernment

Habits for Discernment Cultivating Virtues & Practices MAY

Choosing with Confidence & Trust

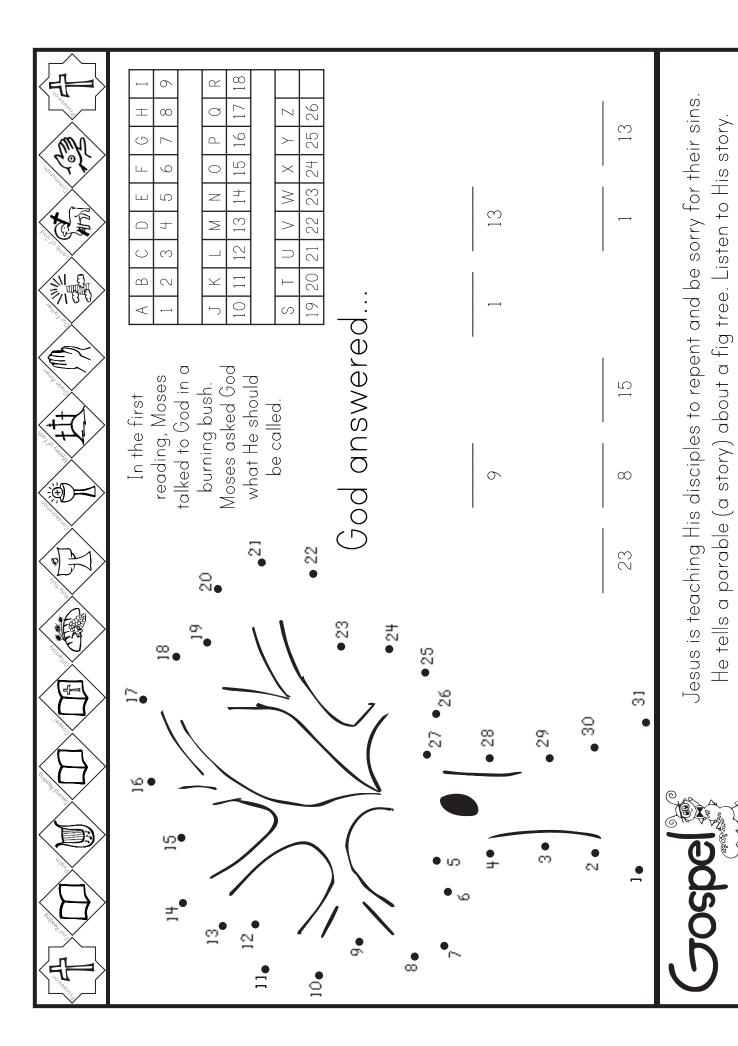
8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Mass | Talk & Discussion | Eucharistic Adoration | Lunch

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

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Year C: Third Sunday of Lent

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