



Immaculate Conception

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

October 12, 2025

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us



Walk to Remember

You are not alone. 23 million babies are miscarried every year and mostly treated quietly after their demise. Many are without names, sex, or cause of death, but their memory lives on. 21 thousand babies are stillborn (averaging 1 out of every 175 births) usually from medical complications, and their memory lives on. If you have experienced a failed foster/adoption, a miscarriage, stillbirth, SIDS death, or abortion, there is no need to grieve alone. October is the month dedicated nationally in observance of pregnancy loss. On Sunday, October 19th at 3:00 p.m., the Bereavement Ministry will host an opportunity for you to celebrate that child, talk about the loss (optional), pray, and walk in his/her memory. All of these tragedies result in shattered hopes and dreams in a welcoming family. If you have suffered any of these losses or are a part of a family who has, please join us. We will have a short prayer service which includes a half-mile walk and candle lighting (rain or shine). Come, remember, pray and walk in the memory of your child who lives in Heaven and still holds a deep place in your heart. Should you not be able to attend, please put the name of your child in the basket in the Gathering Space, and we will include him/her in our prayer service. But Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them; for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."* (Matthew 19:14)

If you are unable to join us on the 19th, please fill out a paper from the basket in the Gathering Space with your baby's name and we will read it during our service. Return the paper to the basket. Please contact Kathy Fern, 618-719-1632, with any questions regarding the Walk to Remember or the Bereavement Ministry. If you feel called to serve in our ministry, we would be happy to have you!

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 Hoeflinger
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, October 13	8:05 a.m.	In Honor of Don Williams
Tuesday, October 14	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Job George & Family
Wednesday, October 15	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Doris Ling
Thursday, October 16	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Calvin Fries
Friday, October 17	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, October 18	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Kathy (Prindable) Lange
Sunday, October 19	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Ray & Velma Budde
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Genevieve & William Doerr
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Job George & Family



Please Pray For

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

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

October 12, 2025

First Reading: Second Kings 5:14-17

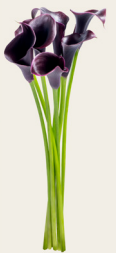
Second Reading: Second Timothy 2:8-13

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19



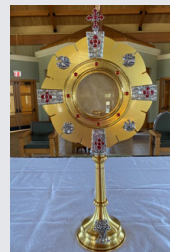
Our Sympathies...

To the family members of Robert Simek, of Columbia, who passed away at the age of 88.



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!

October 5, 2025

Actual	71,144.82
Budget	62,900.00
Actual YTD	544,783.04
Budget YTD	564,950.00
Over (under)	(20,166.96)
Prior YTD	539,172.85
Over (under)	5,610.19
Guatemala	2,871.00
Capital Improvements	420.00
Gibault	346.00
SVDP	206.00
Diocese Retired Priests	290.00
World Mission Sunday	240.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	929.00
Flowers	10.00
Phase 3	7,513.42
CEAC	495.00



From Our Young Stewards

Time and Talent: I helped build a fire for s'mores & I took the dog out.

Treasure: 145.04

**The above totals include online giving through 9/30/2025*

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...

PRE-CANA MINISTRY – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our parish Pre-Canas is held once a year, and this year's date is Saturday, January 24th. We're looking for couples to join this beautiful ministry to help guide and support engaged couples preparing for marriage. If you feel called to share your experiences and witness of married life, please consider joining us! For more information or to sign up, contact Sarah and Eric Piel via email smuss12@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.

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! November 8, 2025

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.

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.

Ministry News & Happenings

Snippet from Mrs. Shea

The rate of unemployment is higher among U.S. adults who have mental illness (7.4%) compared to those who do not (4.6%).

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.

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WINTER CLOTHING AND ITEMS DRIVE

The Annual Drive is this weekend. We are accepting all winter clothing and shoes for all sizes, infant through adult, and bedding. Collected items will be given out in East St. Louis. Your support is appreciated!

— ICC St. Vincent de Paul Society



Pope Francis Said:

"As believers, we also feel close to those who do not consider themselves part of any religious tradition, yet sincerely seek the truth, goodness, and beauty we believe have their highest expression and source in God." (The Joy of the Gospel #237)

What can I do? Talk with someone you know who does not regularly attend any church. Invite that person to join you at Mass some Sunday.

THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord

The homebound, sick and seniors living in the southernmost part of the state are assured they will have food to eat thanks to Daystar Community Program's mobile food pantry, which delivers groceries on a regular basis to those not able to visit Daystar's on-site food pantry. YOUR GIFT to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal makes Daystar's truly life-saving ministry possible. If you haven't already done so, please donate today and help Daystar to serve truly the poorest of the poor; they are counting on YOU!

**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

Immaculate Conception Church
Columbia IL

**Holy Hour
for the
Sanctity of Life**

**Tues, Oct. 14, 2025
7-8pm**

Please join us in prayer:
Litany for Life
Pro-Life Holy Rosary
Scripture Reading & Homily
Eucharistic Adoration
Benediction

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart..." Jeremiah 1:4-5

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)

If you are unable to join us on the 19th, please fill out a paper from the basket in the Gathering Space with your baby's name and we will read it during our service. Return the paper to the basket.

VOCATION

"Jesus, I'm done discerning." This was my prayer in the back of a quiet chapel, the summer after graduating college. The Lord's call to me as a child was strong and clear, but the where and when were not. The many Holy Hours I'd spent wrestling with the mystery since had brought no clarity. My prayer continued, "I am spending all my energy discerning when all I really desire is to love you. So, I am just going to love you and love you lavishly. I ask your Blessed Mother to make the rest abundantly clear." Only later did I understand that perhaps it was what the Lord had been waiting for; for me to simply rejoice to be in relationship with Him, to simply let myself be His. The lesson the Lord taught me that day remains ever new, even now after final vows. How much more beautiful is the journey when lived in the simplicity of His Love!"

– Sister Maria Lucia Stella Maris, Missionaries of the Word. Columbia Magazine Jul/Aug 2022

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.

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.

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.



“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”



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



The 8th graders field trip to Springfield.



7th graders field trip to Chicago

UPCOMING FATHER'S CLUB MEETING

October 16th, 2025

7:30 p.m. at Sunset Overlook

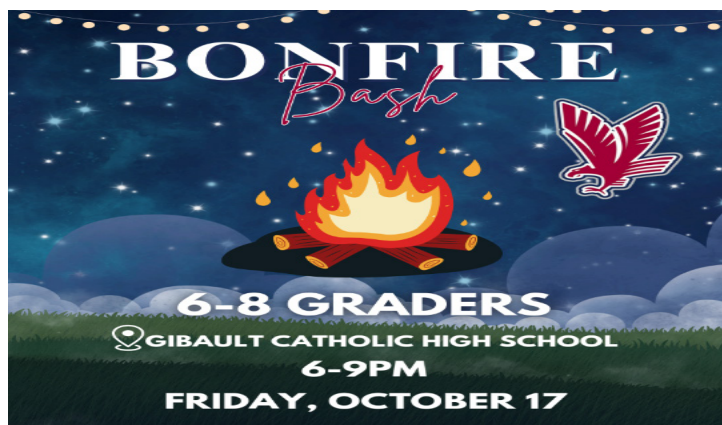
UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING

November 3rd, 2025

7:00 p.m. in the Garden Level

What's Happening at Gibault?

The application for 2026-2027 is now open! Our Jr. High Bonfire Bash is BACK! Come roast some s'mores and hang out with some of the Hawk Family: Friday, October 17, 6:00-8:00 p.m. All 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! Any questions can be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com.



Gibault Women's Club

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, November 8, 2025

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(1/2 price and bag sale after noon)

Donation drop-off at the front entrance:

Monday, November 3: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 5: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 6: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- We will be accepting clean donations of any kind. (Large furniture, exercise equipment, TVs, and computers will be accepted at our discretion.)
- All items should be recently cleaned.
- Please try to have like items bagged together when dropping off donations in order to help our volunteers. (Ex: Men's small, Women's dresses XL, sheets (including sizes), knick-knacks, kitchen tools, baby boy (include sizes), etc.)

Diocesan and Area Interests...

ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS FOR HOMESCHOOLING AND PRE-SCHOOL FAMILIES

OCTOBER 30, 2025

**Holy Mass 11:00 am
St. Peter's Cathedral, Belleville, IL**

Tour of the Cathedral and Complimentary Lunch Follows

**Come dressed as
your favorite saint!**

**RSVP to Molly King
(mking@diobelle.org)**

**Optional:
Come prepared to share
info about your saint!**

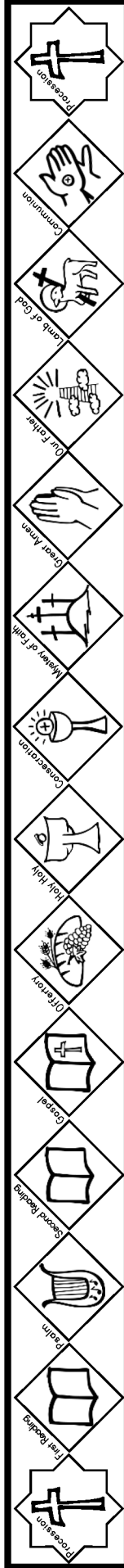
**1:30-2:30 Notre Dame Academy is offering books and toys for
a donation, come take a look across the street after lunch!**

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

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>.

"We are called to be signs of hope to all people, especially those whose goodness, value, and dignity are undermined. As members of the Body of Christ, we carry this hope with us as we continue Jesus' mission on earth... We have been entrusted with a message of hope for the woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant or for the man diagnosed with a terminal illness. At these challenging moments, we must bring God's presence, witnessing to His love, and inspiring a renewal of hope in those whose hearts are burdened."

— USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: "Life: Our Sign of Hope"



Gospel

Jesus healed 10 people, but only one came back to say
thank you! Remember to thank God for all His gifts.



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TOM KEEVEN, Owner
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Kenneth Ebers, Parishioner
Licensed Locksmith & Electrician
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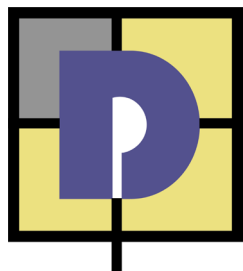
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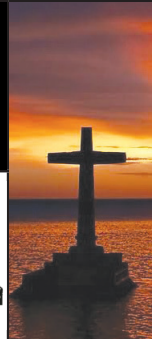
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