



# Immaculate Conception

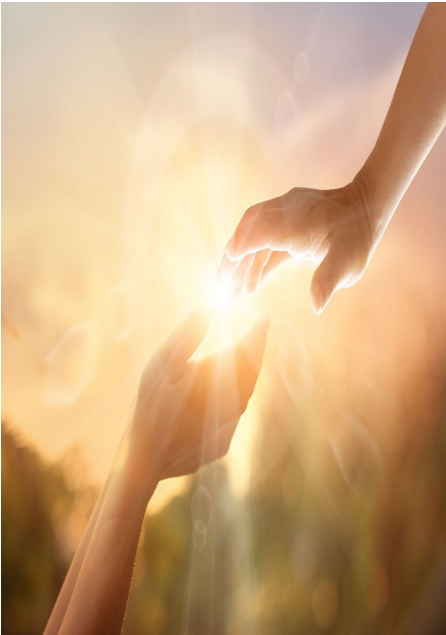
A Full Stewardship Parish ~ Partner Parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupu, IL  
411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL 62236 | 618-281-5105 | Fax 281-6848

September 21, 2025

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[www.icc-columbia-il.us](http://www.icc-columbia-il.us)

## NEVER TOO LATE: BECOMING CATHOLIC AS AN ADULT



Everyone we know is on a faith journey, and each person's journey is as individual as his or her fingerprint. Many of us have similar paths on the journey: baptized into the Catholic faith as an infant, reception of First Eucharist around the age of seven, and Confirmed some time later, often at junior high or high school age. Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation are known as the Sacraments of Initiation, and – as the name implies – the completion of all three indicates that we have full membership in the Catholic faith.

The journey to full communion takes a more winding path for others, perhaps even for you or someone you know. Perhaps they were baptized in a different Christian denomination, or perhaps they were not baptized at all. Maybe they began their journey in the Catholic faith with infant Baptism, but did not complete all the Sacraments of Initiation.

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, these people may be drawn to our Church and our practices, seeking to know God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – through our community, the living Body of Christ.

How do we respond to this grace? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA, formerly RCIA), is a beautiful series of rites to guide those seeking Baptism

or full communion. The OCIA formation process helps each person discern how God is moving through their lives, leading them to become a member of the Body of Christ in the Catholic tradition. Inquirers work with our director of faith formation, Lizanne Young, and a team of volunteers to break open Scripture, and begin to understand our teachings and practices. As most Catholics already know, this learning is a lifelong process, but it has to start somewhere.

Every year at the Easter Vigil, we – along with Catholics around the world – welcome those who are newly baptized or newly received into full communion. We as a parish accompany our inquirers over weeks and months of preparation and prayer. The best thing we can do as the Body of Christ is to provide a warm welcome to those inquirers!

If you would like to know more about becoming Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation, please reach out to Lizanne Young at [lyoung@iccmil.org](mailto:lyoung@iccmil.org) or 618-281-5105, ext 354. She and the team are excited to meet all inquirers and start the discussion and discernment.

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@iccmil.org

**Business Manager,  
Kara Dell-Hunt**  
ext. 350, kdell-hunt@iccmil.org

**Director of Liturgy & Music,  
Theresa Flores**  
ext. 312, tflores@iccmil.org

**Director of Faith Formation,  
Lizanne Young**  
ext. 354, lyoung@iccmil.org

**IC-PSR Coordinator,  
Rebecca Husman**  
ext. 353, rhusman@iccmil.org

**Bookkeeper,  
Sheryl Oglesby**  
ext. 351, shoglesby@iccmil.org

**Secretary,  
Michelle Muckensturm**  
ext. 300, iccmil@iccmil.org

**Spiritual and Mental Health  
Advocate, Shea Christensen**  
ext. 352, schristensen@iccmil.org

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

**Pastoral Council Chair,  
Tammy Hoefflinger**  
parishcouncil@iccmil.org

**School Board President,  
Jessica Wachtel**  
boardpresident@iccmil.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@iccmil.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 22	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Gerald Metts
Tuesday, September 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mike Markus
Wednesday, September 24	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, September 25	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Kathy (Prindable) Lange
Friday, September 26	8:05 a.m.	We Remember JoAnn Sander
Saturday, September 27	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Angela Krupp
Sunday, September 28	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Carl & Bernice Riebeling
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Crawford Bryant
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Doris Ling



### *Please Pray For*

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

*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*

**September 21, 2025**

**First Reading:** Amos 8:4-7

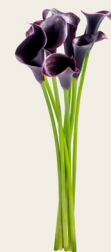
**Second Reading:** First Timothy 2:1-8

**Gospel:** Luke 16:1-13



### *Our Sympathies...*

To Matt Krippel and his family on the death of his mother Joyce Krippel, 84, of Columbia.



## **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!

September 14, 2025

Actual	13,788.49
Budget	23,350.00
Actual YTD	385,050.50
Budget YTD	415,500.00
Over (under)	(30,449.50)
Prior YTD	444,722.55
Over (under)	(59,672.05)
Guatemala	607.00
Votive	125.00
Capital Improvements	135.00
Gibault	30.00
Diocese Retired Priests	920.00
Phase 3	1,131.00

— • —  
*Thank you*

for your generous donation to Sr. Thea Bowman. With the anonymous matching gift, we are sending them a check for \$18,937.00.

— • —



## From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$241.49

Time and Talent: I watered my plants, I cleaned my room

*\*The above totals include online giving through 8/31/25.*

## YEAR END TAX PLANNING

To optimize your tax savings before the year ends, consider these year-end tax planning tips:

- Maximize contributions to retirement accounts like 401(k)s and IRAs.
- Harvest tax losses by selling underperforming investments.
- Bunch charitable donations into one year to exceed the standard deduction.
- Review your withholding and adjust if necessary to avoid penalties.
- Take advantage of flexible spending accounts (FSAs) before funds expire.
- Consider making energy-efficient home improvements for potential tax credits.

Contact your financial or tax advisor for more information.

— Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

## Parish Events & News...

### 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.

### PICNIC WINNERS

#### \$500.00 WINNERS:

Chuck Witkarski	Clara Liszewski	David Bodinet
Mike Sykora	Jeremy Pritchett	Amber Grass
Matt Brotherton	Becky Stechmesser	
Jill Acre	MaryAnn Held	

#### RAFFLE WINNERS:

Jayne Turner – Peach Quilt
Keith & Seanin Heinen – \$100.00 Linnemann
The Runde Family – \$100.00 Dusty Dogs
Barb Fiore – \$200.00 Imos
Ruth Fresenburg – \$250.00 Harres
Anna Dressler – 4 rounds of golf Annbriar
Rhonda Daniels – Blue Bird Quilt
Andrew Callis – West Park Bowl/2 pizzas and bowl
Diana Kuerz – \$100.00 Sunset Overlook
Deb Bethel – \$250.00 Joe Boccardis



## Parish Work Day!

October 11, 2025

### 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](mailto:iccmil@iccmil.org). If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

### 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!

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

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the 8th graders will be October 18 and 19. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

## Ministry News & Happenings

### ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Our first meeting will be on October 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Garden Level Library. Anyone impacted by Alzheimer's or Dementia, whether it be personally or through a family member, is welcome to attend. Please contact Shea Christensen in the Parish office at 281-5105 (ext. 352) for more information.

### Snippet from Mrs. Shea

Mental Health Fast Facts:

The average delay between experiencing the first signs of mental illness symptoms and receiving treatment is 11 years.

### MEALS FROM THE



Just a reminder that we still have a group of parishioners available to make meals. So if you're going through a rough time, let us help you out!

We provide meals as needed on a temporary basis. Just call or text Robin Billmeyer at 314-604-4495 if we can help out!

### 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:

"It is foreseeable that, once certain resources have been depleted, the scene will be set for new wars, albeit under the guise of noble claims." (Laudato Si #57)

**What can I do?** Consider whether any recent global conflicts (wars) have been fought over natural resources. Consider why there are so many refugees migrating.

### 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@iccmail.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@iccmail.org with  
your latest contact  
information. Let's keep you  
in the loop and build a  
stronger, connected ACTS  
family together!*

# SAVE THE DATES!

Upcoming ICC ACTS  
Retreats

**2025 DATES**


**MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2025**

**2026 DATES**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT JANUARY 22 - 25, 2026**

**MEN'S RETREAT APRIL 23 - 26, 2026**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 15 - 18, 2026**



## VOCATION

“There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God’s word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged “place” for our encounter with God...Mary Most Holy, the Mother of our Savior, had the courage to embrace this ideal, placing her youth and her enthusiasm in God’s hands. Through her intercession, may we be granted that same openness of heart, that same readiness to respond, “Here I am,” to the Lord’s call, and that same joy in setting out (cf. Lk 1:39), like her, to proclaim Him to the whole world.”

– Pope Francis, November 26, 2016

## 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.

## THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

### Hope in the Lord

A most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to the 2025 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as yet, there’s still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on “Giving to the Diocese”). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year’s Appeal and all those we serve. Thank you and may God bless you always.

## 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 & Red Bud). 618-939-4224 [mylifenet.org](http://mylifenet.org)
- ~ Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis) [birthrightstl.org](http://birthrightstl.org)
- ~ Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by Abortion – Project Rachel, 618-722-5068 or [hopeafterabortion.com](http://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](http://BeNotAfraid.net) or [PrenatalPartnersforLife.org](http://PrenatalPartnersforLife.org).

Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. [Birthrightstl.org](http://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.

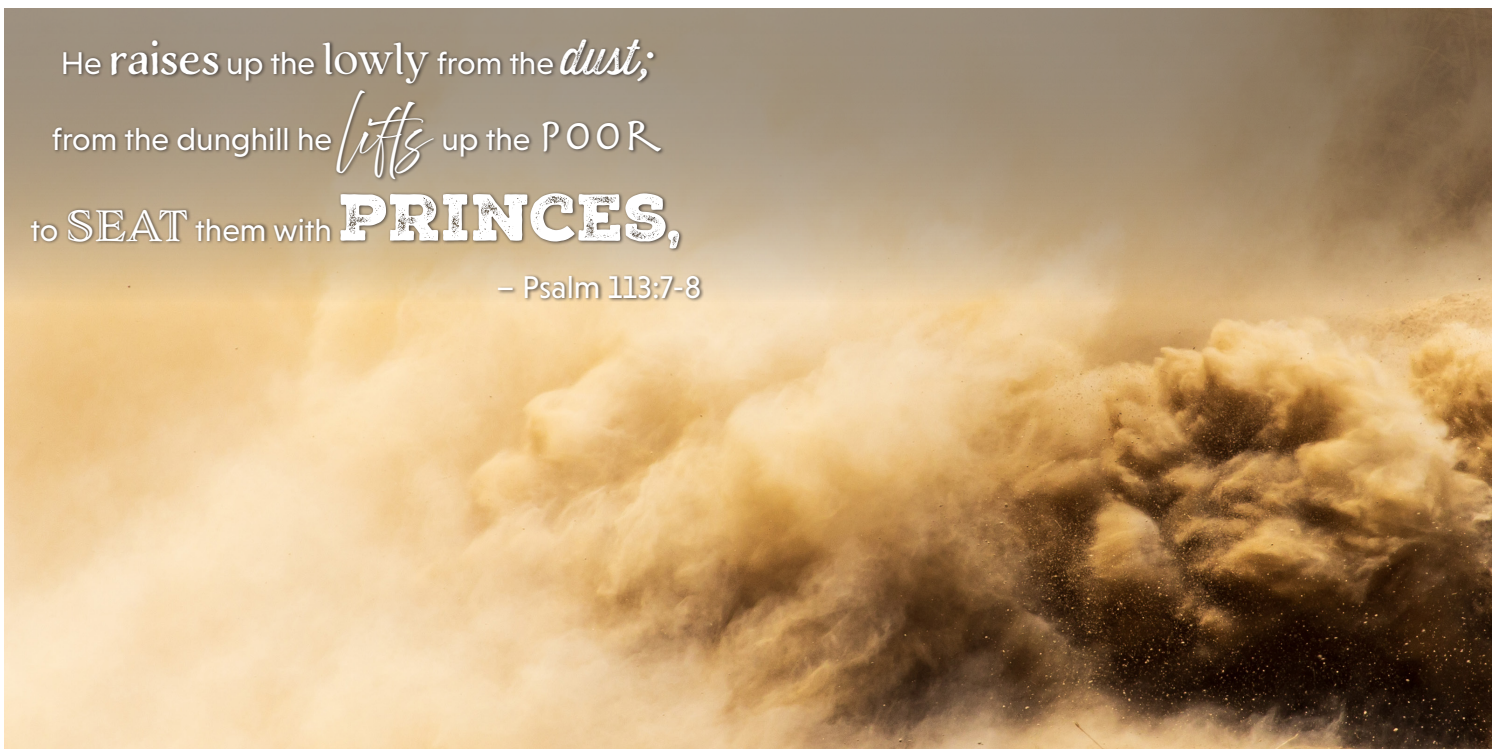
“Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask 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”*

He **raises** up the lowly from the *dust*;  
from the dunghill he *lifts* up the POOR  
to SEAT them with **PRINCES**,  
– Psalm 113:7-8





# 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

## 4TH GRADE BIBLE BLESSING!



## *What's Happening at Gibault?*

Happy New School Year! We are rocking and rolling at Gibault – Come check us out! 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors. Come and experience what a day in the life of a Hawk is all about! Want to know more about Gibault? Schedule a private tour! Come and check out our home games and cheer on our Hawks with us! Open House is coming up on October 5th – come and take a tour of the school, meet the teachers, and see what our alumni are up to. Any questions can be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at [pkueker@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:pkueker@gibaulthawks.com).

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5**

# *Open House*

**EMPOWERING MINDS.  
ENRICHING SOULS.  
WE ARE GIBAULT**

**GIBAULT CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**COME AS YOU CAN**  
DOORS ARE OPEN FROM 12PM - 3PM

**WHETHER YOU'RE SCOPING IT OUT OR STROLLING DOWN  
MEMORY LANE, THIS IS YOUR PLACE!**

**GIBAULT**  
*Ole Opry*

**OCTOBER 18, 2025 | OKTOBERFEST DINNER AUCTION**

**SCAN QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS, DONATE & MORE**

## *Diocesan and Area Interests...*

**Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)** retreats for 2025/2026. The Belleville Diocese is providing 2 TEC retreat weekends for the 2025/2026 academic school year. TEC is a 3-day Catholic retreat weekend designed for young adults, juniors and seniors (or older) in high school, who are looking for an opportunity to develop a stronger relationship with God and/or their fellow Christians. If you, or someone you know, are looking for an opportunity to enhance your relationship with Jesus Christ or experience your Catholic faith in a dynamic and fun-filled setting, then a TEC retreat may be just what you are looking for. The TEC weekends are scheduled for October 11-13 at Mater Dei High School in Breese and January 17-19 at Immaculate Conception School in Columbia. To learn more, or attend a TEC weekend, please visit our website at [bellevilletec.org](http://bellevilletec.org). If you've attended a TEC weekend in the past and would like to attend one of the reunions, please visit [bellevilletec.org](http://bellevilletec.org) for additional details.





## NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN 2025

**WHEN:** October 5, 2025 2pm-3pm

**WHERE:** MILLSTADT IL

**WHY:** SUPPORT LIFE

**WHO:** ALL ARE WELCOME

Parking and sign pick-up/return available at St. James Catholic church parking lot and Central Bank parking lot starting at 1:45 pm. We will be standing on Washington Street.

In the spirit of Christian love, we will stand peacefully and prayerfully to support the unborn babies and their parents. Please join us and offer your support to protect those who are unable to protect themselves.

If you need more information or would like to donate to this cause, please contact Suzie Kidd at [kiddsuz18@gmail.com](mailto:kiddsuz18@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).



Help us cover every hour of all 40 days in prayer at the fence!  
September 24 - November 2

We are asking churches, ministries, small groups, and families to prayerfully consider committing to:

- Adopt a Full Day – Your group covers all 12 hours (7 AM–7 PM)
- Adopt a Half Day – Cover either the morning or afternoon/evening
- Adopt a Time Slot – Commit to one or more hours

Substitutes Needed

Campaign Events

**Kickoff**  
Adopt Day 1 of the campaign and receive 40 Days for Life t-shirts for your team!

•

**Midpoint Rally**  
Illinois Right to Life Ground Zero Tour  
Sunday, October 12  
MPH Maryville, IL

•

**Closing Rally**  
Saturday, November 1  
Time, date and location TBD



**Sign Up Today!**  
To adopt your day or time slot, or become a substitute, contact:  
Kristi, Theresa and Molly  
at [FVH40Days@yahoo.com](mailto:FVH40Days@yahoo.com)  
Together, we can fill every hour and make this 40 Days for Life campaign the most prayerful yet!

Follow the campaign on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/FVH40Days>

Honor your Loved Ones on

## All Souls Day

With Your Personalized Tribute In *The Messenger*

**Tributes will appear in our October 23rd publication.**

Sample Tributes

In Loving Memory of  
John Smith

In Loving Memory of  
John Smith

Please Print the name(s) of your deceased loved one(s) on the line(s) below. \$20 donation for each name.

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Loving Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return your All Souls Day Tributes to *The Messenger* (222 S. Third St. Belleville, IL 62220) by October 6, 2025. If you have any questions, please call 618-722-5047 or email [advertising@bellevillemessenger.org](mailto:advertising@bellevillemessenger.org).**

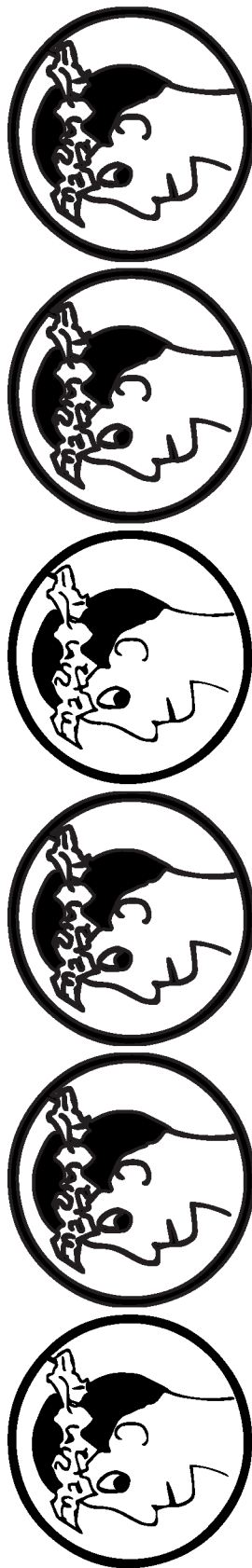
**Submitting Person's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

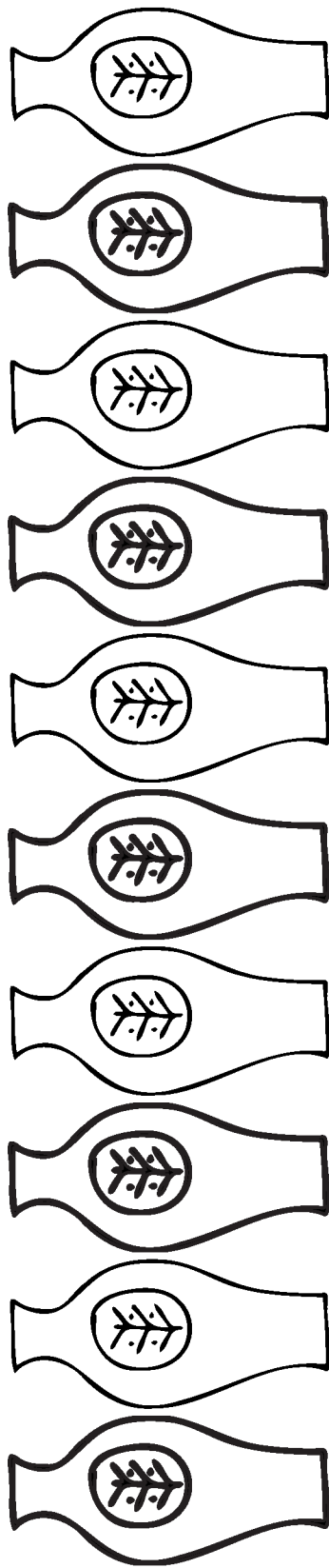
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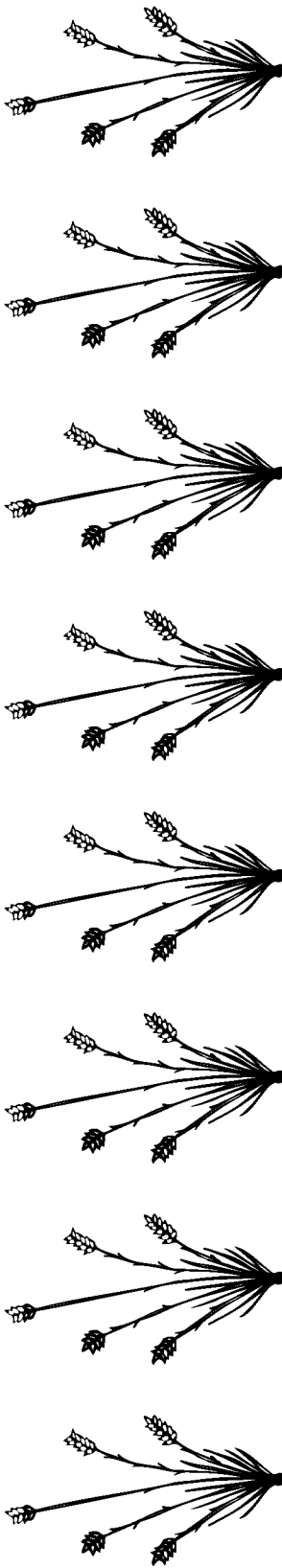
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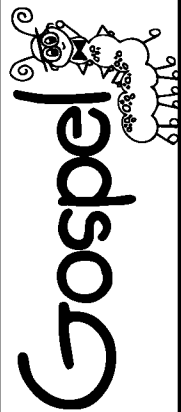
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Jesus tells a parable today. Do you remember what "parable" means? It's a story that Jesus uses to teach a lesson. Today's lesson is about a man who was dishonest with money. Jesus reminds us that we should always be honest!





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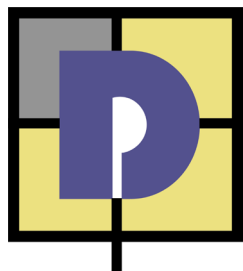
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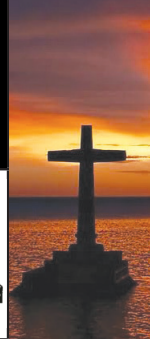
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