

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 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

www.icc-columbia-il.us

Are you being called to serve?

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." (Mark 10:45)

The hallmark of discipleship is service. We have each been given various talents, and the faithful stewards invest their talents in lives of service to the Church and the community, another way to express gratitude to God for the gifts and talents He has given us. Someone once said, "The service we give is the rent we pay for the space we occupy."

It is that time of year when we ask all parishioners to discern as to whether or not they feel called by God to serve on our School Board or Pastoral Council. We are currently collecting names for new members, and will pray over and draw from these names on Saturday, May 3 at the end of 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Please take a look at the brief summary of responsibilities to serve with each group and pray to see where God leads you. Three-year terms for each begin in June.

School Board Members meet on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, and serve as an advisory group to support the Principal and Pastor in developing and implementing school policies.

Pastoral Council Members meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month, and work in coordination with the Finance Council and pastoral (office) staff to advise and assist the Pastor with matters pertaining to parish life, both spiritual and temporal.

If you would like more information about serving, please contact:

Jolene Sasser, School Board President, at boardpresident@icsmail.org, or 618-444-6525. Tammy Hoeflinger, Pastoral Council Chairperson, at parishcouncil@iccmail.org, or 314-265-1767.

Please prayerfully consider placing your name in one of the discernment boxes located in the Gathering Space.

Stewardship is like a good potluck; no one should come empty-handed. Like a successful potluck, a vibrant community of Faith can only happen when everyone contributes to the common good.

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, April 7 8:05 a.m. We Remember JoAnn Sander Tuesday, April 8 8:05 a.m. We Remember Mary Lou Ratajczyk 8:05 a.m. We Remember Gary Hofstetter & Laura Straub Wednesday, April 9 Thursday, April 10 8:05 a.m. We Remember Ruth Herrmann We Remember Anna Lawlor Friday, April 11 8:05 a.m. Saturday, April 12 We Remember Fr. Paul Stauder 5:00 p.m. Sunday, April 13 7:00 a.m. We Remember George & Viola Rahn 9:00 a.m. We Remember Bill Gannon 11:00 a.m. We Remember Babs Jackson



Please Pray For

Adam Brandt Molly Blevins Maryanne Klosterman Harold Lutman Shane Martin Curtis Sievers Barbara Kendall Jackie Lutman Jacob Nelson Patricia Gober Donna Archambault-Kania Craig Greer **Bob Beckert** Janet Michael Jim Grau Bill Kutz Patricia Pulcher Amanda Boitano 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.



April 6, 2025

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21 Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel: John 8:1-11



To Bill Nolan and his family on the death of his aunt, Phyllis Kohler.

To Jill Georger and her family on the death of her grandfather, C. Stanley Baird, 89, of Sparta.



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 30, 2025		
Actual	\$	20,487.95
Budget	\$	30,450.00
Actual YTD	\$	1,689,926.25
Budget YTD	\$	1,635,450.00
Over (under)	\$	54,476.25
Prior YTD	\$	1,760,068.26
Over (under)	\$	(70,142.01)
Guatemala	\$	272.00
SVDP	\$	110.00
Votive	\$	392.35
Black & Indian Mission	\$	90.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$	75.00
Holy Land	\$	70.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$	285.00
Flowers	\$	320.00
Capital Improvements	\$	65.00
Gibault	\$	80.00
Phase 3	\$	1,889.00



From Bur Young Stewards
Treasure: \$2.85

Time and Talent: I have been nice; I made my bed; I helped my mom.

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...

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!

PARISH WORK DAYS!

April 12, May 10



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. 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.

SAVE BDATE

THE NIGHT OF APRIL 26-27, 2025

@ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



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

DETAILS TO COME!

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.

FISH FRY FRIDAYS

Serving from: 3:00-7:00 p.m. Friday, April 18

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.

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 and he will provide you with the details and put you on the schedule.

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



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.



Pope Francis Prays...

"We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels." (Laudato Si #27)

What can I do? Am I contributing to the "over consumption" of the earth's resources? How? Ask yourself if you really do need a new coat, new shoes or new?

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

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.

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



Join Fr. Eric Wagner, C.R., at Resurrection House St. Louis 4252 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108

➡ RSVP to vocationoffice.usa.cr@gmail.com



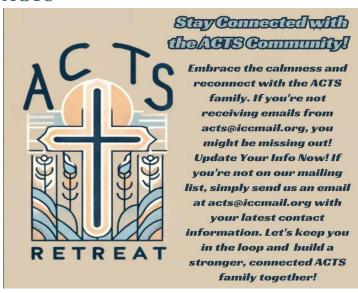
An opportunity for discerning
Catholics, ages 18-35
RESURRECTION VOCATION
PROJECT

DISCERNER DINNERS & DISCUSSIONS

Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm February 7, 14, 21, 28, May 2, 9, 16

RSVP no later than noon that day

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

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





Congratulations to the 6th grade boys on winning 1st place in the Volleyball Diocesan Tournament!



8th grade enjoyed their field trip to Washington D.C.



Congratulations to the 8th grade boys on winning 1st place in the Volleyball Diocesan Tournament!

What's Happening at Gibault?

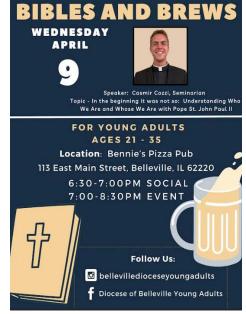
- Our Lady Hawks Softball Team is still looking for bat boys/girls for our home games. Visit https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAAAD23A5FDCF8-55121680-hawk#/ to sign up!
- The Women's Club Rummage is currently scheduled for Saturday, April 12. Drop-off times are: April 7, 3:00-6:00 p.m., April 8-10, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Calling all 6th-8th graders! Join us for GLOW Game Night in the Cafeteria Friday, April 11, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Visit https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AAAC28A5FEC16-55439068-jrhigh to sign up!
- Our Spring sports are getting busy and doing well so far! Come watch our Lady Hawks Soccer team, Lady Hawks Softball Team and Hawks Baseball Team Soar! Check our social media pages for game dates and times.

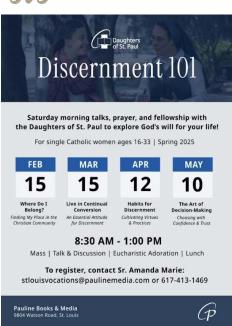




Diocesan and area Interests...







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