



# Immaculate Conception

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

March 15, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

## HOLY WEEK



### Prayer Card Return

If you participated in the Lenten Prayer Card project, please return your cards to the purple box in the Gathering Space this week.

### Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 30-April 1

Morning Masses at 8:05am  
Tuesday Adoration begins at 4pm,  
Holy Hour 6:30-7:30pm, with *Final Opportunity for Reconciliation*

### Holy Thursday, April 2

Living Stations of the Cross (Gym),  
8:30am (*no morning prayer*)  
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 6:30pm

### Good Friday, April 3

Morning Prayer, 8:05am (church)  
Stations of the Cross &  
Veneration of the Cross, Noon  
K of C Fish Fry, 3-7pm  
Service of the Lord's Passion,  
6:30pm

### Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, April 4

Morning Prayer & OCIA Rites, 9am  
Decorate for Easter, 10am  
Easter Vigil Mass, 7:30pm  
*Easter Vigil Reception after Mass*

### Easter Sunday, April 5

Easter Masses at 7am, 9am, 11am  
Easter Egg Hunt after 9am Mass

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, frbrian@iccmil.org

**Deacon Tom Helfrich**  
deacontom@iccmil.org

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

**Director of Liturgy & Music,  
TBD**

**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 Hoeflinger**  
parishcouncil@iccmil.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@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, March 16	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Job George & Family
Tuesday, March 17	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Wednesday, March 18	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Bob Braun
Thursday, March 19	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jackie Lutman
Friday, March 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Bernice Lawler & Gertrude Scherrer
Saturday, March 21	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Mark Fiore
Sunday, March 22	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Jerome & Alma Buss
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Kathy Francescon
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Carol Rowbotham



## Please Pray For

Grant Koenigstein	Steve Dineen	Tonya Richardson	Karin Bennett
Doug Mercille	Emmalyn Richardet	Jane Quernheim	Julie Beckert
Theresa Zeisler	Corynn Becker	Andy Amann	Jim Grau
Larry Greenfield	Teresa Dorshorst	Nicole Hughes	Adam Brandt
Beth Heisel	Bo Taylor	Laura Tasted	Tim Frierdich
Arlene Kruse	Betty Schmieder	Sarah Davis	Susie Settle
Delores Deleveski	Gary Hoeffken	Thomas Oleski	
Susan Oswill	Joyce Rose	Lindsey Proksha	

*If you need someone to continue to be on the prayer list, please contact Michelle at the Parish Office to add them back on.*

*Troops in Service...* SGM Joseph Pope, Dustin Crawford, Kaiden Timmons, US Army;  
Colonel Brian Schoellhorn, Samuel Campbell, Chief Petty Officer, Seth Spencer, Navy;  
Captain Benjamin Thoma, Captain Alex Kawalec, United States Air Force;  
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

March 15, 2026

**First Reading:** First Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41



## Our Sympathies...

To the Parents and Family of Alyssa Harper who passed away at the age of 21.

To Bernice Toenjes and her Family on the death of her sister Kathleen "Freund" Birlew, 82, of Longview Texas.

To Donna Roth and her Family on the death of her brother David B. Mueller, 63, 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!

### March 1, 2026

Actual	55,333.53
Budget	66,975.00
Actual YTD	1,597,210.82
Budget YTD	1,686,006.00
Over (under)	(88,795.18)
Prior YTD	1,556,076.85
Over (under)	41,133.97
Guatemala	1,703.00
Votive	175.00
Capital Improvements	355.00
Cemetery Maintenance	45.00
Catholic Relief Services	230.00
SVDP	96.00
Gibault	306.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	1,319.00
Black and Indian Missions	215.00
Flowers	394.00
Phase 3	5,499.75
CEAC	420.00

### From Our Young Stewards

I took my dogs out; I picked up my room.  
Treasurer: 104.50

*\* The above totals include online giving through 2/28/2026.*



### March 8, 2026

Actual	19,190.78
Budget	24,487.00
Actual YTD	1,616,401.60
Budget YTD	1,710,493.00
Over (under)	(94,091.40)
Prior YTD	1,575,353.05
Over (under)	41,048.55
Guatemala	434.00
Votive	180.00
Capital Improvements	75.00
Catholic Relief Services	35.00
Flowers	55.00
Phase 3	1,230.67
Mission Trip Donation	3,605.00

### From Our Young Stewards

Treasurer: 5.00

## WHAT IS A DONOR-ADVISED FUND?

A donor-advised fund is a charitable gift fund administered by a public foundation created for the purpose of managing charitable donations on behalf of an individual or family. Donor-advised funds have become increasingly popular, because they offer the donor a tax-efficient, organized planned giving solution with the opportunity to recommend grant distributions to the charitable organizations of their choosing on their own timeline. Donor-advised funds offer the maximum tax benefit available for a charitable gift. Unlike private foundations, donor-advised fund-holders enjoy a federal income tax deduction of up to 60% of adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash contributions and up to 30% of AGI for the appreciated, publicly traded securities in the year contributed. When donors contribute appreciated assets to donor-advised funds, they avoid long-term capital gains taxes and receive immediate fair market value tax deductions.

Beginning in 2026, the total of all itemized charitable contributions will be reduced by .5% of your AGI to comply with new tax laws passed in the OBBBA. Many national and local foundations offer donor-advised funds. Each fund sponsor has different minimums to open, maintain, and grant. You may recommend an investment strategy for the assets in your fund for tax-free growth until you decide to recommend grants. Donor-advised fund sponsors may accept contributions of complex assets as well, like crypto-currency, real estate or closely held business interests.

### Advantages and Disadvantages of Donor-Advised Funds

#### Pros

- Ability to recommend grants on your own timeline.
- Maximum tax benefit available for a charitable contribution
- Allows donation of non-cash assets.
- No required minimum distributions

#### Cons

- Contributions are irrevocable.
- Grants are subject to final approval of the fund sponsor.
- Subject to administrative and investment fees

Donor-advised funds offer both legacy and succession options which may vary with each fund sponsor. After the lifetime of the initial donor, the fund may pass to children or trusted family members with full discretion to continue charitable grant-making or distribute the remaining funds to one or more approved charities. For more information about Donor-advised funds, contact your financial or tax advisor.

— Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

# Parish Events & News...

## HOW TO HAVE A HOLY LENT

Each year, the Lord Jesus calls the entire Church to a special season of penance and renewal. As we journey through this holy time of Lent, we should reflect on our need for conversion of heart, prayer, charitable works and penance. The Season of Lent extends this year from Ash Wednesday, February 18, to the Mass of the Lord's Supper, April 2, inclusive.

1. Everyone 14 years of age or over is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent.
2. Everyone 18 years of age and under 59 years of age is also bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
3. On these two days of fast and abstinence, only one full meatless meal is allowed. The other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's needs, but altogether they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted on these two days, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed.
4. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the obligation of the law is modified. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not further jeopardize their health by fasting.
5. Because Lent is a special season for all Christians, we should not lightly excuse ourselves from these penitential practices.

The Season of Lent gives way to the celebration of Easter in Holy Week, the most sacred period of the liturgical calendar. Holy Week includes both the Church's most solemn observances and joyous feasts. Unique, beautiful liturgies fill the period of time that begins on Palm Sunday and culminates with Easter Sunday. Holy Week 2026 is a great time to recommit to prayer and draw close to God.

## FISH FRY FRIDAYS ARE HERE!

They will be serving 3:00-7:00 p.m. If you are interested in working the Fish Frys, please contact Pat Grawitch at [gk@kofc6165.org](mailto:gk@kofc6165.org).

Below are the dates:

- March 20, 2026
- April 3, 2026 (Good Friday)



## 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.

## BLOOD DRIVE:

May 8, 2026 in the garden level

*Parish Work Day!* April 11, 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.

## CEMETERY COMMITTEE:

Mowing will be starting up the end of March. Please remove any items you wish to keep.

*Cleanup at the cemetery will be March 21 at 8:30 a.m.*

# Ministry News & Happenings

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Back in his heyday, Max DePree was a famous guru on corporate leadership. He tells of the time he was in a Phoenix hotel leading a conference. While he was there, his left knee gave out, so for a short while he had to use a wheelchair to get around. The morning after his knee gave out, he and his wife Esther went to breakfast with her pushing him in his wheelchair. They had eaten several meals there before and each time the hostess had looked at DePree and asked politely the same question: "How many?"

But not this morning. She looked right past him to Esther and asked her "How many?" Then she led them to the dining room and she turned again to Esther and asked her, "Would he like to sit by the window?" Suddenly, Max DePree realized that it was as if he, Max, had disappeared. In the blink of an eye, this polite, well-meaning woman had stripped him of identity and position. It made DePree realize that to be oppressed is wrong, but to be overlooked and forgotten may be even worse.

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus encounters a man born blind. This blind soul was probably overlooked by many in his community. But not Jesus. He was a cherished soul, not to be forgotten or overlooked!

Whom have we overlooked? Who are we blind to or can't see a person for who they really are? The poor and needy? The homeless? Perhaps a person or two that we have taken for granted? We too can blind ourselves, just as the Pharisees were blind about Jesus. They couldn't see Jesus as who He really was. We can easily fall into the same trap.

We can become blind to others and to God's mysterious and surprising movements within us and around us because of fear, bias, intolerance, even stubbornness. Add a dose of impatience and selfishness and we can become, in effect, spiritually blind. But there's hope.

In the Gospel, notice that the man born blind slowly but steadily comes to see Jesus as who He really is. When he was first asked who healed him of his blindness, he said, "...the man called Jesus." Later in the story, he tells the Pharisees that Jesus is "... a prophet." But by the end of the passage, he sees Jesus as He really is: the Messiah, the Savior. If the man born blind can see Jesus as He really is, then so can we. We just have to remember that it's a process. It takes time. It takes effort. It takes perseverance.

The challenge I want to lay before you is this: Pick out a soul that perhaps you have overlooked, or have not seen this person as he/she really is, a child of God, a temple of the Holy Spirit. Pray for that soul. Go out of your way to affirm that soul. Recognize the Sacred, the Divine, that is, God in that person. Ask God to help you sharpen your spiritual sight. Lent is over halfway done. With sharpened spiritual eyes, you'll be able to spiritually see God all around you and within you as we journey toward Easter.

## PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus restore my spiritual sight. Help me to recognize You in my family, my friends, my enemies, in people I barely know, and even within myself. Help me to be patient with this, as like most things, it's a process that takes time. With the eyes of faith, help me to realize that believing is seeing. Amen!*

## ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Next meeting is March 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the KC Room

## 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.



## ICC Ministry Spotlight

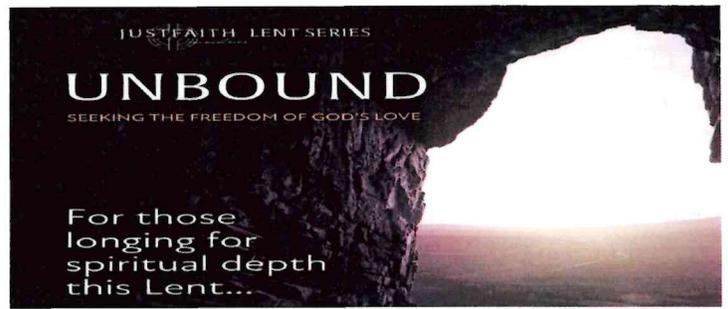
### The Quilting Ministry

The ICC quilters create quilts that are the coveted prizes at our parish's annual picnic. If you can quilt, or you would like to learn, you are welcome to join us in the Quilting Room (located in the parish Garden Level) every Tuesday and Thursday from 9-11:30am. Can't quilt? Much help is also needed threading needles, hemming, piecing, and marking quilts.

We grow our community of faith as we create beautiful quilts!



If you'd like to be part of this creative ministry, contact Carlene Kisro at ckisro64@gmail.com or 618-281-5877.



## JUST FAITH FOR LENT – UNBOUND: SEEKING THE FREEDOM OF GOD'S LOVE

If you feel weary and long for a deeper spirituality; want to seek justice and connections; yearn for the Resurrection and long to begin again, you are in the right place. For six weeks here at ICC, we will gather, read, reflect and share about the Gospel. This Lenten Season, let's join together in following Jesus through the wilderness. We'll meet characters like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and Lazarus, and explore how Jesus invites each of them – and us – to step into the light. Each session of *Unbound: Seeking the Freedom of God's Love* is based on Jesus' stories. We will gather on Wednesday nights, February 25-April 1, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fr. Steve Gira Library. (There is no fee for this weekly hour session.) Contact Carol Waide at 618-910-1648 if you have questions or to sign up.

## ST. RAYMOND'S MEDICAL MISSION TRIP UPDATE!

We are moving forward with our medical mission trip to Guatemala. Dates have been set at June 2-5. The providers met recently to discuss their "wish list" of items they would like to bring with them to treat patients as well as items they would like to leave with the clinic to continue treatment after we are gone. This is based on information from the nurse who regularly works the clinic. Thanks to a program for employees making mission trips, we were able to get about half of the wish list covered by Mercy Hospital! However, the medications we still need to buy. We are looking to raise \$10,000.00 to take down the entire wish list of medication which would allow us to see about 300 patients with a variety of illnesses, and leave their pharmacy stocked for a while as well. Many of you have asked how you can help make this trip a success. I am asking for donations (marked specifically for the mission trip) so we can make this trip the success we are all envisioning. Any amount of money will help us reach our goal of taking medications. I will make sure we take your names with us on our trip so we can pray for you while we are down there and also let the parishioners of St. Raymond's know the trip would not have been possible without you. Dios le bendiga (God bless you.)

### *Snippet from Mrs. Shea*

- The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it.

– Saint Vincent de Paul

## MEN'S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Immaculate Conception has formed a men's group to try to help other men who have cancer or who have encountered cancer in the past. We are also open to those afflicted with the disease, those undergoing special testing or experiencing prostate issues. We hope through bonding with one another we can ease your mind with your issues. Any questions please call Kevin Glasscock at 314-565-4418. Next meeting is to be determined – stay tuned!

## 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!

## ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Mark your calendars for our next speaker, at 6:30 p.m. on the following Lenten Thursday:  
March 19: Louis Damani Jones, "Mental Health and Faith"

## ICCCW NEWS

### IT'S ICCCW SPRING RAFFLE TIME, LADIES.

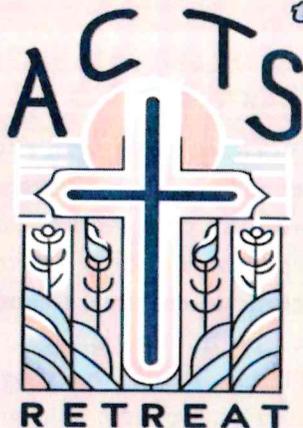
Please pick up your envelopes with raffle ticket in the Gathering Space so we can save on postage. The quilters have made us a beautiful Patriotic Quilt for our Raffle in honor of the 250th Birthday of the USA. We will be selling raffle tickets in the Gathering Space April 25/26 & May 2/3.

Karen & John Waide are also spearheading a raffle for an oil painting of a Church by a Ukrainian Artist. The proceeds will be split between our CCW and the Church in Ukraine. The Painting will be on display and tickets will also be sold in the Gathering Space on April 25/26 & May 2/3.

### SVDP

During the weekends of March 21/22 and 28/29, SVDP is sponsoring a Food Drive in support of ICC and other local food pantries. Requested items are CANNED fruit, vegetables, chicken, chili, chicken & dumplings, taco mix packets, boxed potato mixes, and any type of rice and noodles (spaghetti/mac and cheese). Please drop them off in the designated area (table) in the gathering space through March 29th. These are suggestions, but any item is much 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](mailto: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](mailto:acts@iccmail.org) with your latest contact information. Let's keep you in the loop and build a stronger, connected ACTS family together!



Retreat for Men:  
April 23-26



Retreat for Women:  
October 15-18

**Save the dates!**

## THE 2026 CATHOLIC SERVICE & MINISTRY APPEAL

### Those who are kind to the needy, honor Him

On behalf of Father Godfrey Mullen, Diocesan Administrator, and diocesan ministries and programs, a most heartfelt thanks to all those who have already responded with a gift to the 2026 Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. If you have not done so as of yet, there's still plenty of time. One-time donations or pledges – in any amount – are needed and can be made through your parish or at [www.diobelle.org](http://www.diobelle.org) (click on "Giving to the Diocese"). Your generosity supports 17 agencies and programs that daily serve thousands of people. Please consider making your gift today or at any time you are able in the coming months. We also ask for your prayers for the success of this year's Appeal and all those we serve. *Thank you and may God bless you always.*

### VOCATION

This Thursday (March 19th) is the Feast of the Solemnity of St. Joseph. "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him." (Matt 1:24) It was grace that moved Joseph to embrace his vocation as the guardian of Israel's Messiah. It's the same grace that empowers us to accept God's call and wisdom for our lives. Joseph's "yes" in faith changed the world. God also has a plan for your life. You don't know where your "yes" might lead and how God might use it. Ask St. Joseph to help. Then, like Joseph, go out in faith to be a "doer of the word." (James 1:22) *(The Word Among Us)*

### 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](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

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES



**IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
SCHOOL**

409 Palmer Rd  
Columbia, IL 62236  
618-281-5353

### STEM/ Computer Teacher

Immaculate Conception School in Columbia is seeking a full-time STEM/ Computer teacher for the 2026-27 school year.

This educator will play a key role in cultivating curiosity, problem-solving, and creative thinking through engaging,

hands-on learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The ideal candidate is passionate about designing meaningful STEM curriculum and working collaboratively with classroom teachers to create cross-curricular learning opportunities that connect STEM concepts to real-world applications.

### Middle School Teacher

Immaculate Conception School in Columbia is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic middle school teacher to join our faculty. This educator will work with students in grades 6-8, fostering a positive learning environment that promotes academic growth, critical thinking, and personal responsibility. The ideal candidate is a collaborative professional who is adaptable, student-centered, and committed to supporting the developmental needs of middle school learners.

Interested candidates should send a cover letter, resume, and list of references to Principal Mike Crean - [mcrean@icsmail.org](mailto:mcrean@icsmail.org).

For more information regarding either job opening, please contact the school at 618-281-5353.



**New Student  
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Admissions Portal Opens March 4th  
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Mission  
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## UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING

April 10, 2026  
8:15 a.m. in the GL

## What's Happening at Gibault?

### JOIN THE GIBAULT WOMEN'S CLUB FOR TASTE OF THE REGION

Come out and enjoy delicious food and beverages from local restaurants and vendors. For more information, go to [igfn.us/form/G6dn3A](https://igfn.us/form/G6dn3A).

### CALLING ALL 6TH-8TH GRADERS!

Join us for a Junior High Party on the Patio on April 17th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AAAC28A5FEC16-62702280-junior> to sign up. Come hang out with our student ambassadors and have some fun!

### WE ARE STILL TAKING APPLICATIONS

Go to <https://gibalthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply. Freshman Scholarship Applications are due by March 31, 2026. All 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors. Go to <https://gibalthawks.com> and click "INQUIRE" to request more information. Questions can also be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at [pkueker@gibalthawks.com](mailto:pkueker@gibalthawks.com). We want to welcome your student Home at Gibault!

HOP INTO FUN!

# EASTER EGG HUNT

MARCH 22 | 12:30PM

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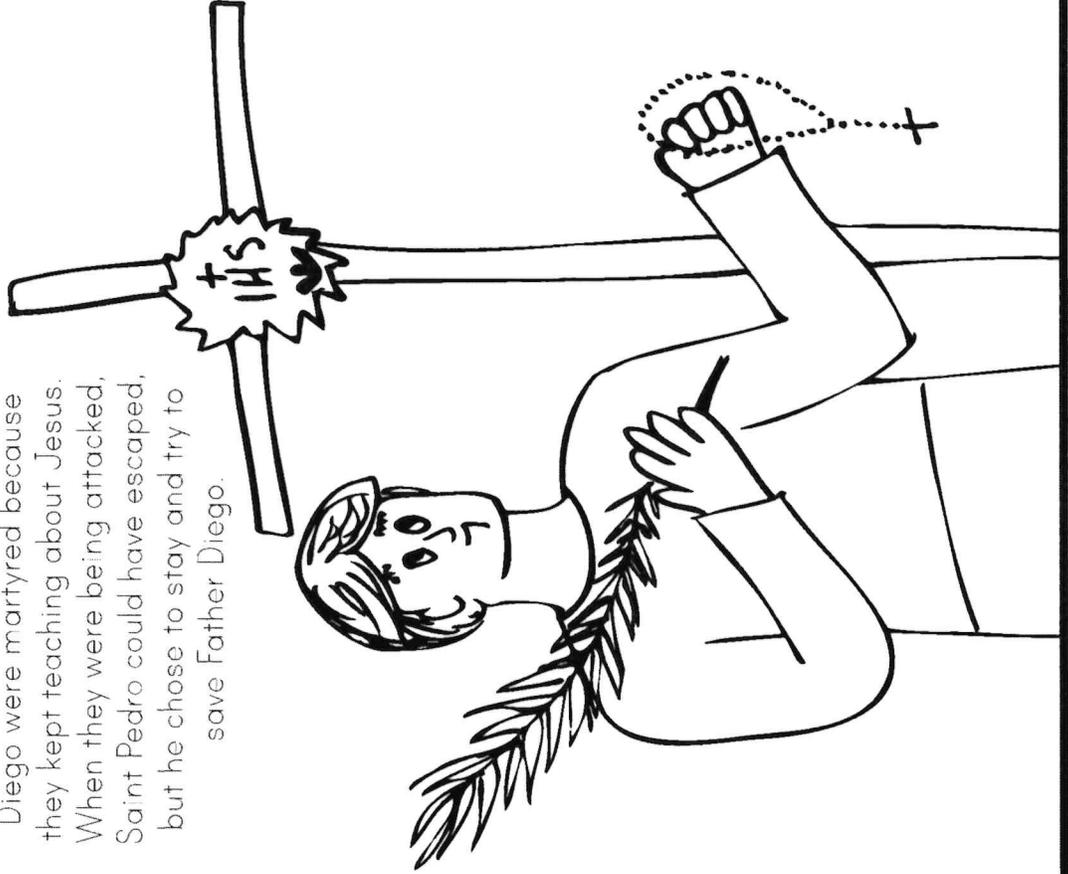
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# Saint Pedro Calungsod

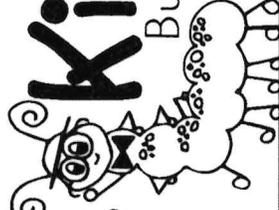
Saint Pedro Calungsod grew up in the Philippines and became a Catholic missionary. He traveled to Guam with a Spanish missionary, Father Diego Luis de San Vitores.

Both Saint Pedro and Father Diego were martyred because they kept teaching about Jesus. When they were being attacked, Saint Pedro could have escaped, but he chose to stay and try to save Father Diego.



# Catholic Kids Bulletin

March 15, 2026  
Lent  
Color: Rose



PWTHEOWLORDPWISOAMWVO

BSHALLPWOWANTOK

BOWMYPSPHEPHERDO

The Lord is  
my shepherd;  
there is  
nothing I shall  
want.

THEREPPAOISOWNOTHINGLSPI



There are pictures or statues of the Stations of the Cross in your church. Ask your family to help you find them.

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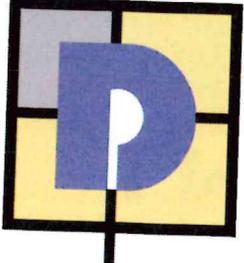


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