



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 31, 2025

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

You restored the land when it languished;
your flock settled in it;
in your goodness, O God,
you provided it for the needy.

– Psalm 68:10-11



ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST AND IN THE TRADITION OF CATHOLICISM AND UNDER THE PATRONAGE
OF MARY IMMACULATE, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO BE A WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF FAITH,
WORSHIPPING WITH GENERATIONS OF BELIEVERS AND SERVING GOD IN ALL PEOPLE.

Welcome New Parishioners

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

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

We livestream! To participate, please use this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmaculateConceptionCatholicChurchColumbiaIL>

Parish Office Hours

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

Phone: 618-281-5105

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. 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@iccmail.org

ICS Principal,
Mike Crean
281-5353, ext. 202
mcrean@iccmail.org

Pastoral Council Chair,
Tammy Hoeflinger
parishcouncil@iccmail.org

School Board President,
Jessica Wachtel
boardpresident@iccmail.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, September 1	8:05 a.m.	No Mass
Tuesday, September 2	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Al Lehr, Sr.
Wednesday, September 3	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Paul Toenjes
Thursday, September 4	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Jane Frey
Friday, September 5	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Anna Lawlor
Saturday, September 6	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
	11:00 p.m.	We Remember Crawford Bryant
Sunday, September 7	7:00 a.m.	We Remember George & Viola Rahn
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember James Kelemetc
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Henry & Mae Doerr



Please Pray For

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

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 31, 2025

First Reading: Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24
Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14



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.



EUCCHARISTIC 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!

*Offertory not available
at time of printing.*

Special Collection

Aid to Gaza \$ 1,706.00

From Our Young Stewards

*Not available
at time of printing.*

You restored the land
when it languished;
your flock settled in it;
in your goodness, O God,

*you provided it
for the needy.*

– Psalm 68:10-11

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 qualified 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...

LABOR DAY

September 1, 2025 – No 8:05 a.m. Mass.



Save the date!

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

PARISH PICNIC

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
1
2025

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
@ImmaculateConceptionParishPicnic
Sign up to volunteer online 8/1 or in-person after
all masses on Aug. 9/10 & Aug. 25/24.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

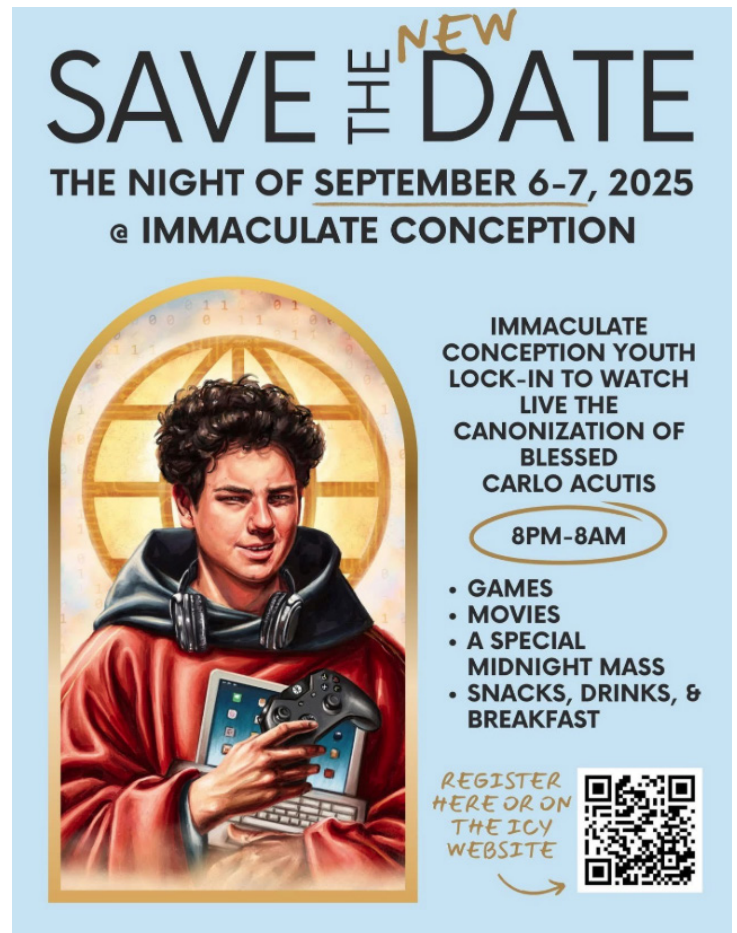
Volunteer opportunity...the Labor Day Picnic is looking for someone to shadow the current Chair for the Tea and Lemonade Stand for 2025 and Chair the stand beginning in 2026. If interested, contact Patrick McDermott at 618-779-1183, mcdermott.pat91@gmail.com.

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.



NEW

SAVE THE DATE


THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2025
@ IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION YOUTH
LOCK-IN TO WATCH
LIVE THE
CANONIZATION OF
BLESSED
CARLO ACUTIS

8PM-8AM

- GAMES
- MOVIES
- A SPECIAL
MIDNIGHT MASS
- SNACKS, DRINKS, &
BREAKFAST

REGISTER
HERE OR ON
THE ICY
WEBSITE



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.

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!

BLOOD DRIVE

September 12, 2025 in the Garden Level

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 iccmil@iccmil.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

Parish Work Day! October 11, 2025

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:

Depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy \$1 trillion in lost productivity each year.



Pope Francis Said:

"Yet it would also be mistaken to view other living beings as mere objects subjected to arbitrary human domination."
(*Laudato Si* # 82)

What can I do? Take a look at the book, *For Love of Animals: Christian Ethics, Consistent Action*, by Charles Camosy.

THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

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 make this experience possible. Partner with Newman's students and staff by making your gift to The Appeal today!

Quilters' Corner

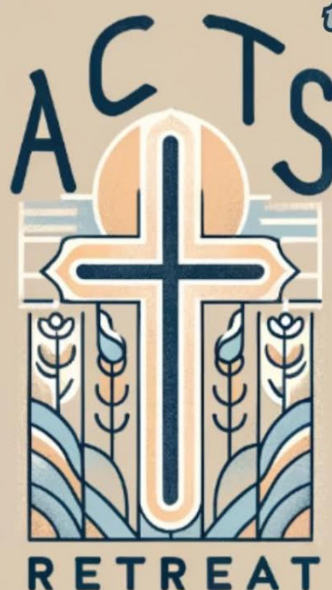
Join our super fun quilters' group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome and appreciated, even beginners! Contact Carlene at 281-5877.

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.



Stay Connected with the ACTS Community!

***Embrace the calmness and
reconnect with the ACTS
family. If you're not
receiving emails from
acts@iccmil.org, you
might be missing out!
Update Your Info Now! If
you're not on our mailing
list, simply send us an email
at acts@iccmil.org with
your latest contact
information. Let's keep you
in the loop and build a
stronger, connected ACTS
family together!***

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)

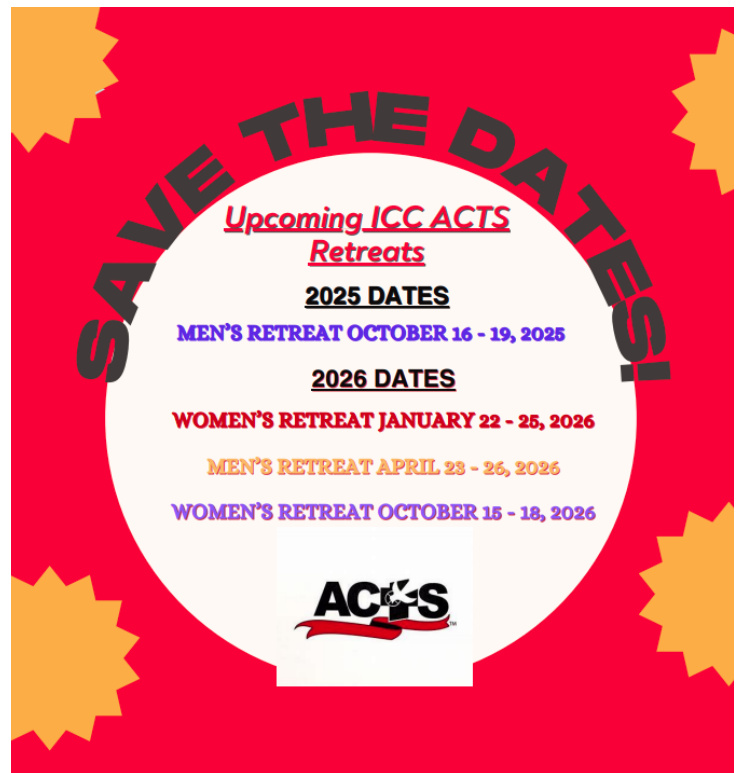
November 2, 11:00 a.m. Mass – Annual Candle lighting Remembrance for Parishioners.

VOCATION

Both the Book of Sirach and the Gospel of Luke today stress that we should live our lives in humble fashion. WOW! What a challenge. Yet, we are called each day to use our talents to glorify the Lord and spread His word. Are we humble enough to recognize the talents that we truly have? Are we also humble enough to set aside our egos and hear what God is truly calling us to do? Can we clean up after our kids without grumbling? Can we rise for work with a willing spirit? Can we set down our phone and pray for a moment that a young person might pursue a religious vocation?

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.



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

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

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 fun fall designs, two new ones debuting this year. For more information, to volunteer or to place an order, contact: Emilee Dufford at 618-616-6878 or emileedufford@gmail.com (or talk with an ICS student).

Scan here
to order



Sponsored by ICS Parents and Friends, all proceeds benefit Immaculate Conception School.

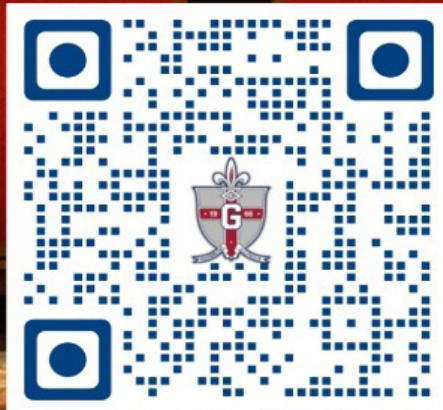
What's Happening at Gibault?

GIBAULT

Ole Opry

OCTOBER 18, 2025 | OKTOBERFEST DINNER AUCTION

SCAN QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS, DONATE & MORE



Diocesan and Area Interests...

GOD CHOSE YOU FOR ME

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Presents...

COUPLES WHO PRAY TOGETHER, STAY TOGETHER

Date: Saturday, September 20, 2025
Time: 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Where: St. Peter's Cathedral
200 W Harrison St, Belleville, IL 62220

Pre-registration necessary
\$100 per couple - Includes lunch

Create a personal prayer for your marriage and realize God's call to a relationship of unity and holiness.

Help your love to blossom and mature to strengthen your spiritual commitment!



APPLY HERE


"It's like watering your marriage garden with Miracle Grow."
-Karen and Dave



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 4:00-10:00 p.m., food, music, booths, raffles

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.

"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"

CATHOLIC URBAN PROGRAMS

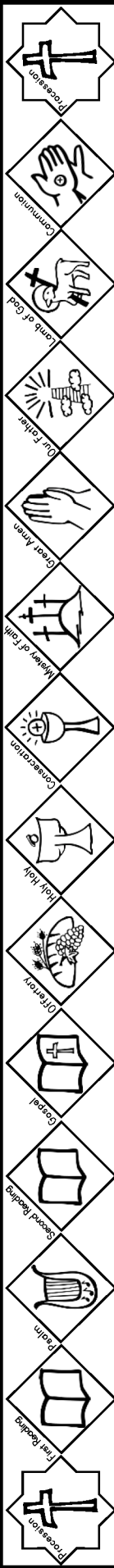
5TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025
12 PM REGISTRATION & LUNCH
1 PM SHOTGUN START

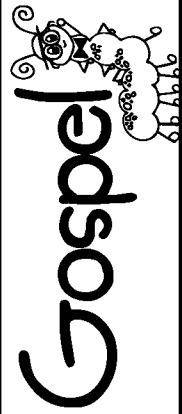
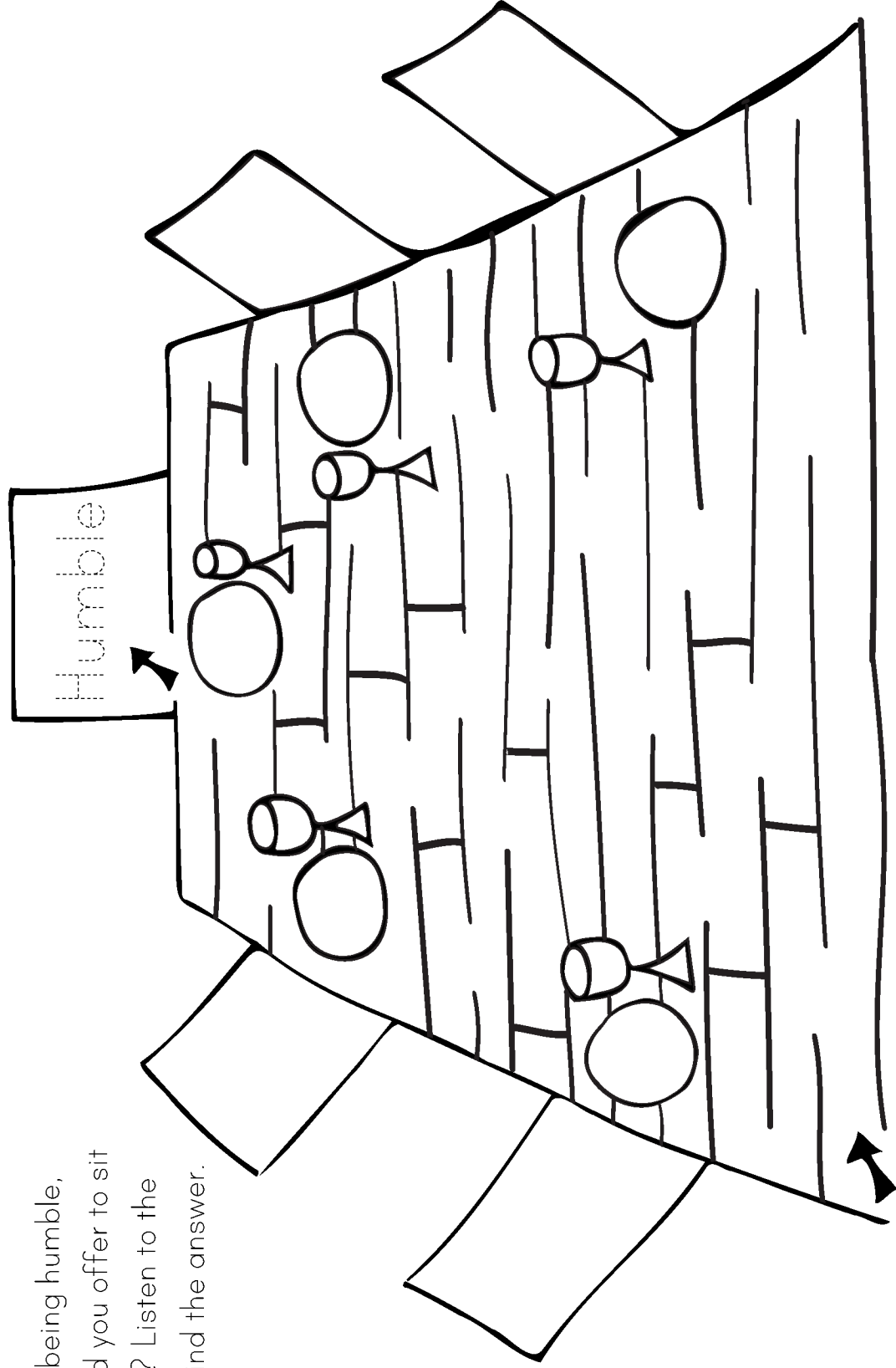
The Orchards Golf Club
1499 Golf Course Dr,
Belleville, IL 62220



www.catholicurbanprograms.org/events



If you are being humble,
where should you offer to sit
at a table? Listen to the
Gospel to find the answer.



Jesus went to dinner with the Pharisees. They all wanted to sit in the place of honor at the table. They all thought they were the most important people! Jesus told them to be humble. You can be humble by being kind and generous to your friends and family.



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jay@jayhuetsch.com



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HEARTLAND
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Beautify your home with an instant Lawn
Heartland Fescue Sod,
Meyer Zoysia, Bluegrass
TOM KEEVEN, Owner
618-281-TURF
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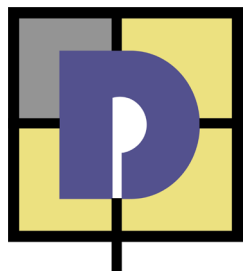
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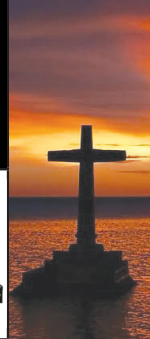
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