



# 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 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

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

## A Prayer for Stewardship Spirituality

Dear Heavenly Father,

Our parish is composed of people like me; we make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people to worship and fellowship, if I invite them.

It will be a parish of loyalty and love, fearless faith, and noble spirit,  
if I ask the Holy Spirit for help to fill me with these same things.

Therefore, O God, help me to dedicate myself to growing my own faith  
by being all the things I want our parish to be.

I will strive toward full stewardship by building my life  
on the rock of our faith, Jesus Christ.

Amen

As a show of faith in God and love of his people, please return your annual stewardship commitment form by January 6. Bless you and thank 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

**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@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, December 1	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
Tuesday, December 2	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, December 3	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Walter Novak
Thursday, December 4	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Bob Braun
Friday, December 5	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Job George & Family
Saturday, December 6	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Fr. Steve Gira C.R.
Sunday, December 7	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Gober/Mulligan Family
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Martha Stumpf
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Peggy Schutt



## *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	Bo Taylor
Craig Greer	Taylor Cygan	Arlene Kruse	Betty Schmieder
Janet Michael	Nate Meyer	Delores Deleveski	Phyllis Siwiecki
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*

**Weekly reflections November 30, 2025**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 2:1-5

**Second Reading:** Romans 13:11-14

**Gospel:** Matthew 24:37-44



## *Our Sympathies...*

To the family of James Hempen who passed away at the age of 77.



## **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 23, 2025

Actual	14,682.43
Budget	33,800.00
Actual YTD	830,721.84
Budget YTD	869,000.00
Over (under)	(38,278.16)
Prior YTD	792,581.01
Over (under)	38,140.83
Guatemala	60.00
Votive	224.25
SVDP	245.00
Capital Improvements	20.00
Cemetery Maintenance	15.00
Gibault	90.00
Human Development	430.00
Phase 3	1,367.00
Anonymous donor for the roof in Guatemala	5,000.00



### From Our Young Stewards

Time: I helped my grandparents clean up their yard.

Treasure: 92.43

## 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](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 December 20 & 21. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

# Ministry News & Happenings



## ICC Ministry Spotlight

### IC Council of Catholic Women (ICCCW)

The IC Council of Catholic Women/ICCCW (established as the ICC Altar Society in 1859) serves the parish through its mission to provide for the temporal and spiritual needs of parishioners. ICCCW hosts two fundraisers per year, supports and plans a variety of other charitable/faith-enhancing programs, and shares information about Catholic diocesan and national events with its members.

All women (18+) of the parish are considered members, however they are encouraged and welcome to attend meetings held at 6:30pm on the 1st Thursday of each month (Aug-May) in the Garden Level of the church. After the business portion of meetings, there is a spiritual segment for inspiration/education and optional snacks/visiting afterward. This group is a great way to meet women of all ages from our parish and grow friendships while supporting the needs of our parish community and beyond.

- Purchase hosts, wine, candles, and anything needed to celebrate Holy Mass
- Organize raffle and Bunco fundraisers
- Coordinate funeral meals for parishioners (cooking/serving)
- Gather to pray holy Rosary before deceased members' funeral Masses
- Host two public holy Rosaries (May/Oct)
- Participate in Keeping College Kids Connected & Boxes of Joy programs
- Support Newman Centers on college campuses, retired priests, and more



We have a place for you!  
Questions? Contact Lori Doerr at [ldoerr@sscpcpa.us](mailto:ldoerr@sscpcpa.us), come to our next scheduled monthly meeting, follow us on Facebook: *Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women (ICCCW)*, or join us at one of our events published in the weekly church bulletin.

## Snippet from Mrs. Shea

When I read that this month's Character Trait at ICS was Empathy, I knew that I needed to write to you all about it by sharing a quote from one of my favorite authors, Henri Nouwen.

"When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a warm and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares."

Empathy for someone is simply sitting with them in their emotions. Not trying to change the situation or offer ways to fix it, but seeking to understand their perspective and why they feel the way they do. Empathy requires vulnerability. It requires opening your heart to allow another person's feelings in, knowing that doing so could change us.

I challenge all of us to search our hearts for ways we can be more empathetic this month. Maybe it means calling up that friend who lost a baby to miscarriage and finally meeting for coffee. Maybe it is finally visiting that family member who is homebound after several rescheduled visits. Maybe it is paying for a hot meal and giving it to the homeless person you always see on a street corner. Whatever empathy looks like to you, I pray that your heart may be opened to God's love this month and, really, every month.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

*We live always during Advent. We are always waiting for the Messiah to come. The Messiah has come, but is not yet fully manifest. The Messiah is not fully manifest in each of our souls, not fully manifest in humankind as a whole: that is to say, that just as Christ was born according to the flesh in Bethlehem of Judah, so must He be born according to the spirit in each of our souls. – Jean Danielou*

Here we find ourselves once again in a familiar place: the beginning of a new Church Year, the beginning of Advent, while others call it the beginning of the Christmas season. In Catholic terms, the Christmas season doesn't begin until Christmas Eve and lasts to the Feast of the Baptism of Jesus. The Church gives us this graced time, Advent, to not only joyfully anticipate the first coming of Jesus at Christmas, but also His Second Coming. We live in and are part of a culture that doesn't spend a whole lot of time reflecting, especially this time of year. We often find ourselves engulfed in the Christmas rush with seemingly endless things we need to do before we celebrate Christmas. This Advent season, I invite you to try to resist all of the Christmas rush and try to spend some time with God in reflection, anticipation and thanksgiving. Our parish can help you with this. I offer you these following opportunities and suggestions:

- Come to a weekday Mass each week of Advent.
- Come to the Advent Evening of Reflection on **December 4th** in the church at **6:30 p.m.** Prayer, music, stories, Scripture and poetry will be featured.
- All women of the parish are invited to **Advent by Candlelight** on Friday, **December 5th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** in the Garden Level.
- Get your heart and soul ready for Christmas by taking advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will have expanded time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays during Advent from 3:30-4:30 p.m.
- Read a bit of Scripture each day during Advent. The Book of Isaiah, the Advent Prophet, is a good choice.
- Set aside some family time to pray together as you prepare for Christmas.
- Get a religious Advent calendar and count the days to Christmas in a fun and holier way.

I think these suggestions can be helpful to prevent getting caught up in a pre-Christmas rush. This can help us more authentically celebrate Advent rather than pre-Christmas consumerism. Let me close with a story about a Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was imprisoned by the Nazis during World War II. It was just before Christmas in 1943 when he wrote: "Life in a prison reminds me a great deal of Advent. One waits and hopes and putters around. But in the end what we do is of little consequence. The door is shut, and it can be opened only from the outside." That describes humanity before Jesus' coming. We were imprisoned by sin. The door was shut and it couldn't be opened, except from the outside. That's what Jesus did; He opened the door!

## 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!

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Looking for a place in our parish to spend your time? The Bereavement Ministry might be the place for you. Contact Kathy Fern for more information on the Ministry and how we help our parishioners. Call 618-719-1632 to learn more.

## 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.





## ICCCW NEWS:

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. Please RSVP Lori Doerr at 618-210-5881.

## 2025 CCW FALL RAFFLE WINNERS!

- Quilt: Mary Anne Moses-Farley
- Afghan: Margie Pope
- Nativity Wall Art: Dorothy Weiser
- Christmas Kitchen: Lois Gregson
- Girls' Beach Day: Lois Gregson
- Rake in the Dough: Stephanie Burns
- Everlasting Love: Ann Kleinschmidt
- 50th Anniversary Sound of Music: Loretta Kramer
- Choose Sunshine: Mary Schaefer
- Vanilla Comfort: Michael & Kara Gibson
- Mary Kay Magic: Stephen Sendejas
- Grill Master: Pat Dillman
- Relax and Unwind: Greg Narez
- Wine Basket: Anita O'Conner

### *Congratulations to all the winners!*

Thanks to all the ladies who donated baskets, the quilters for the beautiful raffle Quilt, Ken & Ann Dame who donated the Nativity wall decor, and Kathy Ritter for crocheting the afghan. Also, thanks to the IC Tinkerers who set up our card tables and put them away for us.

We hope that anyone who missed Bunko this year can make it to our Bunko Ladies Night Out next November and bring a friend!

## THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

### Hope in the Lord

Your contribution to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 9,140 students at 23 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven't already done so, we prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to the 2025 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.



**Let us help you with your Christmas Ham!**

The Knights of Columbus are offering fully cooked bone-in hams for purchase, with local pick-up or delivery\*. Small (12-15lb) and large hams (23-28lb) are offered to fit your family needs.

The Knights will be taking orders in the Gathering Space after all masses on the weekends of December 6th & 7th and December 13th & 14th. The hams will be available for pick up at the chicken coop on the weekend of December 20th and 21st.

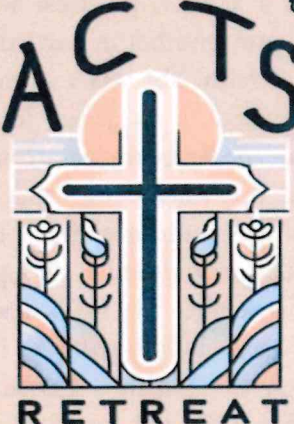
Order forms are available and can be submitted electronically to [gk@kofc6165.org](mailto:gk@kofc6165.org).

Proceeds support the Knights of Columbus Scholarship Fund.



For any questions call 314-494-8874 or email [gk@kofc6165.org](mailto:gk@kofc6165.org)

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

**ACTS**





## THE SANCTITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE IS COLLECTING NEW ITEMS FOR LIFE NETWORK.

The following items are most needed: Diapers, sizes 5-6; Girls Pull-ups, sizes, 2T-5T; Boys Pull-ups, sizes 5T-6T; Baby Wipes; Infants' or Children's Tylenol; Toddler Snacks, Toddler GO-GO squeeze pouches, Toddler Juice; Children's Clothing, Girls Sizes 12M-3T and Boys Sizes 24M-3T; and Walmart Gift Cards. Please take a tag, with a listed item, from the Giving Tree and bring back a new, unwrapped gift. Thanks on behalf of the clients of Life Network.

### VOCATION

"I had the great blessing of growing up in a family in which faith was lived in a simple, practical way. However, it was my paternal grandmother in particular who influenced my journey of faith. She was a woman who explained to us, who talked to us about Jesus, who taught us the catechism. The first proclamation is at home, in the family! And this makes me think of the love of so many mothers and grandmothers in the transmission of faith. One day in particular, though, was very important to me: September 21, 1953. I was almost 17. It was "Students' Day." Before going to the celebration, I passed through the parish I normally attended, I found a priest that I did not know, and I felt the need to go to Confession. For me this was an experience of encounter: I found that someone was waiting for me .... After making my Confession, I felt something had changed. I was not the same. I had heard something like a voice, or a call. I was convinced that I should become a priest."

Pope Francis; Vigil of Pentecost Address, May 18, 2013

### 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 & 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: Mike Crean, ext. 202 ~ [mcrean@icsmail.org](mailto:mcrean@icsmail.org)

School Administrator: Beverly Epplin, ext. 200 ~ [bepplin@icsmail.org](mailto:bepplin@icsmail.org)

Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh, ext. 201 ~ [ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org](mailto:ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org)

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

## Annual VENDOR FAIR

DEC 6

9 AM - 2 PM

### CRAFTERS & VENDORS WANTED

Scan Here to register or email Kim Siegel and Kristin Knobloch @ [icscraftfair@icsmail.org](mailto:icscraftfair@icsmail.org)

REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 15 & SAVE!

## UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS

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

## What's Happening at Gibault?

The Freshman Placement Test is Saturday, December 6 at 8:30 a.m. You can sign your student up through Friday, December 5 by emailing Pam Kueker at [pkueker@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:pkueker@gibaulthawks.com). The 2026-27 New Student Application deadline to be included in our January 16 Acceptance Day event is Monday, January 5, 2026. 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.

## BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7  
9AM - 12PM | GIBAULT'S CAFETERIA

501 COLUMBIA AVE | WATERLOO, IL

\$15 FOR AGES 6+

\$10 AGES 2-5

INFANTS ARE FREE

PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 1



- KID-FRIENDLY BREAKFAST
- DIGITAL PHOTO WITH SANTA & MRS. CLAUS
- ENJOY GAMES, MUSIC, CRAFTS & MORE



GIBAULT WOMEN'S CLUB

## 2025 GIBAULT BASEBALL

Winter Camp  
FOR 5-8 GRADERS

ALL CURRENT 5-8 GRADE BASEBALL PLAYERS ARE INVITED TO THE 2025 BASEBALL WINTER CAMP. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE COACHES, CURRENT PLAYERS, AND TAKE YOUR GAME TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

DEC. 29 - 31 | 9:00 - 11:30AM  
FR. ED HUSTEDDE GYMNASIUM

REGISTER HERE:

PLEASE COMPLETE REGISTRATION BY DEC. 7 TO ASSURE YOUR CHILD'S SPOT. LATE ENTRIES ARE STILL ACCEPTED.



OR TEXT  
"GIBAULTBASEBALL"  
TO 41444

WITH CONDITIONS, CONTACT IF ANYDUBIOUS  
FOR AN INQUIRY CONTACT 281-5353

## ICS PARENTS & FRIENDS PRESENT AN ALPINE GALA GOING FOR GOLD

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026  
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JOIN US FOR A SPARKLING EVENING IN SUPPORT OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL. A NIGHT OF GOOD FOOD, GREAT FRIENDS AND GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE BACK!

ALL TICKETS INCLUDE:

- DINNER, APPETIZERS & AN OPEN BAR
- SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS
- RAFFLES & AUCTION NIGHT GAMES
- THIS YEAR'S EXCLUSIVE ALPINE PENTATHLON GAME!

EVERY DOLLAR RAISED SUPPORTS THE STUDENTS OF ICS — AND THAT'S A WIN WORTH CELEBRATING!

LOOK FOR  
OUR RAFFLE  
REVEAL  
JANUARY 1,  
2026!

### PURCHASE TICKETS NOW

EARLY BIRD PRICE	NOV 7 - DEC 31	\$75
REGULAR PRICE	JAN 1 - JAN 31	\$100
LAST MINUTE PRICE	FEB 1 - FEB 21	\$125



### DONATE TO THE AUCTION

HELP US GO FOR THE GOLD! WE'RE COLLECTING SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION ITEMS (OR CASH DONATIONS) TO SUPPORT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL STUDENTS.



TAKE YOUR AUCTION EXPERIENCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL WITH OUR AUCTION TABLE ADD-ONS



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**SAVE THE DATES**

**JANUARY 3, 2026**  
 • BOYS BASKETBALL ALUMNI NIGHT  
 \* CHEER ALUMNI NIGHT  
 ♪ BAND ALUMNI NIGHT  
 JV STARTS AT 5:15, VARSITY & ALUMNI GAME TO FOLLOW

**JANUARY 20, 2026**  
 GIRLS BASKETBALL ALUMNI NIGHT  
 VARSITY STARTS AT 6 WITH ALUMNI TO FOLLOW

**JANUARY 31, 2026**  
 HALL OF FAME NIGHT  
 JV STARTS AT 5:15  
 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION HAPPENS BETWEEN JV AND VARSITY GAMES

## Diocesan and Area Interests...

**Winter Coat Drive**

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Questions: [mking@diobelle.org](mailto:mking@diobelle.org)

Topic:  
**Spiritual Sonship & Fatherhood**

Discernment  
**DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

Join us for a day of prayer, reflection, and fraternity to explore what it means to live as beloved sons of the Father and how that relationship shapes our understanding of spiritual fatherhood. The day will include conferences, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, time for discussion & lunch. For single Catholic men ages 15-35. Email [miskorch@diobelle.org](mailto:miskorch@diobelle.org) for more information.

Sat. Dec. 20, 2025  
 9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

St. Nicholas Parish  
 O'Fallon, IL

Scan here to register

*Seeds of Healing*  
**FAITH HOPE LOVE**

### Seeds of Healing through Faith, Hope, and Love

Join us for our 3rd annual Seeds of Healing retreat on Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 9am-6pm. Bringing God's healing grace to those who have lost loved ones unexpectedly: suicide, sudden, tragic or unforeseen death.

Though the roller coaster of emotions experienced through tragedy can be enough to make one doubt God's presence, this day of reflection is designed to help in the journey through these emotions and come out renewed with confidence in God's love and care for each one of us.

Members of our ministry team for this day will include a variety of gifted individuals, Gerard Fleming (Ambrose Dad), St Joseph Cottleville  
 Judy Reel, All Saints, St Peters, MO  
 Diane Meyer, St Patrick's, Wentzville  
 Sue Vana, Murphysboro, IL - author "Shaken by God's Love"

There will be time for healing prayers, discussions, sharing, for healthy outlet of emotions, and testimony from those who are healing from the same pain you may be feeling. Attendance will be limited to 100 participants total for Saturday, which will run from 9 am - 6 pm and will include lunch and dinner for \$68.

We are also offering the option for up to 40 participants to spend the night and to stay through 10 am on Sunday; those who choose to spend the night will have additional time for rest, fellowship, snacks, a private room and breakfast on Sunday morning. The cost of the overnight experience is \$162.

We expect to sell out, so please register early. We look forward to spending this beautiful time of healing with you!

For more information, don't hesitate to reach out to Barb @ 314.910.3942 or Mary @ 314.210.5098



## CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States, including in our own Belleville Diocese. Please be generous. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).





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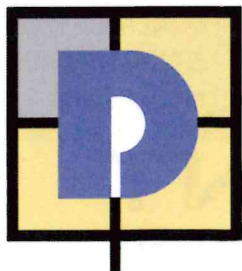
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