



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 28, 2025

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

Dear Friends,

October is Respect Life Month, and the ICC Sanctity of Life Ministry invites you to pray for a greater respect for human life from conception to natural death. Respecting and protecting life from its most tender beginning is key to respecting life in all its stages and in our day-to-day interactions. We challenge each of you to grow your Pro-life awareness and support by attending one or more of the Respect Life Month events listed below as well as any others occurring throughout the year. With grace, compassion, mercy, and the truth of Christ, we celebrate and promote the sanctity of life. – *Peace and blessings from the ICC Sanctity of Life Ministry*

RESPECT LIFE MONTH EVENTS

Sept 24 - Nov 5	40 Days for Life: Be a prayerful, peaceful witness for life. 7am-7pm each day by Planned Parenthood, Fairview Hts; Choose whatever date and time works for you. Sign up individually, or get a group together. Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Life Team will be there all day on Thurs Oct 16. Email bleinholz@gmail.com to coordinate a spot with their ministry, join the Diocese of Belleville Life, Marriage and Family Ministry (there every Friday from 1-7pm), or choose your own day/time at www.40daysforlife.com/en/fairviewheights .
Sat/Sun, Oct 4/5	Respect Life Educational Display and Prayer Guides in ICC Gathering Space What will you do to promote a greater respect for the sanctity of life?
Sun, Oct 5	Life Chain National Event , Stand & Pray 2-3 pm in Millstadt along Washington St (Rte 158) between Lafayette St and Kossuth St. Meet at 1:45pm in the St. James Church parking lot to pick up signs. Questions? Call 618/476-3513 M-F 8:30-3.
Sat, Oct 11	Public Holy Rosary for Life & Peace , noon-12:30ish near the fountain in front of Columbia City Hall, hosted by ICC Council of Catholic Women and ICC Sanctity of Life Ministry
Sat/Sun, Oct 11/12	Blessing of Expectant and Adopting Parents at all Masses
Sun, Oct 12	IL Right to Life Ground Zero Tour at Mother of Perpetual Help, 200 N Lange Ave, Maryville, IL, 2pm Presentation/discussion of issues relevant to the fight for life in Illinois and beyond
Tues, Oct 14	Eucharistic Adoration at ICC 4-8pm with a special Holy Hour for the Sanctity of Human Life beginning at 7pm with a pro-life Holy Rosary, a scripture reading, and Adoration and Benediction to follow. This Holy Hour will be in place of our Sanctity of Life monthly meeting.
Sat, Oct 18	United For Life , Stand and pray along Rte 3 in Waterloo with Sts. Peter & Paul Parish LifeTeam 10-11am. Contact breinholz@gmail.com for info.
Sun Oct 19	ICC's "Walk to Remember" 3pm - a ceremonial walk for parents to remember losses due to miscarriage, stillbirth, young infants, lost adoptions, and abortion. Watch the bulletin for additional details.
Sat/Sun, Oct 25/26	Holy Rosary with prayer intentions for life before all Masses

“Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God.” – Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2319

The *sanctity of life* is the principle that human life is inherently sacred, invaluable, and deserving of respect and protection from conception to natural death. It is rooted in both religious traditions, where life is seen as a divine gift, and philosophical ethics, which ties it to intrinsic human dignity and rights. The concept is central to debates on issues such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and the care of vulnerable people, advocating for the equal worth of all human beings regardless of their circumstances. – *AI Google definition of sanctity of life*

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 2025-2026 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 29	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Josh Ritter
Tuesday, September 30	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Judy Albrecht
Wednesday, October 1	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, October 2	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Loretta Weiler
Friday, October 3	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Saturday, October 4	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
Sunday, October 5	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Bernard & Ida Weilbacher
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember David Smith
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Doris Ling



Please Pray For

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

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

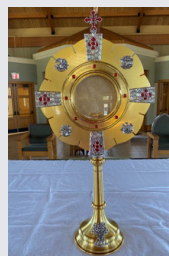
September 28, 2025

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7
Second Reading: First Timothy 6:11-16
Gospel: Luke 16:19-31



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 21, 2025

Actual	73,106.72
Budget	62,850.00
Actual YTD	458,157.22
Budget YTD	478,350.00
Over (under)	(20,192.78)
Prior YTD	452,655.64
Over (under)	5,501.58
Guatemala	651.00
Votive	181.75
Capital Improvements	4,328.00
Cemetery Maintenance	45.00
Gibault	342.00
SVDP	25.00
Diocese Retired Priests	670.00
Eugene Schorb	
Edu. Endowment	53.00
Picnic Donation	153.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	220.00
Phase 3	13,133.19
CEAC	565.00

Eugene J. Schorb IC Fund for Catholic Education

Memorial Donations:

Jane Menner	150.00
Doris Ling	4,385.00
EJ Trust	500.00
Norman Knight Estate	1,000.00
From a Parishioner	10,000.00

Phase 3 Campaign Memorials:

Donna Kania	400.00
Doris Ling	375.00
Bette Jo Mergen	75.00
Jane Menner	50.00
IHO Dave & Dot Touchette's	
60th Anniversary	110.00
Zac Epplin	
(Soccer Fields)	20,000.00

From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: 196.25
Time and Talent: I picked up sticks in the yard; I watered my grandparents' flowers; I took out the dogs.

**The above totals include online giving through 9/15/25*

Debt Status as of 9/21/2025

Endowment Loan	<u>425,000.00</u>
Total Debt	425,000.00

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...

LOST WEDDING BAND:

We found a wedding ring in the school parking lot. If you've lost yours, let us know and we'll ask you to describe it and provide a picture if you have one.

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.

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!

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

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

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

Ministry News & Happenings

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Erma was on her way to the airport, preparing to catch a flight to Chicago's O'Hare. She got to her gate in plenty of time and as she waited to board the plane, she got out her book that she had been wanting to crack open for a long time, but never had the chance to do it. It felt so good just to sit there and not be bothered by anyone; just Erma and her book.

Then Erma heard a voice. "I bet it's cold in Chicago." It was an elderly woman sitting next to her. Without looking up from her book, she muttered, "It probably is." The elderly woman continued to talk. Erma continued to give short, unfeeling responses.

Then the elderly woman dropped a bombshell. She was taking the body of her dead husband back to Chicago to be buried. He had died suddenly, after 53 years of marriage. Erma's heart skipped a beat. All of a sudden she realized that the elderly woman sitting next to her was a suffering soul. She just wanted to be heard. She needed another human being so badly that she turned to a complete stranger. The elderly woman wasn't seeking money or advice. She just wanted somebody, anybody, to listen to her.

Erma put down her book, held the woman's hand and listened. Then, all of a sudden, it was time to board. The two women walked arm-in-arm down the jetway. They were sitting a few rows apart from each other. As Erma was getting settled in her seat, she heard the elderly woman say to the person next to her, "I bet it's cold in Chicago." Erma silently prayed, "Dear God, please give

the person in the seat next to that poor woman the grace to listen patiently and lovingly."

This story has some similarities to today's Gospel parable of the rich man and Lazarus the beggar. The needs of Lazarus are small and it would take very little for the rich man to help him. The rich man's sin is not in his wealth, nor is it that he kicked Lazarus off his property or would yell and demean Lazarus. None of that stuff. The rich man's sin was that he paid no attention to Lazarus. His sin was ignoring Lazarus. It is a sin of omission, that is, not doing something he should have done. He didn't lift a finger to help someone that would have taken very little effort on his part.

As I see it, these sins of omission are all around us. We can respond in one of three ways. First, we can do what the rich man did in the Gospel. We can close our eyes to the situation, ignore it, pretend it doesn't exist and go on our merry way. Second, we can do what many good people are doing today: They don't ignore it. They actually say something and speak out against it. But that's all they do. Third, instead of closing our eyes to the situation or instead of cursing the darkness produced by the situation, we can light a candle to dispel the darkness and actually do something about it.

Many of us know that it's all too easy to insulate ourselves from uncomfortable situations or situations that can get in the way of our plans and activities. I've been guilty of that before. May we strive to see, recognize and act when the Lazarus' of our lives present themselves to us.

Fr. Brian

Snippet from Mrs. Shea

Mental Health Fast Fact:

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

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Our first meeting will be on October 12th 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.

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:

"We all know that it is not possible to sustain the present level of consumption in developed countries and wealthier sectors of society, where the habit of wasting and discarding has reached unprecedented levels."

(Laudato Si #27)

What can I do?

Am I contributing to the "overconsumption" of the earth's resources? How? Ask yourself if you really do need a new coat, new shoes or new _____.

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)

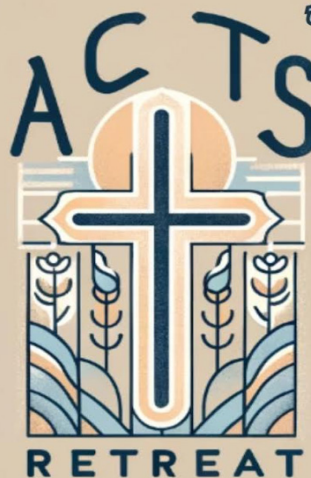
November 2, 11:00 a.m. Mass – Annual Candle lighting Remembrance for Parishioners.

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 (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.

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



BOXES OF JOY

Thanks to all who participated in the “Box of Joy” project. With the help of those who filled boxes, provided items to put in the boxes and gave financial support, we significantly exceeded our goal of 150 boxes. We filled 260 boxes, which is almost double the 133 boxes filled last year!!! All the boxes were delivered to Fairview Heights and will be picked up on September 30th. Thanks again for your support of this wonderful ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach!

VOCATION

This Sunday is Priesthood Sunday – a day set aside to celebrate Priesthood and all those who have accepted it as their life’s work. When praying the Rosary today, offer the first decade for the priest who baptized you, the second for the priest who gave you first Communion, the third for the bishop who confirmed you, the fourth for the priest who witnessed your marriage or the bishop who ordained you (or will do so in the future), and the fifth decade for the priest who will anoint you at your death. These are the priests who have been with you in your life. Materials you can “use” for Priesthood Sunday can be found at:

- <https://vianneyvocations.com/product-tag/priesthood-sunday/>
- <https://serraspark.org/annual-events-supporting-vocations/>
- <https://www.vocationministry.com/vocation-day/vocation-days/priesthood-sunday/>

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 & 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.

ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER CLOTHING AND ITEMS DRIVE

The Drive will be held the weekend of October 11-12, 2025. All items of warm clothing and bedding will be accepted. Sizes of clothing range from infant to adult and bedding items include blankets, quilts, sheets, and pillows. Men’s shoes (not tennis shoes) and jeans are particularly needed. Items collected will be distributed in East St. Louis. Questions? Carol or John Waide at 618-281-4186 or 618-910-1648. We appreciate your help.

– ICC St. Vincent de Paul Society



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

UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS

October 3rd, 2025
8:15 a.m. in the Garden Level

UPCOMING FATHER'S CLUB MEETINGS

October 16th, 2025
7:30 p.m. at Sunset Overlook

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.

GIBAULT
Ole Opry

OCTOBER 18, 2025 | OKTOBERFEST DINNER AUCTION

SCAN QR CODE TO BUY TICKETS, DONATE & MORE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

Open House

**EMPOWERING MINDS.
ENRICHING SOULS.**

WE ARE GIBALT



**GIBALT 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!**

Diocesan and Area Interests...

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

The *Diocese of Belleville Annual Respect Life Conference* will be held at St. Clare of Assisi Church, in O'Fallon, IL on November 15, 2025 from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with Holy Mass at 5:00 p.m. The conference includes breakout sessions for teens and college-age students. Info and registration can be found at: <https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/2025-respect-life-conference>.

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



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.

Submitting Person's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST (TEC)

retreats for 2025/2026. The Belleville Diocese is providing two 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. If you've attended a TEC weekend in the past and would like to attend one of the reunions, please visit 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.

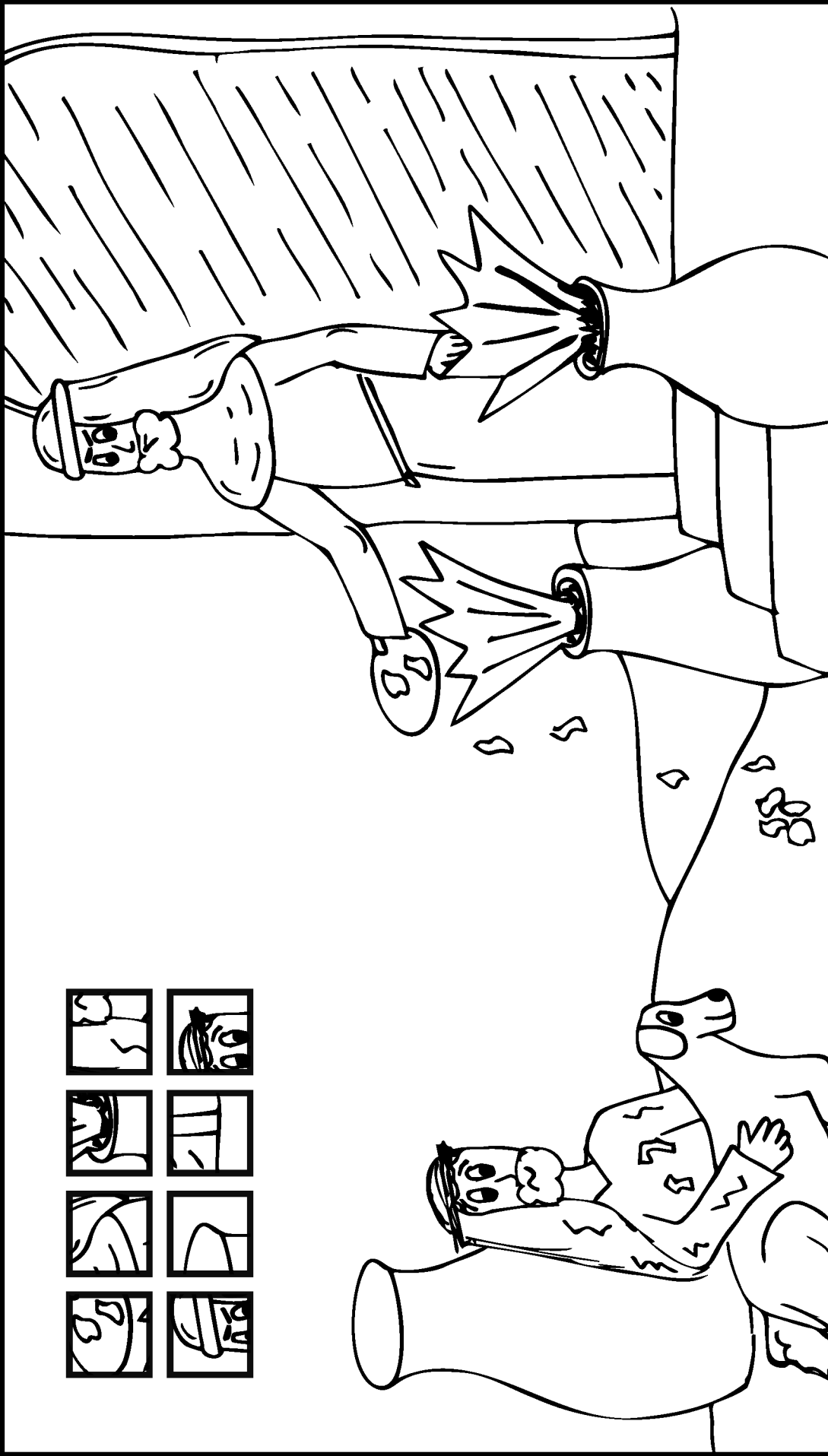
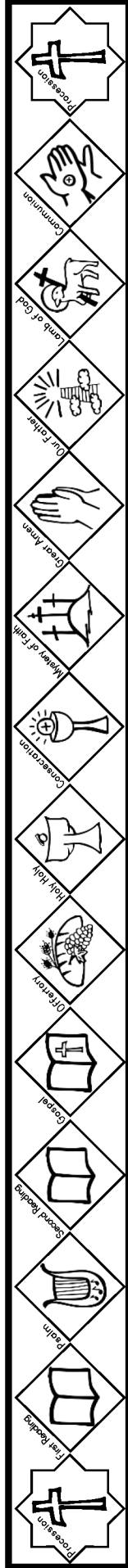
In the spirit of Christian love, we will stand peacefully and prayerfully to support the unborn babies and their parents. Please join us and offer your support to protect those who are unable to protect themselves.

If you need more information or would like to donate to this cause, please contact Suzie Kidd at kiddsuz18@gmail.com.



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Gospel

There was a rich man and a poor man. The poor man, Lazarus, sat begging for food with the dogs. The rich man would never help him! After the rich man died, he didn't go to Heaven. What should he have done to show care for Lazarus?



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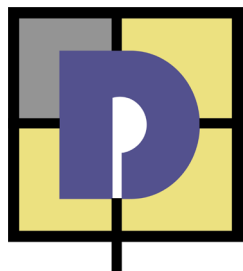
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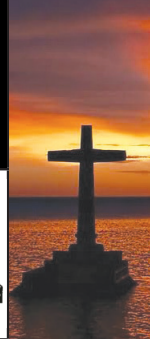
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