

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 3, 2025

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

MIMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Reabor Day Picnic





Chicken Dinner 11 am-sold out

Tickets on sale at the door. Dine-in or Carryout. (Cash, Credit & Checks accepted)



Quilt Bingo 11 am-6pm

Play an hour or stay all day! \$500 final game payout



Booths & Games 11 am-7pm

Bookstore – Country Store – Dessert Stand – Raffles – Plant Stand – Food & Drink Stands – Adult & Kid Games

More information on Facebook @ImmaculateConceptionParishPicnic



Sign up to volunteer online or after all Masses on Aug. 9/10 & Aug. 23/24

Ways to support the picnic!

- Sign up to volunteer and work a shift
- Donate: Pies, cakes, books, homegrown produce, homemade jellies, plants.
- Sell raffle tickets to friends and neighbors.
- Come to the picnic We look forward to seeing you on September 1!

411 Palmer Road | All parking will be onsite.

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.

111a35c3 — Saturday, 7.00 p.m. and Sunday, 7.00, 7.00, 11.00 a.m.				
Monday, August 4	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Betty Jo Mergen		
Tuesday, August 5	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mike Markus		
Wednesday, August 6	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Doris Ling		
Thursday, August 7	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Bridgette Littmann		
Friday, August 8	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad		
Saturday, August 9	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Angela Krupp		
Sunday, August 10	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Evalee Roeder		
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Margie Pautler		
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Shirley Friesz & Babs Jackson		



Please Pray For

	. 00.00		
Adam Brandt	Janet Michael	Elsa Wiemerslage	Robert Niebruegge
Shane Martin	Patricia Pulcher	John Stonis	Doug Mercille
Jacob Nelson	Maryanne Klosterman	Pedro Acevedo	Kirsten Halton Williams
Bob Beckert	Barbara Kendall	Taylor Cygan	Theresa Zeisler
Amanda Boitano	Jim Grau	Helen Nowack	Doris Boss
Trace Ahrens	Dolores G.	Nate Meyer	Karen Miller
Molly Blevins	Nicole Pennington	The Matt Smith Family	Stephen Wilson
Curtis Sievers	Harold Lutman	Mark Fiore	
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 3, 2025

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21



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!

July 27, 2025	
Actual	19,587.00
Budget	23,300.00
Actual YTD	115,904.47
Budget YTD	132,900.00
Over (under)	(16,995.53)
Prior YTD	75,716.73
Over (under)	40,187.74
Guatemala	255.00
Votive	154.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	65.00
Capital Improvements	45.00
Gibault	110.00
St. Ann Cradle of Hope	50.00
Phase 3	3,252.00





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

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
almmaculateConceptionParishPicnic
Sign up to volunteer online 8/1 or in-person after



PARISH WORK DAY! August 9th, 2025

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.

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.

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 2 & 3) and next 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.

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.

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!

Ministry News & Happenings

Suppet from Mrs. Shea

Mental Health Fast Fact:

19.7% of U.S. Veterans experienced a mental illness in 2020 (3.9 million people).

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...

"Many things have to change course, but it is we human beings who need to change. We lack an awareness of our common origin, of our mutual belonging, and of a future to be shared with everyone." (Laudato Si, #202).

What can I do? Think of one thing you might do to change your behavior toward treating the Earth's resources with more respect.

ICCCW News:

Our summer hiatus is coming to an end. Our next meeting is August 7th at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas in July:

Want to show a child a wonderful Christmas? Join the ICCCW 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! If you would like a list of suggested items to pack, please contact Mary Wilson. Or, if you don't want to do the shopping, you can make a monetary donation. A member of the ICCCW will do the shopping and fill the box. It only takes approximately \$20.00-\$25.00 to fill a box. Donations of any amount will help. Some of the most wanted items are: Toys – deflated ball with pump, dolls, small plush animals, coloring books, crayons; Clothing - dresses, T-shirts; Other - cups or bottles with lids, toothbrushes, headbands, hair ribbons, necklaces, purses or wallets, sunglasses and drawstring bags. Start your Christmas giving a little early this year. Boxes are due by September 15th. Our goal is to fill 150 boxes; we filled 133 boxes last year. Please help us reach our goal! *There will be a box in the gathering space for donations during the month of August.* Questions? Call Mary Wilson at 618-920-0319.

THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord: YOU have the opportunity to support the four men who have answered YES to God's call to serve in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ in our Belleville Diocese. The annual cost for each of our seminarians is over \$50,000.00. Funding from the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps support the expenses of our seminarians and Vocation Office; your pledge or one-time gift is truly an investment in our faith and the life of the Church here in southern Illinois. Please continue to pray for vocations and consider making your gift 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.

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.

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.

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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4TH DEGREE

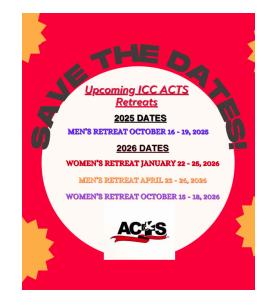
4th Degree Knights 12-Month Restaurant Raffle
Win a \$250 Restaurant Gift Certificate or choose \$200 Cash
Tickets - \$20 each. Only 400 tickets will be sold



Tickets will be sold after all Masses August 2nd & 3nd









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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CAFETERIA DISHWASHER

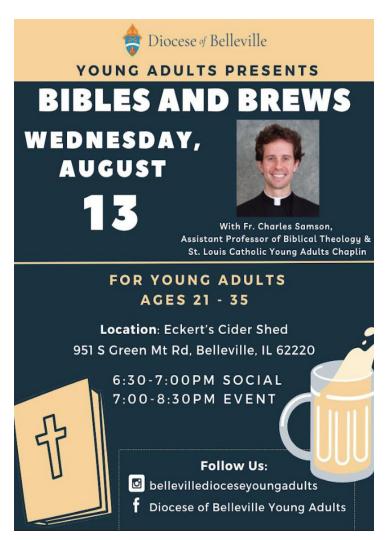
THURSDAY, AND EVERY OTHER FRIDAY, 11:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Duties include: Wash dishes and run the dishwashing machine, maintain cleaning the dishwasher and dishwashing area, help serve the students, help with cleanup of the kitchen. Great work environment, free lunch. Please contact Connie Huebner at mrshuebner@icsmail.org or call the school office at 618-281-5353 for more information.

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...





TRIVIA NIGHT FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Royale Orleans Banquet Center -2801 Telegraph Road, St Louis, MO 63125 August 9th: 7:00-10:00—Doors open at 6:00 p.m. \$25.00/person - Tables of 8 Contact Jim for more information: 314-283-5102

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH – PICNICS

St. George - New Baden, IL Mass at 4:00 p.m., Dinner from 3:30-7:00 p.m. Quilt/Gift Bingo (lightning at 5:45 p.m., Bingo begins at 6:30 p.m.

St. Michael's - Radom, IL Polka Mass at 4:00 p.m., Dinner 3:00-7:30 p.m. Quilt/Cash Bingo at 6:30 p.m.

St. Rose of Lima – St. Rose, IL Mass 4:00 p.m., Chicken Dinner begins at 4:00 p.m. Quilt/Cash Bingo begins around 6:00 p.m.

DOCTORS OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

The American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychiatric Association, and dozens of other medical groups oppose assisted suicide. The AMA says "Physicianassisted 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.

"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"

SAINT DOMINIC

Saint of the Day: August 8

Patron Saint of Astronomers, Dominican Republic

Born in old Castile, Spain, Dominic was trained for the priesthood by a priest-uncle, studied the arts and theology, and became a canon of the cathedral at Osma, where there was an attempt to revive the apostolic common life described in Acts of the Apostles.

On a journey through France with his bishop, Dominic came face to face with the then virulent Albigensian heresy at Languedoc. The Albigensians held to two principles - one good, one evil - in the world. All matter is evil - hence they denied the Incarnation and the sacraments. On the same principle, they abstained from procreation and took a minimum of food and drink.

Dominic sensed the need for the Church to combat this heresy, and was commissioned to be part of the preaching crusade against it. He saw immediately why the preaching crusade was not succeeding: the ordinary people admired and followed the ascetical heroes of the Albigenses. They were not impressed by the Catholic preachers who traveled with horse and retinues, stayed at the best inns and had servants. Dominic therefore, began itinerant preaching according to the Gospel ideal. He continued this work for 10 years, being successful with the ordinary people but not with the leaders.

His fellow preachers gradually became a community, and in 1215 Dominic founded a religious house at Toulouse, the beginning of the Order of Preachers or Dominicans.

Dominic's ideal, and that of his Order, was to organically link a life with God, study, and prayer in all forms, with a ministry of salvation to people by the Word of God. His ideal: contemplata tradere: "to pass on the fruits of contemplation" or "to speak only of God or with God."

*Read the full article: "Saint Dominic" Franciscan Media, Franciscan Friars,

https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-dominic/ (Accessed July 18, 2025).

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Year C: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



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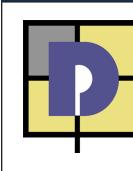
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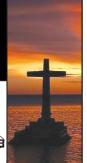


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