



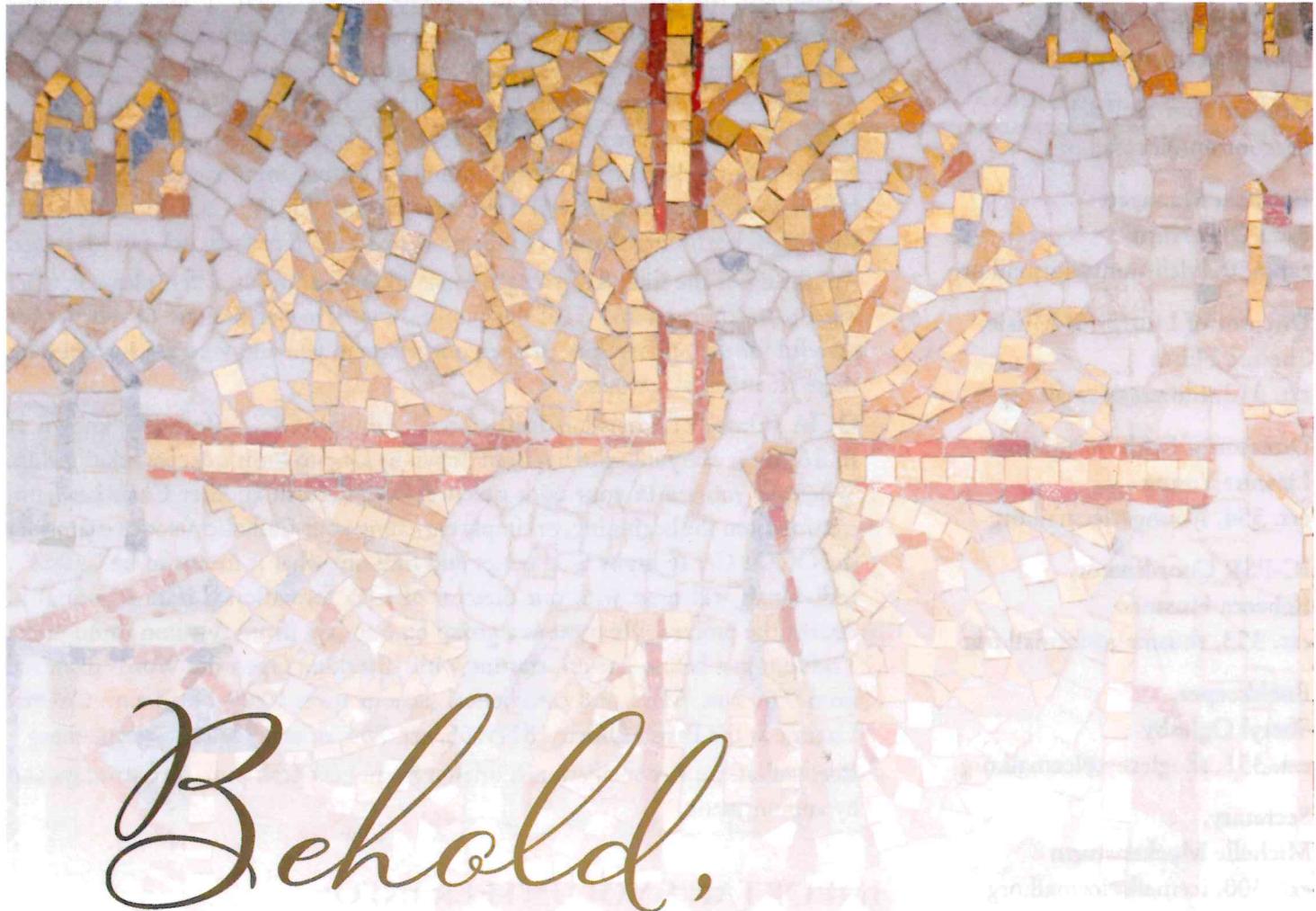
Immaculate Conception

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

January 18, 2026

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us



Behold,

the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

-John 1:29

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 Católica 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 Advisory Council
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.

Monday, January 19	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Doris Ling
Tuesday, January 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Albers
Wednesday, January 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jackie Lutman
Thursday, January 22	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Kathy Francescon
Friday, January 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Smugala
Saturday, January 24	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
Sunday, January 25	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Betty Beckerle
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Elsie Hofstetter
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Ed Janson



Please Pray For

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

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; Ensign Kalia Jerkatis, US Coast Guard

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

January 18, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Second Reading: First Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34



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.



EUCARISTIC 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!

December 31, 2025

Actual	72,321.94
Budget	71,500.00
Actual YTD	1,175,053.35
Budget YTD	1,252,731.00
Over (under)	(77,677.65)
Prior YTD	1,177,270.80
Over (under)	(2,217.45)
Guatemala	706.00
Votives	
SVDP	946.00
Capital Improvements	45.00
Cemetery Maintenance	35.00
Gibault	246.00
Human Development	175.00
Needy	125.00
Retirement Fund for the Religious	175.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	3,269.00
Christmas Collection	15,694.00
Flowers	35.00
ICCCW Dues	
Phase 3	43,595.10
CEAC	720.00

January 4, 2026

Actual	12,274.00
Budget	69,000.00
Actual YTD	1,187,327.35
Budget YTD	1,321,731.00
Over (under)	(134,403.65)
Prior YTD	1,186,600.51
Over (under)	726.84
Guatemala	65.00
Votives	232.00
Capital Improvements	190.00
Gibault	20.00
Needy	200.00
ICCCW Dues	340.00
Phase 3	280.00



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: 6.00

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS. IT IS GREATLY
APPRECIATED.

Below is the total amount sent to St. Raymond's for their New Roof:
\$17,352.00

AS WE START THE NEW YEAR 2026, IT'S TIME
TO CONSIDER REVIEWING YOUR PAYROLL
TAX WITHHOLDING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- When the tax law changes
- When you have life changes:
 - Lifestyle – Marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, home purchase, retirement, filing chapter 11 bankruptcy
 - Wage income – You or your spouse start or stop working or start or stop a second job
 - Taxable income not subject to withholding – Interest income, dividends, capital gains, self-employment income, IRA (including certain Roth IRA) distributions
 - Adjustments to income – IRA deduction, student loan interest deduction, alimony expense
 - Itemized deductions or tax credits – Medical expenses, taxes, interest expense, gifts to charity, dependent care expenses, education credit, child tax credit, earned income credit

To Change Your Withholding:

Note: You may use the results from the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator
Tax Withholding Estimator | Internal Revenue Service (irs.gov)

To change your tax withholding, you should:

- Complete a new 2026 Form W-4 and submit it to your employer
- Complete a new 2026 Form W-4P and submit it to your payer
- Make an additional or estimated tax payment to the IRS before the end of the year.

– 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.

ST. RAYMOND'S UPDATE

While we were visiting St. Raymond's in November, Padre Walver shared with us that the parish is in the middle of a three-part renovation. Phase One is complete and involved updating their gathering space. They enlarged it and added a full kitchen at one end so they can serve meals at parish events, provide low cost lunches, and in general, have an up-to-date food prep area. Phase Two is an update to the main church space and will include new floors, pews, a baptismal font and a new roof. Phase Three will be to update the rectory space. The rectory is mostly adobe (mud and straw) and due to the heavy rains has started to deteriorate. They recently had to take the old roof off and put in a lighter temporary roof the walls are able to support until they can repair the entire structure. This is one of several building projects we help fund with the money we send down to our sister parish.

We are hoping to hold a few different fundraising events to help with this building project specifically. We can also find out specific costs within the renovation project if there is something in particular you would like to fund. Feel free to reach out with any questions - cevans@icsmail.org. And be on the lookout for more exciting updates on our sister parish program!

Parish Work Day! February 14, 2026

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 iccmail@iccmail.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 February 14 & 15. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

Ministry News & Happenings



ICC Ministry Spotlight

Lector Ministry

The Lector Ministry invites adults and high school-aged parishioners, who are confirmed and practicing Catholics, to proclaim the Word of God at all Masses. Volunteers should have the ability to speak in public and a willingness to prepare and practice the readings.

A workbook is provided to help with preparation.

Training sessions are scheduled throughout the year.

Assignments are published in the liturgical ministry schedule.

This ministry is open to unlimited volunteers.



Please call Theresa in the parish office at 618-281-5105 if you feel called to be part of this spiritually-rewarding ministry.

Snippet from Mrs. Shea

Mental Health Fast Fact:

160 million people live in a designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Area.

MEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Have you or someone you know been diagnosed with prostate cancer? Are you a prostate cancer survivor wanting to talk about your experience? ICC is looking to start a men's Prostate Cancer support group to provide a place for individuals to share their experiences and support each other. If you or someone you know is interested in joining, please contact Kevin Glasscock (soccerkevn@att.net) or Shea Christensen (schristensen@icsmail.org) for more information. ***Note: All individuals who have experience with cancer, whether prostate or another type, are welcome!***

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.



THE 2026 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-In Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHANGE A LIFE FUNDRAISER

Our dear deceased member, Pat Stadler, started the Change a Life fundraiser for our SVdP conference, and we are continuing it with our Parish family in her honor. Pat's daughters and their families are members of our Parish and PSR family. Your donations support our neighbors in need to pay for rent, utilities, food and other critical needs when they have nowhere else to turn. This weekend, we have set out cups in the Gathering Space for parishioners to pick up. Note, if cups run out, please use any container from home. Please put this cup on your shelf and toss in your spare change/bills. Each time your cup runneth over, you can use any of the following ways to donate the funds: Empty your change/bills in the large SVdP jar set out on the table in the Gathering Space at church on the first weekend of each January, May and October; Empty your change/bills anytime in the large SVdP jar set out on the table in the Parish Office during office hours; Make out a check at any time payable to St. Vincent de Paul with a note on the memo line "Change a Life" and drop your check off either with the Parish Secretary during office hours or put it in one of the SVdP donation boxes located by the main door or side door in church; or Log into your account on the ICC webpage. Select Give Online and then Give Now on the SVDP box. Enter your amount and in notes type "Change a Life" and submit.

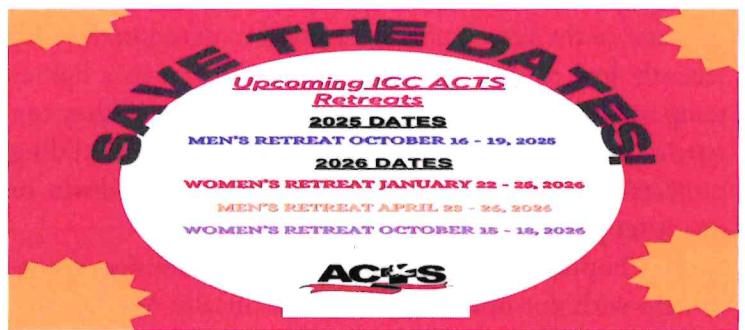
THANK YOU

Your generosity in participating in this ongoing fundraiser is appreciated!



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!



VOCATION

"When I was 6 years old, I told my mom I could never be a nun – I'd get too hot in a habit, I said, and faint. Thank God He never stops drawing our hearts to Himself! The Lord led me to religious life through experiences of serving the poor with my family. My dad, an optometrist, organized annual eye care missions in underserved countries; we accompanied him several times. In middle school, I read a book about Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Her deep spirituality and witness of love and truth struck a chord in me. She became for me a model of a life wholly given to God through service to the poor. When the Lord made my call to religious life clear to me, it was to this life of love and service."

Sister Lilia Rose – Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata (Calcutta), India. Columbian July/Aug 2025

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.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road - 281-5353

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



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

Open House

Preschool - 8th Grade

Sunday Jan. 25th
10am - 12:30pm

ICS Main Entrance

Mission
Community
Service

618.281.5353 icscolumbia.org



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:
o DINNER, APPETIZERS & AN OPEN BAR
o SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS
o RAFFLES & AUCTION NIGHT GAMES
o 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



ONLY 10 AVAILABLE!
\$200/TABLE
SCAN THE CODE TO LEARN MORE



KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

ICS Builders Club is sponsoring a meal packing day February 20, 2026. Goal: Help us reach our \$10,000.00 goal to feed 30,000 people! We have held bake sales, sucker sales, and candy cane sales to get us 40% there.

Packing day will include all 7th and 8th grade Builders Club members, Key Club members from CHS, and Kiwanis volunteers. The group will work for 2.5 hours packing dry ingredients into plastic bags destined to feed the hungry.

All donations can be made:

1. By check to: Kiwanis Club of Columbia, ICS Builders Club and put in the offering basket with a note for KAH.
2. Or to the Parish Venmo with a note for KAH.



Thank you for helping us feed the hungry!

UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS

February 2, 2026,
7:00 p.m. in the Garden Level

What's Happening at Gibault?

We are excited to celebrate our Class of 2030 on Friday, January 16 – it is shaping up to be a great class already! We are still taking applications – Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click “APPLY” to apply. Tuition Assistance Applications are also being accepted until February 28, 2026. 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. Questions can also be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com. We want to welcome your student Home at Gibault!

Need something to keep your baseball or softball player busy this winter? Sign them up for our Winter Warmups!

REGISTER NOW

WINTER SOFTBALL CAMPS

HOSTED BY

GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Sun: Feb. 15, 22; March 1, 8

U.S. Softball Academy's Spring Training Program is a unique concept that provides young players an opportunity to take their game to the next level. USSA camps are designed to develop skills in all facets of the game with an emphasis on teaching proper fundamentals and techniques.

MAKE THIS SEASON, THE BEST SEASON!

Grades 1-12. Winter sessions are available in hitting, pitching, fielding/base running, and catching. Sessions include six hours of instruction in one skill for \$139. 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.



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...



Boy Scout Troop 320

SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR A CAUSE

A Fundraising Effort to Help Feed the Less Fortunate

FEBRUARY 7, 2026

4 - 7 PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
LOWER LEVEL,
411 PALMER RD, COLUMBIA,
IL

\$10 per person
kids (under age 5) eat free!

Carry Outs Available
(Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, breadstick, and dessert)

Gibault Catholic High School



\$100 Daily Winners

March 1st - 31st 2026



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Please join us as we honor these distinguished individuals with their induction into the Hall of Fame.

Coach John Holtschlag & the 2007 Girls' Soccer Team

January 31st between JV (5:15) and Varsity Games

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.

STEUBENVILLE STL MID-AMERICA YOUTH CONFERENCE

All current 8th graders and high school youth are invited to sign up with our parish for the Steubenville Catholic Youth Conference, which occurs July 10-12, 2026. This conference is an exciting three-day experience of prayer, community and empowerment for teens and their adult chaperones, sponsored by the St. Louis Archdiocese and Franciscan University of Steubenville. Around 3,000-5,000 young people are expected to participate in Steubenville STL, held on the campus of Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. The theme of this year's conference is **Worthy**. We will need to know our count by **February 7th**, so we can make travel arrangements. We will be traveling by carpool. Meals are included except when we stop for food on the way down and back. The cost of the trip – conference, hotel, meals, and transportation is expected to be around \$350.00/person. We need conference chaperones, volunteers to help with fundraising, and a T-shirt design idea that incorporates the conference theme. If you have any questions, please contact Angela Burns at 618-567-6739 or BunchaBurnses@gmail.com.

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

Each year on January 22, all dioceses in the United States are called to observe a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. January 22 is the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion throughout our nation. Since then, over 60 million lives have been lost. That's more than the size of Italy's population. On June 24, 2022, the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*. While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to preborn children. So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed. This coming Thursday, we set aside a day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. It is also a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. We are each called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting, and/or giving alms.

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/rhp-20-action-guide-roe-anniversary.pdf>



Questions: mking@diobelle.org

Winter Coat Drive

Sponsor a Coat for \$25

Send a check to: Molly King, Life, Marriage and Family
222 South Third St., Belleville IL 62220
or click the QR code to pay on-line

St. Anne Cradle of Hope

Carbondale, Illinois

Sponsor a new coat for \$25 or drop off a used coat (sizes NB-5T) at your local Pregnancy Resource Center!

More Information:
<https://stannecradleofhope.org/stanne-coh>

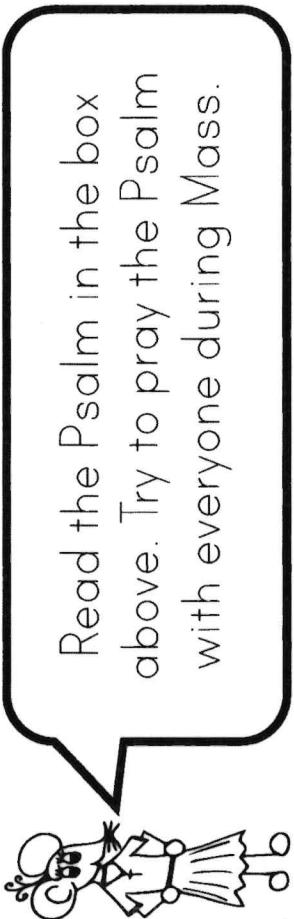
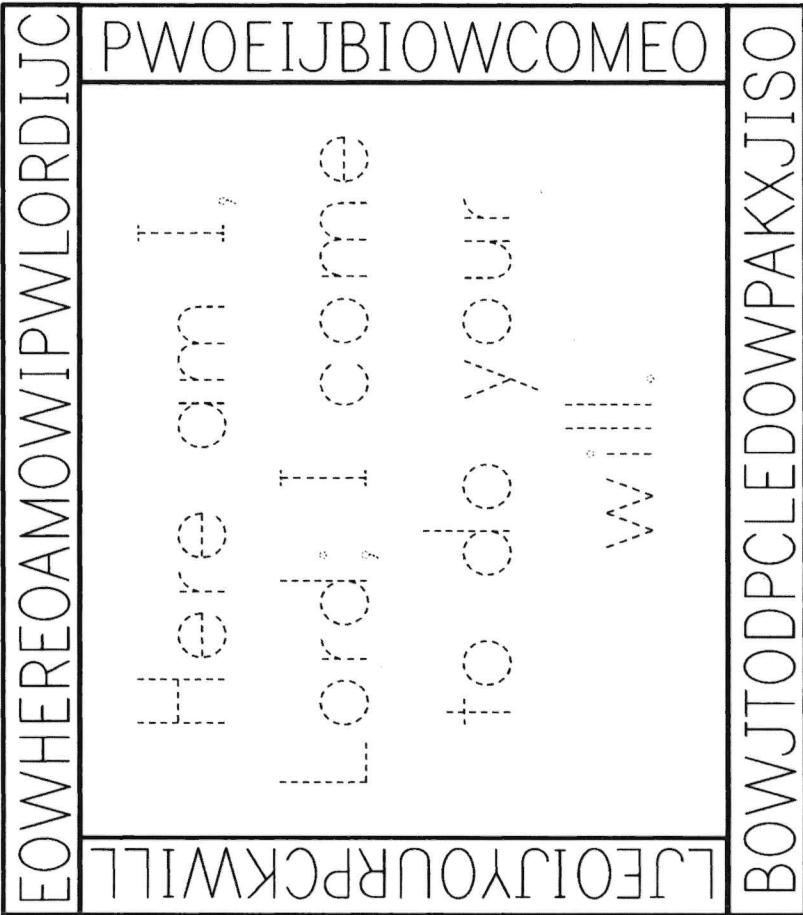


PRO-LIFE/PREGNANCY RESOURCES...

- ~ 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.

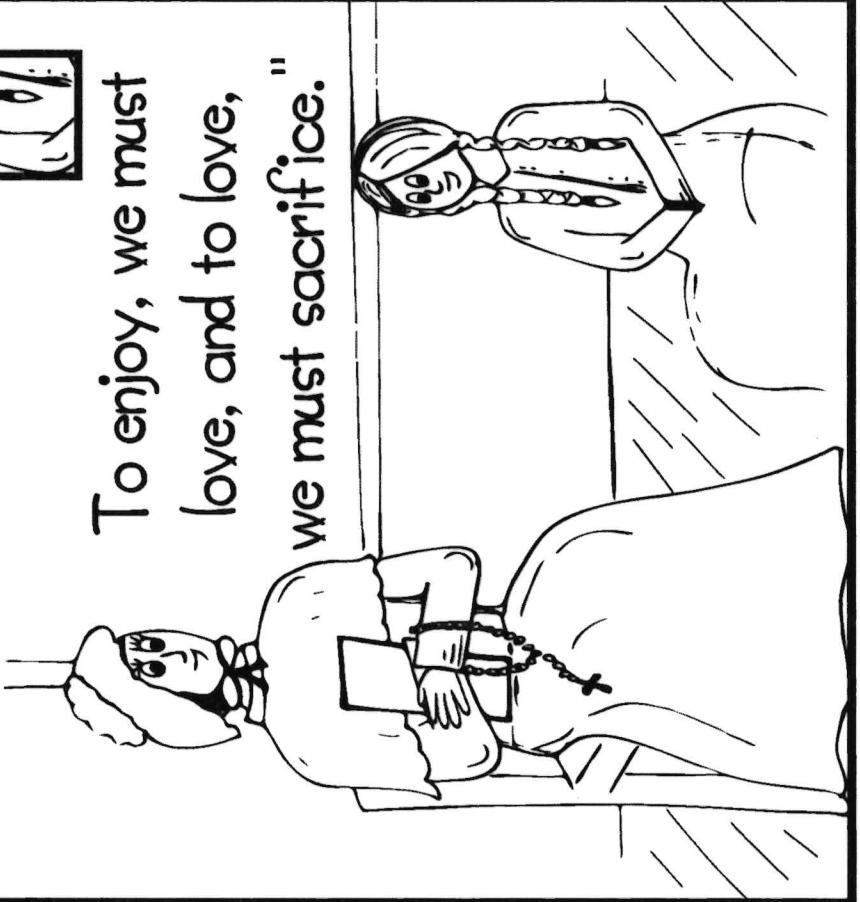


Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton lived in America. She helped start Catholic schools to teach kids about God.

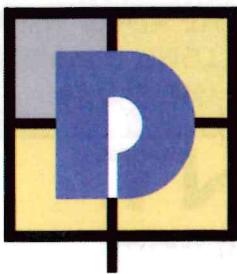
Where do you learn about God?

To enjoy, we must love, and to love,
we must sacrifice."



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