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 May 11, 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter www.icc-columbia-il.us

Ne Remember

After losing a loved one, holidays can be extremely hard. It's hard to think that you can smile again, laugh again or have a good time without feeling guilty or lonesome even in the midst of friends and family. Join the Bereavement Ministry on Sunday, May 18, shortly after the 11:00 a.m. Mass for a memorial service where "We Remember" the important people in our lives; mothers, fathers, and veterans. During this service we will share stories about these role models in our lives, probably laugh and probably cry a bit, too.

Since Mother's Day, Father's Day and Memorial Day are coming over the next few months, please join us for this Remembering service. Bring an item to display that represents

your family member. We will gather together around the Baptismal Font for about an hour or as needed. "We Remember" is open to all ages. Everyone grieves a loss and no one grieves the same.

The Bereavement Ministry hosts many activities throughout the year. We hope to see you at this one.

– The Bereavement Ministry



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@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, May 12	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Eva Roeder		
Tuesday, May 13	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Loretta Weiler		
Wednesday, May 14	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Ruth Herrmann		
Thursday, May 15	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Raymond Krippel		
Friday, May 16	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Lillian Lampe		
Saturday, May 17	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Herb & Betty Lehr		
Sunday, May 18	7:00 a.m.	We Remember David Smith		
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Margie Pautler		
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson		



#### Adam Brandt Shane Martin Jacob Nelson **Bob Beckert** Amanda Boitano Trace Ahrens **Molly Blevins**

**Curtis Sievers** 

Please Pray For Craig Greer **Janet Michael** Patricia Pulcher Jane Menner Maryanne Klosterman Barbara Kendall Patricia Gober Jim Grau

Dolores G. Nicole Pennington Harold Lutman **Jackie** Lutman Donna Archambault-Kania Elsa Wiemerslage John Stonis Pedro Acevedo

Taylor Cygan Helen Nowack Nate Meyer **Betty Sharp** Barbara Mueller Jane Crawford

Jroops 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.



May 11, 2025 First Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52 Second Reading: Revelation 7:9, 14b-1 Gospel: John 10:27-30



#### **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.

Our Sympathies...

To Eugene Toenjes and his family on the death of his daughter, Donna M. Toenjes, 58, of Nashville, IL

To Bob Christ and his family on the death of his mother, Betty Jo Mergen, 88, of Waterloo.



#### **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!					
May 4, 20	25				
Actual	\$	68,477.45			
Budget	\$	64,500.00			
Actual YTD	\$	1,913,150.61			
Budget YTD		1,872,050.00			
Over (under)	\$	41,100.61			
Prior YTD	\$	1,937,547.11			
Over (under)	\$	(24,396.50)			
* The above totals in	clud	e online giving			
		ugh 4/30/2025			
Guatemala	\$	1,167.00			
SVDP	\$	201.00			
Votive		157.00			
Sr. Thea Bowman		469.00			
Flowers	\$	160.00			
Seminarian Education		510.00			
Catholic Home Missions		495.00			
Holy Land	\$	430.00			
Cemetery Maintenance		25.00			
Capital Improvements		355.00			
Gibault		251.00			
Phase 3		19,597.95			
CEAC		1,185.00			



From Our Young Stewards Treasure: \$45.67 Time and Talent: I cheered my friends on at the play.

#### CONSIDER BUNCHING ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS

Depending on your tax situation, bunching several years' worth of charitable gifts into a single tax year may be a great way to increase the tax benefit of your charitable dollars.

Consider the following hypothetical example: John and Jane Smith are both age 65 and contribute \$15,000.00 to their parish on an annual basis. Besides their charitable contributions, their only other itemized deductions include (a) \$10,000.00 of state and local taxes paid and (b) \$2,000.00 of mortgage interest. This brings their total itemized deductions to \$27,000.00. Since John and Jane are both age 65, their standard deduction in 2025 is \$30,000.00. Because the standard deduction exceeds their total itemized deductions, they will take the standard deduction on their 2025 federal income tax return. Effectively, this means their \$15,000.00 charitable contribution did nothing to help reduce their taxable income. Rather than contributing \$15,000.00 to the parish every year, John and Jane decide to contribute four years' worth of charitable gifts (\$60,000.00) in 2025. By doing so, they will be entitled to a \$60,000.00 charitable deduction in the current year bringing their total itemized deductions in 2025 up to \$72,000.00 (\$60,000.00 + \$10,000.00 + \$2,000.00). They will then take the standard deduction in the following three years, if available.

To learn more about bunching donations and to determine whether this strategy is appropriate for you, you should discuss your situation with your financial advisor, attorney, and tax advisor.

NOTE: Assumes deductibility of taxpayers' charitable contributions is not subject to adjusted gross income limitations.

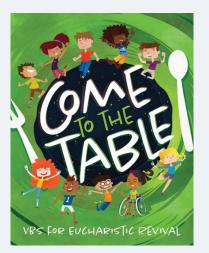
- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

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#### 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 groundbreaking! Immaculate Conception's Phase 3 and Capital Campaign are moving forward. Please continue to pray for the success of this campaign. If you have not done so yet, please consider donating. We appreciate it very much.

Parish Events & News...



#### **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!

#### PARISH WORK DAY! June 14

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

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the incoming 8th graders will be May 17 & 18. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

#### 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!

#### 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.

#### **POSITION AVAILABLE**

Position: Janitor and Maintenance Job Type: Full-Time (approx. 40 hrs. weekly) Benefits: Diocese of Belleville – Benefits Salary Range: \$30,000-\$40,000 + benefits (Final salary will be determined by relevant skills and experience.) To apply: Send cover letter and resume to kdell-hunt@ iccmail.org or by mail at 411 Palmer Rd. Columbia, IL 62236.

For more information or to apply please contact Kara Dell Hunt or check out the ICC website. (https://icc-columbia-il.us/)

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.



#### THEOLOGY ON TAP:

May 19 Bible Study at Sunset Overlook

June 2 Outdoor Fun at ICS playground & pavilion, 6:00-8:30 p.m.

#### THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

*Hope in the Lord* – A special thanks to everyone who has so generously supported the 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal – we are most grateful. If you haven't had an opportunity to make a gift as of yet, we hope you will prayerfully consider doing so now. Gifts can be made through your parish or by visiting www.diobelle.org and clicking on "Giving." Seventeen (17) ministries and programs and all those they so faithfully serve are counting on YOU. Please make your contribution today!

#### ST. RAYMOND'S CORNER

#### St. Raymond's Expenses

#### Total amount received: \$16,540.00 (July-Dec 2024)

10tal allount received. \$10,940.00 (July-Dec 2024)				
\$2,388.00	Given to Diocese for health care for priest, catechism materials, and training			
\$7,435.00	Repairs to Vehicle (parts of the parish are over an hour away by car)			
\$695.00	Gas for Vehicle			
\$975.00	Training Lay Ministers			
\$1,306.00	Repairs to Chapel (roof needs to be replaced)			
\$2,625.00	New building project (expanding gathering spaces)			
\$805.00	Retreats			
\$663.00	Church Supplies			
\$585.00	Food for Parish Gatherings (sometimes			
	the only good meal parishioners get)			
\$585.00	Education for Youth			
\$675.00	Utilities			
\$246.00	Development of Sustainable Projects/ Fair Trade			
\$551.00	Seminarian Fund			
\$3,248.00	Sent to remote sub-parish Parroquia Nuestra Señora de Candelaria <i>(numbers rounded due to exchange rate calculations)</i>			

#### Message from Padre Walver:

A cordial greeting, I appreciate the help that the sister parish of La Inmaculada Concepción has given to our sister parish of San Raymundo de Peñafort. We are united by faith and mutual affection. On behalf of the entire parish, I thank you for your help and prayers, which we also pray for you.



### Pope Francis Prayed ...

"But we need only take a frank look at the facts to see that our common home is falling into serious disrepair." (Laudato Si #61)

What can I do? Do you believe that the Earth is "falling into serious disrepair?" List 3 examples of this disrepair.

#### **SVDP**

The SVDP Ministry thanks all who took the time to prepare the casseroles for the needy. Your kindness is truly appreciated!

#### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**



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.





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

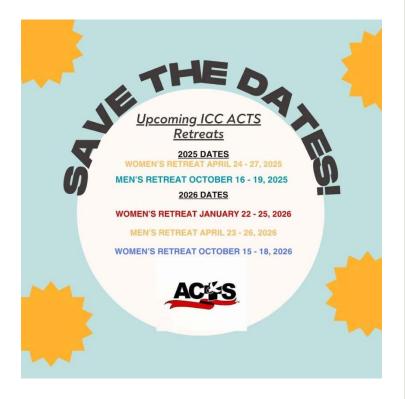
#### DISCERNER DINNERS & DISCUSSIONS Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm

February 7, 14, 21, 28, May 2, 9, 16 RSVP no later than noon that day



#### StayConnected with the ACTS Community!

Embrace the calmness and reconnect with the ACTS family. If you're not receiving emails from 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 with your latest contact information. Let's keep you in the loop and build a stronger, connected ACTS family together!



#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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 parentcentered 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 - Ideffenbaugh@icsmail.org

> **MISSION COMMUNITY SERVICE**

The 1st and 8th graders went on a buddy field trip to Camp Wartburg.



ICS Golf Team played in its first Diocesan Tournament. Congratulations to Trey Keeven who placed 4th, Jackson Pechacek who placed 5th, and Poppy Haywood who placed 8th.





Upcoming Parents and Friends Meeting: May 12



BEER/SELTZER/SODA AVAILABLE AT THE CONCESSION STAND.

Scan for

Tickets



License #

BL-51465









GIBAULT SUMMER CLASSIC FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025 4-PERSON SHOTGUN SCRAMBLE ANNBRIAR GOLF COURSE

MORE DETAILS TO COME

Diocesan and Area Interests...

#### HOLY YEAR ROME PILGRIMAGE WITH BISHOP MICHAEL MCGOVERN

At Christmas our Holy Father, Pope Francis opened the Holy Year, inviting Catholics from around the world to be Pilgrims of Hope. Although the Holy Father has called Bishop McGovern to serve as Archbishop of Omaha, he plans to lead a pilgrimage from Belleville to Rome beginning August 31 until September 10, 2025. This is a wonderful opportunity to travel to the Eternal City and pray at the tombs of the Apostles St. Peter and St. Paul, as well as pass through the Holy Door in the four major basilicas of the city.

The pilgrimage will include the opportunity for Mass and visits to the various churches and shrines in Rome. With the help of a professional guide, the group will visit some of the major sites of Rome, Ostia Antica, the Benedictine monastery in the beautiful town of Subiaco as well as a visit to Castel Gandolfo.

For more information, please contact Judy Hoffmann at jhoffmann@ diobelle.org or 618-722-5003. Brochures are available in the back of church. Deadline to sign up for the pilgrimage is May 15, 2025.

#### 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.



Ministering to Women, Men and Families Impacted by abortion, the Abortion Healing Ministry of the Archdiocese of St Louis has programs for individuals and couples as well as support groups and retreats.

Open office hours at the Catholic Renewal Center at 6120 Pebble Hill Drive in the St Joseph Suite for the spring & summer months are Tuesdays from 10am-2pm and Wednesdays from 9am-noon. Come in for resources, prayer and conversation with our ministry team.

Ongoing Ladies' Abortion Healing Spiritual Support Group meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Catholic Renewal Center from 6-7pm.

Upcoming **Project Rachel Women's Day** of **Reflection** will be hosted on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 9am-5pm. Registration now open.

Men's **Project Joseph Ministry** one-onone mentoring also available.

Visit archstl.org/hope-healing to learn more.

#### 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.

© 2024 TJB catholickidsbulletin.com Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice; (M) M 2 I know them, and they follow me. am the LC LO 9  $\mathcal{O}$ ഗ  $\infty$  $\infty$ Ċ) Д 9 C ß 1  $\bigcirc$ က LL  $\sim$  $\square$ Popological Contraction of the sundary of the sunda Year C: Fourth Sunday of Easter sheep that Circle the match. က





Columbia

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