

Immaculate Conception

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

December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

www.icc-columbia-il.us



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@iccmail.org

Deacon Tom Helfrich deacontom@iccmail.org

Business Manager, Kara Dell-Hunt ext. 350, kdell-hunt@iccmail.org

Director of Liturgy & Music, Theresa Flores ext. 312, tflores@iccmail.org

Director of Faith Formation, Lizanne Young ext. 354, lyoung@iccmail.org

IC-PSR Coordinator, Rebecca Husman ext. 353, rhusman@iccmail.org

Bookkeeper, Sheryl Oglesby ext. 351, shoglesby@iccmail.org

Secretary, Michelle Muckensturm ext. 300, iccmail@iccmail.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 Hoeflinger parishcouncil@iccmail.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@iccmail.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.

iviasses – Saturday, 5.00 p.in. and Sunday, 7.00, 5.00, 11.00 a.m.		
Monday, December 8	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Herb & Betty Lehr
	7:00 p.m.	We Remember Ed Janson
Tuesday, December 9	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jackie Lutman
Wednesday, December 10	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Albers
Thursday, December 11	8:05 a.m.	We Remember JoAnn Sander
Friday, December 12	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
Saturday, December 13	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Angela Krupp
Sunday, December 14	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Carl & Bernice Riebeling
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Mike Markus
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Roland Schilling



Please Pray For

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

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 December 7, 2025 First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9 Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



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.



EUCHARISTIC 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 30, 2025					
Actual	60,565.29				
Budget	66,500.00				
Actual YTD	891,287.13				
Budget YTD	935,500.00				
Over (under)	(44,212.87)				
Prior YTD	873,299.89				
Over (under)	17,987.24				
Guatemala	693.00				
Votive	198.25				
SVDP	2,274.81				
Capital Improvements	378.00				
Cemetery Maintenance	125.00				
Gibault	241.00				
Human Development	440.00				
Sr. Thea Bowman	494.00				
Mission Sunday	125.00				
Needy	25.00				
Christmas Collection	25.00				
Flowers	90.00				
Roof Fund	1,661.00				
Phase 3	5,055.75				
CEAC	3,920.00				



From Our Young Stewards

Time: I raked leaves, I mowed the lawn, & I helped clean the house.

Treasure: 129.51

* The above totals include online giving through 11/30/25.

WHY DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK OR MUTUAL FUNDS TO CHARITY?

Giving stock or mutual funds instead of cash as a charitable donation can greatly benefit the donor as well as the recipient. You will find that many charities, churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations will accept stock or mutual funds as a gift.

Tax Benefits of Donating Stock or Mutual Funds to Charity

If the stock or mutual fund has increased in value from the time of purchase, the owner can avoid paying long-term capital gains tax by donating the security to a qualified charitable organization. When an appreciated security held for a minimum of one year is donated to a charitable organization, its fair market value may be itemized as an income tax deduction if the donor is eligible to itemize on their tax filing. The resulting tax savings could be factored in to allow for a larger donation. For publicly traded shares, the fair market value is the average of the high and low price on the transfer date.

Considerations:

- Many nonprofits, such as hospitals, schools, and various other organizations, will accept stock or mutual funds as a gift or donation.
- Giving securities often results in a larger donation to the organization, as the gift is tax-deductible and there are no longterm capital gains taxes to pay.
- If your security has risen in value since purchase, donating it
 directly is preferable, but if it has lost value, it may be more
 advantageous to sell it first and then donate the proceeds, so you
 can take the tax loss.
- Most organizations will immediately liquidate the donation, converting the security to cash.
- Depending on the organization you donate to and your adjusted gross income, a varying amount of your donation may be able to be deducted on your taxes.

Consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News ...

THANK YOU, BOB BROCKLAND!

Pick up your 2026 Wall Calendars in the Gathering Space before they're gone. We appreciate Bob Brockland Buick GMC for making these available!

Parish Work Day! December 13, 2025

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!

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

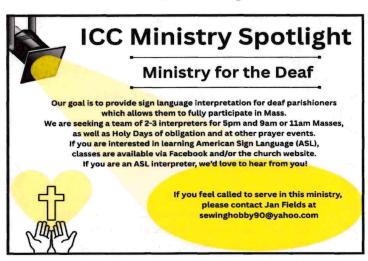
The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the 8th graders will be December 20 & 21. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

Advent Healing Service Immaculate Conception Parish invites you to a communal service: Anointing of the Sick Thursday, December 18, 6:30pm We will pray and sing together for healing of our bodies, minds, and spirits. Fr. Brian and several priests will be on hand for individual anointing. Everyone is in need of Advent Healing, join us.

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

Ministry News & Happenings



Snippet from Mrs. Shea

I am not capable of doing big things, but I want to do everything, even the smallest things, for the greater glory of God.

- Saint Dominic Savio

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.

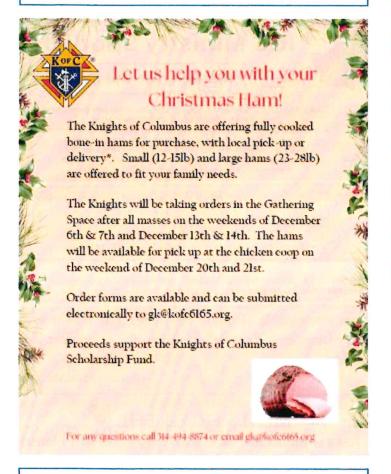


SVDP FOOD DRIVE:

SVDP will be collecting canned goods in the back of church. Please drop off in the designated area. Canned goods in need: Vegetables, Fruits and Meats

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 to Lori Doerr at 618-210-5881.

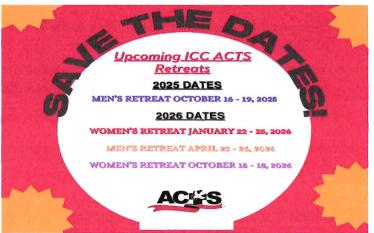


THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

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.





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



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.

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.

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.



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.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

On December 8th, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (This Feast is a Holy Day of Obligation for dioceses in the United States.) On this Feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization: "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb" (Ps 139:13).

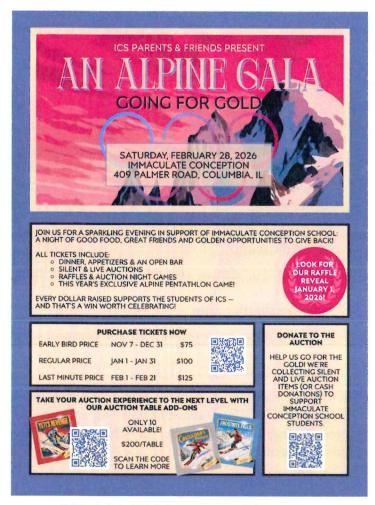


IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

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

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UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS

January 9, 2026 8:15 in the Garden Level

What's Happening at Gibault?

Need something to keep your baseball or softball player busy this winter? Sign them up for our Winter Warmups! (See flyers on this page.)

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.





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 Add a second skill and save \$20. Add a third skill and save \$60!
- A national softball program with a local touch operated by Maggie Bollone, Head Coach, Gibault Catholic HS.
- With a low player to coach ratio, each player gets plenty of individual attention in a small-group atmosphere.
- Scan QR Code to Register! Scan QR Code with your cell phone camera to go to registration website.

MAKE THIS SEASON, THE BEST SEASON!





Diocesan and Area Interests ...





Topic:

Spiritual Sonship & **Fatherhood**

Discemment

DAY OF **ECOLLECTION**

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 mskorch@diobelle.org for more information.



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

St. Nicholas Parish O'Fallon IL



to register

Thursday, December 25, 2025 **SERVING 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM**

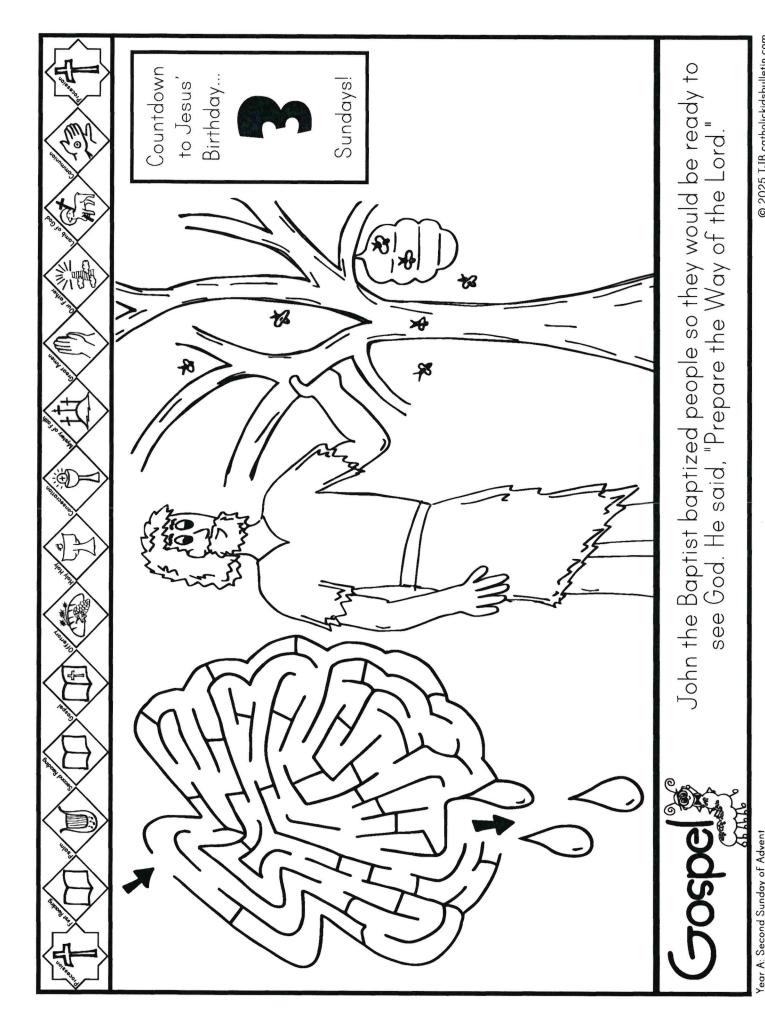
> St. Henry Parish Msgr. Voss Parish Center 5303 W. Main Street, Belleville

> > CALL 618-722-5024 BY DECEMBER 16 TO MAKE RESEVATIONS

-13 -4--

No Carry-Outs Available A meal delivery (up to three) is available to the homebound

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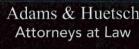
fear A: Second Sunday of Advent



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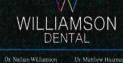


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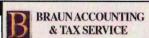




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