Immaculate Conception

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

October 11, 2026 Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time www.icc-columbia-il.us



Rooted in the Gospel of Christ and in the Tradition of Catholicism and Under the Patronage of Mary Immaculate, We Commit Ourselves to be a Welcoming Community of Faith, Worshipping with Generations of Believers and Serving God in All People.

Welcome New Parishioners

If you are new to our parish and reside within the parish boundaries, and would like to be members, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105, and our secretary will be happy to help make that happen!

Hola 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, frbrian@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, lyoung@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 Michelle 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, October 12	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Crawford Bryant & Jim Vogt
Tuesday, October 13	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Irene Schmidt
Wednesday, October 14	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Raymond & Ruby Faust
Thursday, October 15	8:05 a.m.	We Remember James & Anna Lawlor
Friday, October 16	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Calvin Fries
Saturday, October 17	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Walter Novak
Sunday, October 18	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Chester & Lillian Kopec
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Genevieve Doerr & William Doerr
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson

Please Pray For

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

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

October 11, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Our Sympathies...



To Debbie Murphy and her family on the death of her mother Carol Porterfield, 86, of St. Louis.

To Mark Papenberg and his family on the death of his father Dale Papenberg, 86, of Hecker.

OUR CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You have created us in Your own image, to love, serve and honor You with our lives. You have tasked us with building Your Church, and passing from one generation to the next the treasure trove of our faith. Bless the work of our hands as we undertake our next phase in serving You. Keep us strong in faith, hope, and love, so that all we do may bring glory and honor to You, forever and ever. AMEN.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 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!

October 4, 2026

Actual	68,950.18
Budget	77,000.00
Actual YTD	554,876.44
Budget YTD	628,600.00
Over (under)	(73,723.56)
Prior YTD	544,783.04
Over (under)	10,093.40
Guatemala	1,121.00
SVDP	156.00
Votive	210.00
Gibault	271.00
Capital Improvements	230.00
Cemetery Maintenance	25.00
Retired Diocesan Priests	200.00
World Mission Sunday	185.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	1,819.00
Flowers	10.00
Phase 3	5,615.18
CEAC	270.00



**The above totals include online giving through 9/30/2026.*

YEAR-END TAX PLANNING

To optimize your tax savings before the year ends, consider these year-end tax planning tips:

- Maximize contributions to retirement accounts like 401(k)s and IRAs.
- Harvest tax losses by selling underperforming investments.
- Bunch charitable donations into one year to exceed the standard deduction.
- Review your withholding and adjust if necessary to avoid penalties.
- Take advantage of flexible spending accounts (FSAs) before funds expire.
- Consider making energy-efficient home improvements for potential tax credits.

Contact your financial or tax advisor for more information.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News...

Save the Dates!

Our Next Mission Trip to St Raymond's in Guatemala

Jun 7 - 11

We will need translators and medical professionals.

Please consider coming as a translator even if your Spanish is rusty - there are plenty of way to help!

Youth group will have a separate trip that will run concurrently with this trip

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! November 14, 2026

Upcoming ICY Events:

Sept 13. 2:30-4:40pm – Scavenger Hunt

Sept 16. 7pm – ICY Leadership Meeting

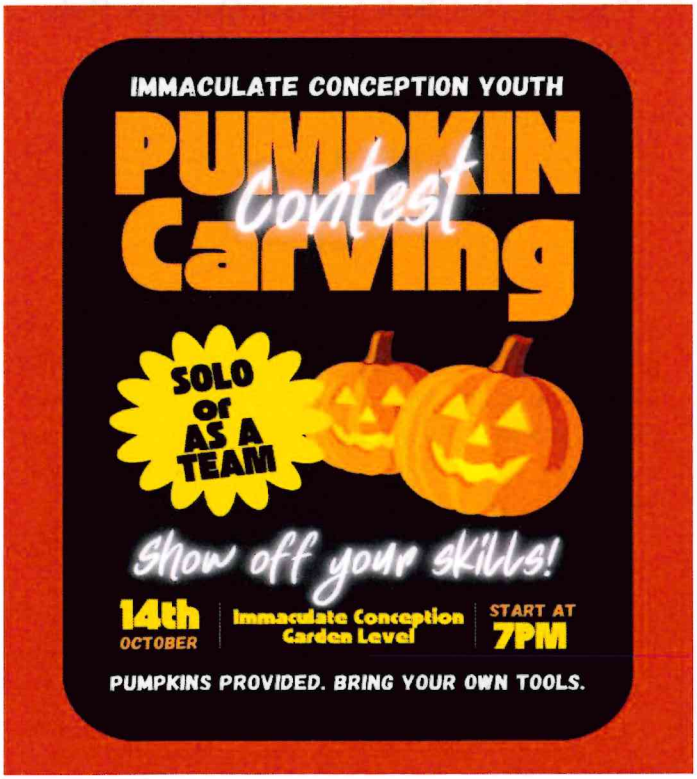
Oct 14. 7pm – ICY Pumpkin Carving Contest

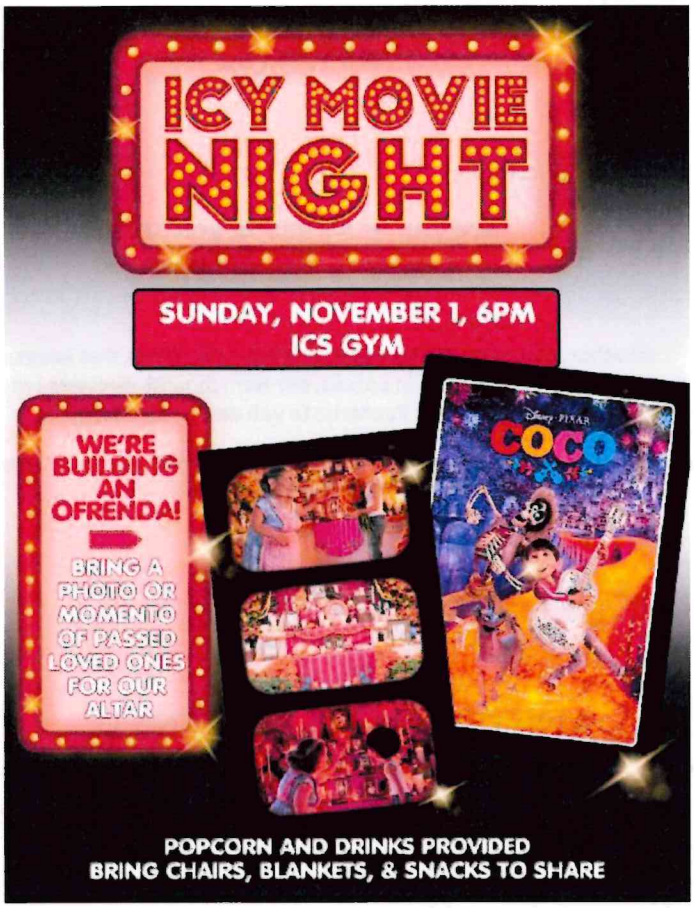
Nov 1. 6pm – ICY Movie Night: Coco!

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!

BULLETIN DEADLINE...

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

D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel and Donut weekend for the 8th graders will be October 17 and 18. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

Ministry News & Happenings



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 October 18 at 10:00 a.m. in the KC Room.

Snippet from Shea:

"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

– Pope John XXIII

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 November 10th 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!

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.

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.

SVDP

The SVDP Ministry thanks everyone who made casseroles for those who need a warm, cooked meal! They really appreciate it!

ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COAT AND WINTER ITEMS DRIVE

The Annual Drive is next weekend. We are accepting all winter clothing and shoes for all sizes, infant through adult, and bedding. Collected items will be given to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and Overnight Shelter in East St. Louis. Your support is appreciated!

– ICC St. Vincent de Paul Society

THE 2026 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Those who are kind to the needy honor Him

"Positive interactions with our brothers and sisters in need honor God, reflect love and foster a cycle of goodness which is so desperately needed in our world today. Join us in our mission to serve those in need here in our Belleville Diocese. Please consider making a gift to the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Thank you for your consideration and support."

– Most Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB

Scan QR Code to make your CSMA gift.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Next meeting November 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Walk to Remember – October 17 at 11:00 a.m.

All Souls Mass/Annual Parishioner Memorial Candlelighting – November 2 at 6:30 p.m.





VOCATION

"Jesus, I'm done discerning." This was my prayer in the back of a quiet chapel, the summer after graduating college. The Lord's call to me as a child was strong and clear, but where and when were not. The many Holy Hours I'd spent wrestling with the mystery since had brought no clarity. My prayer continued, "I am spending all my energy discerning when all I really desire is to love you. So I am just going to love you and love you lavishly. I ask your Blessed Mother to make the rest abundantly clear." Only later did I understand that perhaps it was what the Lord had been waiting for; for me to simply rejoice to be in relationship with Him, and to simply let myself be His. The lesson the Lord taught me that day remains ever new, even now after final vows. How much more beautiful is the journey when lived in the simplicity of His Love!"

– Sister Maria Lucia Stella Maris, Missionaries of the Word
Columbia Magazine Jul/Aug 2022

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:

Chris Berry – Saint Meinrad
Saint Meinrad Seminary
200 Hill Drive, St. Meinrad, IN 47577

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.

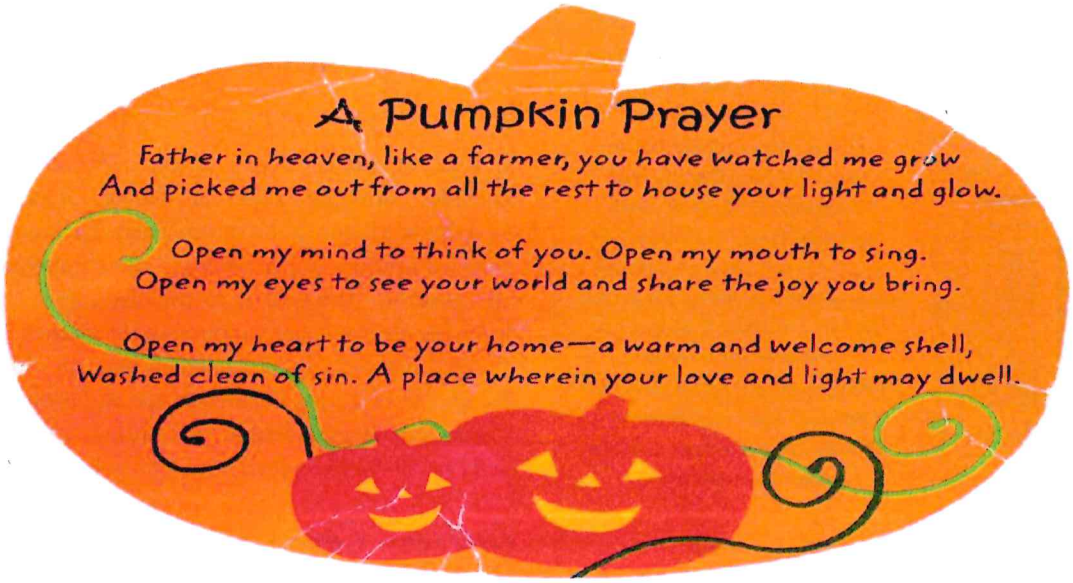
If you, or someone you know, has an unborn baby diagnosed with "fetal abnormalities" or an "adverse prenatal diagnosis," please refer to: BeNotAfraid.net or PrenatalPartnersforLife.org.

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



What's Happening at Gibault?



Join us for the Bonfire Bash!

Friday, October 16
6-8pm | For 5-8 Graders

Bring your friends and enjoy an evening of s'mores, games, and fun while getting to know your future classmates! It's a great opportunity to meet new friends, connect with students from other schools, and start building friendships before becoming a Hawk!

Scan to Apply!

Visit GCHS

Spend the day shadowing a current student, visiting classes, touring campus, and meeting our amazing community. It's the best way to see what life is like at GCHS!

The day begins at 7:45AM with light refreshments for students and parents. At 7:55AM, visiting students will be paired with a Gibault student and head to homeroom to begin their day. Parents are welcome to stay for a brief presentation, concluding at 8:30AM. If parents are unable to stay for the presentation, a packet with the presentation materials and information will be sent home with their student.
Shadow day concludes at 2:55PM.

Shadow Visit Days

8th Grade Shadow Days

- **October: 8th, 27th**
- **November: 20th**
- **March: 18th**

7th Grade Shadow Days

- **March: 18th**
- **April: 8th**

Schedule Your Visit

https://gibaulthawks.com/admissions/

GCHS offers a **$25 discount** for 8th graders who shadow and submit an application for the upcoming school year!

Upcoming Events

- **October 4:** Open House, 12-3PM, Enter through the Gym
- **October 16:** Bonfire Bash Student Mixer, 5-8 Grade, 6-8PM
- **December 5:** Placement Test For Incoming Students

Gibault Catholic High School
Gibault Catholic High School Athletics

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gibaulthawks.com

Diocesan and Area Interests

Diocese of Belleville

Anniversary Mass

October 25, 2026 / 2:00 pm
St. Peter's Cathedral, Belleville, IL
Garden Reception to Follow

All are invited to come celebrate their marriage...



and if you are celebrating your 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary, call or e-mail Martina Skorch for a special certificate by Oct 16.
mskorch@diobelle.org
618-722-5043



The Congregation of the Resurrection had its 2026 Gala on Sunday, September 27. At this Gala the Grand Raffle Winners were selected. We are grateful to all who purchased tickets to support our Senior Members and our Formation Program.
Here are the winners.

Robert Eich – 1st prize $2,000.00,
Immaculate Conception, Morris, Illinois,

Claudia Shahbaz – 2nd Prize $1,000.00,
St. Hyacinth Basilica, Chicago, Illinois,

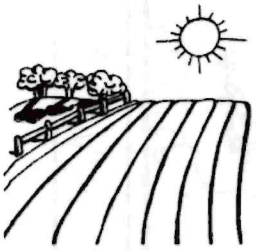
Homero Gonzalez – 3rd Prize $1,000.00,
St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Chicago, Illinois

Geralyn Kutz – 4th Prize $500.00,
Immaculate Conception, Columbia, Illinois,

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Simon – 5th Prize $500.00,
Holy Trinity, Westmont, Illinois.

God Bless you for your continued support.

Brother Bill Hallas, C.R,
whallascr@gmail.com or 773-320-5782



ANNUAL DIOCESAN BLESSING OF THE HARVEST
Friday, October 23, 2026 • 1:00 P.M.

Mike & Julie Dietz Farm
9920 Reider Road, Lebanon, IL

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – FROM THE BELLEVILLE AREA

- Take Rt 159 North to Lebanon Avenue
- Follow Lebanon Avenue into Shiloh (S. Main Street)
- At 3-way stop in Shiloh, keep straight on N. Main Street until it ends at US-50
- Turn right onto US-50 and keep straight for 3 miles to Reider Road
- Turn right onto Reider Road to the Dietz Farm

DRIVING DIRECTIONS – FROM THE EAST

- Take US-50 into Lebanon
- At the 4-way stop in Lebanon, turn left onto Rt 4
- Keep on Rt 4 and veer right onto US-50
- Keep straight on US-50 to Reider Road
- Turn left onto Reider Road

"Farm Blessing" signs will guide you along the way. Those attending are invited to bring seeds, farm animals, farm equipment, and machinery to be blessed.

You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry. We look forward to having you join us!

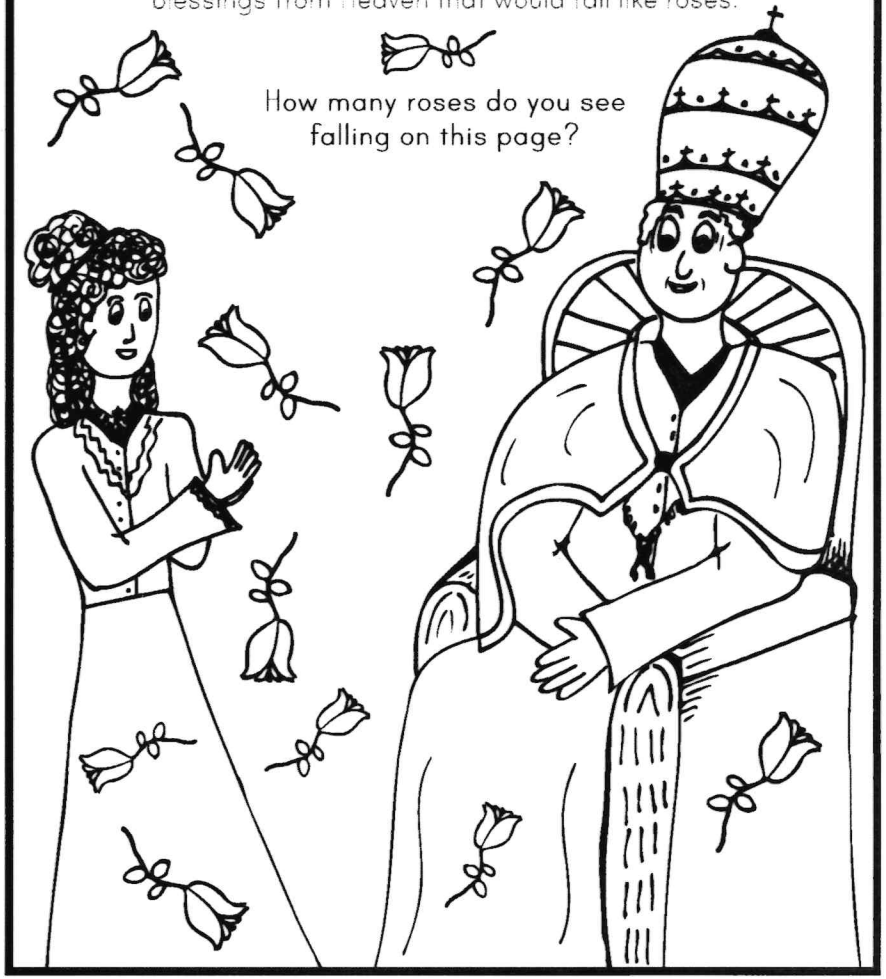


Saint Therese the Little Flower

Saint Therese knew that she wanted to be a nun when she was a little girl. She visited Pope Leo XIII and begged to join the convent. He replied that she had to wait until she was older. When she turned 15, she was finally able to become a Carmelite nun!

Saint Therese promised that when people prayed, she would send blessings from Heaven that would fall like roses.

How many roses do you see falling on this page?



Year A: Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Catholic Kids Bulletin

October 11, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green

JOILWSHALLPLIVEOWAINJLA

COFPWMYOLIFEKENS

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

OWTHEPHOUSEOFTHE

KLORDPALLOWTHEIDAYSOEJZI

Remember that Mass is a prayer. How should you act during church to help you focus on prayer?

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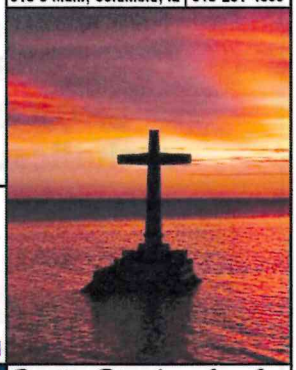
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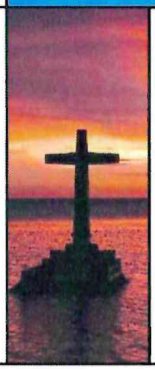
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