



# 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

September 7, 2025

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



Garden of Peace  
Isaiah 32:14-18

## PEACE WITH CREATION SEASON OF CREATION 2025

September 1-October 4

Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home. We confess how estranged we have become – from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves. We acknowledged that our greed and destructive impulses have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and with the Earth. Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate, oceans and rivers are polluted. Thriving communities have become places of suffering, and the earth cries out.  
SEASON OF CREATION

Beloved Christ,  
who spoke “Shalom” to frightened hearts, stir us to compassionate action.  
Inspire us to work for the end of conflict, and for the full restoration of broken relationships – with you, with the ecumenical community, with the human family, and with all Creation.

Prince of Peace,  
through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity  
with the woundedness of others, of creation and of the world.  
Through your resurrection, make us people of hope –  
with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares and tears transformed into joy.  
May we come together as one family,  
to labor for your peace –  
a shalom where all your people may dwell in safety,  
and rest in quiet places. Amen

(ICC Laudato Si Committee)

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 8	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Fr. Gary Hogan
Tuesday, September 9	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Linda Rippelmeyer
Wednesday, September 10	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Doris Ling
Thursday, September 11	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Mary Lou Ratajczyk
Friday, September 12	8:05 a.m.	We Remember James Herrmann
Saturday, September 13	5:00 p.m.	We Remember David Smith
Sunday, September 14	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Bernard & Ida Weilbacher
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Mary Albers
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Patti Rottler



### *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	Arlene Kruse
Molly Blevins	Jackie Lutman	Doug Mercille	Delores Deleveski
Curtis Sievers	Elsa Wiemerslage	Kirsten Halton Williams	Bob Braun
Craig Greer	John Stonis	Theresa Zeisler	Susan Oswill
Janet Michael	Pedro Acevedo	Doris Boss	Steve Dineen
Patricia Pulcher	Taylor Cygan	Karen Miller	

### *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 7, 2025*

**First Reading:** Wisdom 9:13-18b

**Second Reading:** Philemon 1:9-10, 12-17

**Gospel:** Luke 14:25-33



### *Our Sympathies...*

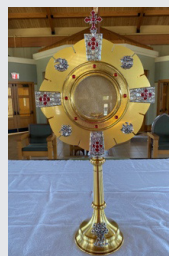
To Sarah Helfrich and her family on the death of her sister Liz Gosma.

To Brad Kesler and his family on the death of his father Bill Kesler, 84, of Waterloo



## **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!

### August 24, 2025

Actual	22,368.14
Budget	23,925.00
Actual YTD	271,663.23
Budget YTD	305,900.00
Over (under)	(34,236.77)
Prior YTD	307,403.49
Over (under)	(35,740.26)
Guatemala	255.00
Votive	188.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	630.00
Capital Improvements	60.00
Gibault	60.00
Diocese Retired Priests	65.00
Aid to Gaza	688.00
Phase 3	2,176.00

### From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: 77.14  
Time and Talent: I cut the grass, took my dogs outside.

### August 31, 2025

Actual	78,474.78
Budget	62,900.00
Actual YTD	350,138.01
Budget YTD	368,800.00
Over (under)	(18,661.99)
Prior YTD	350,075.79
Over (under)	62.22
Guatemala	1,253.00
Votive	135.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	2,667.00
SVDP	46.00
Capital Improvements	100.00
Cemetery Maintenance	20.00
Gibault	306.00
Diocese Retired Priests	890.00
Aid to Gaza	50.00
Picnic Donation	300.00
Phase 3	6,996.60
CEAC	495.00

### From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: 265.55  
Time and Talent: I did my laundry.

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

## 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...

## 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](mailto:schristensen@icsmail.org) or extension 352 in the Parish Office.



## BLOOD DRIVE

September 12, 2025 in the Garden Level

*Parish Work Day!* October 11, 2025

## 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!

## 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.

## 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

## ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



## 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.



## *Snippet from Mrs. Shea*

This week, September 7-13, is National Suicide Awareness Week. Despite suicide being such a tragic occurrence, it is often not openly discussed or talked about. Here are some statistics on suicide in the US:

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14 and the 3rd leading cause of death among those aged 15-24 in the U.S.
- Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.
- 79% of people who die by suicide are male.
- Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are nearly 4 times more likely to attempt suicide than straight youth.
- Transgender adults are nearly 9 times more likely to attempt suicide at some point in their lifetime compared to the general population.

To quote St. John Paul II, "Whoever suffers from mental illness 'always' bears God's image and likeness in himself, as does every human being. In addition, he 'always' has the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such."

If you have ever had thoughts of suicide, know that you are not alone. You are beloved, you are not a burden, and there are people at Immaculate Conception here to help – namely myself. If ever you wish to have someone to talk to about these difficult thoughts, please call my office at 618-281-5105, ext. 352.

However, if you or someone you know is feeling suicidal and you believe they are in danger, please dial 988 or call 800-273-8255 for the National Suicide Hotline. It is free, confidential, and operates 24-hours a day.



## *Pope Francis Said:*

*"When we can see God reflected in all that exists, our hearts are moved to praise the Lord for all His creatures and to worship him in union with them."* (Laudato Si 87).

What can I do? Does being "in nature" make you feel closer to God? Take a walk without earbuds. Observe and listen.

## ICCCW NEWS

**Box of Joy/Christmas in July Update:** Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! We've exceeded our goal of 150 boxes! Your support by filling boxes, bringing items or donating cash has helped us smash this goal. We currently have over 200 boxes filled and parishioners are continuing to return their completed boxes. While this is great news, we need to raise the funds to cover the postage for the additional boxes. Our generous Knights of Columbus paid for our initial goal of 150 boxes and some parishioners have provided funds for postage. However, we are currently short the postage for approximately 40-45 boxes or about \$400.00. Please consider dropping a cash donation in the collection basket marked "Box of Joy" to help us cover this additional need. Donations of any amount will help. Anyone who still has a box, can return it to the gathering space at church. Boxes are due by September 15th; however, you can always bring it back early. Thanks again to those who helped us exceed our goal!

## THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

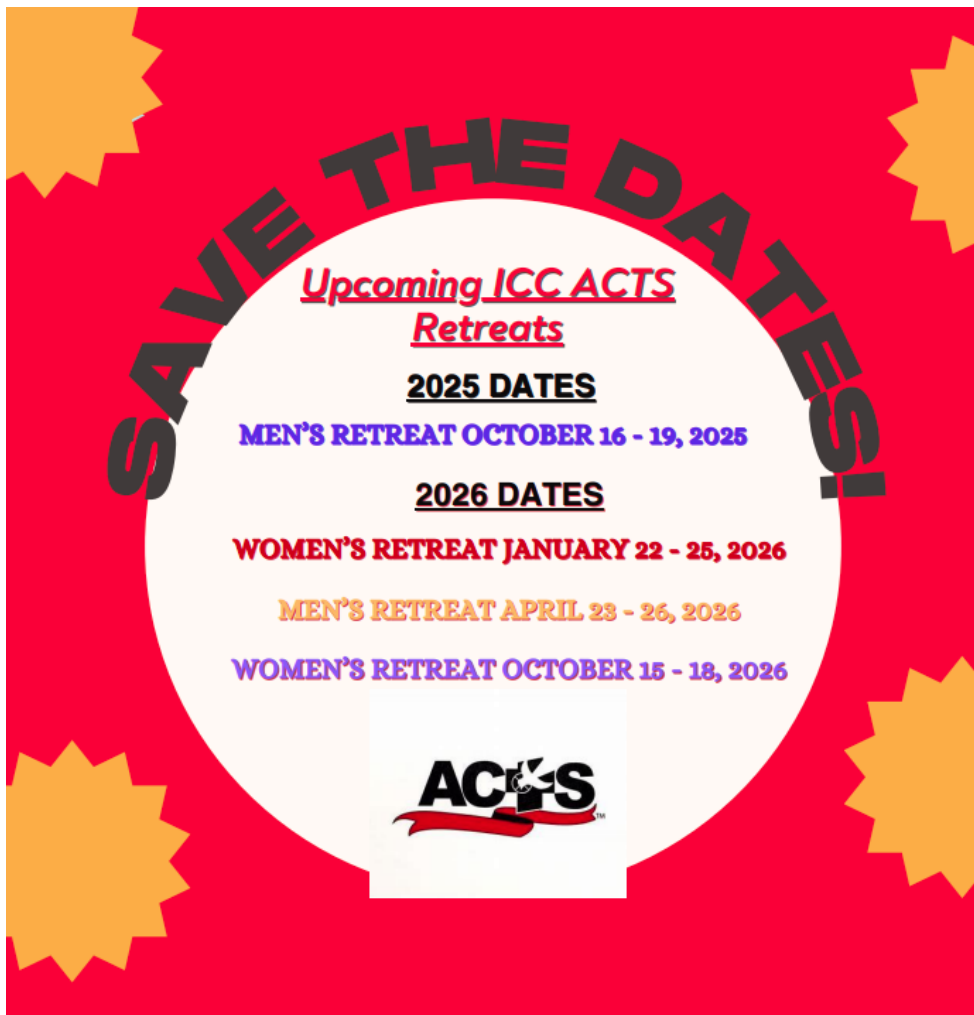
*The Messenger*, our diocesan newspaper, brings local, national and international news of our Catholic faith right into your home through its print and online editions. Your gift to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps to support *The Messenger*. If you haven't done so, subscribe to *The Messenger* today and also make your gift to the Appeal! Thank you for your generosity.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:acts@iccmail.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

Did you know that there are special seminaries for men entering the priesthood later in life, seminaries where students range from ages 25 to 60? Many of these men have thought about being a priest at one time or another but, for whatever reason, pushed the idea to the back of their minds. They are men who have made a career change to a second vocation, the priesthood. They are ordinary people, men who have been electricians, teachers, barbers, police officers, social workers, businesspeople, farmers, dentists. Some are widowers, even grandfathers. Diverse though their backgrounds may be, they now share one aim in life: to become a priest and serve God's people. Could you be one of them?

## 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.

## 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](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.





# 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



8th grade Bi-County Field trip to our local cemeteries, Columbia Police Station and Fire Department, Rock City, and Fort de Chartres.

## *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).



## *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



## 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.





**Hincke-Sense Home  
for Retired Priests**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> Annual*

**Open House**  
**Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025**  
**3-6 PM**

You and your families are invited for tours,  
food/drinks, and visits with our beloved  
retired Priests

**2620 Lebanon Ave, Bldg 4  
Belleville, IL 62221  
618-234-5722**

[diobelle.org/hincke-sense-residence](http://diobelle.org/hincke-sense-residence)  
*Redication of Outdoor Cross at 4pm*



**40 DAYS  
FOR LIFE**  
*Fairview Heights, IL*

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>

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER PICNICS

September 20th

Holy Trinity – Fairview Heights, IL

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



**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

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## 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.

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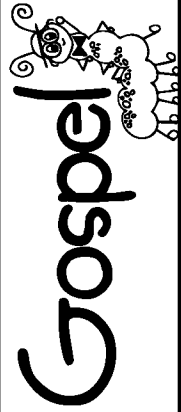
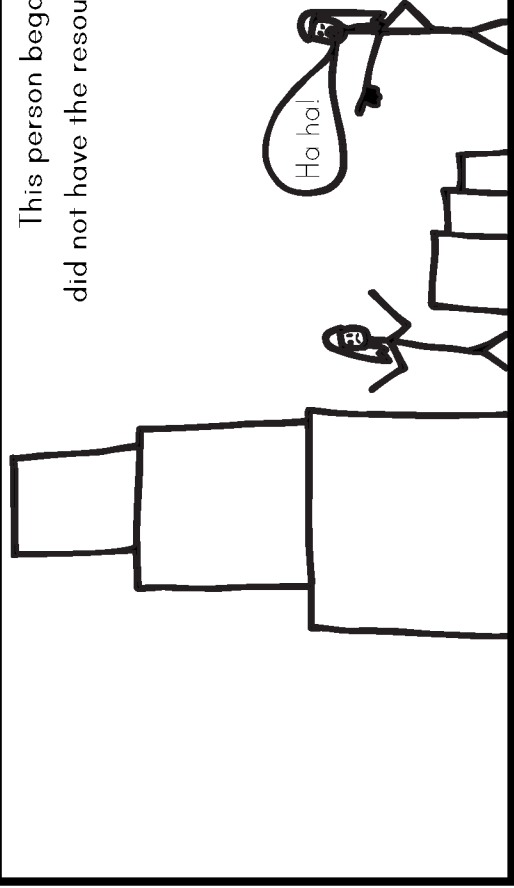
Help me finish this comic about the Gospel. Listen to the Gospel to help you draw pictures.



Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

This person began to build but did not have the resources to finish.

When a king is still far away, he will send a group of soldiers to ask for peace.



Crowds of people followed Jesus to hear His teachings. In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus teaching them how to become His disciples. We can all be disciples by listening to Jesus' teachings.





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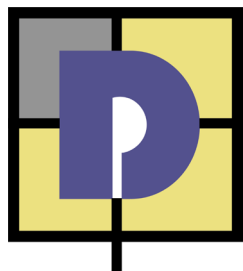
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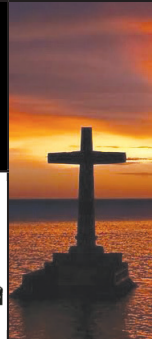
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