

# 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

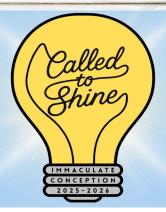
August 10, 2025

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL



The 2025 school year is only a few days away and I am incredibly excited to begin this journey. Monday evening we welcome our families for Open House. School supplies will be collected, students will tour their new classrooms and meet their teachers, and many of our parents-run groups will be on hand to share about their stewardship and encourage other parents to get involved too. There is a tangible energy to the evening, a swirling mix of excitement and anxious anticipation as we all head back to school. It's a scene I will never get tired of. It brings out the best in our school community and perfectly sets the stage for all the great things to come.

Our school theme for this year is, "Called to Shine." It's a simple yet important directive. The theme takes inspiration from Matthew 5:15: "Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." How can we shine with the unique radiance that God has given us? How can we help others shine as well? Can we find opportunities to step aside so that others can shine? These are questions that our school community will be reflecting upon this year as we strive to live out this theme. But, they are questions for us all to consider. How can you answer the call to shine in your own way?

Character education is critically important to our school's mission and I'm excited to share that we are beginning a new character initiative at ICS that will perfectly complement our school theme. Qualities like respect, responsibility, perseverance, and kindness form the foundation through which learning and growth happen. This school year we'll be celebrating character as a means through which to shine God's light and spread His kingdom. I'm excited to witness all the beauty that God will weave into this school year through our students and families.

Here's to a great 2025-2026 school year as we strive to live out our mission: "The mission of Immaculate Conception School is to provide experiences to inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospels of Jesus Christ in the tradition of the Catholic Church."

Michael Crean Principal, Immaculate Conception School

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, Mike Crean 281-5353, ext. 202 mcrean@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, August 11 8:05 a.m. We Remember Calvin Fries Tuesday, August 12 8:05 a.m. We Remember Donna Toenjes Wednesday, August 13 8:05 a.m. We Remember Jim Vogt Thursday, August 14 8:05 a.m. We Remember Doris Ling 8:05 a.m. We Remember Kathy (Prindable) Lange Friday, August 15 Saturday, August 16 We Remember Harold Stemler 5:00 p.m. Sunday, August 17 7:00 a.m. We Remember Loretta Weiler 9:00 a.m. We Remember Edward & Mary Smugala 11:00 a.m. We Remember Dean & Marian Keim



### Please Pray For

Adam Brandt Janet Michael Elsa Wiemerslage Robert Niebruegge Shane Martin Patricia Pulcher John Stonis Doug Mercille **Iacob** Nelson Pedro Acevedo Kirsten Halton Williams Maryanne Klosterman **Bob Beckert** Barbara Kendall Taylor Cygan Theresa Zeisler Amanda Boitano Doris Boss Iim Grau Helen Nowack Trace Ahrens Dolores G. Nate Meyer Karen Miller Molly Blevins Nicole Pennington The Matt Smith Family Stephen Wilson Curtis Sievers Harold Lutman Mark Fiore Larry Greenfield Craig Greer Jackie Lutman Emily Koenigstein

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

August 10, 2025 First Reading: Wisdom 18:6-9 Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Gospel: Luke 12:32-48



#### **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!

August 3, 2025		
Actual	\$	52,428.28
Budget	\$	62,800.00
Actual YTD	\$	168,332.75
Budget YTD	\$	195,700.00
Over (under)	\$	(27,367.25)
Prior YTD	\$	167,864.28
Over (under)	\$	468.47
Guatemala	\$	743.00
Votive	\$	258.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	1,765.00
SVDP	\$	46.00
Holy Father	\$	300.00
Capital Improvements	\$	1,240.00
Gibault	\$	261.00
Phase 3	\$	10,081.43
CEAC	\$	495.00

<sup>\*</sup> The above totals include online giving through 7/31/2025.



## From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$ 115.50 Time and Talent: I played with my dogs, I helped install a fan, helped my mom shop at Walmart.



# 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 longterm 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

# Parish Events & News...



#### Bingo, Chicken Dinner, Booths, Stands & Games

Bookstore - Homegrown & Homemade Market - Dessert Stand -Raffle Stand - Plant Stand - Food & Drink Stands -- Adult Games - Children & Youth Games

409 Palmer Road | All parking will be onsite.



More information on Facebook elmmaculateConceptionParishPicnic Sign up to volunteer online 8/1 or in-person after all masses on Aug. 9/10 & Aug. 23/24.



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

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

## SEE YOU LATER, FR. STEVE!

Fr. Steve's last full weekend with us will be August 9 & 10. On Sunday, August 10, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., everyone is invited to the garden level for snickerdoodles and coffee (& juice), to wish Fr. Steve well on his next assignment.



#### RAFFLE TICKETS

Purchase your Congregation of Resurrection's raffle tickets in the back of the church this weekend, August 9 & 10.

#### **PSR**

Is that still, small voice calling you? Volunteer for PSR. A love of God and children is all that is needed. We are looking for volunteers for the 2025-2026 school year to help our PSR program continue to grow. Contact Rebecca Husman at 618-281-5105, ext. 353 or Lizanne Young at 618-281-5105, ext. 354. We look forward to meeting you.

#### **ICY**

For the Girls: Back by popular demand - Our Annual Bra Drive. Please bring your used bras and donate them at church. We will be collecting bras, any size, any color, from August 23rd to October 9th. Look for a box in the gathering space and please place bras in the box. After October 9th, the bras will be donated to the organization We Support the Girls. Look them up on Google to find out the good they do for the community.

# 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!

#### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- The Labor Day Picnic is looking for a Chairperson for the Grill Stand.
- The Labor Day Picnic is looking for someone to shadow the current Chair for the Tea and Lemonade Stand for 2025 and Chair the stand beginning in 2026.

If interested, contact Patrick McDermott at 618-779-1183 or mcdermott.pat91@gmail.com.

#### **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.

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

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the 8th graders will be August 16 & 17. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

#### WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Please join us in welcoming our new parishioners and our new Pastor Fr. Brian on August 24th. We will have donuts, breakfast items, coffee, and juice. Let's make this a huge welcoming for all!

# Ministry News & Happenings

## Snippet from Mrs. Shea

Mental Health Fast Fact: Depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy \$1 trillion in lost productivity each year.

#### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. in the library. All are welcome! Contact Lizanne for more info at 618-281-5105, ext. 354.

#### **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 ...

"Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a needless whirlwind of buying and spending." (Laudato Si, #203).

What can I do? When was the last time you found yourself in a "whirlwind of buying and spending?" Reflect on why that happened.

### 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.

# THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

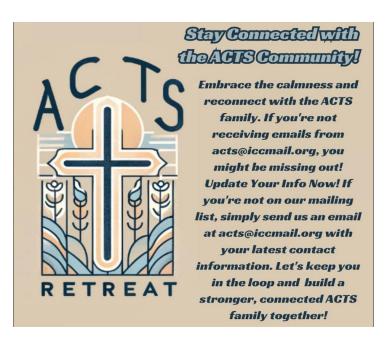
#### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

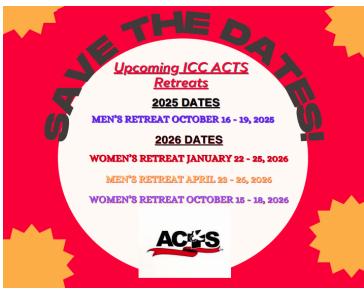
Upcoming Memorial Events held at ICC.

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.





#### **VOCATION**

"I grew up loving two things: our family farm and sports. There was a basketball hoop in the haymow of our barn, and during breaks from working with the cattle, I would play pickup games with my brothers and cousins. I grew to love football, too, and was even blessed to play quarterback at the collegiate level for a year. But over time, another love quietly grew in my heart: a love for Christ and His Church. My parents instilled in me a strong work ethic and an unswerving trust in the Lord. My parish priest provided an example of real eucharistic amazement, an intense prayer life and filial devotion to our Blessed Mother. Through their influence, I discovered that the greatest joy of my life was when I could draw others closer to our Savior. To all those discerning their vocations: Let His love conquer!"

Fr. Thomas J. Haan; Diocese of Lafayette, Ind. Columbia, September 2022

#### **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.



- ~ Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support: Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo and Red Bud). 618-939-4224, mylifenet.org
- Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis)
   birthrightstl.org
- Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by Abortion; Project Rachel, 618-722-5068 or hopeafterabortion.com
- A caring place for women who are pregnant and experiencing homelessness; Fontebella Maternity Home, 618-406-4355.

If you, or someone you know, has an unborn baby diagnosed with "fetal abnormalities" or an "adverse prenatal diagnosis," please refer to: BeNotAfraid.net or PrenatalPartnersforLife.org.

Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. Birthrightstl.org offers their Melissa's Smile program, a counseling and supportive resource for mothers and fathers whose baby has been diagnosed prenatally with a genetic abnormality or whose baby has been born with a disability or serious medical condition.



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

School Principal: School Principal: Mike Crean, ext. 202 ~ mcrean@icsmail.org School Administrator: Beverly Epplin, ext. 200 ~ bepplin@icsmail.org Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh, ext. 201 ~ ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

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#### LATCHKEY STAFF

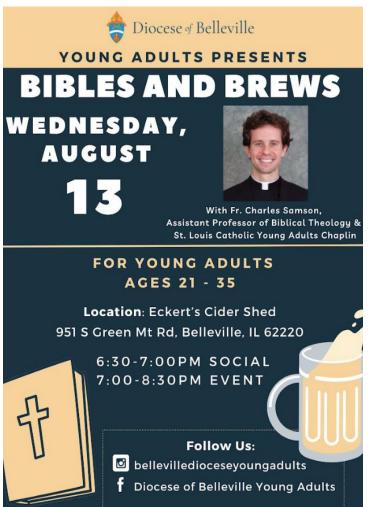
Immaculate Conception School is looking to hire after-school latchkey workers. The ideal candidate will have a passion to work with children from ages 5-13. The hours are 3:00-5:30 p.m. We are willing to work around high school activities. Interested candidates should contact Principal Mike Crean at mcrean@icsmail.org.

# Diocesan and Area Interests...

#### 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.





# SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH – PICNIC

St. Augustine – Hecker, IL Annual Kirchenfest Mass at 3:00 p.m., Dinner from 3:00-7:00 p.m. Quilt Bingo at 6:30 p.m.

# SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD – PICNICS

Holy Childhood – Mascoutah, IL Mass at 4:00 p.m., Dinner and Quilt Bingo St. Theresa/St. Luke – Belleville, IL Mass at 4:00 p.m., Dinner begins at 3:00 p.m. Quilt Bingo



#### 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.

"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: Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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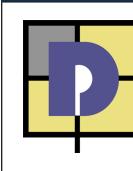
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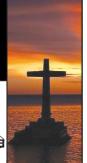


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