

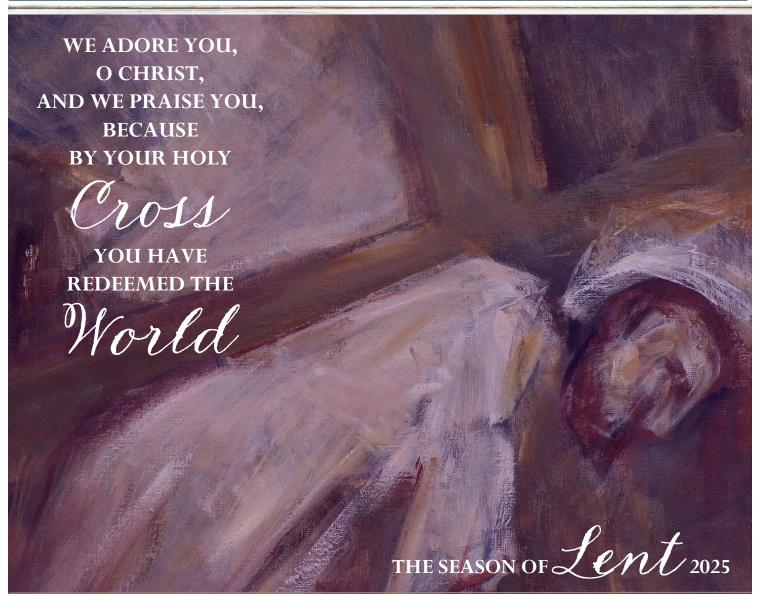
Immaculate Conception

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 30, 2025

Fourth 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

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

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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.

p.iii. aiia bai	iday, 7.00, 7.00, 11.00 a.iii.
8:05 a.m.	We Remember Kenneth Mohr Sr.
8:05 a.m.	We Remember Norma Jean Butler
8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Jane Frey
8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jane Eckelkamp
8:05 a.m.	We Remember Harold Stemler
5:00 p.m.	We Remember Angela Krupp
7:00 a.m.	We Remember Delores Wenkel
9:00 a.m.	We Remember David Smith
11:00 a.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
	8:05 a.m. 8:05 a.m. 8:05 a.m. 8:05 a.m. 8:05 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.



Please Pray For

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

Donna Archambault-Kania Bill Kutz Elsa Wiemerslage John Stonis

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.



Weekly Reflections

March 30, 2025

First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 Second Reading: Second Corinthians 5:17-21 Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



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 23, 2025					
Actual	\$	12,504.43			
Budget	\$	30,450.00			
Actual YTD	\$	1,669,438.30			
Budget YTD	\$	1,605,000.00			
Over (under)	\$	64,438.30			
Prior YTD	\$	1,689,384.11			
Over (under)	\$	(19,945.81)			
Guatemala	\$	201.00			
SVDP	\$	50.00			
Black & Indian Mission	\$	195.00			
Catholic Home Missions	\$	20.00			
Holy Land	\$	20.00			
Flowers	\$	300.00			
Capital Improvements	\$	46.00			
Gibault	\$	125.00			
Phase 3	\$	3,402.00			

Eugene J. Schorb-Immaculate Conception Fund for Catholic Education:

Memorial Donations:		
EJ Trust	\$	692.77
Phase 3 Campaign Me	morials:	
Edward James Vogt	\$	320.00
Walter Drury	\$	125.00
Kenneth Reichert	\$	100.00
Mary Lou Ratajczyk	\$	25.00
Sharon Range	\$	100.00
Dorothy Goodwin	\$	10.00
Marcella Netemeyer	\$	660.00
David Smith	\$	100.00
Alan Schmieder	\$	140.00
Angel Koester	\$	200.00



Shirley Friesz

From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$0.00
Time and Talent: I helped with the dishwasher.

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

75.00

- 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

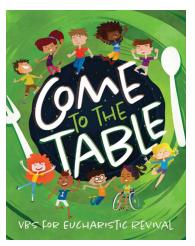
Parish Events & News...

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION!

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collections, which helps Christians in the Holy Land, where they are less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity including in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, to name only a few.

The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard. Most of them depend on pilgrimages for work. The war made their situation even more dire. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land and to maintain a Christian presence where the Church was born.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS!



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 1st, 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!

LENTEN PRAYER CARDS

Lenten Prayer Cards: Remember your commitment to pray during Lent for the person on the card you selected (Confirmation candidate, 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.

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the incoming 8th graders will be April 26 & 27. 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

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 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.

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!

PARISH WORK DAYS!

April 12, May 10

Ministry News & Happenings

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...

"Many of those who possess more resources and economic or political power seem mostly to be concerned with masking the problems or concealing the symptoms, simply making efforts to reduce some of the negative impacts of climate change." (Laudato Si #26)

What can I do? Ask yourself if you ever "mask" the problems or "conceal" the symptoms of climate change. Resolve that you will try to change these behaviors.

SVDP

SVDP is hosting a food drive for EASTER. We will COLLECT for the weekends of APRIL 5/6 and 12/13. This will support local food pantries. Please drop off food items in the designated area at the back of the church in the Gathering Space. We will deliver the items prior to EASTER. The items requested are canned fruit, chicken, chili and chicken & dumpling and also boxed potato mixes. Any single serve items are also much appreciated.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

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.

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.

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

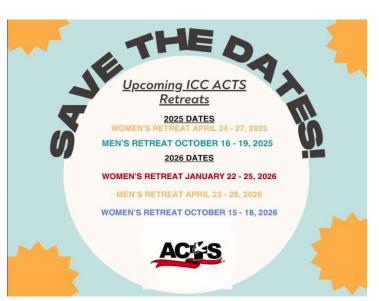
RSVP no later than noon, day prior

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.

ACTS





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.

Diocesan and Area Interests...

DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

Are you discerning the possibility of serving the Lord as a priest, consecrated sister or brother, missionary or permanent deacon?

If you are looking for guidance about how to discern answering the Lord's call, please join Fr. Godfrey Mullen, OSB, and Bishop Michael McGovern for a Day of Recollection. We will gather at St. Nicholas Parish in O'Fallon on Saturday, April 5 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. The day includes morning Mass, two talks, reflection questions, group discussion and a period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

This gathering is open to young men and women in High School to age 30. For more information or to RSVP by April 3, contact Ms. Martina Skorch at mskorch@diobelle. org or by phone at 618-722-5043.





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

LIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Thursday, April 17 at 8:15 a.m. in the gym Put on by the 8th graders.

Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings: April 14, May 12



What's Happening at Gibault!

We are still taking applications and scheduling shadow visits – seventh graders are also encouraged to shadow for a day! Visit https://bit.ly/4c1ZtHz to sign up for a shadow visit. Registration for all New students for the 2025-2026 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. Check out some upcoming events in the Future Hawks Newsletter at http://bit.ly/4hLgya2!



JOIN THE SOFTBALL TEAM AT HOME GAMES!

The Lady Hawks Softball Team is looking for some bat girls/boys for their 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, 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/10C0C4CAAA D23A5FDCF8-55121680-hawk#/. Any questions, please reach out to Admissions Coordinator, 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.

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 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.





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Year C: Fourth Sunday of Lent

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