



# Immaculate Conception

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

May 17, 2026

The Ascension of the Lord

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



As we close the doors on another incredible year at Immaculate Conception School, our hearts are full of gratitude. On behalf of the faculty and staff, we want to express our deepest thanks to this community.

The vibrant environment at ICS doesn't happen by accident; it is built through your unwavering support. Whether you shared your time in the classroom, your talents in our programs, or your treasures through your generosity, you have directly shaped the lives of our students. Because of you, we are able to sustain the high caliber of education and provide the educators themselves who mentor our children's minds and spirits every day with the resources they need.

Your stewardship is the fuel for our mission:

*"To inspire, challenge, and nurture the mind, body, and spirit of our students within the framework of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the tradition of the Catholic Church."*

Thank you for being the foundation of our success. We look forward to continuing this journey of faith and excellence together.

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 y bienvenidos a la iglesia Catolica Immaculata Concepcion. ¡Tengas una semana bendita!

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, May 18	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Lillian Lampe
Tuesday, May 19	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, May 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Pearl Schmidt Mueller
Thursday, May 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Norm Schmidt
Friday, May 22	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jim & Anna Lawlor
Saturday, May 23	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Jane Eckelkamp
Sunday, May 24	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Catherine Linnemann
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Greg Fasnacht
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Robert H. Herrmann & Ralph Herrmann



## Please Pray For

Grant Koenigstein	Bo Taylor	Sarah Davis	Kasen Greer
Doug Mercille	Betty Schmieder	Thomas Oleski	Jim M.
Theresa Zeisler	Gary Hoeffken	Lindsey Proksha	Jessica Oertwig
Larry Greenfield	Joyce Rose	Karin Bennett	Don Williams
Beth Heisel	Tonya Richardson	Julie Beckert	Dolores G.
Arlene Kruse	Jane Quernheim	Adam Brandt	James Glasscock
Delores Deleveski	Andy Amann	Tim Frierdich	
Susan Oswill	Nicole Hughes	Susie Settle	
Teresa Dorshorst	Laura Tasted	Larry Shuler	

*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, United States Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn, Samuel Campbell, Chief Petty Officer Seth Spencer, LT John Paul Winkler, LTJG William Winkler, United States Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, Captain Alex Kawalec, United States Air Force; Ensign Kalia Jerkatis, United States 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

May 17, 2026

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20



## Our Sympathies...

To Katie Hart and her Family on the death of her husband Matt Hart, 48, 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!

May 10, 2026

Actual	26,716.07
Budget	25,000.00
Actual YTD	2,012,929.59
Budget YTD	2,121,218.00
Over (under)	(108,288.41)
Prior YTD	1,941,132.60
Over (under)	71,796.99
Guatemala	768.00
Votive	172.70
Catholic Home Missions	290.00
Catholic Communication	
Campaign	85.00
Seminarian Education	600.00
Gibault	125.00
Capital Improvements	140.00
Phase 3	12,147.00



### From Our Young Stewards:

I made lunch with my brother.

Treasure: 96.85

*Thank You for Sharing Your Blessings!*

## WHY DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK OR MUTUAL FUNDS TO CHARITY?

Giving stocks 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 long-term 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.

Contact Kara Dell-Hunt at 618-281-5105, ext. 350 at the Parish Office if you would like to donate securities to Immaculate Conception Parish or School.

– 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.

**BLOOD DRIVE:**  
July 17, 2026 in the Garden Level

**PSR**

Is that still small voice calling you? Volunteer for PSR. A love of God and children is all that is needed. We are looking for volunteers for the 2026-2027 school year to help our PSR program continue to grow. Contact Rebecca Husman at 618-281-5105, ext. 353 or Lizanne Young at 618-281-5105, ext. 354. We look forward to meeting you.

*Parish Work Day!* June 13, 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 [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 incoming 8th graders will be June 20 & 21. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.



*He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him from their sight.  
-Acts 1:9*

*Ministry News & Happenings*

**ICC Ministry Spotlight**

**Spiritual & Mental Health Advocate**

Introduced in Fall 2022, the ICC Spiritual and Mental Health Advocate works in tandem with Immaculate Conception School and Parish to provide mental health support and education to both parishioners and students alike. Our parish advocate, Shea Christensen, MSW, MAPS, will also collaborate with other parish ministries to provide education, workshops, and support groups, to enrich the spiritual and mental health of youth and adults.

If an ICS student, parent/guardian, or teacher is in need of someone to talk to during school hours regarding any variety of struggles (social, emotional, educational, etc), anyone, including the student, may initiate a session with Shea to assist with these challenges. Likewise, if any parishioner is in need of mental health support, information regarding local community and diocesan resources, or just someone to talk to regarding mental or spiritual struggles, they may call 618-281-5105, ext. 352, or email [schristensen@iccmil.org](mailto:schristensen@iccmil.org) to schedule an appointment.



*Snippet from Mrs. Shea*

Mental Health Fast Facts – Annual prevalence of serious thoughts of suicide, high risk populations:

- U.S. Adults: annual average 4.8%
  - Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander: 7.4%
  - Mixed/Multiracial: 8.2%
  - American Indian/Alaska Native: 8.5%
- Youth Populations
  - Young adults ages 18-25: 13%
  - High school students: 22%
  - LGBTQ youth: 45%

**NEW – GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Do you or someone you know struggle with the loss of a loved one?

ICC is looking to start a support group for those struggling to cope with grief in their everyday lives. Grief is an experience that can be deeply personal, but it is also an experience understood by many regardless of age, socioeconomic status, gender, or religion.

Whether your loved one has been gone for days, months, or years – we hope that you join us for our next meeting on June 10 at 6:00 in the Garden level. Because no one should have to suffer alone.

For further questions, please contact Shea Christensen ([schristensen@iccmil.org](mailto:schristensen@iccmil.org)).

## 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 with any 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 June 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Level.

## MEALS FROM THE

Just a reminder that we 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

Those who are kind to the needy honor Him  
Your contribution to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 10,283 students at 25 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 2026 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Memorial for Parents/Veterans – May 17 at 2:00 p.m.  
Walk to Remember – October 4 at 3:00 p.m.  
All Souls Mass/Annual Parishioner Memorial  
Candlelighting – November 2 at 6:30 p.m.

**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!**

## VOCATION

"There was never a dull moment growing up with seven siblings. Little did I know that this experience would prepare me well for Benedictine life, a life of stability in community lived in the enclosure of the monastery. Would I have become a monk if my grandmother had not prayed that one of her grandsons would become a priest; if my dad had not told me, 'It doesn't hurt to give God the first option;' Nothing is more beautiful than encountering Christ. I didn't lose my family when I entered the monastery; I joined a family much larger than 10. I belong to God's family."  
*Fr. Caesarius Marple, OSB; Westminster Abbey, Mission, British Columbia; Columbia Magazine April 2020.*



# 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



**PRE-SCHOOL  
2026-27**

Enrollment is now open, but spots are filling fast! Ensure your spot by registering online today. Must be 3 years old by Sept 1, 2026 and fully potty trained.

### Highlights :

- ✓ Loving, faith-filled environment
- ✓ Large playground for 2 & 4 year olds
- ✓ 3 full day or 5 full day option
- ✓ 1:10 teacher to student ratio

**Enroll Now** →

Contact us  
518-281-5353

register online at  
icscolumbia.org




Not Your Grandma's Bingo! BL-51465

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH  
TO BENEFIT ICS FAMILIES FOR  
8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.**

**Saturday, May 30, 2026**

Doors @ 6pm      Bingo @ 7pm

**ICS Gym**  
411 Palmer Rd, Columbia, IL

**OVER \$1000 IN CASH PRIZES!**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE :**  
GLO-BINGO.COM/EVENTS  
(\$2/TICKET NON-REFUNDABLE FEE)  
OR HILARY 618-304-9536  
OR KARA 618-830-0895



**\$25 In Advance/\$30 At The Door  
MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO ATTEND**

Includes 6 bingo cards for 10 games  
Also includes Glow hat & Dauber  
(\$5 per additional 6 cards)

**BYO SNACKS - NO OUTSIDE DRINKS OR CUPS  
BEER/SELTZER/SODA @ CONCESSION STAND  
50/50 - RAFFLES**

## What's Happening at Gibault?

### Upcoming Events:

- Class of 2026 Graduation – Sunday, May 17 at 2:00 p.m.
- Summer Golf Classic – Friday, June 19
- **Summer Camps:** Girls Basketball May 26-29, Boys Basketball June 1-5, Boys/Girls Volleyball June 22-25, Girls and Boys Art Camp July 6-10  
Find registration forms at <https://gibaulthawks.com>.

### Be in the Know!

- We are still taking Applications – go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> and click "APPLY" to apply today.
- Check out our Instagram pages @gibaultproud and @gibault\_ambassadors to find out more about all the great things we have going on!



**Gibault Catholic's  
GYM ENHANCEMENTS**

Air Conditioning  
Bleacher Handrails  
New Lobby Flooring

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**





**MAIL PAYMENT TO:**  
Gibault Catholic  
High School  
Gym Enhancements  
501 Columbia Ave  
Waterloo, IL 62298

<b>GIRLS BASKETBALL</b> <b>MAY 26-29</b> <b>9AM-12PM</b>  <b>ENTERING 5-8 GRADE</b>	<b>BOYS BASKETBALL</b> <b>JUNE 1-5</b> <b>8:30AM-11AM</b>  <b>ENTERING 5-8 GRADE</b>	<b>BOYS &amp; GIRLS SOCCER</b> <b>JUNE 9-12</b> <b>5:30PM - 7PM</b>  <b>ENTERING 1-8 GRADE</b>
<b>BOYS &amp; GIRLS VOLLEYBALL</b> <b>JUNE 22-25</b> <b>5PM-7PM</b>  <b>ENTERING 5-8 GRADE</b>	<b>BOYS &amp; GIRLS ART CAMP</b> <b>JULY 6-10</b> <b>9AM-11AM</b>  <b>ENTERING 4-6 GRADE</b>	



### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

#### Program Year 2026 Moderate Housing Rehabilitation Program

#### PRE-APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The St. Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department will be accepting pre-applications from resident homeowners to participate in the St. Clair County Community Development Block Grant Moderate Housing Rehabilitation Program.

This program is designed to address housing code violations. Funds will be used to repair interior and exterior systems that threaten the health or safety of occupants. This includes areas such as electrical, plumbing, heating systems, roofing, painting, windows and doors.

#### Call to request a pre-application:

From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Monday, June 8, 2026 to Friday, June 12, 2026**

**Walk in clients will not be given a pre-application.**

**Final applications will be completed by eligible low-income resident homeowners of St. Clair County whose pre-applications are selected through a public lottery drawing.**

Eligibility documentation is not required to complete a pre-application.

Only one pre-application per household or disqualification will result.

St. Clair County

Intergovernmental Grants Department

19 Public Square, Suite 200 • Belleville, IL 62220-1624

(618) 825-3215

An Equal Opportunity Employer



## GIBALT SUMMER GOLF CLASSIC



**Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**ANNBRIAR GOLF COURSE**

**4-Person Shotgun Scramble**

SCAN:

**REGISTER  
SPONSOR  
DONATE**



[HTTPS://2026GCHSCLASSIC.GIVESMART.COM](https://2026GCHSCLASSIC.GIVESMART.COM)

#### WITH QUESTIONS:

Sarah Wagner  
swagner@gibaulthawks.com  
618-939-3883



#### MAIL PAYMENT TO:

Sarah Wagner  
Gibault Summer Classic  
501 Columbia Ave  
Waterloo, IL 62298

**IT'S ALL FORE THE STUDENTS OF GIBALT!**

## Diocesan and Area Interests

### SAVE THE DATE!



Totus Tuus summer youth program is back at Ss. Peter and Paul, Waterloo, and Immaculate Conception will help to host! Exciting weeklong summer program for Grades 1-12! Totally Catholic program in

a fun learning environment.

Grades 1-6\* – July 6-10, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
Bring a sack lunch.

Grades 7-12\* – July 5-9, Sunday-Thursday, 6:30-8:45 p.m.  
Dinner provided.

*Registration info coming soon.*

Students Grades 7-12 may apply to be volunteers for daytime.

*\*Grade entering in fall of 2026*

#### OBK CAPITAL CAMPAIGN & ROOF REPLACEMENT

Our Brothers' Keepers of Southern Illinois (OBK) has shown marked growth over the past two years in clients, staff, volunteers, and programs! As a result we are purchasing a larger, one-story building that will allow returning citizens to receive expanded programs and services, all in an accessible building closer to the bus stop! We will still be in East St Louis where the IDOC Transitional Houses are.

Although the asking price for the building is \$125,000, we need to raise a total of \$195,000 to cover the purchase of the building AND the necessary roof replacement. As of March 1, 2026 we have raised \$137,099. That means we have the full purchase price and are working towards our roof! *We need to be fully funded by April 2, 2026!!!*

Any person or business donating \$5,000 or more will be mentioned on our website and donations of \$10,000 or more will be on the website and on a plaque as you enter the building. (You can have your gift listed as anonymous should you not want your name known)

**OUR ROOF NEEDS TO BE REPLACED! ALL 7,000 SQUARE FEET!!!**  
**We need \$57,901 to be fully funded!**



#### READY TO SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN?

You can mail a check to:

Our Brothers' Keepers of Southern Illinois  
614 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
East St Louis IL 62201 or online at  
[www.obkministry.org](http://www.obkministry.org)



*Our clients appreciate your support!*

## RESPECT LIFE CORNER

On the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates the Sunday of Divine Mercy. It provides an important opportunity to share Christ's message of mercy, especially with those who suffer because of their participation in one or more abortions. By the age of 45, as many as 1 in 3 women have had an abortion, and a similar number of men and family members have been involved. Many feel that abortion is "the unforgivable sin." They need to hear that, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives every sin of a repentant heart, even the sin of abortion. In fact, Jesus' message to St. Faustina is that the greater the sinner, the greater the right to His mercy. <https://www.usccb.org/resources/word-of-life-2026-04.pdf>

## 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](http://www.ilcatholic.org) for additional information and resources.

## 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).



## 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.

*Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.*

– USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities,  
"A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe"

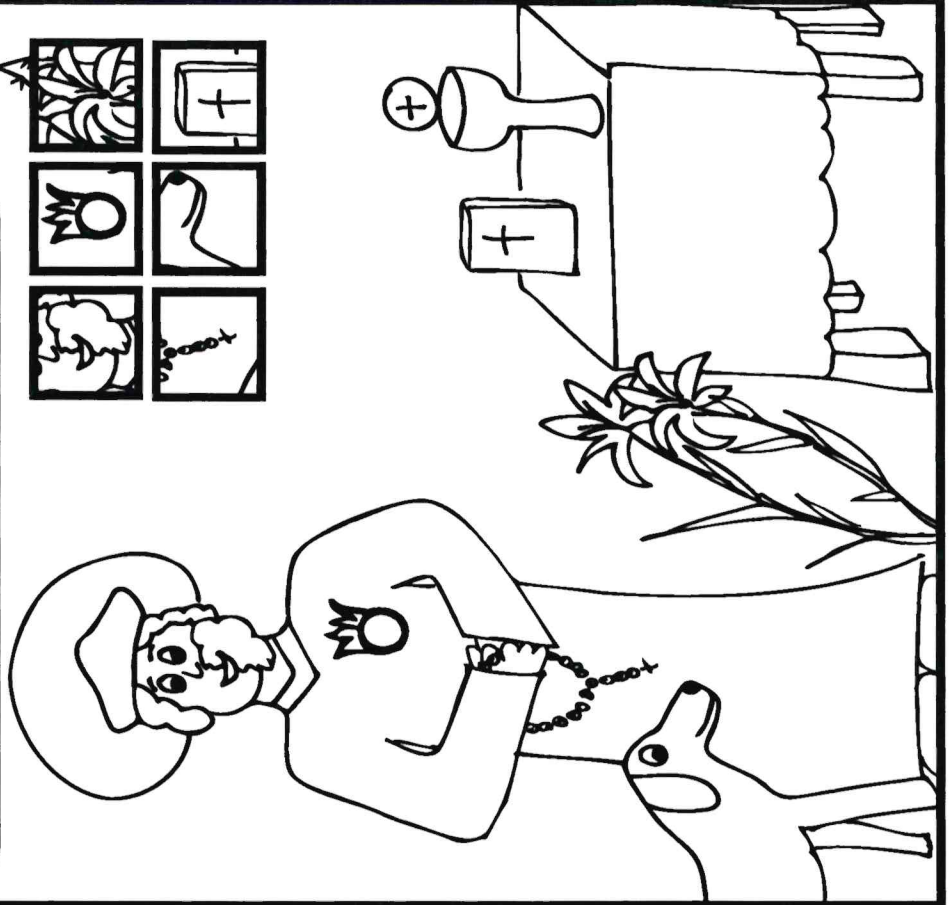
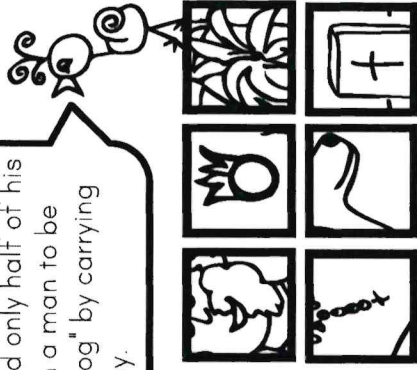
*Virgen de Guadalupe, patrona de los niños en el vientre materno, te imploramos tu intercesión por cada niño en peligro de ser abortado. ... Guía a nuestros funcionarios públicos a defender cada vida humana mediante leyes justas. Inspíranos a todos a traer nuestra fe a la vida pública, para hablar por aquellos que no tienen voz. Te lo pedimos en el nombre de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, quién es Amor y Piedad. Amén".*

– USCCB Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida,  
"Oración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe"

# Saint Philip Neri

God's love appeared to Saint Philip Neri. It looked like a ball of fire and entered his heart.

There are some strange symbols in this picture. Saint Philip Neri did creative things to get people to listen to God's word. Once, he shaved only half of his beard! When he wanted to teach a man to be humble, he asked him to "walk a dog" by carrying the dog around all day.



# Catholic Kids Bulletin

May 17, 2026  
Easter  
Color: White

I BELIEVE THAT I SHALL SEE THE GOOD THINGS OF THE LORD IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

SKO FHTHEZLORDO INOTHEKZIS

We pray the Gloria during the Easter season. Can you pray it with the congregation?



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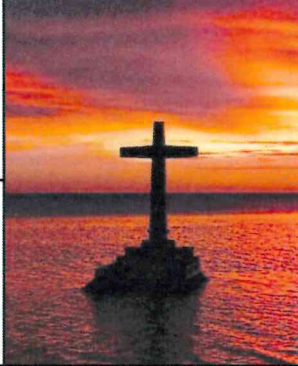
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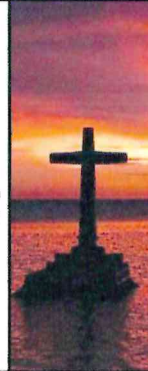
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