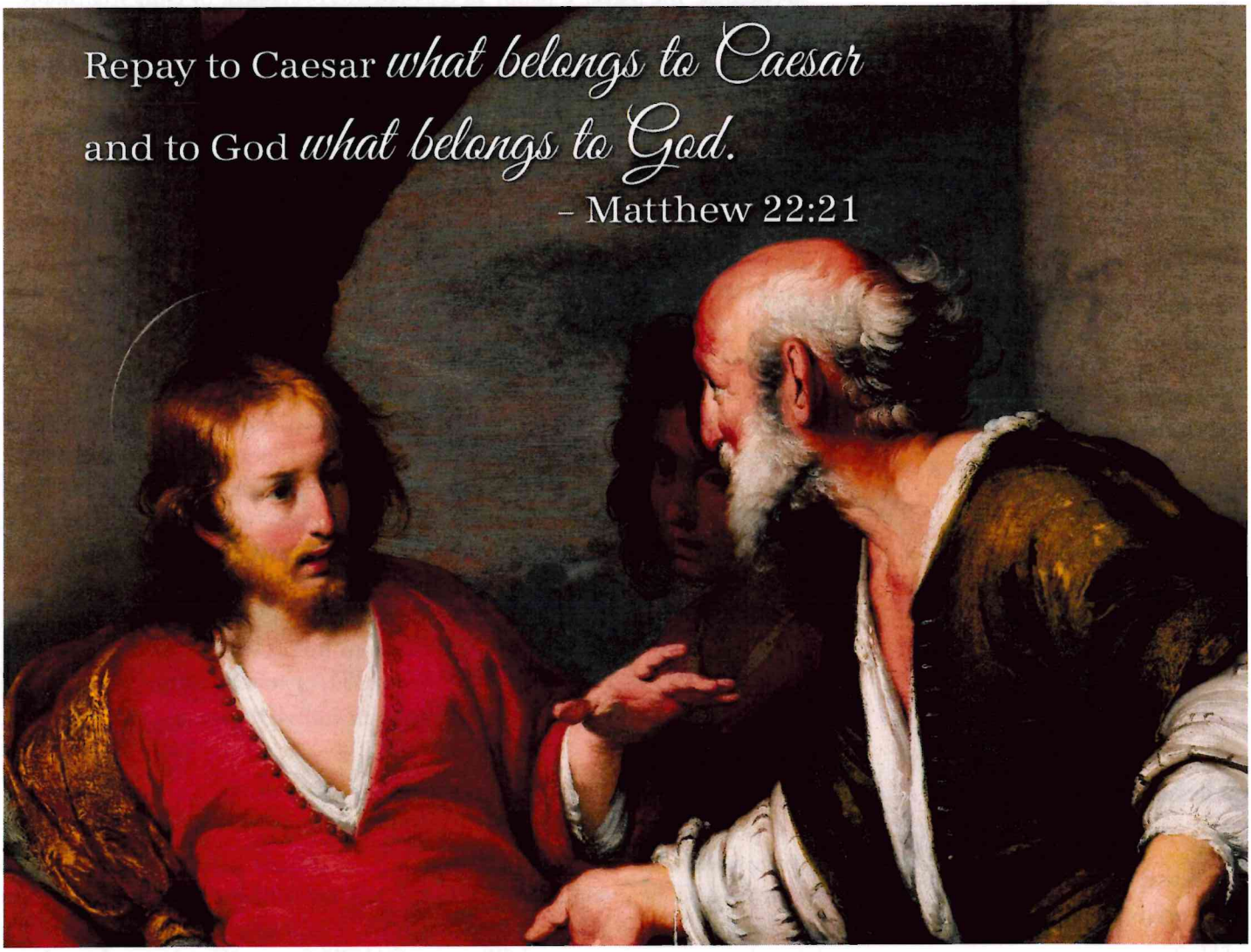
Immaculate Conception

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

October 18, 2026 | Twenty-ninth 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 19	8:05 a.m.	We Remember William Sly & Ray & Velma Budde
Tuesday, October 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Irene Schmidt
Wednesday, October 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Raymond & Ruby Faust
Thursday, October 22	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Michael Conrad
Friday, October 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Saturday, October 24	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Jesse, Rita, & Nicholetta Howell
Sunday, October 25	7:00 a.m.	We Remember George & Viola Rahn
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember John C. Reichert
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Arlin Stechmesser

Please Pray For

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

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 18, 2026

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Second Reading: First Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Our Sympathies...

To Jim Williams and his family on the death of his brother Don Williams.



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 11, 2026

Actual	24,208.85
Budget	27,500.00
Actual YTD	579,085.29
Budget YTD	656,100.00
Over (under)	(77,014.71)
Prior YTD	557,275.40
Over (under)	21,809.89
Guatemala	1,016.00
SVDP	50.00
Votive	111.00
Gibault	75.00
Capital Improvements	135.00
Retired Diocesan Priests	10.00
World Mission Sunday	45.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	20.00
Phase 3	1,127.67



From Our Young Stewards:

Treasure:	82.85

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...



Training & Refresher for Ministers of the Holy Eucharist

Sacristans & Homebound Ministers too!

The IC Liturgy Committee invites all current and aspiring Eucharistic Ministers to a one-hour session covering theology, roles & responsibilities, and procedures to distribute Holy Communion. Attendees will be eligible for diocesan commissioning, and gain greater understanding of the privilege of sharing Christ with the faithful.

Team leader Mike Weiler, mweiler9876@gmail.com

Meet in church

Sunday, Oct. 25, 12:15-1:15pm

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

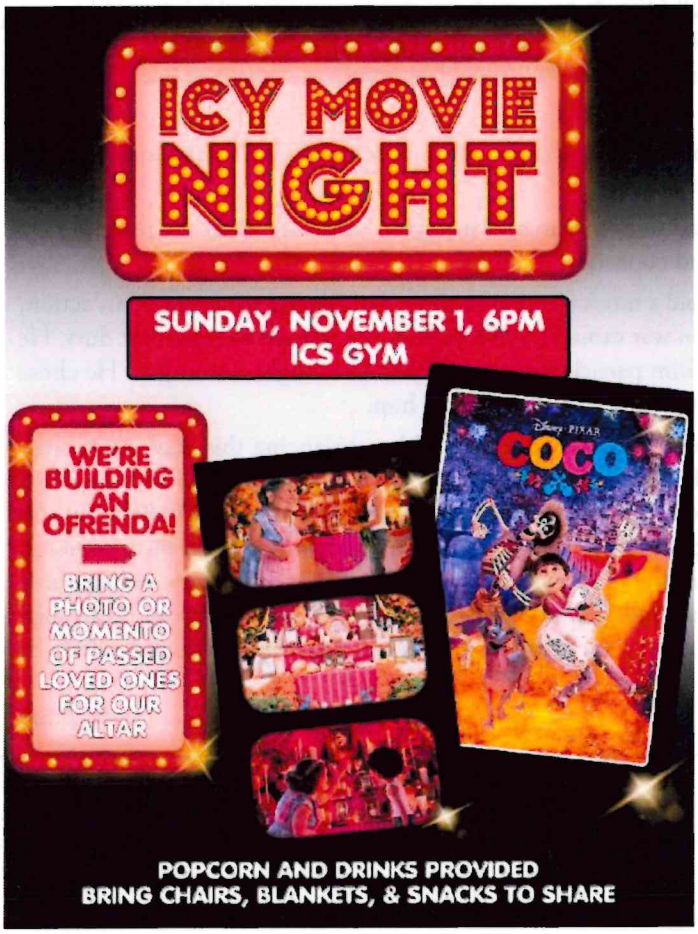
Oct 14. 7pm - ICY Pumpkin Carving Contest

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 November 21 & 22. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

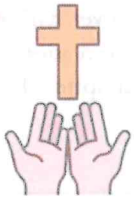
Ministry News & Happenings



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 November 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the KC Room.

Snippet from Shea:

"It is better for a man to be silent and be [a Christian], than to talk and not to be one. It is good to teach if he who speaks also acts. – *St. Ignatius of Antioch, Letter to the Ephesians*

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.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Have you ever lost it? Ever blown your top? Sometimes a stressful situation can push us over the edge. We say things we want to take back. We regret actions that we did. We wish we could be more calm, cool and collected.

Back at my former parish there was a senior couple who were beekeepers. Their honey was great! From time to time they would give me some samples of their honey. One day I visited them and their beehives. I was a little nervous, fearful that I'd get stung several times. When this couple showed me their hives, they didn't put on any special clothes or veils. That raised my blood pressure a bit! I wondered how they avoid being stung. Did the bees know them and didn't perceive them as a threat? I don't think so. But this is what I learned: Their technique was very simple. They remained perfectly calm and moved about slowly and deliberately. This kept the bees calm and cool. So even when a dozen or so bees landed on their arms, on unprotected skin, they didn't yield to panic.

Jesus also mastered the virtue of staying calm in heated situations. Take today's Gospel. Jesus knew the Jewish leadership was trying to trap Him, make Him look bad and eventually try to kill Him. If Jesus said not to pay taxes, the Pharisees could then report Him to the Romans and they would put an end to Him. If Jesus told them to pay their taxes, then Jesus would be accused of supporting the Roman occupation. He gets out of the dilemma by saying, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

Jesus reminds us that we have dual citizenship. We're citizens of the USA but also we're citizens of God's Kingdom. St. Paul reminds us that "Our citizenship is in heaven…" (Philippians 3:20)

Sometimes this dual citizenship of both heaven and earth can lead to problems and struggles, especially when the priorities are vastly different. Sometimes we can be conflicted between God and country.

Take Franz Jagerstatter. When Hitler marched into Austria and held a mock election to show that Austria approved of his action, Jagerstatter was the only soul in his village to oppose it. And when war came in 1939, Jagerstatter refused to report for duty. He even refused noncombatant service. His conscience wouldn't let him participate in a war that he thought was unjust. He chose to remain faithful to his primary obligation as he understood it: God. The Nazi's executed him.

At times I struggle to be a good citizen of both realms. Most of the time, I have no problem balancing this dual citizenship. But there are times when it becomes a challenge, especially with the Pro-life issues of abortion, assisted suicide and the death penalty. There are other struggles of personal conflict between God and government but that would take several bulletin articles to explain. Jesus' advice in the Gospel is good, practical and helpful. Try to be a great citizen of both. But when push comes to shove, I want to favor my heavenly citizenship over national citizenship because earthly citizenship is temporary and heavenly citizenship is eternal. Eternal citizenship in heaven sounds like a good deal to me. Eternity is, well, forever. It can be a tough choice at times. It's putting faith into action, despite what others may say or do to you or me. May our hearts and minds be oriented to God and God's path for us.

Fr. Brian

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 November 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the Library. Because no one should have to suffer alone. For further questions, please contact Shea Christensen at schristensen@icsmail.org.

SVDP

The Annual St. Vincent de Paul Coat and Winter Items Drive is this weekend. We will have the truck open before and after all Masses. The truck will stay on campus until Monday morning for last minute drop-offs. Please be generous. John and Carol Waide 618-910-1648.

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.

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!

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

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

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

ICCCW NEWS:

The remaining Raffle chances will be mailed after this weekend. Please sell or purchase them to help pay for the needs of our church.

Our next meeting will be November 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 12th is our Annual Bunco Night. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Bunco will start at 6:30 p.m. Cost is $20.00 and includes a snack buffet and wine. Our Fall Raffle winners will be drawn at the end of the Bunco evening.

Thursday, December 3rd is the CCW Christmas Party. Cost is $10.00 and will be catered by Mr. BBQ. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. with our meeting and dinner to follow.

We have scheduled our Annual Trip to the Hincke-Sense Home for Retired priests on December 9th. We attend Mass with them and there will be a luncheon to follow. We present them with some Christmas gifts in appreciation for their many years of service to our Diocese. It is a very enjoyable Christmas outing.



VOCATION

"Wherever God has put you, that is your vocation. It is not what we do but how much love we put into it."

– St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

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.





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:

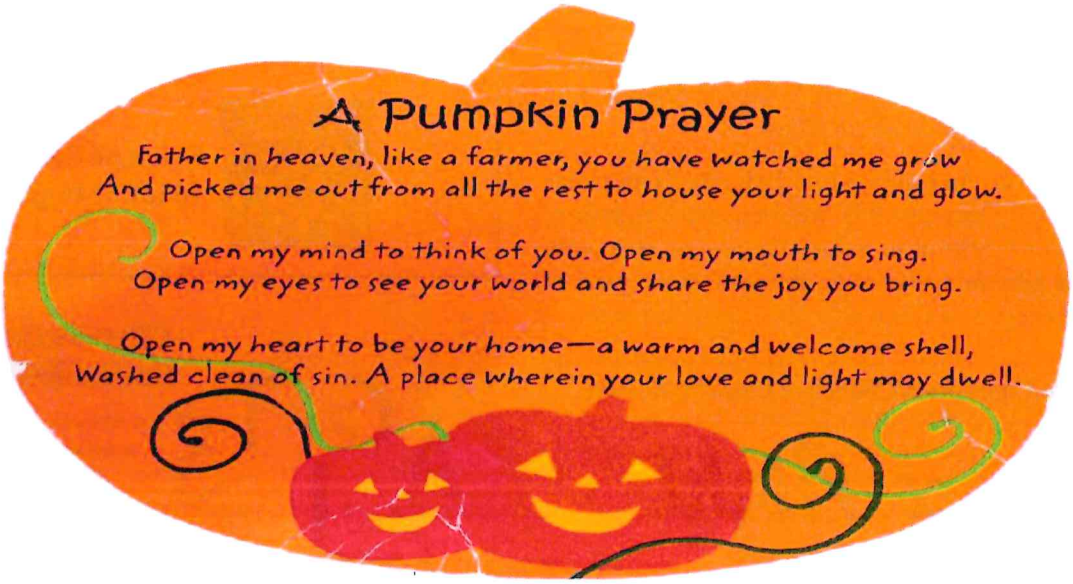
Grant Fender – Glennon
Glennon College Seminary
5200 Glennon Drive, St. Louis, MO 63119

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

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?

Shadow Visit Days

8th Grade Shadow Days

- October: 27th
- November: 20th
- March: 18th

7th Grade Shadow Days

- March: 18th
- April: 8th

Schedule Your Visit!

Upcoming Events

October 24: Oktoberfest Dinner Auction
Mass at 5pm, Doors Open at 6pm

Purchase Tickets

https://diamond2026.givesmart.com

Gibault Catholic High School
Gibault Catholic High School Athletics
gibaultcatholic
gibaultproud
gibaultathletics
gibaultthawks.com

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

Apply Online or Scan QR Code

Apply Today!

Diocesan and Area Interests

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH RUMMAGE/BAKE SALE IS OCTOBER 29, 30 and 31, 2026,

at St. Anthony's Parish Center,
451 West Third Street, Beckemeyer IL.

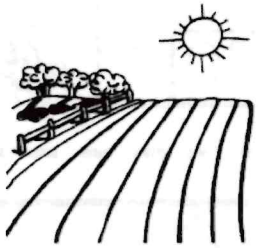
Hours are:

Thursday – October 29 – 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. (Full Price)
Friday – October 30 – 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. (1/2 Price)
Saturday – October 31 – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. ($4.00 Bag)

Rummage donations are accepted on Monday, October 12 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) to Saturday, October 24 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) **or until full.**

NO donations on Sunday, October 18.

No Tube TVs, Exercise Equipment, Car Seats, or Encyclopedias will be accepted!



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

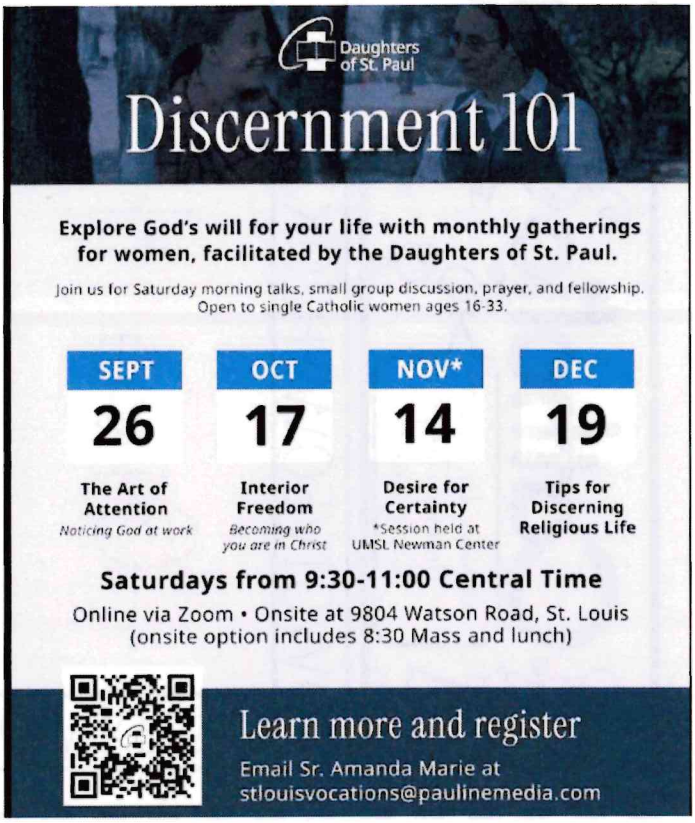
- Take Rt 159 North to Lebanon Avenue
- Follow Lebanon Avenue into Shiloh (S. Main Street)
- At 3-way stop in Shiloh, keep straight on N. Main Street until it ends at US-50
- Turn right onto US-50 and keep straight for 3 miles to Reider Road
- Turn right onto Reider Road to the Dietz Farm

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 nonperishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry. We look forward to having you join us!



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 and 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.

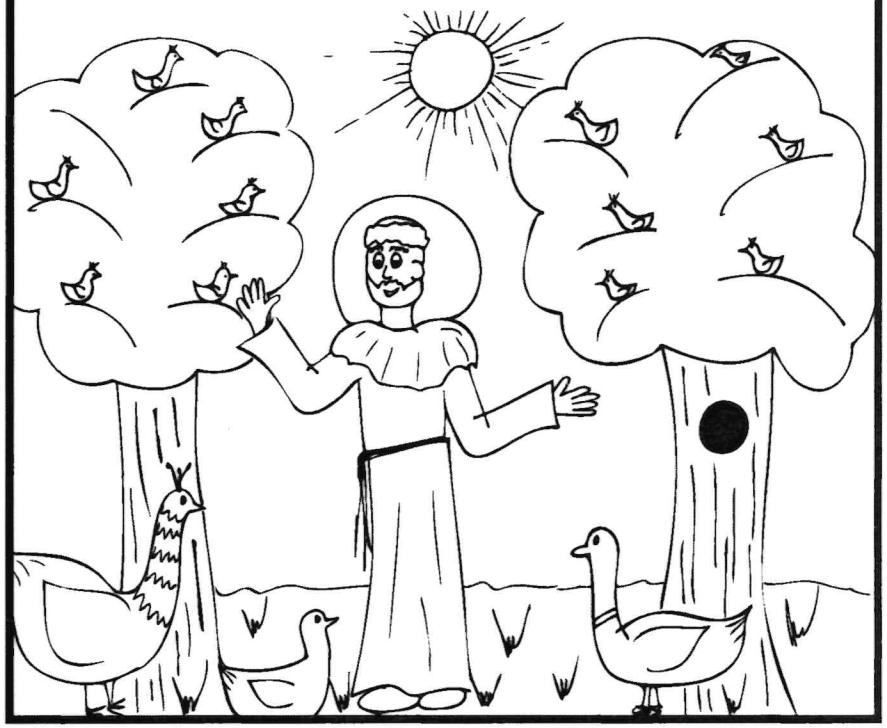
Saint Francis of Assisi

Saint Francis of Assisi was a monk who gave away everything he had. He was very cheerful and helped others be happy. What can you do to make someone happy today?



How many birds are listening to Saint Francis?

He was a great preacher; even the birds listened when he talked about God.



Catholic Kids Bulletin

October 18, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green

POWGIVEOWTHEOKJCLORDKJ

OEPJHONOROWKEJIC

Give the Lord glory and honor.

WPOKGLORYTOIWHEI

KLAJWEANDOWKJEICJSOAPL



Bow your head while you pray to help you focus on being humble before God.

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John.Adams@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/john.1.adams
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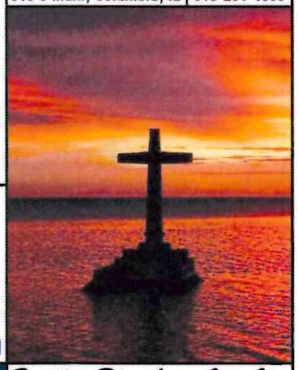
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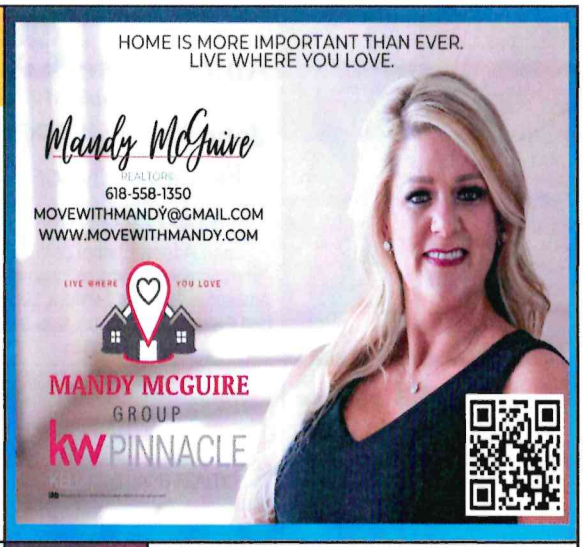
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