

# 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 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

# Getting ready to welcome Fr. Brian Barker

As we prepare to greet our newest IC pastor, here are a few things we already know about Fr. Brian Barker:

- Many of the kids, teens, and even some adults in our parish know him as the beloved Chaplain at Camp Ondessonk.
- He comes to us most recently from the parish community of
  - St. Joseph (Marion) and St. Paul (Johnston City), and these congregations will miss him dearly.
- He is an accomplished musician and songwriter.
- Fr. Brian is good friends with both Pope Leo XIV (they've known each other since high school) and Fr. Carl E. Scherrer. References don't get much better than that. Looking forward to getting to know you, Fr. Brian!



### Adios, Fr. Steve, hasta luego

Fr. Steve was grateful and humbled St. John's Seminary by the "See You Later" send off we c/o Fr. Steve Thoma, C.R. gave him, and will keep us in prayer. 5012 Seminary Rd. If you'd like to write to him via snail Camarillo. CA 93012 mail, you are welcome to do so!



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. Brian Barker ext. 358 or 618-281-5105 frbrian@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 18 8:05 a.m. For the safety of the children and new school year.

We Remember Kathleen Bernice Lawler Tuesday, August 19 8:05 a.m.

We Remember Doris Ling Wednesday, August 20 8:05 a.m. Thursday, August 21 8:05 a.m. We Remember Donna Kania Friday, August 22 8:05 a.m. We Remember Albert Lampe

Saturday, August 23 5:00 p.m. We Remember Pete & Rose Kostecki

Sunday, August 24 7:00 a.m. We Remember Judy Albrecht

We Remember Doris Ling 9:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m. We Remember Walter & Helen Menner



### Please Pray For

Adam Brandt Patricia Pulcher Shane Martin Maryanne Klosterman **Iacob** Nelson Barbara Kendall **Bob Beckert** Jim Grau Amanda Boitano Dolores G. Trace Ahrens Nicole Pennington Molly Blevins Harold Lutman Curtis Sievers **Jackie Lutman** Craig Greer Elsa Wiemerslage Janet Michael John Stonis

Pedro Acevedo Taylor Cygan Helen Nowack Nate Meyer The Matt Smith Family Mark Fiore Emily Koenigstein Robert Niebruegge Doug Mercille Kirsten Halton Williams

Theresa Zeisler Doris Boss Karen Miller Stephen Wilson Larry Greenfield Beth Heisel Ed Evertsen Mike Wheatley

Troops in Service... SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn, Samuel Campbell, Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, 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 17, 2025 First Reading: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4 Gospel: Luke 12:49-53



### **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 10, 2	2025	
Actual	\$	13,966.42
Budget	\$	23,375.00
Actual YTD	\$	182,299.17
Budget YTD	\$	219,075.00
Over (under)	\$	(36,775.83)
Prior YTD	\$	179,048.14
Over (under)	\$	3,251.03

Loan Debt Status a	as of 7/31/2025
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Diocese Loan	\$	561,119
Endowment Loan	\$	625,000
	\$	1,186,119
Guatemala	\$	585.00
Votive	\$	200.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	655.00
Capital Improvements	\$	135.00
Gibault	\$	25.00
Phase 3	\$	1,282.00



## From Bur Young Stewards

Treasure:

Time and Talent: Helped with yard work



### 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...

### SNAIL MAIL FOR FR. STEVE

St. John's Seminary c/o Fr. Steve Thoma, C.R.w 5012 Seminary Road Camarillo, CA 93012



409 Palmer Road | All parking will be onsite.



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



### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The Labor Day Picnic is looking for:

- Chairperson for the Grill Stand.
- Someone to shadow the current Chair for the Tea and Lemonade Stand for 2025 and Chair the stand beginning in 2026.

If interested in either position, contact Patrick McDermott, 618-779-1183, mcdermott.pat91@gmail.com.

#### 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!

# 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.

#### **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!

#### 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 September 20 & 21. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

# Ministry News & Happenings

## Snippet from Mrs. Shea

Mental Health Fast Fact: 19.7% of U.S. Veterans experienced a mental illness in 2020 (3.9 million people).

### HAPPY AUGUST, EVERYONE!

It always seems hard to believe that summer disappears so quickly (something about hindsight being 20/20...), but with the coming of August brings a certain excitement in the air. The kids are back in ICS with their new backpacks & shoes & markers, and it is good to hear their bubbly voices. We have new teachers, a new principal, a new priest, a new (American!) pope...really we have a wave of new possibilities. Something else new at ICS is the character education program, *Character Strong*. A highlight of this program is that each month we will learn a new trait as a school, the first of which being Kindness. Young students will spend time learning the definition and what kindness looks like, while older students will learn how to model kindness for the younger students.

If you aren't someone who is tied to a school schedule, take this season of change as an opportunity to reflect on the kindness present in your life. Whether that be a family member who visits for lunch on a random weekday, a neighbor who returns an incorrectly delivered package from across the neighborhood, a coworker who gives you a compliment on a day you need it... kindness can take many forms. We just have to quiet our minds and hearts enough to look for it.

### **ICY ODD SUNDAYS**

Every Sunday with an odd date is an Odd Sunday ICY Meeting.
Check out the QR code for more details.



### **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.



### 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: 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 Dropin 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.

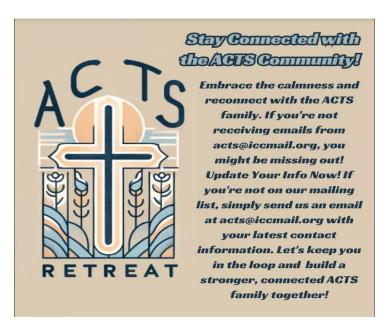
#### **ICCCW NEWS**

### **BOX OF JOY:**

Thanks to all who have already donated cash or items to help fill the boxes! We appreciate your support of this initiative. If you want to help show a child a wonderful Christmas, join the Council of Catholic Women in support of Cross Catholic Outreach's 10th Anniversary BOX OF JOY program. What can you do to help? You can take a box (about the size of a box for a pair of shoes) and fill it, or bring items for us to use to fill boxes! Empty boxes and lists of suggested items to pack are in the Gathering Space. You can also place any donation items in the tub with the Box of Joy sign. Or, if you don't want to shop, you can make a monetary donation. Just drop your envelope marked Box of Joy in the collection basket at Mass. A member of the ICCCW will do the shopping and fill the box. Donations of any amount help and are appreciated. It only takes approximately \$20.00-\$25.00 to fill a box. Start your Christmas giving a little early this year. Boxes are due by September 15th; however, you can drop your filled box in the Gathering Space at any time. Our goal is to fill 150 boxes; we filled 133 boxes last year. Please help us reach our goal! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Wilson at 618-920-0319 or Marty Colley at 618-978-9505.

### 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.





### **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.

# 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.



### 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.

# What's Happening at Gibault?



# 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.

### 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.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD – PICNICS

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

# SISTER THEA BOWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We have a special envelope in our August packet for our sister school in East St. Louis, the only Catholic grade school in East St. Louis. Nearly all the students there need tuition assistance, and our financial support helps make that possible. Once again, we have an anonymous donor who has offered a \$10,000.00 matching gift. Please be generous in helping us help those in need.





Social event for single young adult Catholics ages 21-33

\$15 fee includes hors d'oeuvres & drinks

Scan the QR code to register by Aug. 18 or email mskorch@diobelle.org



#### DATE:

Thursday, August 21, 2025

TIME:

Check In at 6:30pm

Event at 7pm

LOCATION:

**Holy Trinity Parish** 

505 Fountains Parkway Fairview Heights, IL, 62208



"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"

# **Clinton County HCE**

presents

Benedictine monk and PBS TV host

### Fr. Dominic Garramone

will present

BASIC BREAD & BEYOND

on Saturday, August 23, 2025, 10 a.m.
at Mater Dei Catholic High School in Breese, IL

Tickets: \$20

Pre-registration is requested.

Reserve your seat by mailing your name, phone number, and money to Diane Sinclair, 1051 Monroe St., Carlyle, IL 62231 OR signing up at the University of Illinois Extension Office in Breese (on Mon. - Thurs.) OR from a HCE Board member.

Checks payable to Clinton County HCE

Call Diane at 618-594-3669 for more info.

Proceeds from the event will help fund community projects for Clinton County HCE.



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Year C: Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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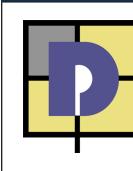
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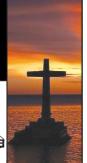


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