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 15, 2025 The Most Holy Trinity www.icc-columbia-il.us

"WHY DOES GOD WANT US IN FELLOWSHIP?"

God desires fellowship because it strengthens faith, encourages believers, and reflects His own nature of shared unity. It allows for mutual support, growth in understanding God's Word, and the opportunity to serve others in the name of Christ. Essentially, fellowship helps Christians walk together in faith, experience God's love and grace, and witness to the world through their shared commitment.

Here's a more detailed look at why fellowship is important:

- *Strength and Encouragement* It provides support and encouragement during difficult times, reminding believers they are not alone in their faith journey.
- *Spiritual Growth* Learning and growing together through Scripture study and shared experiences builds a deeper understanding of God's Word and strengthens faith.
- Serving Others It provides opportunities to serve and help one another, reflecting the love and generosity of God.
- *Reflection of God's Nature* God desires a community of believers who reflect the shared fellowship He enjoys as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- *Witness to World* A united fellowship demonstrates the love and power of Christ, attracting others to faith.
- *Shared Joy and Purpose* Fellowship allows believers to experience the joy of shared faith, work together to accomplish God's will, and find purpose in serving others.

The Pastoral Council has been discerning on our church mission statement, specifically, "we commit ourselves to be a welcoming community of faith, worshipping with generations of believers" and considers fellowship within our church to be tenet. The Parish Council, along with the Welcoming Committee, wants to provide an opportunity to expand Sunday fellowship on the 4th Sunday of each month. This will also be the gathering where we welcome new parishioners. Pastoral Council will host "Fellowship Sunday" on June 22nd after the 9:00 a.m. Mass. Please join us for donuts, juice, and coffee. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Parish Council Members

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, Jessica Wachtel 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 16	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Frey		
Tuesday, June 17	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Frank Klaverkamp		
Wednesday, June 18	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt		
Thursday, June 19	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Norm Schmidt		
Friday, June 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Anna Lawlor		
Saturday, June 21	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Catherine Linnemann		
Sunday, June 22	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Loretta Weiler		
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Margie Pautler		
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Mary Lou Ratajczyk		

Please Pray For

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

Curtis Sievers Craig Greer Janet Michael Patricia Pulcher Marvanne Klosterman Barbara Kendall Patricia Gober

Jim Grau Dolores G. Nicole Pennington Harold Lutman **Jackie** Lutman Elsa Wiemerslage John Stonis

Pedro Acevedo Taylor Cygan Helen Nowack Nate Meyer 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.



Weekly Reflections

June 15, 2025 First Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31 Second Reading: Romans 5:1-5 Gospel: John 16:12-15



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 Earl Menner and his family on the death of his wife, Jane Menner, 88, of Columbia.

To John Kinane and his family on the death of his brother, Vincent Kinane, 93, of Putnam Valley, NY.

To Catherine Siener and her family on the death of her father, Dr. William Sly, 92, of St. Louis.

To Denis Ling and his family on the death of his wife, Doris Ling, 76, of Columbia.

To Blake Mueller and his family on the death of his mother, Barbara Mueller, 68, of Columbia.

To Cherie Glasscock and her family on the death of her father, James Goetz, 96, of Decatur, IL



Stewardship... Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

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June 8, 2025				
Actual	\$	10,959.09		
Budget		23,550.00		
Actual YTD		2,099,774.01		
Budget YTD		2,028,350.00		
Over (under)		71,424.01		
Prior YTD		2,152,716.01		
Over (under)		(52,942.00)		
Debt Status				
Diocese Loan		704,857.51		
Endowment Loan		625,000.00		
Total Balance		1,329,857.51		
Guatemala		655.00		
Votive		172.58		
Seminarian Edu		25.00		
Catholic Communication				
Campaign	\$	150.00		
Newman Auxiliary		85.00		
Holy Father		65.00		
Capital Improvements		180.00		
Gibault		30.00		
Phase 3		1,495.67		



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$0.00 Time and Talent: Helping around the house; Helping my sister; allowing others to help me when needed.

WHY DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK OR MUTUAL FUNDS TO CHARITY?

Giving stock or mutual funds instead of cash as a charitable donation can greatly benefit the donor as well as the recipient. You will find that many charities, churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations will accept stock or mutual funds as a gift.

Tax Benefits of Donating Stock or Mutual Funds to Charity

If the stock or mutual fund has increased in value from the time of purchase, the owner can avoid paying long-term capital gains tax by donating the security to a qualified charitable organization. When an appreciated security held for a minimum of one year is donated to a charitable organization, its fair market value may be itemized as an income tax deduction if the donor is eligible to itemize on their tax filing. The resulting tax savings could be factored in to allow for a larger donation. For publicly traded shares, the fair market value is the average of the high and low price on the transfer date.

Considerations:

- Many nonprofits, such as hospitals, schools, and various other organizations, will accept stock or mutual funds as a gift or donation.
- Giving securities often results in a larger donation to the organization, as the gift is tax-deductible and there are no long-term capital gains taxes to pay.
- If your security has risen in value since purchase, donating it directly is preferable, but if it has lost value, it may be more advantageous to sell it first and then donate the proceeds, so you can take the tax loss.
- Most organizations will immediately liquidate the donation, converting the security to cash.
- Depending on the organization you donate to and your adjusted gross income, a varying amount of your donation may be able to be deducted on your taxes.

Consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council



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...

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW STRUGGLE WITH ALZHEIMER'S?

Are you a caregiver for a loved one with Alzheimer's? We are seeking individuals who would be interested in attending a peer-led support group for those impacted by Alzheimer's disease. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Shea Christensen at schristensen@icsmail.org or extension 352 in the Parish Office.



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.

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.

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

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.



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.

Just show up; you're more than welcome!

PARISH WORK DAY! July 12

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the incoming 8th graders will be July 19 & 20. 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.

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.





Pope Francis Said ...

"The earth's resources are also being plundered because of short-sighted approaches to the economy, commerce, and production." (*Laudato Si #32*)

What can I do? Am I contributing to the misuse of the earth's resources? How? Fr. Steve Gira suggested driving at a speed of 59 mph. Try slowing down and not accelerating quickly.

THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord

A donation to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal assists people throughout southern Illinois through the work of 17 diocesan ministries and programs. Your donation can be a one-time gift or a pledge and be made in cash, by check, credit card (MasterCard or VISA) or stocks and securities. If you haven't yet done so, please consider making your gift today! Thank you for your generosity.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Upcoming Memorial Events held at ICC – All are welcome!

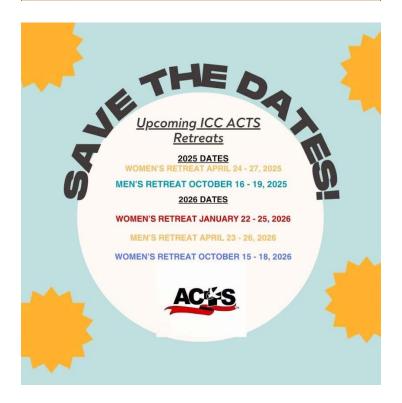
October 19, 3:00 p.m. – Walk to Remember (Babies lost to Miscarriage, Stillbirth, SIDS, Lost Adoptions, Abortion) November 2, 11:00 a.m. Mass – Annual Candle Lighting Remembrance for Parishioners.

ACTS



StayConnected with the ACTS Community J

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.

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 leves 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"

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.

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.



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

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.



IT'S ALL FORE THE STUDENTS OF GIBAULT!

Waterloo, IL 62298

Diocesan and Area Interests...

(618) 939-3883

JULY 5TH, ST. MICHAEL, PADERBORN PARISH PICNIC

GIBAULT

SUMMER GOLF

CLASSIC

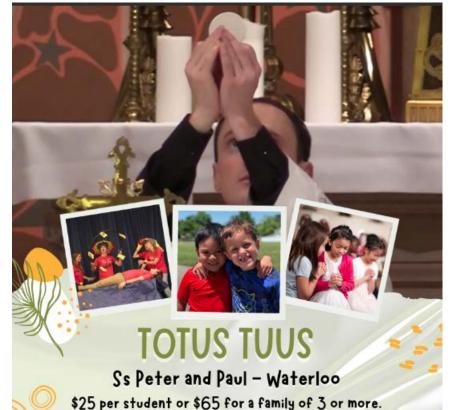
Friday, June 20, 2025

4-PERSON SHOTGUN SCRAMBLE

ANNBRIAR GOLF COURSE

Limited Spots Available!

Serving Fried Chicken Dinners from 3:00-7:00 p.m. in air-conditioned Hall. Featuring Quilt and Cash Bingo starting at 5:00 p.m. (in case of inclement weather, will move into A/C Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m.) Mass at 4:00 p.m.



JULY 13-18. 2025

1-6 Graders Monday - Friday 9:00am - 2:30 pm Bring sack lunch



7-12 Graders Sunday - Thursday 6:30 - 8:15 pm Snack provided

Questions? Email Catharine Burkart at cburkart@ssppcc.org Totus Tuus is a weeklong opportunity for students (grades 1-12) to deepen their faith and relationship with Christ through sacraments, prayer, and fun. **Students in grades 1-6** will meet Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **Students in grades 7-12** will meet Sunday through Thursday from 6:30-8:15 p.m. The cost is \$25.00 per student or \$65.00 for a family of 3 or more.

Registration: To register your family to attend, visit https://dio.org/totus-tuus-camper-registration/.

Volunteers: Youth (entering 7th Grade) and adult volunteers are needed throughout the week. To Volunteer to help with Totus Tuus, visit https://www.ssppcc.org/totus-tuus.

Daytime Volunteers, July 14-18, 8:45 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Volunteers will help as teacher assistants throughout the day. Adult Volunteers will help with check-in, snacks and lunch time or may help as teacher assistants as needed.

Evening Volunteers, July 13-17, 6:30-8:45 p.m. Daily Adult volunteers are needed to assist with daily evening activities.

**Volunteers 18 and over must be compliant with the Diocesan Child Protection Policy, including online trainings and background checks.

Students can receive hours for BOTH volunteering and attending Totus Tuus

Cleaning House St. Vincent de Paul Needs Your Household Items and Home Decor for a

Sale Benefiting Our Ministries.

DROP OFF TIMES ARE:

Thursday, June 19 • 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Friday, June 20 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

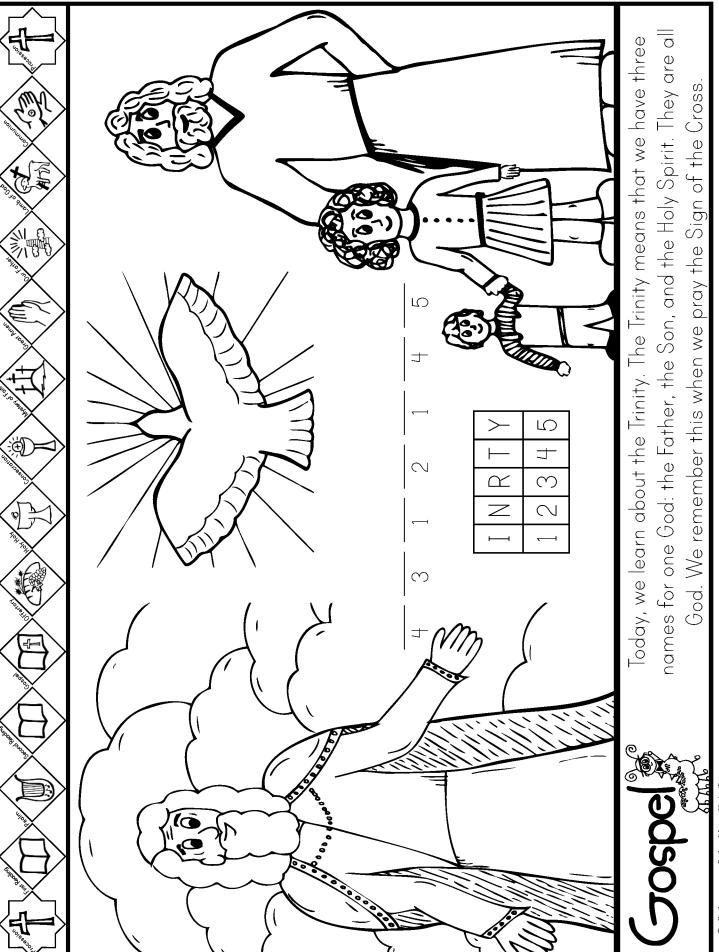
<u>Items not accepted include:</u> mattresses, bed frames, large appliances, entertainment centers, couches, recliners, computers, TVs, large sporting items, car seats, text books. NO CLOTHES.

DROP OFF AT CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH CENTER 205 Rasp Street • Shiloh, Illinois

Questions, please call the office at 618-806-3898











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