



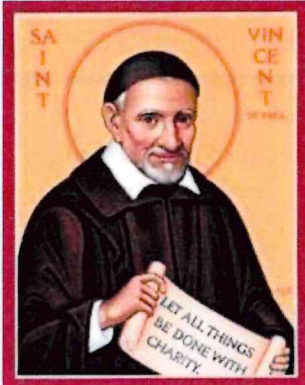
Immaculate Conception

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

September 20, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us



**Go to the
Poor, you
will find God.**

**St. Vincent
de Paul**



Next Weekend, Celebrate the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul with Us

September 27, 2026 at 9:00am Mass

The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is a Catholic lay organization of women and men who work together to grow spiritually by offering service to our neighbors in need. We strive to see the face of Christ in the neighbors we serve.

Our services include a monthly bingo at the local nursing home, monthly Rosary at the nursing home, picking up food from Sam's and Schnucks for delivery to Hubbard's Haven in East St. Louis, preparation and delivery of meal kits to those in need, food drives, annual coat & blanket drive, the Change a Life collection to support our services, and a new "Young Vincentian" program (working title: Mini Vinnies) to include parish children. Through our SVdP Hotline, Vincentians have a wonderful opportunity to not only provide direct support to our neighbors most in need but (in many instances) to meet them face to face letting them know that someone cares.

Our group meets the first Monday of the month from September through May. Meetings are held in the church Garden level at 6:30 p.m. and rarely go more than one hour (sometimes less!) Membership is open to all parishioners. Please call or email to find out more about our organization and to learn how you can lend a helping hand to those in need. Do you have questions about what we do or how you can serve? Are you ready to join us? Please contact Sue Taylor: smtaylor55@gmail.com/618-719-6988.

The members of Immaculate Conception Columbia St. Vincent de Paul Council are looking forward to meeting you on Sunday, September 27, for donuts and drinks following the 9am Mass, coordinating with the monthly IC Fellowship meet and greet.

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 Information

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Phone: 618-281-5105

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Brian Barker
ext. 358, fbrian@iccmail.org

Deacon Tom Helfrich
deacontom@iccmail.org

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

**Co-Directors of Music,
Karen Lundy & Emily Holland**

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

**IC-PSR Coordinator &
Liturgy Director,
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,
Carrie Boser,**
parishcouncil@iccmail.org

**School Advisory Council
President, Ali Kosydor,**
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. Contact Michelle at the Parish Office if you have questions. *The initial course is now available online. Please contact Michelle at the Parish Office for directions. Not sure if you are compliant?? Contact Michelle at the Parish Office. *The refresher course for 2026-2027 IS AVAILABLE ONLINE. Follow the link on our website! If you can't find it there, it is also on the diocesan website: <http://diobelle.org/b.aspx>. Questions? Contact Kara at the Parish Office, 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: 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, September 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mike Markus
Tuesday, September 22	8:05 a.m.	Special Intention Anna McCandless
Wednesday, September 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Irene Schmidt
Thursday, September 24	8:05 a.m.	We Remember JoAnn Sander
Friday, September 25	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Saturday, September 26	5:00 p.m.	We Remember John, Catherine, and Jane Mallet
Sunday, September 27	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Richard Sambo
	9:00 a.m.	Special Intention Anna McCandless
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson



Please Pray For

Grant Koenigstein	Betty Schmieder	Thomas Oleski	Jessica Oertwig	Patti French
Doug Mercille	Gary Hoeffken	Lindsey Proksha	Don Williams	Barbara Kendall
Theresa Zeisler	Joyce Rose	Karin Bennett	Dolores G.	Connie Cox
Larry Greenfield	Tonya Richardson	Adam Brandt	Cheryl Cobin	Howard Martin
Beth Heisel	Jane Quernheim	Tim Friedrich	Julie Beckert	Terry Mouser
Arlene Kruse	Andy Amann	Susie Settle	David Procasky and	DeeDee Birkner
Delores Deleveski	Nicole Hughes	Larry Shuler	Family	Skeets and Judy
Susan Oswill	Laura Tasted	Kasen Greer	David Thomas	Dumstorff
Teresa Dorshorst	Sarah Davis	Jim M.	David Meyer	

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... CSM 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

September 20, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a



Our Sympathies...

To James Reichert and his family on the death of his brother John Reichert, 67, 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 3:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Spend some quiet time with the Lord.

Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

September 13, 2026

Actual	23,190.00
Budget	27,000.00
Actual YTD	394,532.56
Budget YTD	443,300.00
Over (under)	(48,767.44)
Prior YTD	385,050.50
Over (under)	9,482.06
CEAC Debt Status	0.00
	Paid OFF!
Guatemala	707.00
Votive	332.00
Gibault	65.00
Capital Improvements	335.00
Retired Diocesan Priests	870.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	25.00
Phase 3	1,901.00



From Our Young Stewards:

Treasure: 100.00

Thank You for Sharing Your Blessings!

WHAT IS A 529 PLAN?

A 529 plan is an investment account that offers tax-free withdrawals and other benefits when used to pay for qualified educational expenses. You can use a 529 plan to pay for college, K-12 tuition, apprenticeship programs, and even student loan repayments. Any leftover funds can be used in different ways, including funding a Roth IRA. There are two primary 529 plans: education savings plans and prepaid tuition plans.

Education Saving Plans – Also known as 529 college savings plans, these are tax-advantaged investment accounts that are designed for educational savings. They work much like a Roth 401(k) or Roth IRA by allowing you to invest your after-tax contributions in mutual funds or similar investments. 529 plans offer several investment options from which to choose. The 529 plan account will go up or down in value based on the performance of the investment options.

Prepaid Tuition Plans - These plans let you prepay all or part of the costs of an in-state public college education. You may also convert them for use at private and out-of-state colleges. Educational institutions can offer a prepaid tuition plan but not a college savings plan.

Federal Tax Advantages of 529 Plans: Earnings in your account accumulate tax free. In other words, no income taxes are due on earnings as long as the money stays in your account. You will not have to pay federal income taxes on withdrawals as long as the money is used to pay for qualified educational expenses. In most cases, these withdrawals will also be exempt from state income taxes. Note that similar to a Roth IRA, contributions to a 529 plan are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Some families use 529 plans as an estate planning vehicle because contributions are considered completed gifts to the beneficiary. Up to \$20,000.00 per donor, per beneficiary, qualifies for the annual gift tax exclusion in 2026. State Tax Benefits can also be available. The steps on how a 529 plan works are:

1. Choosing a 529 Plan;
2. Opening an Account and Designating a Beneficiary;
3. Contributing to 529 Plans;
4. Choosing a 529 Plan Investment Portfolio; and
5. Withdrawing Funds from 529 Plans to Pay for Qualified Expenses.

Using a 529 Plan for Education Expenses – It's important to understand that with a 529 plan, only qualified withdrawals are tax-free. You should only use your 529 plan to pay for qualified educational expenses. 529 plan withdrawals must happen in the same tax year as the expenses incurred. This means that if you're paying for January expenses, you can't withdraw funds in December of the previous year, even though it's only weeks from when you need the money. Qualified expenses for college include costs required for enrollment or attendance, such as tuition and fees, books and materials, room and board (for students enrolled at least half-time), computers and related equipment, internet access, and special needs equipment for students attending a college, university, or other eligible post-secondary educational institutions. In recent years, the IRS has expanded the definition of qualified education expenses beyond traditional higher education costs, including K-12 tuition expenses and student loan repayments. There is a \$10,000.00 annual limit on qualified K-12 withdrawals and a \$10,000.00 lifetime limit on student loans. 529 plans can also be used to pay for qualified expenses at a trade or vocational school or for registered apprenticeship program expenses. A common concern in the past has been what to do in case you don't use all the money you've saved in a 529 account. This is now less of a potential drawback as the definition of qualified expenses has expanded, and parents have more options than ever on what to do with unused 529 funds. For more information about 529 plans, contact your financial or tax advisor.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News...

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:
November 13, 2026 in the Garden Level

Parish Work Day! October 10, 2026

Upcoming ICY Events:

Sept 13. 2:30-4:40pm - Scavenger Hunt

Sept 16. 7pm - ICY Leadership Meeting

Oct 14. 7pm - ICY Pumpkin Carving Contest

Nov 1. 6pm - ICY Movie Night: Coco!

Nov 14. 8:30am - Work & Play Day!

Immaculate Conception Youth is open to all parish high school students. Check out our website for more details:



ICY@ICCMAIL.ORG

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

How's this for a Plan: Come to Mass on Sunday ready to engage in the Gospel, Old and New Testament Readings and even the homily by spending an hour praying with them in advance, with friends!

Women's Bible Study meets every week in the Library on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

The Pathfinders Men's Group meets every week in the Knights of Columbus Room on Saturday mornings from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Just show up, you're more than welcome!

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the incoming 8th graders will be September 19 and 20. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

BULLETIN DEADLINE...

All submissions for the bulletin will need to be in to the Parish Office two Thursdays before you need it in the bulletin. Submissions will need to be sent to iccmail@iccmail.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

Ministry News & Happenings

Snippet from Shea:

As we draw closer to the end of September, which is nationally recognized as Suicide Prevention Awareness month, please remember that if you are struggling with mental or spiritual concerns, you are not alone. My role at Immaculate Conception is not only to provide support to students at ICS, but to parishioners as well free of charge. Please reach out by phone to 618-281-5105, ext. 352 or email schristensen@icsmail.org at any time. If you or someone you know is experiencing a suicide related crisis, dial 988 for the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.



Are you or someone you know unable to attend Mass?

Whether it be a temporary or ongoing injury or illness that keeps you away from joining us in person, our Homebound Ministers are ready to bring the Holy Eucharist to you on Sunday mornings.

Call the parish office at 618/281-5105
with questions or to get signed up.



ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

Next monthly meeting is September 20 at 10:00 a.m. in the KC Room.

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 October 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Level.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Do you or someone you know struggle with the loss of a loved one? ICC has started 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 October 14th at 6:00 in the Library. Because no one should have to suffer alone. For further questions, please contact Shea Christensen at schristensen@icsmail.org.

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.

BOXES ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 20TH!

If you have taken a box to fill, please return the box(es) to the Gathering Space by this Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Mass. Each box requires \$9.00 postage. If you are able, please place the postage either inside the box or in the collection basket at any Mass. If you are not able or are uninterested in filling a box, you can support this great ministry by placing a monetary donation (marked Box of Joy) in the collection basket at any Mass. Thanks to all who have already returned filled boxes, contributed items to fill boxes and/or made a monetary contribution. Your generosity will help make this a wonderful Christmas for a child who wishes for only one gift. Your participation is greatly appreciated! Questions can be directed to Mary Wilson at 618-920-0319 or auntmary60@yahoo.com.

THE 2026 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Those who are kind to the needy honor Him

YOU have the opportunity to support the eleven men who have answered "YES" to God's call to serve the Priesthood of Jesus Christ in our Belleville Diocese. The annual cost for each of our seminarians is over \$50,000. Funding from the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps support the expenses of our seminarians and Vocation Office: your pledge or one-time gift is truly an investment in our faith and the life of the Church here in southern Illinois. Please continue to pray for vocations and consider making your gift today!

VOCATION

I graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, and served for five years as a surface warfare officer on a Navy destroyer. We had the extraordinary grace of having the Blessed Sacrament onboard during hundreds of days at sea, and I experienced, in the Eucharist, God's extravagant love and unfailing presence... Jesus was stirring in my heart a desire to do something great and meaningful. He was waiting for me...and He was the answer to my infinite desires that the world could never satisfy. He showed me that He wanted to write a beautiful story with my life. In the silence of prayer, I heard the invitation to become a bride of Christ. I met the Sisters of Life and knew I was being called to lay down my life so that others might have eternal life. I received the name Sister Maris Stella in honor of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, who guides us to safe harbor in the heart of her Son, Jesus.

– Sr. Maris Stella Karalekas; *Sisters of Life*
Columbia Magazine Jan.-Feb. 2023

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

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, 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!**



**Retreat for Women:
January 21-24, 2027**

✦

**Retreat for Men:
October 14-17, 2027**

Save the dates!

PRAYING FOR SEMINARIANS

Please pray for our Diocesan Seminarians.
Each week, we will feature one of our 11 seminarians. Please
consider dropping them a note of support. At the very least, a
simple prayer would be helpful. For this week:

GREG KASSEN
Mundelein Seminary
1000 E. Maple Ave.
Mundelein, IL 60060

Saint John Vianney, pray for 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.



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.



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



2026 ICS

Joe Hoguet Memorial Golf Tournament

Friday September 25, 2026 - Acorns Golf Links - Waterloo, IL
12:00PM Registration/Lunch 1:00PM- Shotgun Dinner & Awards
\$150 per player/ \$600 4 person team



STATE BANK
TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS
QUALIFIER

- **Platinum Sponsors (1 per hole) \$1,000** – 4' X 8' color banner with your logo or photo
- **Gold Sponsors (2 per hole) \$500** - 4' X 6' color banner with your logo or photo
- **Silver Sponsors (4 per hole) \$250** – 3' X 4' color banner with your logo or photo
- **Family/Friend Sponsors \$100** - Sponsor names will be placed on a shared 4' X 8' banner near the clubhouse

Email your high-resolution logo or photo to icsfathers@gmail.com



Book your Sponsorship and Teams by using the QR code

What's Happening at Gibault?

Shadow Visit Days

8th Grade Shadow Days

 September: 25th

 October: 8th, 27th

 November: 20th

 March: 18th

7th Grade Shadow Days

 March: 18th

 April: 8th



Schedule Your Visit!



Upcoming Events

 September 28: Girls Volleyball Alumni Game, 5PM

 October 1: Future Hawks Night Boys Soccer, 5PM

 October 4: Open House, 12-3PM

 October 16: Bonfire Bash Student Mixer, 5-8 Grade, 6-8PM

 Gibault Catholic High School
 Gibault Catholic High School Athletics
 gibaultproud
 gibaultathletics

 gibaultcatholic

 gibalthawks.com

2027-2028 School Year
Application **OPEN NOW**

Apply Online or Scan
QR Code



Apply Today!

Diocesan and Area Interests

SISTER THEA BOWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

We had a special envelope in our August packet for our sister school in East St. Louis, the only Catholic grade school in East St. Louis. Nearly all the students there need tuition assistance, and our financial support helps make that possible. Once again, we have an anonymous donor who has offered a \$10,000.00 matching gift. Please be generous in helping us help those in need.

METRO-EAST VICARIATE CCW FALL MEETING/DAY OF PRAYER REGISTRATION

Thursday, October 1, 2026 • 8:15 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

St. James Parish Center
423 West Madison Street, Millstadt, IL 62260

The ladies of St. James Council of Catholic Women are honored to host the MEVCCW Fall Day of Prayer/Meeting. Join us for fellowship, inspiration, and celebration of faith.

RSVP by September 21. Mail checks for \$20.00 payable to St. James CCW (to be received by September 21) to St. James Catholic Church, 405 W. Madison, Millstadt, IL.

Contact Madonna Stapf with any questions or
Venmo information, at 618-791-3675 or
gmstapf@gmail.com

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE BEATIFICATION OF ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

An historic moment for the Catholic Church in the United States that will bring together thousands of pilgrims from across the country to celebrate the life and legacy of one of America's most beloved Catholic evangelists. This extraordinary event in St. Louis, Missouri, will only happen once, and we are looking for volunteers to help make it a joyful and welcoming experience for everyone who attends. Whether you have a few hours or several days to give, there are a variety of volunteer opportunities available before and during the celebration.

BEATIFICATION MASS AND EXPO

Thursday, September 24, The Dome at America's Center,
St. Louis, MO

To volunteer, go to
<https://www.celebratesheen.com/volunteer>

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

"Discover the Power of Natural Family Planning"

NFP is a church-approved, scientifically validated system of fertility awareness that honors your marriage vows to love Freely, Totally, Faithfully, and Fruitfully. But how many children should you have? The Church leaves that to your prayerful discernment through "responsible parenthood"—balancing a generous heart with a prudent look at your life circumstances. NFP also empowers ALL women by decoding the body's natural signs. It provides deep insight into reproductive health, helps uncover underlying medical issues, and fosters true marital connection. Follow the QR code to learn about several different methods of NFP, Responsible Parenthood, and more. Contact mejoost@gmail.com for more help in finding the right method for you.



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.

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.

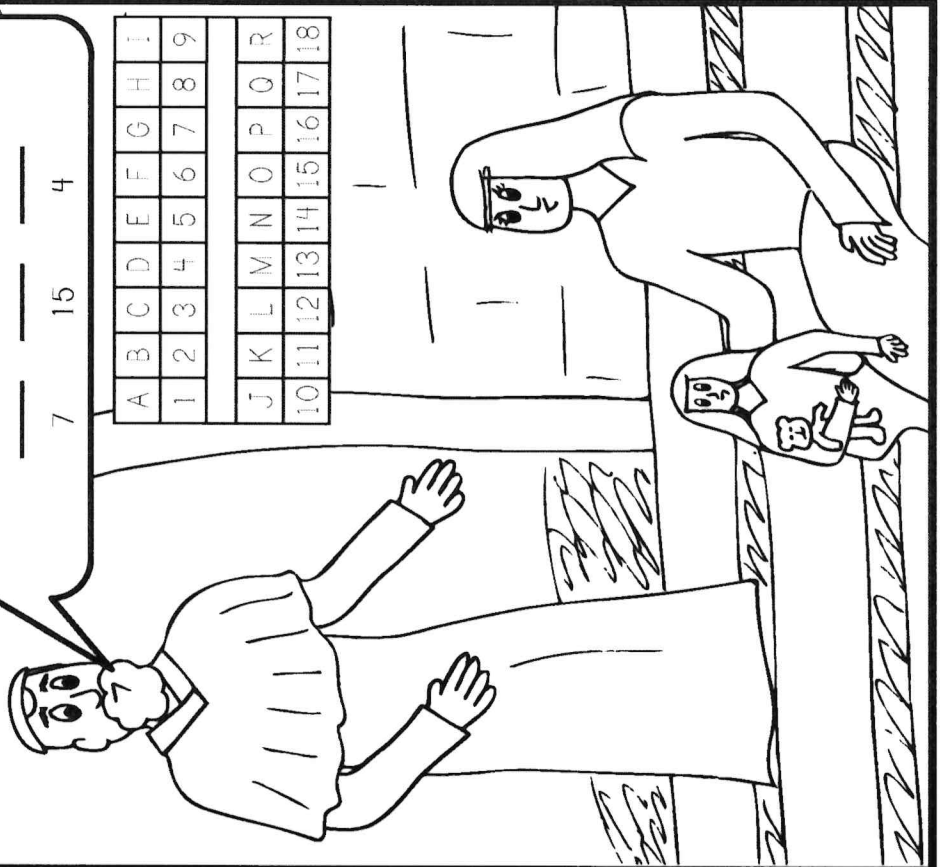
— USCCB Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida,
"Oración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe"

Saint Vincent de Paul

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Catholic Kids Bulletin

September 20, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green

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near to all
who call
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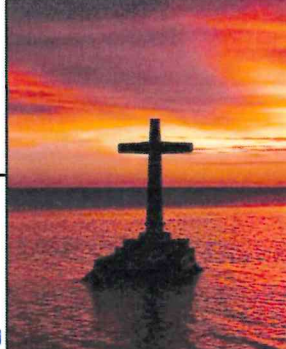
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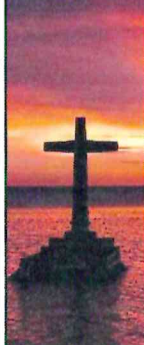
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