



Immaculate Conception

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

November 9, 2025

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

www.icc-columbia-il.us



Greetings friends,

If we haven't met you yet, we are Deacon Tom and Dawn Helfrich and we look forward to meeting you soon. We married in 1987 and moved from St. Louis to Waterloo by our first wedding anniversary. We raised three sons in Waterloo. All attended SS. Peter & Paul (SPP) and we were heavily involved within the parish. Tom discerned to enter deacon formation and in 2013 was ordained as a permanent deacon. Until this recent transfer to IC he had been assigned to SPP.

We are grateful to have two of our sons close by: Nick and Margaret in Columbia & Andrew and Rose in Waterloo; and our baby (he's 29) Eric is in Denver. We have five adorable grandchildren, three of whom attend ICS in Kindergarten and Pre-K. In 2019, we retired from our careers as environmental engineer and nurse practitioner to focus on Tom's ministry, family, travel, and our first grandbaby. In 2020, we moved to Columbia. We love traveling both across the US and internationally. We have a camper (really a glamper) and are on a mission to visit all 63 National Parks. We are almost there! We are excited to be part of this vibrant community and look forward to our ministry at IC.

So what kinds of things can deacons do? Deacons, just like priests, promise obedience to the bishop and serve where the bishop assigns them to serve. Most deacons are married, employed outside the church, and have families. Deacons do not receive any compensation. Yep – completely volunteer. Deacons are called to serve in a threefold ministry – liturgy, charity, and word. This generally includes: assist at Mass, proclaim the Gospel, preach the homily, provide faith formation, preside at Baptisms and Marriages and Funerals (without a Mass), participate in various parish councils/committees, visit the homebound and nursing homes, serve the poor and those in need, and any other needs of the parish and pastor. Deacons do not hear Confessions, anoint the sick, confirm, celebrate Eucharist, or ordain; those are reserved for priests. Here's a link <https://www.diobelle.org/canonical-affairs/permanent-diaconate> and a QR Code that will take you to more information about deacons. If you have any questions, please contact me at the Parish Office or deacontom@iccmil.org.



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

Deacon Tom Helfrich
deacontom@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@icsmail.org

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

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

**School Board President,
Jessica Wachtel**
boardpresident@icsmail.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, November 10	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Michael Conrad
Tuesday, November 11	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
Wednesday, November 12	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad
Thursday, November 13	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Louise Beren
Friday, November 14	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Saturday, November 15	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Bernie Kutz
Sunday, November 16	7:00 a.m.	We Remember David Smith
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Fr. Paul Stauder
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Elsie Hofstetter



Please Pray For

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

Troops in Service...

SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn, Samuel Campbell, Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, Captain Alex Kawalec, United States Air Force; Dustin Crawford, Kaiden Timmons, 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

November 9, 2025

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Second Reading: First Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

Gospel: John 2:13-22

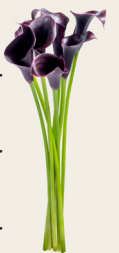


Our Sympathies...

To Barbara Fiore and her Family on the death of her husband Mark Fiore, 67, of Columbia.

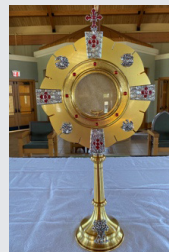
To Beth Gregson and her Family on the death of her mother Mary Ann "Jackie" Lutman, 84, of Fults, IL.

To Gayle Braun and her Family on the death of her husband Robert Braun, 85, 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!

November 2, 2025

Actual	61,537.39
Budget	63,800.00
Actual YTD	707,007.45
Budget YTD	737,600.00
Over (under)	(30,592.55)
Prior YTD	685,855.65
Over (under)	21,151.80
Guatemala	873.00
Votive	163.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	694.00
Capital Improvements	810.00
Cemetery Maintenance	835.00
SVDP	196.00
Gibault	336.00
World Mission Sunday	240.00
Retired Priests Fund	500.00
Phase 3	7,271.25
CEAC	420.00
Catholic Campaign	
Human Development:	70.00



From Our Young Stewards

Time and Talent: I practiced piano and I took out the dogs.

Treasure: 4.61

*The above totals include online giving through 10/31/2025.

SAVE TAXES ON IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS

Individuals subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) have an opportunity to use the distributions for charitable giving instead of taking a taxable distribution. If you are age 70½ or older, the IRS will allow you to distribute up to \$108,000 annually directly to qualified nonprofit organizations without incurring any taxable income. The benefit is known as the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable to a qualified charity, like Immaculate Conception Church or School. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year, if certain rules are met.

Here are the requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes non-deductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$108,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly, your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$108,000.)
- For a QCD to count toward your current year RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.
- Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year RMD.
- The QCD must be paid directly from your IRA to the charity to qualify. In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare. Also, QCDs require that you itemize, which, due to the tax law changes means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.

Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD. There are some other tax rules that may also apply to your situation, so consult with a financial professional for more details about this strategy.

– 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.

Parish Work Day! December 13, 2025

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. 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 November 15 & 16. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

Ministry News & Happenings



ICC Ministry Spotlight

Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee is a working committee that coordinates maintenance and operation of the parish cemetery. They meet at 6:30pm on the third Thursday of each month (except November, December, and January) in the Knights of Columbus room in the Garden Level of church.



Contact Steve Krebel
at sjkrebel@htc.net
if you are interested in being part
of this committee.

ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Our next meeting will be November 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Library.

Snippet from Mrs. Shea

By now, most of you have at least thought about taking down Halloween decorations in favor of replacing them with something fall (or Christmas if you are THAT kind of person). At school, we are learning the meaning of the new Character trait "Gratitude," which is apt because of the Thanksgiving holiday approaching. There is a challenge we are using at school for the kids, so today I will challenge all of you to do the same.

See if you can find one thing to be grateful for each day.

Some days are going to be more difficult than others to do so, but that is the beauty (and sometimes annoying part, if I'm honest) of the Holy Spirit. Those moments we find challenging are places for the Holy Spirit to reveal to us God's presence in our lives, and for us to practice listening for God's voice on our hearts. That voice might be a thunderclap or a whisper, but if we don't listen we might miss it.

Even if all you can think to be grateful for is that you are alive one more day, that is enough. Because God will take what you have given Him and make it good.

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!

ICCCW NEWS:

Thursday, November 13th is our Annual Bunco night. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Bunco begins at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$20.00 and includes a snack buffet and wine. Our fall raffle winners will be drawn at the end of the evening. Come bring some friends for a fun Girls Night Out!

Thursday, December 4th is the CCW Christmas Party. Cost is \$15.00 and will be catered by Mission Catering. Please RSVP to Karen Waide by text or call to 703-304-8642 by November 23rd. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. and then attend Fr. Brian's Advent Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

The CCW Annual Visit to the Hincke-Sense Home for retired priests will be Tuesday, December 9th. We will leave from the Garden Level at 10:45 a.m. for Mass with the priests at 11:30 a.m. and lunch to follow. Possibly some caroling, too! It is a very enjoyable Christmas tradition.

Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women Present

BUNCO NIGHT

Thursday, November 13rd, 2025



\$20 Admission!

First Prize for the Most Buncos:	\$100
Second Prize for the Most Baby Buncos:	\$ 50
Third Prize for the Most Wins:	\$ 30
Fourth Prize for the Most Losses:	\$ 20

If there is more than one winner, the prizes will be split.

You can Reserve a spot by calling or texting
Lori Doerr: 618-210-5881

Please come even if you haven't made a reservation!

*Complimentary wine, lemonade, coffee & water & Free Snack Buffet!
*Quilt & Basket Raffle & 50/50 Raffle

Door Opens: 6:00pm.
411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL
Browse the raffles, help yourself to snacks & a drink and have a seat!
Games begin at 6:30pm. Three games of six rounds!

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.



SVDP

The Immaculate Conception Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference works to carry out the mission of the Society: A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

One way we carry out this mission is to provide direct help to individuals in need with food, rent and utility bills among other things. Sadly, our hotline gets many calls each month from people who, for a variety of reasons, cannot make ends meet. The help we give is limited – we do not provide continuous aid – just a hand up to avert a crisis. Who do we help? Following is a brief synopsis of how we recently helped a neighbor in need:

Ms. S. left an abusive marriage with little more than her clothing and a car. The only furniture in her apartment was a cot. Ms. S. holds two jobs to make ends meet – one full-time and one part-time. She needed support to get on her feet and was referred to House of Neighborly Service. Our St. Vincent de Paul hotline team occasionally partners with HONS and we did so for Ms. S. Through our joint efforts she was able to cover one of her many bills and continue on the road to healing and self-sufficiency.

Your generous support of the ICC St. Vincent de Paul Conference makes it possible for people like Ms. S. to avoid sliding into a never ending cycle of missed payments which only leads to much bigger problems.

Thank you for your prayers, financial support and participation in the casserole program, food drives, coat drive and other activities we operate to help those in need. We are grateful to the parish for donating the proceeds from the Thanksgiving Mass collection which helps us get through the cold months, a particularly busy time for client calls.

VOCATION

“Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice out there calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice in here calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.”

— Thomas Merton

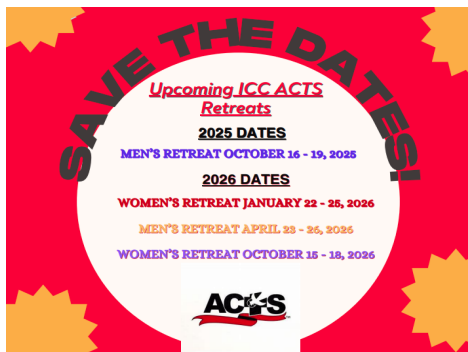
We thank our Veterans for their choice of vocation in serving and protecting our country.



Stay Connected with the ACTS Community!

Embrace the calmness and reconnect with the ACTS family. If you're not receiving emails from acts@iccm.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@iccm.org with your latest contact information. Let's keep you in the loop and build a stronger, connected ACTS family together!

ACTS RETREAT



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

ACTS

THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord

The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal Fund for Ministry provides funding to parishes, schools and organizations throughout our diocese for local projects. A total of 37 grants were awarded throughout our diocese in the past year. Help this popular program which funds local projects continue through your gift to this year's Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal.



Christmas Cards

The ICC Sanctity of Life Ministry is selling Christmas cards to earn money for items that raise awareness for and promote the Sanctity of Life as well as to support our local crisis pregnancy care centers.

\$10 per pack

10 cards/pack

Christmas cards are available for purchase in the ICC parish office during normal business hours and at the ICS Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec 6.

Thank you for your support!

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.

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly 1529
October's Restaurant Raffle Winner is Kim Feltz of Columbia.



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 MEETING

December 1, 2025 • 7:00 p.m. Holiday Party
TBD on location

UPCOMING FATHER'S CLUB MEETING

November 20, 2025 • 7:30 p.m. in the Garden Level

What's Happening at Gibault?

The Freshman Placement Test is Saturday, December 6 at 8:30 a.m. You can sign your student up by emailing Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com. The 2026-27 New Student Application is NOW OPEN! Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply. All 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors. Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "INQUIRE" to request more information.



Diocesan and Area Interests...

QUEST –

A two-day faith experience for Freshmen and Sophomores. Learn about your relationships with yourself, others and God in fun ways – November 22-23 at St. Dominic Parish in Breese. Sign up at www.bellevillequest.org. Any questions, please contact bellevillequest@gmail.com.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE

The Boy Scouts of America, and various local food pantries need your help – and so do thousands of hungry people in our communities. Our local Scouts are participating in the Annual Scouting for Food Drive this fall. The 2025 Food Drive will take place on two consecutive Saturdays. On **November 15**, Scouts will place plastic bags at doors throughout Monroe County. The following Saturday, **November 22**, Scouts will return to pick up the filled bags. Food donated will be distributed through relief pantries in our local area. Please be sure to look for your blue Scouting for Food bag on November 15 and fill it with any nonperishable food item you can donate. Leave the filled bag on your doorstep Saturday, November 22 by 10:00 a.m. for the Scouts to pick up. Your donations are greatly appreciated. This year, the Scouts hope to match or better the success of last year's Food Drive!

COLLECTION FOR

HURRICANE MELISSA VICTIMS

With the devastating effects of Hurricane Melissa just now coming to light, there is a dire need for food, clothing, housing and the basic essentials of life for thousands of people. We will hold a second collection today to support the relief efforts underway in areas that were impacted by this historic storm. Funds will be distributed by Catholic Relief Services. We are asking the people of the Belleville Diocese to offer your prayers and make a donation – in any amount – to assist in these efforts. Your gift also may be made next weekend or can be sent directly to the Diocese of Belleville, 222 South Third Street, Belleville, Illinois 62220. Please indicate “Hurricane Relief” on the memo line of your check. Thank you so much for your generosity; may God bless our suffering brothers and sisters in the Caribbean.

Catholic Urban Programs

THANKS FOOD DRIVE GIVING

We would love your help in providing Thanksgiving meals to our families in need

We Are Collecting The Following Items:

Stuffing Mix Scalloped Potatoes Instant Mashed Potatoes Cranberry Sauce Mac & Cheese Canned Yams Turkey Gravy	Apple Pie Filling Yellow Cake Mix Chocolate Cake Mix White Frosting Chocolate Frosting Corn Bread Mix
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Items Will Be Collected

**NOVEMBER
3-14**

Monetary donations may be made to support a family's Thanksgiving meal.

VENMO
@CatholicUrbanPrograms

Drop Off Location

The HUB
7 Vieux Carre Dr
East St. Louis, IL 62203



Diocese of Belleville

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

*"Where there is Hope,
there is Life"*

📅 Saturday, November 15, 2025

🕒 Doors open 9:00 am for Ministry Fair
Conference 10:00 am-4:30 pm
Holy Mass 12:00 pm

📍 St. Clare of Assisi Church
1411 Cross Street
O'Fallon, IL 62269

\$30 Per Person
\$10 ages 25 and under

College and High School
Breakout 1:30-4:30 pm

Scan the QR Code to Register



Respect Life Conference

Or Register at Diocese of Belleville Website

www.diobelle.org/respectlife/2025-respect-life-conference



For more info: mking@diobelle.org

THE SPEAKER LINEUP



Bob Gilligan
Illinois Catholic Conference



Dr. Marc Radabaugh
Esse Health



Shawna DuBois
Gabriel's Retreat



Ray Pingoy
Archdiocese of Chicago



Kirsten Peterson
Our Brother's Keeper



Fr. Peter Ascik
Diocese of Charlotte
Walking with Moms in Need



Reagan Barklage
Students for Life



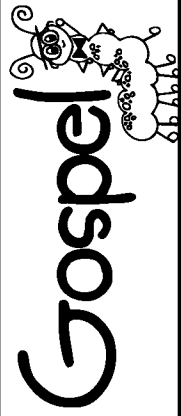
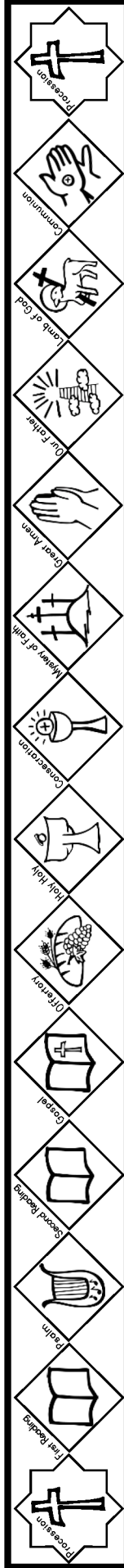
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DOCTORS OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

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 for additional information and resources.



Gospel

People were selling sheep and oxen in the temple. Jesus knocked over the tables and told them to stop! He said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will build it up." They thought that He was talking about the temple, but He was talking about Himself! He knew that He would die and rise three days later.



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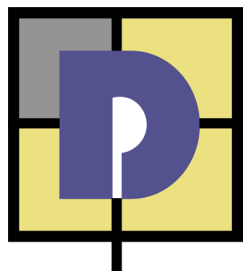
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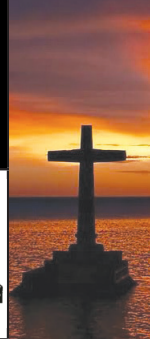
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