

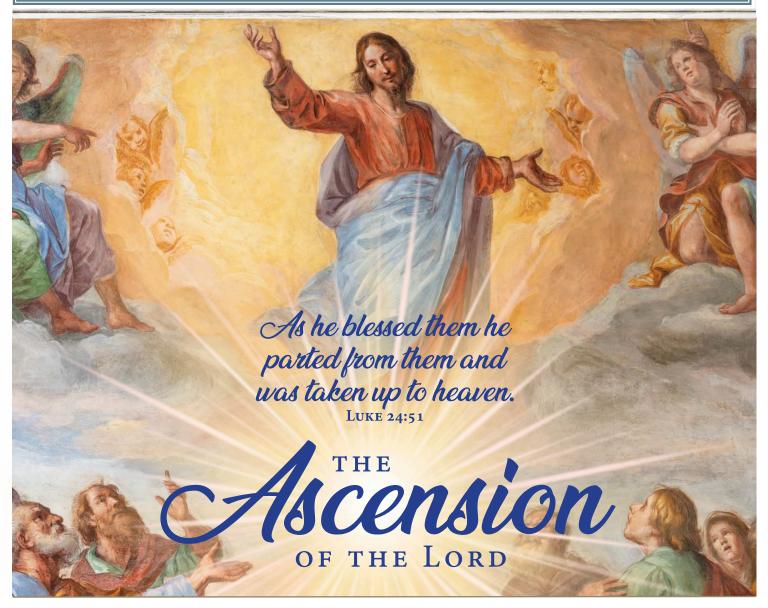
Immaculate Conception

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

June 1, 2025

The Ascension of the Lord

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

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, June 2 8:05 a.m. We Remember Mary Lou Ratajczyk

Tuesday, June 3 8:05 a.m. We Remember Shirley Friesz 8:05 a.m. We Remember Mike Markus Wednesday, June 4 Thursday, June 5 8:05 a.m. We Remember Evalee Roeder Friday, June 6 8:05 a.m. We Remember JoAnn Sander

Saturday, June 7 We Remember Mike Heller & Joseph Colley 5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 8 7:00 a.m. We Remember Carl & Bernice Riebeling

> 9:00 a.m. We Remember Mike Ferrell

11:00 a.m. We Remember Pat & Eugene Gilbreth



Please Pray For

Dolores G.

Nicole Pennington

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

Harold Lutman Jackie Lutman Elsa Wiemerslage John Stonis Pedro Acevedo Jim Grau Taylor Cygan

Helen Nowack Nate Meyer Barbara Mueller Iane Crawford

The Matt Smith Family

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.



June 1, 2025

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11 Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53



To Emilia Olivo and Alicia Florence on the death of their mother, Donna Kania, 60, of Columbia.



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 25, 20	25	
Actual	\$	13,932.46
Budget	\$	22,000.00
Actual YTD	\$	2,022,190.64
Budget YTD	\$	1,981,800.00
Over (under)	\$	40,390.64
Prior YTD	\$	2,036,325.87
Over (under)	\$	(14,135.23)
Guatemala	\$	272.00
Votive	\$	180.00
Seminarian Education	\$	120.00
Catholic Communication		
Campaign	\$	40.00
Newman Auxiliary	\$	60.00
Capital Improvements	\$	25.00
Peter's Pence	\$	25.00
Gibault	\$	125.00
Phase 3	\$	1,497.00



From Our Young Stewards
Treasure: \$16.11

Time and Talent: I made my bed; I helped my sister during Mass.

HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVES

During an emergency or at the end of life, you may face questions about your medical treatment and not be able to answer them. You may assume your loved ones know what you would want, but that's not always true. In one study, people guessed nearly one out of three end-of-life decisions for their loved one incorrectly. Research shows that you are more likely to get the care you want if you have conversations about your future medical treatment and put a plan in place. It may also help your loved ones grieve more easily and feel less burden, guilt, and depression.

What is advance care planning?

Advance care planning involves discussing and preparing for future decisions about your medical care if you become seriously ill or unable to communicate your wishes. Having meaningful conversations with your loved ones is the most important part of advance care planning. Many people also choose to put their preferences in writing by completing legal documents called advance directives.

What are advance directives?

Advance directives are legal documents that provide instructions for medical care and only go into effect if you cannot communicate your own wishes. The two most common advance directives for health care are the living will and the durable power of attorney for health care.

- Living will: A living will is a legal document that tells doctors
 how you want to be treated if you cannot make your own
 decisions about emergency treatment. In a living will, you
 can say which common medical treatments or care you would
 want, which ones you would want to avoid, and under which
 conditions each of your choices applies.
- Durable power of attorney for health care: A durable power of attorney for health care is a legal document that names your health care proxy, a person who can make health care decisions for you if you are unable to communicate these yourself. Your proxy, also known as a representative, surrogate, or agent, should be familiar with your values and wishes. A proxy can be chosen in addition to or instead of a living will. Having a health care proxy helps you plan for situations that cannot be foreseen, such as a serious car accident or stroke.

Think of your advance directives as living documents that you review at least once each year and update if a major life event occurs such as retirement, moving out of state, or a significant change in your health.

Who needs an advance care plan?

Advance care planning is not just for people who are very old or ill. At any age, a medical crisis could leave you unable to communicate your own health care decisions. Planning now for your future health care can help ensure you get the medical care you want and that someone you trust will be there to make decisions for you.

What happens if you do not have an advance directive?

If you do not have an advance directive and you are unable to make decisions on your own, the state laws where you live will determine who may make medical decisions on your behalf. This is typically your spouse, your parents if they are available, or your children if they are adults. If you are unmarried and have not named your partner as your proxy, it's possible they could be excluded from decision-making. If you have no family members, some states allow a close friend who is familiar with your values to help. Or they may assign a physician to represent your best interests. To find out the laws in your state, contact your state legal aid office or state bar association.

Will an advance directive guarantee your wishes are followed?

An advance directive is legally recognized but not legally binding. This means that your health care provider and proxy will do their best to respect your advance directives, but there may be circumstances in which they cannot follow your wishes exactly. For example, you may be in a complex medical situation where it is unclear what you would want. Talking with your loved ones ahead of time may help them better navigate unanticipated issues.

Contact your attorney to find out more about advance care planning and the various legal forms.

- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News...

SAVE THE DATE:

June 22, 2025 – Fellowship Sunday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the garden level. Please join us for coffee and donuts.



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.

POSITIONS 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.

Position: Principal opening

Position Overview: The Principal serves as the educational and spiritual leader of the school, responsible for its overall operation and management. This includes overseeing daily administration, staff supervision, and the implementation of policies and procedures. The Principal also provides stewardship of school resources through budget oversight and works collaboratively with parish and diocesan leadership. Two key aspects of this role are fostering a sense of community within our school and a vibrant Catholic identity by promoting spiritual development and integrating faith into the curriculum. The Principal leads curriculum development to ensure academic excellence in accordance with diocesan and state standards.

Expected start date: July 1, 2025

Starting Salary Range: \$72,000-\$92,000 (Final salary will be determined by relevant skills, education, and experience.)

Benefits: Diocese of Belleville - Benefits

To apply: Submit a cover letter, resume, transcripts, three current letters of recommendation, proof of Illinois Professional Educator's License with General Administrative Endorsement, to Beverly Epplin and Kara Dell-Hunt, Immaculate Conception Parish, 411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL 62236 or email to bepplin@icsmail.org and kdell-hunt@iccmail.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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



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!

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.

PARISH WORK DAY! June 14

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.

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.

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

THEOLOGY ON TAP:

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

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 Said...

"Fresh drinking water is an issue of primary importance, since it is indispensable for human life and for supporting terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems." (Laudato Si #28)

What can I do? Consider how I use the fresh water I have readily available to me. Think of one thing you might do to better manage your use of water. Turn off the tap while brushing. If rinsing before loading dishwasher, consider using a brush and a bowl of water instead of running water. When washing your hands try turning the intensity of the flow down.

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!

COMFORT WITH A PRAYER SHAWL

If you, or someone you know, needs comfort and prayers, consider bringing them a Prayer Shawl, handmade by Immaculate Conception parishioners. Each crocheted or knitted shawl is unique, and prayers are said throughout the process of the creation. The goal is to provide comfort to the recipient, knowing that they are wrapped in the prayers of the parish. The Prayer Shawl can be delivered to you, or you may stop in the Parish Office during business hours and pick up what you need. Prayer Shawls are available for children as well. Call Helen Csik at 314-651-5033 or the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

ACTS





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 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.

"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"



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 2nd graders enjoyed a beautiful day at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows.



Mrs. Karen Weiler:
retiring after 19 years at ICS.
She has been involved in so
many aspects of forming
the minds, hearts, and souls
of our students.
Enjoy your permanent
summer vacation!



We had a great Friday Funday on our last day of school!

What's Happening at Gibault?



We are looking forward to getting preparations underway for our incoming Class of 2029! Private tours can still be scheduled throughout the summer – reach out to me by email, calling the school or through our inquiry form on our website to schedule. The summer will focus on getting our incoming students acquainted with each other. Details will be out soon about a Bowling Night coming in June! If you know someone who might be interested in coming to Gibault, we would love to know who they are! For any questions, please feel free to reach out at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com.





Friday, June 20, 2025

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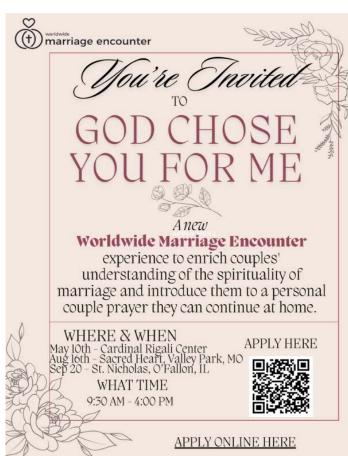


MAIL PAYMENT TO:

Katie Hankins Gibault Summer Classic 501 Columbia Ave Waterloo, IL 62298

IT'S ALL FORE THE STUDENTS OF 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.





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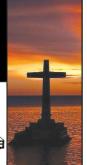
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