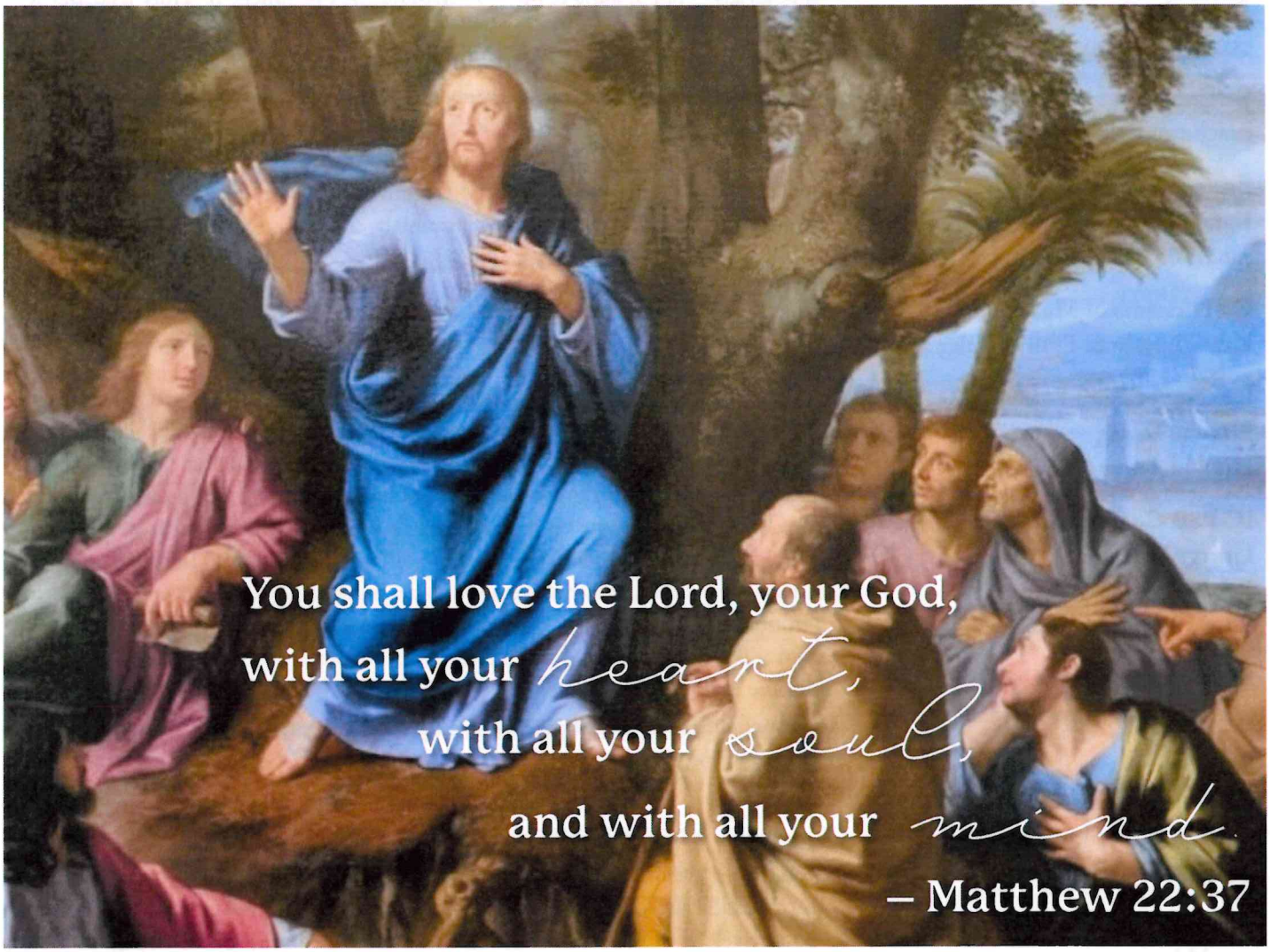
Immaculate Conception

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

October 25, 2026 Thirtieth 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 26	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday, October 27	8:05 a.m.	We Remember James & Anna Lawlor
Wednesday, October 28	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Hugh & Mattie McMullan
Thursday, October 29	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Josh Ritter
Friday, October 30	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mike Markus & Gregory Fasnacht
Saturday, October 31	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Gregory Fasnacht
Sunday, November 1	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Tim Frierdich
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Margie Pautler
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Arlin Stechmesser

Please Pray For

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

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 25, 2026

First Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Second Reading: First Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

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 18, 2026

Actual	68,651.22
Budget	76,500.00
Actual YTD	647,736.51
Budget YTD	732,600.00
Over (under)	(84,863.49)
Prior YTD	632,602.57
Over (under)	15,133.94
Guatemala	970.00
Votive	218.00
Gibault	160.00
Capital Improvements	775.00
Cemetery Maintenance	30.00
Eugene Schorb Edu. Endowment Fund	53.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	1,145.00
Retired Diocesan Priests	50.00
World Mission Sunday	495.00
Phase 3	6,399.19
CEAC	340.00



From Our Young Stewards:

Treasure:	26.00

*The above totals include online giving through 10/15/2026.

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...



BLOOD DRIVE:
November 13, 2026 in the Garden Level

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.

Parish Work Day! November 14, 2026

Upcoming ICY Events:

Sept 13. 2:30-4:40pm – Scavenger Hunt

Sept 16. 7pm – ICY Leadership Meeting

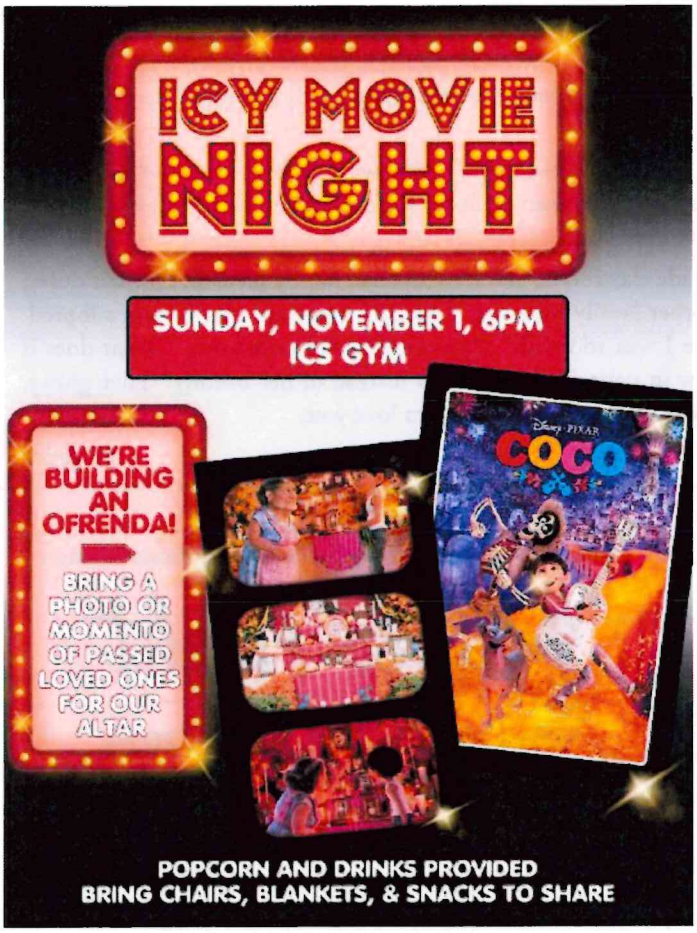
Oct 14. 7pm – ICY Pumpkin Carving Contest

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.

Ministry News & Happenings

ICC Ministry Spotlight

Sanctity of Life Ministry

Respecting and protecting human life from its most tender beginning is key to respecting life in all stages. The Sanctity of Life Ministry is committed to the preservation of God's gift of life from conception to natural death in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our goal is to foster a culture that respects and upholds the dignity of all human beings. We fulfill this mission through parish education and awareness, support of local pregnancy care centers, and coordination of pro-life events (especially during October-Respect Life Month). We meet monthly as needed but typically handle most of our business by email. While we are incredibly grateful for the generosity and support of ICC parishioners, we are in need of more active members; don't be afraid-being a member of our group doesn't take a lot of time! Please reach out for more information or to be added to our email list.

For more information or to be added to the Sanctity of Life email list, please contact Laura at laurasusanrn@yahoo.com

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:

"Mihi mori lucrum – For me to die is a gain."

– Saint Anthony Mary Claret

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

In this weekend's Gospel, the Pharisees tried to test Jesus yet again. They wanted to somehow, someway, trap Him so they could get rid of Him once and for all. So today's reading is yet another attempt at trying to discredit Jesus and His authority. And yet again, they fail.

They ask Jesus what was the most important law of the 623 laws found in the Jewish Torah, the first five books of the Bible. This topic was often debated among Jewish scholars at the time. So they would be very interested in hearing Jesus' opinion on this.

Jesus answers their question by quoting the Shema. The Shema is the most important prayer in the Jewish faith. Every good, practicing Jew says this prayer first thing in the morning and also at bedtime. It comes right from the Book of Deuteronomy:

Hear, O Israel!
The Lord is God and Lord alone.
Therefore, you shall love the Lord your God
With all your heart, with all your soul
And with all your mind.

Jesus goes on to say that everything that the 623 laws and everything the prophets preached about God is summed up essentially, in one word: Love!

It's not hard to learn. It's not hidden or obscured. It's not rocket science. It's love. That's what we're judged on at the end of our lives. We're made in God's image. God is love. And we are at our very best when we love. To love and be loved. It's our calling. It's our destiny. We are rooted in love. We were loved into our very existence!

I remember at one of my past assignments, I walked into a first grade classroom. The students had family pictures on their desks. One little boy in his picture had a different color hair than the other family members. One kid suggested that he was adopted. Then a little girl chimed in, "I know all about adoptions because I was adopted." Then another kid called out, "What does it mean to be adopted?" The girl answered, "It means that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy." Love grows, nurtures and nourishes. Love stems from the heart. Love God. Love God's people. Let them love you.

Fr. Brian

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.**

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.

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.

Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women

PRESENTS

Bunco Night

Thursday, November 12th, 2026



$20 Admission!

First Prize for the Most Buncos:	$100
Second Prize for the Most Baby Buncos:	$50
Third Prize for the Most Wins:	$30
Fourth Prize for the Most Losses:	$20

If there is more than one winner, the prizes will be split.

You can Reserve a spot by calling or texting

Liz Taylor at 618-772-9705

Please come even if you haven't made a reservation!

Complimentary wine, lemonade, coffee & water & Free Snack Buffet!

Quilt & Basket Raffle & 50/50 Raffle

Door Opens: 6:00pm

411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL

Browse the raffles, help yourself to snacks & a drink and have a seat!

Games begin at 6:30pm. Three games of six rounds!

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!

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.

VOCATION

Next Sunday, November 1st, starts National Vocation Awareness Week, an annual weeklong celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and renewed prayers and support for those who are considering one of these vocations. Suggest to our youth to consider a call from the Lord to serve the Church, and pray every day this week for an increase in vocations.

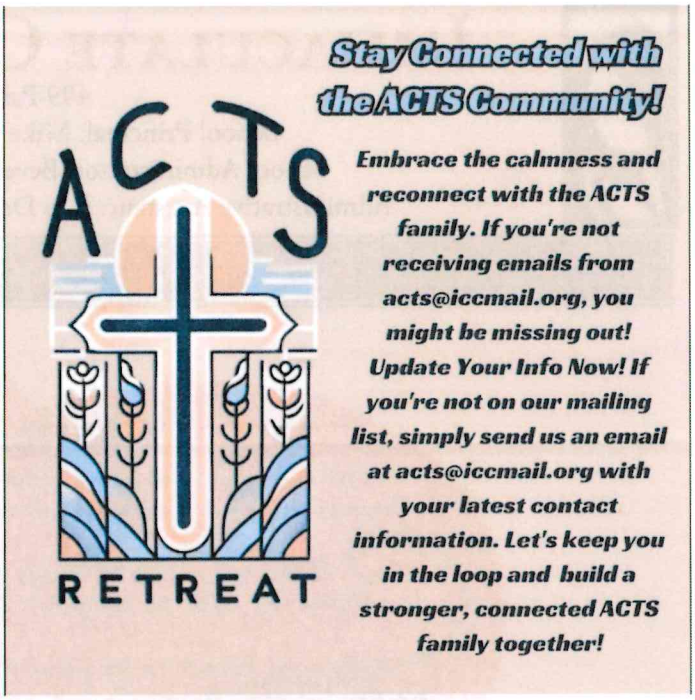
PRAYING FOR SEMINARIANS

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:

Mateo Leonelli – Conception
Conception Seminary College
37174 State Hwy V V
P.O. Box 502
Conception, MO 64433

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.

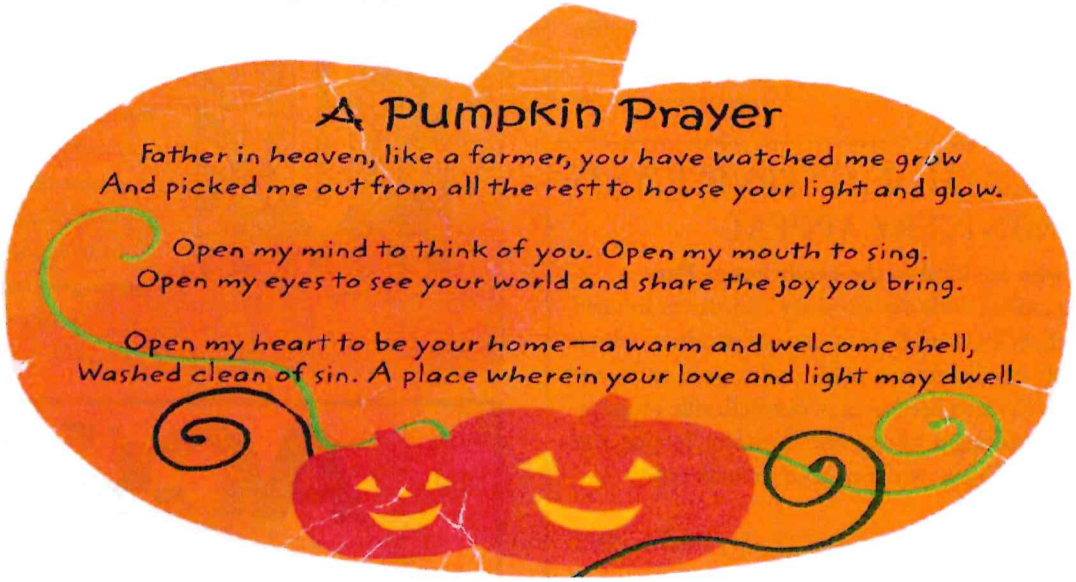
Quilters' Corner

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.

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

November 13: Alumni & Friends Hawk Hangout
Stubborn German's Speakeasy, 5-10pm

November 24: Alumni Thanksgiving Lunch
10:30am-1pm

Gibault Catholic High School
Gibault Catholic High School Athletics

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gibaulthawks.com

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

Apply Online or Scan QR Code

Apply Today!

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 from 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 Tube TVs, Exercise Equipment, Car Seats, or Encyclopedias will be accepted!

Sweet Babies

FIRST ANNUAL TRIVIA NIGHT
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 AT 6:00 PM
ETHICAL SOCIETY ST. LOUIS
9001 CLAYTON RD, ST LOUIS, MO 63117
For information go to:
https://givebutter.com/SweetBabiesTriviaNight2026



Explore God's will for your life with monthly gatherings for women, facilitated by the Daughters of St. Paul.

Join us for Saturday morning talks, small group discussion, prayer, and fellowship. Open to single Catholic women ages 16-33.

SEPT	OCT	NOV*	DEC
26	17	14	19
The Art of Attention *Noticing God at work*	**Interior Freedom** *Becoming who you are in Christ*	**Desire for Certainty** *Session held at UMSL Newman Center	**Tips for Discerning Religious Life**

Saturdays from 9:30-11:00 Central Time

Online via Zoom • Onsite at 9804 Watson Road, St. Louis
(onsite option includes 8:30 Mass and lunch)

Learn more and register
Email Sr. Amanda Marie at
stlouisvocations@paulinemedia.com

NATIVITY SETS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



OPEN HOUSE:
SUN, DEC 6
1-6PM

MON-WED,
DEC 7,8,9
9AM-5PM

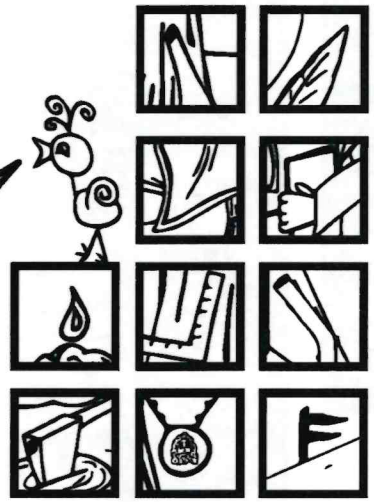
HINCKE RESIDENCE FOR PRIESTS | 2620 LEBANON AVE. BELLEVILLE, IL 62221

IN HONOR OF JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS AND MISSIONS OF BLESSED FULTON SHEEN

Saint Jude

Saint Jude is the patron saint of lost causes. He helps out when nothing else seems to work. Pray to Saint Jude when you have a bad day.

Can you find all the symbols of Saint Jude?





Catholic Kids Bulletin

October 25, 2026
Ordinary Time
Color: Green

BOAJOEILWOEKJLOVEOKJIAC

SPOSTRENGTHEIZJIJ

I love you, Lord, my strength.

KJPWOYOUWPAJLJI

WPELORDOWMYWOEIJTHZPKI

How many times do you say "Amen" during Mass today?

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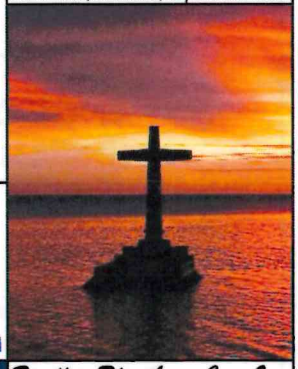
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618-281-9434
MKT-5894N-A
edwardjones.com

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heartlandturffarms.com

Ebers Electrical & Locksmithing
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Kenneth Ebers, Parishioner
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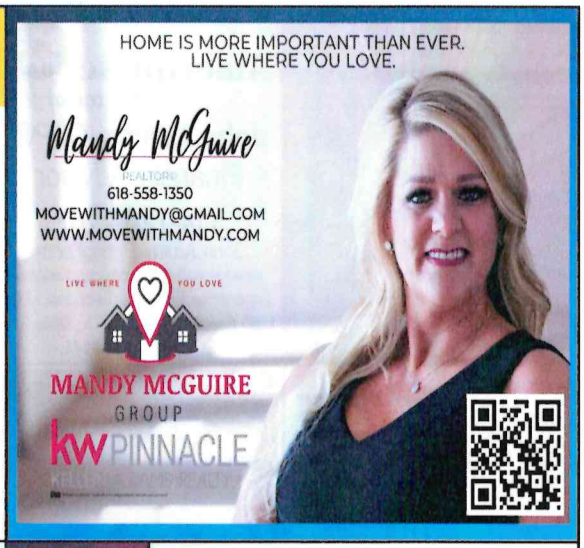
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