

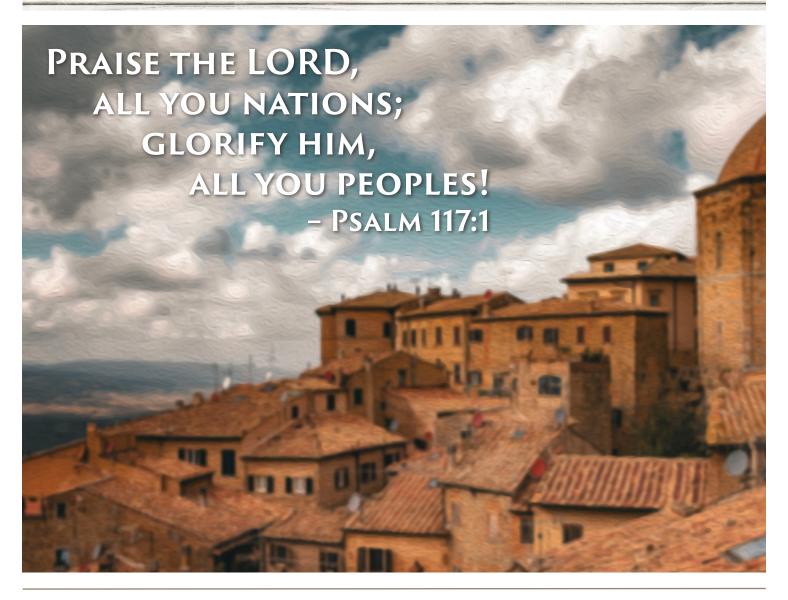
Immaculate Conception

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 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us



Rooted in the Gospel of Christ and in the Tradition of Catholicism and Under the Patronage of Mary Immaculate, We Commit Ourselves to be a Welcoming Community of Faith, Worshipping with Generations of Believers and Serving God in All People.

Welcome New Parishioners

If you are new to our parish and reside within the parish boundaries, and would like to be members, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105, and our secretary will be happy to help make that happen!

Hola, Bienvenidos – a la iglesia Catolica en Immaculata Concepcion. ¡Que tengas una bendita semana!

We livestream! To participate, please use this link: https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmaculateConceptionCatholicChurchColumbiaIL



Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-281-5105

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. 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. We Remember Mike Markus Monday, August 25 8:05 a.m. Tuesday, August 26 8.05 p.m. We Remember JoAnn Sander Wednesday, August 27 8:05 a.m. We Remember Lorraine Koberski Thursday, August 28 We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad 8:05 a.m. Friday, August 29 We Remember Josh Ritter 8:05 a.m. Saturday, August 30 5:00 p.m. We Remember Jim Vogt In honor of Bill and Jan Walsh's Anniversary Sunday, August 31 7:00 a.m.

> 9:00 a.m. We Remember Doris Ling 11:00 a.m. We Remember Ralph Herrmann



Please Pray For

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

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 24, *2025*First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30



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 17, 2025		
Actual	\$	66,995.92
Budget	\$	62,900.00
Actual YTD	\$	249,295.09
Budget YTD	\$	281,975.00
Over (under)	\$	(32,679.91)
Prior YTD	\$	277,470.53
Over (under)	\$	(28,175.44
Guatemala	\$	691.00
Votive	\$	194.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$	935.00
SVDP	\$	25.00
Capital Improvements	\$	810.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$	45.00
Gibault	\$	305.00
Eugene Schorb Education		
Endowment Fund	\$	153.00
Phase 3	\$	9,797.91
CEAC	\$	515.00

^{*}The above totals include online giving through 8/15/2025



From Our Young Stewards Treasure: \$ 68.65 Time and Talent: I cleaned my room.

WHAT IS A 529 PLAN?

A 529 plan is an investment account that offers tax-free withdrawals and other benefits when used to pay for qualified educational expenses. You can use a 529 plan to pay for college, K-12 tuition, apprenticeship programs, and even student loan repayments. Any leftover funds can be used in different ways, including funding a Roth IRA. There are two primary 529 plans: education savings plans and prepaid tuition plans.

Education Saving Plans: Also known as 529 college savings plans, these are tax-advantaged investment accounts that are designed for educational savings. They work much like a Roth 401(k) or Roth IRA by allowing you to invest your after-tax contributions in mutual funds or similar investments.

Prepaid Tuition Plans: These plans let you prepay all or part of the costs of an in-state public college education. You may also convert them for use at private and out-of-state colleges. The Private College 529 Plan is a separate prepaid plan for private colleges sponsored by more than 250 private colleges. Educational institutions can offer a prepaid tuition plan but not a college savings plan.

Tax Advantages of 529 Plans: 529 plans offer federal tax benefits and may offer state tax benefits depending on the state where the account owner or person contributing to the plan lives.

Federal Tax Benefits

There are two primary federal tax benefits associated with 529 plans:

- Earnings in your account accumulate tax free. In other words, no income taxes are due on earnings as long as the money stays in your account.
- You will not have to pay federal income taxes on withdrawals as long as the money is used to pay for qualified educational expenses.

Note that similar to a Roth IRA, contributions to a 529 plan are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Some families use 529 plans as an estate planning vehicle because contributions are considered completed gifts to the beneficiary.

Using a 529 Plan for Education Expenses: There are various ways to use your 529 plan assets for the benefit of the student beneficiary. The most common is tuition, but there are many other related expenses that are now eligible education related expenses. The terms of the plan or your financial advisor can assist you with determining the various qualifying expenses. It's important to understand that with a 529 plan, only qualified withdrawals are tax-free. You should only use your 529 plan to pay for gualified educational expenses. 529 plan withdrawals must happen in the same tax year as the expenses incurred. This means that if you're paying for January expenses, you can't withdraw funds in December of the previous year, even though it's only weeks from when you need the money. In recent years, the IRS has expanded the definition of qualified education expenses beyond traditional higher education costs, including K-12 tuition expenses and student loan repayments. There is a \$10,000 annual limit on qualified K-12 withdrawals and a \$10,000 lifetime limit on student loans. 529 plans can also be used to pay for qualified expenses at a trade or vocational school or for registered apprenticeship program expenses. A common concern in the past has been what to do in case you don't use all the money you've saved in a 529 account. This is now less of a potential drawback as the definition of qualified expenses has expanded, and parents have more options than ever on what to do with unused 529 funds.

For more information about 529 plans, contact your financial or tax advisor.

- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News...



Bingo, Chicken Dinner, Booths, Stands & Games

11am-7pm

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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.

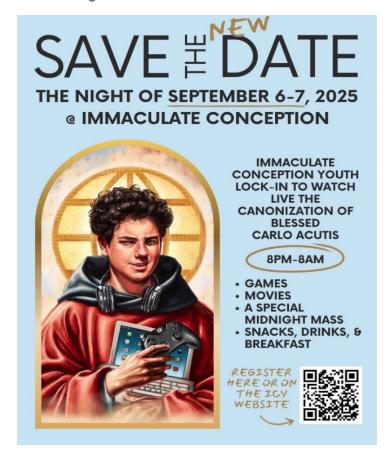
If interested in this position, contact Patrick McDermott, 618-779-1183, mcdermott.pat91@gmail.com.

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.

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.



WELCOMING COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE FOR FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

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. Please join us for Fellowship, for coffee and donuts on the *fourth Sunday* of each month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the garden level.

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.

PARISH WORK DAY! September 13, 2025

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.

Ministry News & Happenings

Snippet from Mrs. Shea

Mental Health Fast Fact:

Half of all mental health disorders show first signs before a person turns 14 years old, and three-quarters of mental health disorders begin before age 24. (SAMHSA.gov)

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:

"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.

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord: Do you remember your or your children's or, perhaps, your grandchildren's first time away from home attending college? While greatly anticipated, it can also be a challenging, sometimes overwhelming experience. Today, hundreds of young adults find a comfortable, secure, faith-based home during their college years as a "family" member of the Newman Catholic Student Center at Southern Illinois University. Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps makes this experience possible. Partner with Newman's students and staff by making your gift to The Appeal today!

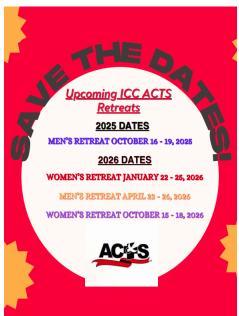
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

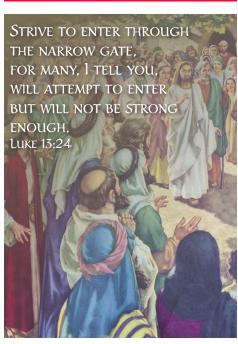
Upcoming Memorial Events held at ICC.

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 was born in a small town in Michoacan, Mexico. My mother, a woman of great faith, instilled in me and my five siblings trust in God and kindness toward others. When I turned 15, my family moved to California. It was difficult to leave home, but I soon got used to the new school, friends, and culture. One afternoon, I accompanied a friend to church, more out of duty than desire, and Jesus reminded me that He had been waiting for me. I realized how much I had been moving away from Him, how much I needed Him, and I went to Confession. I later encountered the Servants of Mary, Ministers of the Sick, who were visiting the parish. I began to discern, and after high school, I entered my postulancy. I am now a professed junior sister."

Sister Maritza Madrigal; Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick; New York City; Columbia Magazine, June 2020

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.



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.

FALL MUM FUNDRAISER ENDS SOON! August 18-September 2

The ICS Fall mum fundraiser will be ending soon. If you haven't already ordered, now is the time to get your order in!! The mum fundraiser consists of two types of products: premium mum with a fall themed tin character pot OR just a premium mum. Mums come in four colors and the character tins have four fall fun designs, two new ones debuting this year. For more information, to volunteer or to place an order contact: Emilee Dufford at 618-616-6878



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.



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Pasta Sauce
Egg Noodles
Saltine Crackers
Granola Bars
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Cereal
Cooking Oil
Flour
Fruit Cups
Pancake Mix
Salt and Pepper



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"Death is a decisive moment in the human person's encounter with God the Savior. Helping the Christian to experience this moment with spiritual assistance is a supreme act of charity. It encompasses the patient with the solid support of human relationships to accompany them and open them to hope... While palliative care cannot entirely eradicate suffering from people's lives, it provides an authentic expression of human and Christian care – allowing us to 'remain' at the side of a suffering person, as the Blessed Mother and the beloved disciple remained at the foot of the Cross."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "The Witness of the Good Samaritan: Palliative Care and Hospice"

"La muerte es un momento decisivo en el encuentro de la persona con Dios Salvador. Ayudar al cristiano a vivir este momento con ayuda espiritual es un acto supremo de caridad. Rodea al paciente con el apoyo sólido de relaciones humanas para acompañarlo y darle esperanza... Si bien los cuidados paliativos no pueden erradicar por completo el sufrimiento de la vida de las personas, proporcionan una expresión auténtica del cuidado humano y cristiano, permitiéndonos "permanecer" al lado de una persona que sufre, como la Santísima Madre y el discípulo amado permanecieron al pie de la Cruz".

Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida de la USCCB "El testimonio del Buen Samaritano: cuidados paliativos y de hospicio"

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER PICNICS

September 6th-7th

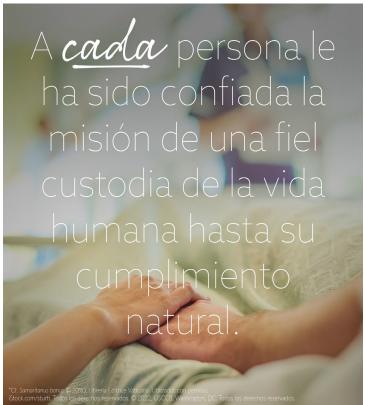
St. Joseph's - Freeburg, IL

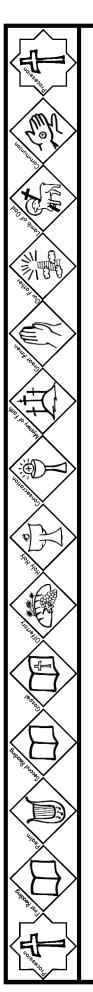
Mass at 4:00 p.m., Dinner from 3:00-7:30 p.m. Quilt/Cash Bingo from 5:00-11:00 p.m.

September 20th

Holy Trinity – Fairview Heights, IL Mass at 4:00 p.m.; 4:00-10:00 p.m., food, music, booths, raffles.





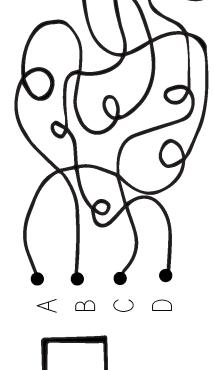


Jesus told His disciples that they should,

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate."

This means that God wants us to try to get closer to Him by staying on God's path.

What are some things you can do that will help you be closer to God? Follow the paths from the cross to Heaven. Which one leads to Heaven?





Jesus teaches that we must be strong in our faith! How can you be strong in faith?



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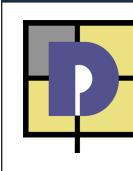
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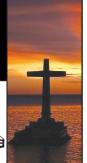


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