



# 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

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

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

## HOLY WEEK



### Prayer Card Return

If you participated in the Lenten Prayer Card project, please return your cards to the purple box in the Gathering Space this week.

### Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 14-16

Morning Mass, 8:05am  
Tuesday Adoration, 4-8pm (with Holy Hour & *Final Opportunity for Reconciliation*, 7-7:45pm)

### Holy Thursday, April 17

Morning Prayer, 8:05am  
Living Stations (gym), 8:15am  
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm

### Good Friday, April 18

Morning Prayer, 8:05am  
Stations of the Cross, 3pm  
K of C Fish Fry, 3-7pm  
Service of the Lord's Passion, 7pm

### Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, April 19

Morning Prayer, 9am  
Decorate for Easter, 10:30am  
Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30pm  
Easter Vigil Reception, after Mass

### Easter Sunday, April 20

Masses at 7am, 9am, 11am  
Easter Egg Hunt, after 9am Mass

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@icsmail.org

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

**Pastoral Council Chair,**  
**Tammy Hoefflinger**  
parishcouncil@iccmil.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@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, April 14	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Shirley Friesz
Tuesday, April 15	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Evalee Roeder
Wednesday, April 16	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad
Thursday, April 17	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
Friday, April 18	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Saturday, April 19	5:00 p.m.	We Remember The Prindable Family
Sunday, April 20	7:00 a.m.	We Remember George & Viola Rahn
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember David Smith
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Elsie Hofstetter



### *Please Pray For*

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

*April 13, 2025*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-7  
**Second Reading:** Philippians 2:6-11  
**Gospel:** Luke 22:14–23:56



### **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!

April 6, 2025

Actual	\$	54,670.88
Budget	\$	44,100.00
Actual YTD	\$	1,744,597.13
Budget YTD	\$	1,679,550.00
Over (under)	\$	65,047.13
Prior YTD	\$	1,779,187.58
Over (under)	\$	(34,590.45)

*\* The above totals include online giving through 3/31/2025.*

Guatemala	\$	544.00
SVDP	\$	201.00
Votive	\$	
Black & Indian Mission	\$	90.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$	35.00
Holy Land	\$	235.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	310.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	219.00
Retired Priests Fund	\$	50.00
Flowers	\$	55.00
Capital Improvements	\$	300.00
Gibault	\$	261.00
Phase 3	\$	7,208.84
CEAC	\$	815.00



### From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$9.00

Time and Talent: Helped my friends; helped build my new bed frame; I have been nice to my sister.

## 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 publicly 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...

## GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION!

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, 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!

## 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.

## IS IT YOUR TURN TO ANSWER THE CALL?

Please prayerfully consider placing your name in the discernment box in the Gathering Space to serve a term of three years (beginning in June) on the Pastoral Council or School Board.

**The School Board** is an advisory group supporting the Principal and Pastor in developing and implementing school policies. You do not need to be a parent of a student to serve. School Board meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. For more information, contact Jolene Sasser, School Board President, at [boardpresident@iccmail.org](mailto:boardpresident@iccmail.org), or 618-444-6525.

**The Pastoral Council** recommends policy to the Pastor and supports pastoral initiatives regarding spiritual, educational and financial parish matters. For more information, contact Tammy Hoeflinger, Pastoral Council Chairperson, at [parishcouncil@iccmail.org](mailto:parishcouncil@iccmail.org), or 314-265-1767.

With the aid of the Holy Spirit, names will be drawn from the discernment boxes after 5:00 p.m. Mass on May 3. Please consider spending your time and talent in this fulfilling ministry!

**PARISH WORK DAYS! May 10, June 14**

## SAVE THE DATE

THE NIGHT OF APRIL 26-27, 2025  
@ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
YOUTH  
LOCK-IN TO  
WATCH LIVE THE  
CANONIZATION  
OF BLESSED  
CARLO ACUTIS

DETAILS TO  
COME!



## 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 28th 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](mailto:rhusman@iccmail.org). Thank you for all that you do!

## LENTEN PRAYER CARDS

Thank you for your Lenten prayer card prayers! Please put completed prayer cards in the purple box in the Gathering Space so they can be distributed to the recipients of your prayers.

## 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 [iccm@iccmail.org](mailto:iccm@iccmail.org). If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

## 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.

### FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Serving from: 3:00-7:00 p.m.,  
Friday, 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!

## Ministry News & Happenings

### GAME NIGHT AT BRIA

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a monthly game night for residents at the Bria Nursing Home and we would like to invite all parishioners to join us in hosting these events. Five or six volunteers is ideal each evening, and this opportunity is great for a group of friends, families with older children, and anyone needing service hours (Confirmation candidates or high school students). The game night will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month beginning on May 14th. We will play Card Lotto and assist the residents as needed.

If you are interested in helping, please notify Dennis Meier using the email address [meierdennis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:meierdennis@sbcglobal.net) and he will provide you with the details and put you on the schedule.



### SVDP

SVDP is hosting a Food Drive for EASTER. We will still be collecting this weekend, April 12/13. This will support local food pantries. Please drop off food items in the designated area at the back of 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.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## Mother's Day Breakfast

May 11

8:00 - 11:00am

Immaculate Conception Church

The Knights of Columbus cordially  
invite you to the Garden Level for  
pancakes, ham, and sausage.

Moms eat free!

Donations accepted to benefit  
LifeNetwork of Waterloo.

To volunteer: [gk@kofc6165.org](mailto:gk@kofc6165.org)  
or call/text 314-494-8874



### 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...

"Greater scarcity of water will lead to an increase in the cost of food and the various products which depend on its use."  
(Laudato Si #31)

**What can I do?** Consider how I use the fresh water I have readily available to me. Could you take a shorter shower or not run the water while brushing your teeth?

### 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.

## 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

### *Hope in the Lord*

"Each year the faithful of our Belleville Diocese are asked to help the works of Christ continue and grow through their support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. By making a gift, you are helping build up the Body of Christ in our various ministries and providing help for the poor and vulnerable." – Bishop Michael McGovern

Please consider a gift to the Appeal today!

## 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)

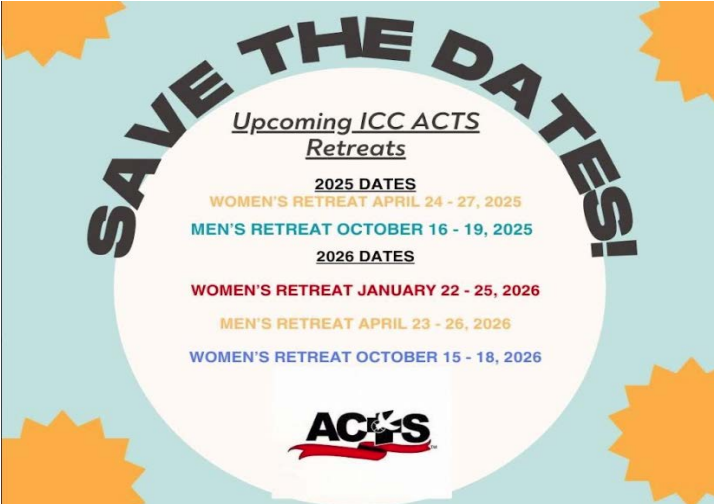
November 2, 11:00 a.m. Mass – Annual Candle lighting Remembrance for Parishioners.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:acts@iccmail.org) with your latest contact information. Let's keep you in the loop and build a stronger, connected ACTS family together!



**SAVE THE DATES!**

Upcoming ICC ACTS Retreats

**2025 DATES**

WOMEN'S RETREAT APRIL 24 - 27, 2025

MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2025

**2026 DATES**

WOMEN'S RETREAT JANUARY 22 - 25, 2026

MEN'S RETREAT APRIL 23 - 26, 2026

WOMEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 15 - 18, 2026

**ACTS**

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](mailto: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

## 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.

## PRO-LIFE/PREGNANCY RESOURCES...

- ~ Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support: Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo and Red Bud). 618-939-4224, [mylifenet.org](http://mylifenet.org)
- ~ Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis) [birthrightstl.org](http://birthrightstl.org)
- ~ Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by Abortion; Project Rachel, 618-722-5068 or [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com)
- ~ A caring place for women who are pregnant and experiencing homelessness; Fontebella Maternity Home, 618-406-4355.





# 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



**Not Your Grandma's Bingo!**

**Over \$1000 in cash prizes!**

50/50 & Raffles

Must be 18 and older to attend

7:00PM  
DOORS OPEN  
@ 6:00M

SATURDAY,  
MAY 31

ICS GYM  
409 PALMER RD  
COLUMBIA IL 62236

License #  
BL-51465

\$25 PER PERSON / \$30 AT THE DOOR

INCLUDES 6 BINGO CARDS FOR 10 GAMES, GLO HAT AND DAUBER

\$5 PER ADDITIONAL 6 CARDS.

[HTTPS://WWW.GLO-BINGO.COM/EVENTS/](https://www.glo-bingo.com/events/)

BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS BUT PLEASE NO OUTSIDE DRINKS.

BEER/SELTZER/SODA AVAILABLE AT THE CONCESSION STAND.

Hosted by Immaculate Conception Families for  
8th grade fundraising for Washington DC.

Scan for  
Tickets



## What's Happening at Gibault?



**2025 GIBAULT GIRLS BASKETBALL  
SUMMER CAMP**

**MAY 27 - 30**

9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

FOR ATHLETES ENTERING 5-8 GRADE  
\$50 PER ATHLETE



**GIBAULT BOYS BASKETBALL**

*Summer Camp*

**JUNE 2 - 6**

FOR ATHLETES  
ENTERING 5-8 GRADE

\$75 ENTRY

8:30 - 11:00 AM

**WHAT TO EXPECT:**

- EXPERIENCED BASKETBALL PLAYERS
- SKILL DEVELOPMENT
- TEAM BUILDING EXERCISES
- STRATEGY SESSIONS
- FITNESS & CONDITIONING DRILLS
- FRIENDLY COMPETITION

REGISTER TODAY!



**SAVE THE DATE**



**GIBAULT  
SUMMER CLASSIC**

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025

4-PERSON SHOTGUN SCRAMBLE  
ANNBRIAR GOLF COURSE

MORE DETAILS TO COME




# Diocesan and Area Interests...

## VOCATION


"My desire to become a priest began when I received my first holy Communion. In that moment, I had a profound understanding that Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist and that it was the priest who makes Him present in the Mass. Serving at Mass as a child drew me even further into the mystery of the sacred liturgy. It is an otherworldly experience, as it should be; it is the most extraordinary thing that ever happens on earth! St. John Vianney said of the Mass, "Martyrdom is nothing in comparison, for it is but the sacrifice of man to God; but the Mass is the sacrifice of God for man." Those words, which I came across in seminary, changed how I saw the liturgy. I have taken them to heart since my ordinations more than 15 years ago. As a priest, I stand in a special way with Mary and John at the foot of the cross every time I celebrate Mass. I feel so unworthy, but blessed, that God called me to the priesthood."

Fr. Sean Danda; Archdiocese of Indianapolis;  
Columbia Magazine Jul/Aug 2024



24TH ANNUAL  
**Run For**  
Life and Learning

6k / 1 mile / 0.25 mile • June 7th, 2025



Scan to register  
or donate

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**The Run for Life and Learning is June 7!**  
**Benefiting Birthright Counseling, St. Louis**

Join us at Creve Coeur Lake on June 7 for a chip-timed 6K Run/Walk, 1 Mile Fun Walk/Run, and ¼ Mile Kids Run with FRED BIRD®. Register or donate at [runsignup.com/run4lifeandlearning](https://runsignup.com/run4lifeandlearning). Proceeds enable women who are financially stressed by an unplanned pregnancy to continue their education and secure better lives for themselves and their families. For sponsorship opportunities, email [run4lifeandlearning@gmail.com](mailto:run4lifeandlearning@gmail.com).

## DOCTORS OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

The American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychiatric Association, and dozens of other medical groups oppose assisted suicide. The AMA says "Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician's role as healer." Physicians are entrusted with saving lives, not ending them, and assisted suicide violates the Hippocratic Oath. Tell your state legislators to Vote NO on SB 3499 – assisted suicide. Visit [www.ilcatholic.org](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for additional information and resources.

"Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen." USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe"

"Virgen de Guadalupe, patrona de los niños en el vientre materno, te imploramos tu intercesión por cada niño en peligro de ser abortado. ... Guía a nuestros funcionarios públicos a defender cada vida humana mediante leyes justas. Inspíranos a todos a traer nuestra fe a la vida pública, para hablar por aquellos que no tienen voz. Te lo pedimos en el nombre de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, quién es Amor y Piedad. Amén." USCCB Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida, "Oración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe"



Daughters  
of St. Paul

# 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
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# Gospel

The priest is going to read a Gospel story at the beginning of Mass today.

In the story, Jesus is going into Jerusalem. He is riding on a colt as people wave palm branches and shout, "Hosanna!" Hosanna means, "Hooray!"



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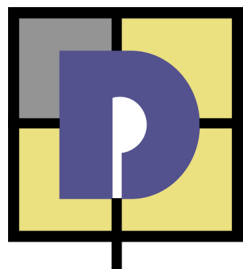
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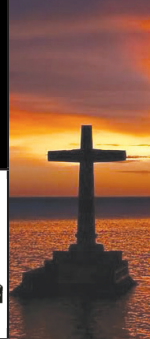
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