

# 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 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

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 19 8:05 a.m. We Remember Mike Markus Tuesday, May 20 8:05 a.m. We Remember Jim Vogt 8:05 a.m. Wednesday, May 21 We Remember Mary Jane Frey Thursday, May 22 8:05 a.m. We Remember Linda Rippelmeyer We Remember Anna Lawlor Friday, May 23 8:05 a.m. Saturday, May 24 We Remember Sarah Matlock 5:00 p.m. Sunday, May 25 7:00 a.m. We Remember Al Lehr, Sr. We Remember David Smith 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. We Remember Elsie Hofstetter



### Please Pray For

Adam Brandt Craig Greer Shane Martin **Janet Michael** Jacob Nelson Patricia Pulcher Bob Beckert Jane Menner Maryanne Klosterman Amanda Boitano Trace Ahrens Barbara Kendall Molly Blevins Patricia Gober Curtis Sievers 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

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.



May 18, 2025

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27 Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

## Our Sympathies...

To Catie Taylor and her family on the death of her mother, Mary Ann Drone.



#### **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!

May 11, 2025		
Actual	\$	27,981.99
Budget	\$	23,000.00
Actual YTD	\$ 1	,941,132.60
Budget YTD	\$ 1	,895,050.00
Over (under)	\$	46,082.60
Prior YTD	\$ 1	,954,696.23
Over (under)	\$	(13,563.63)
Guatemala	\$	809.00
Votive	\$	174.00
Seminarian Education	\$	740.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$	20.00
Holy Land	\$	5.00
Capital Improvements	\$	325.00
Gibault	\$	25.00
Phase 3	\$	10,504.67
Debt Status:		
Diocese Loan:	\$	777,516.17
Endowment Loan:	\$	625,000.00
Outstanding Debt:	\$ 1	,402,516.17



From Bur Young Stewards

Treasure: \$4.00 Time and Talent

Time and Talent: I cut the grass; I cleaned up my room; I made a paper flower for my mom.

# 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

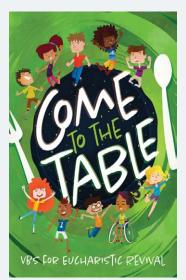


Immaculate Conception's sign is up, and it looks great! The plans for the Rosary Walk are coming into focus. The athletic field and pavilion are moving toward a groundbreaking! Immaculate Conception's Phase 3 and Capital Campaign are moving forward. Please continue to pray for the success of this campaign. If you have not done so yet, please consider donating. We appreciate it very much.

# Parish Events & News...

Congratulations to this year's First Communicants! Welcome to the Table of the Lord!





### 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!

#### SAVE THE DATE:

June 22, 2025 – Fellowship Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the garden level.

#### PARISH WORK DAY!

June 14

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

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the incoming 8th graders will be June 14 & 15. 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 Road, 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

Did you know YOUR GIFT to the 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal can be made online? Visit your Belleville Diocese's website at www.diobelle.org and click on "Giving." It's that simple!

Every donation – large or small – is needed to continue our diocesan ministry to those in need. We are counting on YOU. Please visit www. diobelle.org today!



### Pope Francis Said...

"The entire material universe speaks of God's love, His boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God." (Laudato Si #84)

What can I do? Take a walk outside and soak in the sun's rays. Listen to the birds. Watch the breeze wrestle the leaves. Be at peace.

#### ST. RAYMOND'S CORNER

Candelaria's Expenses

Total amount received: \$4,609.66 (July-Dec. 2024)

\$ 650.00 Repairs to Vehicle \$ 194.00 Gas for Vehicle

\$ 194.00 Training Lay Ministers \$ 194.00 Repairs to Chapel

\$ 325.00 Retreats

\$650.00 Church Supplies

\$390.00 Food \$325.00 Utilities

\$325.00 Seminarian Fund

(numbers rounded due to exchange rate calculations)

We thank you for all the support for the parish of Our Lady of Candelaria, Buena Vista, in the Diocese of Jalapa.

We share with you some photographs that reflect the use of the financial contribution for pastoral work and evangelization in our community. We thank you for all your support. May God bless you, and may Our Lady of Candelaria intercede for all of you. References to the photographs.

- 1) Training and accompaniment for First Communion children.
- 2) Accompaniment of parish participants to a social ministry retreat at the San Juan Pablo II Pastoral Center, Diocese of Jalapa.
- 3) Participation in a national youth ministry assembly, headquarters in the Diocese of Escuintla.

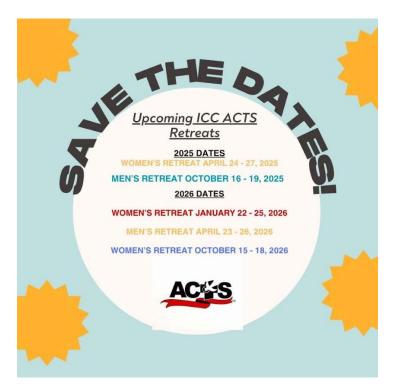






#### **ACTS**





#### 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.

#### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Upcoming Memorial Events held at ICC – All are welcome!

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 - ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

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The 4th graders learned all about money and economics on their trip to the Economy Museum at the Federal Reserve Bank.

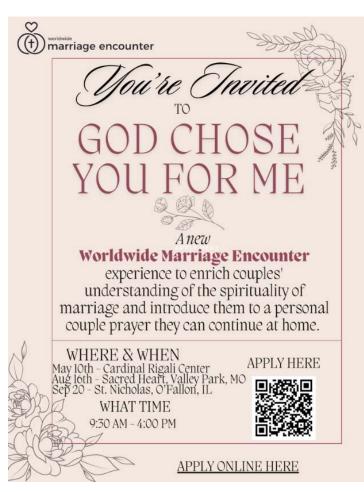


# What's Happening at Gibault?





# Diocesan and area Interests...



#### 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.



#### **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 FREDBIRD®. Register or donate at 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.

### 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



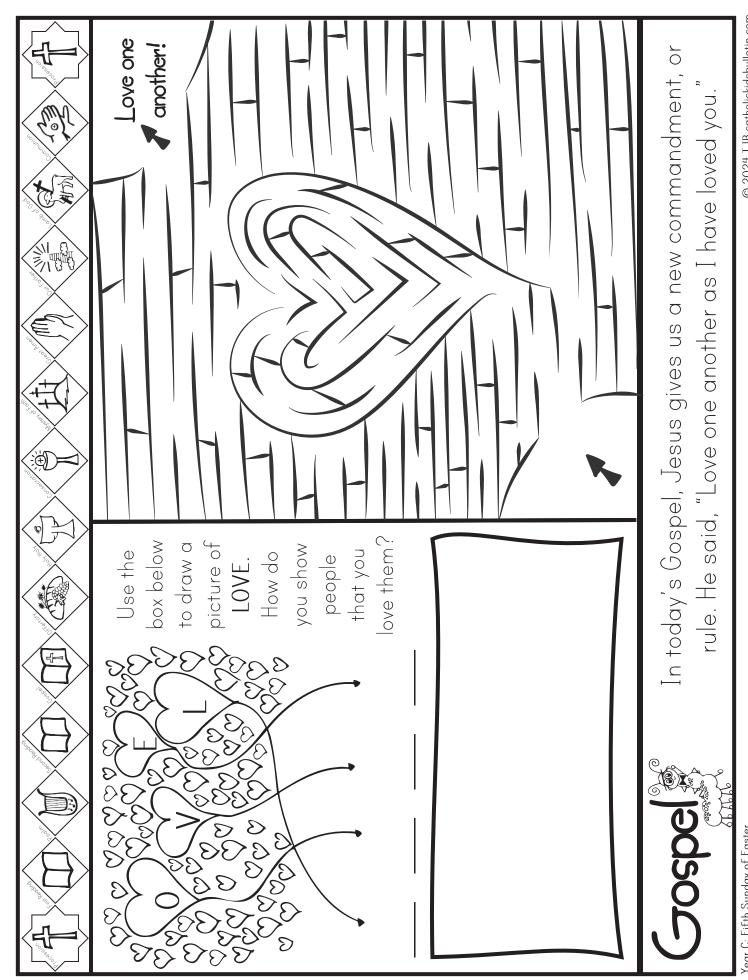
them, and assisted suicide violates the Hippocratic Oath. Tell your state legislators to Vote NO on SB 3499 – assisted suicide. Visit www.ilcatholic.org for additional information and resources.

"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"



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Year C: Fifth Sunday of Easter

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