



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A FULL STEWARDSHIP PARISH ~ PARTNER PARISH OF SACRED HEART OF JESUS, DUPO, IL



411 PALMER ROAD, COLUMBIA, IL 62236 618-281-5105 FAX 281-6848

December 26, 2021 Third Sunday In Advent

WWW.ICC-COLUMBIA-IL.US

What would Jesus, Mary & Joseph Do?

Not even 15 minutes after Mass, you find yourself sitting in the car, breaking up an argument between the kids who are fighting over where they get to sit or who gets in first. And you're thinking, what happened to the peace that we just offered one another during Mass? Are we crazy to think we can emulate the Holy Family when we can't even get out of the parish parking lot without fighting?

We look at the Nativity image and can almost hear the peaceful sounds of Silent Night and forget that Jesus, Mary and Joseph knew too well all of the struggles of earthly life. They would have encountered the same challenges, tribulations and misunderstandings that most families face today. We forget that the Holy Family would have attended gatherings, worked, shared meals, had fun, disagreed, loved, and lost. And they certainly wouldn't have been immune to encountering gossip and the judgment of others. After all, our Blessed Mother was found with child out of wedlock!

Why *is* the Holy Family a model for Christian families and the domestic church, and how does one live out their vocation in the domestic church? Jesus, Mary and Joseph's family life was based upon their faithfulness and obedience to God and how they accepted their God-given vocation. Following their example, we can model those virtues of love and devotion of the Holy Family in many ways, such as:

- *Accepting our family members for who they are, not who we want them to be;*
- *By forgiving and asking for forgiveness when we do wrong;*
- *By communicating with each other in which we put aside cell phones and tablets to make eye contact when speaking and by taking the time to listen in return*

Likewise, when we are helping to bring one another closer to Christ by going to Mass and praying together, we are *honoring God's call* of faithfulness to Him.

Let us remember the family unit and pray for our human and spiritual families on this Feast of the Holy Family. And also take time to evaluate our own family lives and how we can improve.

Let's ask ourselves: ***"What would Jesus, Mary and Joseph do?"***

~Hope Wienhoff, PSR Coordinator



Painting by Joan Mace

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.

Pandemic Protocol

Due to the uptick in COVID cases and the new mask mandate from the Governor we now require all parishioners, vaccinated and unvaccinated to wear a mask while inside the building. We will still live stream Mass as long as needed.

To participate please use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Qrck7-IpPOOcA9UQ2qRqQ/>

Hola, Bienvenidos- a la iglesia Catolica en Immaculata Concepcion. ¡Que tengas una bendita semana!

Parish Staff
618-281-5105

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John Adams:
John.ADAMS@ampf.com

School Board President,

Jason Moore
Jasonmoore79
@gmail.com

Office Hours

Monday– Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

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 281-5105, and Angie will be happy to help make that happen!

Fr. Carl's Little Reservoir...

On Friday evening, December 10, I was watching, like many of you, the weather maps on TV monitoring the severe weather hitting the Midwest. Of course, I had no way of knowing what was happening in nearby Edwardsville, or in Kentucky or Tennessee. In all three of those areas, lives were lost. These tornadoes bring back memories of the devastating tornado that struck Southeastern Illinois in the early morning hours of February 29, 2012, killing several people in Harrisburg, IL and completely destroying St. Joseph Catholic Church in Ridgway, IL. My sister Linda lives in Harrisburg, and my aunt Bernice (my mom's only sister) lives in Ridgway. A new church has been built in Ridgway, St. Kateri Tekawitha, which is now the parish not just for Ridgway, but for all of Gallatin County.

I find it curious that the name of the parish in Mayfield, Kentucky, which seemed to get the worst of the damage from the December 10 tornado, is also St. Joseph. I do not know if the church itself had any wind damage, but they are without water or electricity according to their website. Of course, they are reaching out to the local community that has lost so much, and probably having funerals for some of those who lost their lives. They are in the Diocese of Owensboro in Western Kentucky, which borders the southernmost part of our Diocese, and they have a strong Hispanic presence in their parish. If you would like to make a donation for their tornado relief efforts, I recommend you go to the website of the Diocese of Owensboro, KY, and click on "Tornado Relief."

The powerful forces of Mother Nature, whether it be tornadoes, hurricanes, forest fires, volcanos, earthquakes, floods, droughts or pandemics, keep us ever mindful that our destiny is always in the hands of God. St. Joseph, pray for us...

~Fr. Carl

From Bishop Mc Govern...

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, I think of the words St. John wrote in one of his epistles: "we have come to know and believe in the love God has for us." My sincere prayer for the people of our diocese is that as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, each of us comes to know and believe more deeply in the love God has for us. May this Christmas be filled with a spirit of kindness and compassion, and may you, your families and loved ones be filled with the peace of Christ.

~Sincerely yours in Christ, Bishop Michael McGovern

Parish Office Closures...

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas Holidays December 27, and December 31 – January 3.

Christmas Gift...

Once again this Christmas season we will be giving out copies of a Matthew Kelly book, "Life Is Messy," as a Christmas gift to all parishioners & visitors, compliments of Braun Funeral Homes in Cahokia and Columbia.

Memorial Mass...

For **Donna M. Huebner** of Georgia, formerly of Columbia, here at Immaculate Conception on Saturday, January 8, at 11:00 am. Donna is the daughter of Carol Huebner and sister of Rob & Tim Huebner of our parish.

2022 Calendars...

We still have 2022 church Calendars available in the gathering space, compliments of Bob Brockland Buick, GMC.

Volunteers Needed...

On Sunday, January 9, after the 11:00 am Mass to help down the Christmas decorations in church. Many hands make for light work!



The Sanctity of Life Committee is collecting new, unwrapped baby items for Life Network in Waterloo. Please take a tag from the

giving tree and bring back an item next week. Collection will end on Monday, January 3, 2022.

The most needed items are:

Infant Towels	Baby Carriers
Socks for babies	Potty Chairs
Socks for kids	Diaper Bags
Flushable Wipes	Infant & Children Ibuprofen &
Aveeno Lotion	Tylenol
Twin size Blankets	Amazon Gift Cards
Car Seat Covers	

It Won't Be Complete Without You!

Our Pictorial Directory is now outdated. We need all families to have their picture taken so that it will be as accurate as possible! Every family photographed for the directory will receive a copy of the directory and an 8x10 portrait at no cost. Photography dates will be February 15-19 and 22-25 2022. Sign-up information will be coming soon!

Holiday Mass Schedule...

Dec 26, Feast of the Holy Family 7, 9 & 11 a.m.

Dec 31, Vigil-The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God 5p.m.

Jan 1, The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God ~9 a.m.

Jan 1, Epiphany Vigil ~ 5p.m.

Jan 2, Epiphany~ Masses at 7, 9 & 11 a.m.

Jan 9, 12 Noon ~ Help Take Down Christmas Decor



Quilter's Corner

We are now averaging 8-10 quilters on Tues, but only 2-4 on Thursdays. More quilters would be greatly appreciated. We will gladly accept donations of finished queen size quilts (either hand or machine quilted) or cash to purchase supplies. Quilting hours are 8:30 to 11:30 on Tues and Thurs.

Sister Thea Bowman Catholic School Cash Mega Raffle & Early Bird Drawing...

Ticket Cost? \$100.00. Buy 1 Ticket – Get 1 Free. Buy 2 Tickets – Get 3 Free. Buy 3 Tickets – Get 5 Free. **Prizes??** \$10,000 Grand Prize - \$1,000 Second Prize - \$500 Third Prize. Winners will be announced when 300 tickets are sold or May 22, 2022 – whichever comes first.

In addition, there are at least Six Early Bird Drawings-\$100 each - starting in October. To purchase a ticket on line: go to www.stbcs.com and click on Donate Now. Mail check to: 8213 Church Lane, East St. Louis, IL 62203. Or contact Karen Waide at kwaide@srthea.org or call 618-281-4715.

Position Available...

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

The Diocese of Belleville is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant for the Office of Worship which is part of the Department of Pastoral Services. This position provides administrative support and assists with all liturgical celebrations, events, and programs. Basic knowledge and understanding of bookkeeping practices are required. Applicant must have excellent organizational skills; strong written and oral communication skills; exercise problem solving, discretion and interpersonal skills; must be detailed and flexible; and must maintain confidentiality. Proficiency with Microsoft Publisher and familiarity with website maintenance.

Essential qualifications include a minimum of a high school diploma, Associate's Degree preferred, or equivalent experience; 3+ years in a related role of providing administrative/clerical support, plus knowledge in Microsoft Publisher, website maintenance and other computer programs/applications. Practicing Catholic preferred with thorough knowledge and understanding of Catholic teachings, practices and organizational structure.

TO APPLY: Send cover letter, résumé, and references to Human Resources, Diocese of Belleville, 222 S. 3rd St., Belleville, IL. 62220 or email humanresources@diobelle.org.

Application deadline: December 31, 2021.

Full Stewardship Spirituality...

By our Baptism, we are all called to discipleship. Full Stewardship Spirituality is about making a full response to the Lord's call to live out that Baptismal commitment. Please prayerfully return your annual stewardship commitment form of time, talent and treasure as soon as possible. Thanks to all who have already returned their commitment form. Teamwork makes the dream work. No one of us, nor no one group of us, can be Church by ourselves.

ICCCW News...

*** It was a great visit to the Hincke Retirement Home for Priests!** It was so good to see Father Vince. They were so appreciative of your special gifts!

We went to Mass in their chapel and had a nice Lunch and good conversation. Thank you, ladies, for attending this heartwarming event!

*** Dues are due the month of January.** You can mail them to the office, put them in the offertory marked ICCCW, or come to the January meeting.

*** Our next meeting is Thursday, January 6th.** See you there!

Through the Doorway is Coming!

Through the Doorway, the annual RCIA workshop co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Belleville is scheduled for Sunday, January 23, 2022 from 1 to 6 p.m. The workshop will be held at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, 2620 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, IL. Our topic will be "What Key Beliefs Need to be Addressed in the Period of the Catechumenate: The Creed and the Catechumenate?" Our workshop presenter is Eliot Kapitan. Contact Sue Huett at shuett@diobelle.org or at 722-5038 for more information.

Registration will be available soon.



Women's Tuesday Bible Study Has Returned!

To fill our minds and hearts with holy

anticipation and enjoy the Spirit stirring in community, Women's Tuesday Bible Study has returned to the Fr. Steve Library on Tuesday evenings, at 6:30pm. We spend an hour reflecting on upcoming Sunday readings and accompanying Advent reflections, and this community will meet and grow throughout the liturgical year. Start the new church year with friends old and new, and join us for an hour on Tuesday evenings. Questions? Contact Lizanne: lyoung@iccmil.org.



Adeodatus Says:

"A good day is a good day – a bad day is a good story!"
Happy New Year!"

Stewardship... Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

December 12, 2021:

Actual	\$51,457.80
Budget	\$60,300.00
Actual YTD	\$838,460.34
Budget YTD	\$919,800.00
Over (under)	\$(81,339.66)
Prior YTD	\$804,958.37
Over (under)	\$33,501.97
Gibault	\$335.00
Guatemala	\$1372.00
CEAC	\$19,985.77
Retired Religious .....	.\$190.00
Capital Improvements .....	.\$279.00
SVdP .....	.\$405.00
Human Development .....	.\$65.00
Christmas Flowers .....	.\$728.00
Needy .....	.\$375.00
Cemetery .....	.\$105.00
Christmas Offering .....	.\$1925.00
Retired Belleville Priests .....	.\$25.00
STBS .....	.\$85.00

Due to an early bulletin deadline, financials for Dec 19 will appear in the Jan 2 2022, bulletin AND financials for Dec 26 will appear on Jan 9, 2022. Thank you for your understanding!

CEAC Debt Status...

There is \$4.723 million as of 12/15/2021.

- If you have an outstanding pledge from the 7 year campaign, you should have received an updated letter statement with your status. Thanks for continuing to honor your pledge commitment.
- If you have already fulfilled your campaign pledge commitment, I thank you and ask that you consider making a new pledge or continuing to donate on an ongoing basis until the debt is retired.
- If you have not yet made a pledge, I ask you to please consider doing so. We are focusing on paying down the remaining debt as quickly as possible to avoid paying interest. Thanks for your continued support of the parish.

~Fr. Carl

Save taxes on IRA Required Minimum Distributions...

Many Americans have taken advantage of tax incentives provided by Congress to encourage saving for retirement through contributions to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs), 401(k)s and similar plans. In addition to income tax savings at the time contributions are made to such plans, the assets in the plans then build tax free over time for future enjoyment.

After age 70 1/2, when required minimum distributions (RMDs) can begin, up to \$100k/year from the IRA can be donated to charity tax free. (RMD's are not required now until age 72 if you were not 70 1/2 by 12/31/2019.)

Tax deductions for charitable contributions have been impacted by higher standard deductions for federal tax. If you are going to donate to charity anyway, why not take advantage of this tax savings opportunity? Fr. Carl does it! Contact your tax advisor or Keith Huels in the parish office for more information.

~ IC Planned Giving Council

From Our Young Stewards...



**Children's
Collection: \$2.30
Time & Talent:**
I read a lot!;
I shared nicely!;

I helped pick up the house!

Prayer List Guidelines: Please be kind and call the office when someone needs to come off of the prayer list. Please **only put troops on the list that are on active duty in harms way.** Thank you!

Online Giving Right Now!



Use this QR code to visit ICC's online giving page. Update your monthly offerings, check your pledge balance OR make a one-time gift to a special cause. *Thank you for sharing your blessings!*

The 2021 Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal

Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do

~John 14:12

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
DONATED!!**

We have made our parish goal!!!

If you have not donated to the CSMA and would like to, you still can!! The CSMA funds all types of ministry's in the Diocese of Belleville! More help is needed, especially during the holidays! Stop by the parish office if you need more info!

Please Pray For...

Connie Luechtefeld
Danielle Dorlac
Donna Archambault-Kania
Arlin Stechmesser
Jan Hoffman
Jane Frey
M. Brown
Donna Marlo Wirz
Jack Finney
Sherri Kay Bradley-Whitehouse
Bill Huss
Catherine Marlo
Mary Consolino
Nancy Held
Nicole Pennington
Gerri Griffin
Margaret Ann Conrad
Dolores G.
Joy Bretz
Alan Mattingly
Ellen Dietz
A. Moore
S. Wright
S. Brown
Fr. Paul Gallagher, OFM
Joe Hubbard
Sabo Family

Geneva Lambert
Angela Krupp
Robyn Henry
Richard Sambo
Rose Reichert
Carolyn Beatty
John Stonis
Donald Nicoloff
Gary Pinson
Carole Paris
Paul Kjosa
Michael Robinson
Norman Knight
Debbie Murphy
Art Carle
Kate Beck
Margaret Wallace
Ron Wallace
Brian Kreher
Special Intention
Derek Hoppe
Bill Kutz
Kelsey Christisen
Theresa Dorshorst
Mike Conrad
Rowan Mueth
Donald Mehrmann
Diane Maxson
Stephen A. Marlo
Christine and baby boy
Gossett

Tootie May
Super Special Intention
Janice McDermott
Troops in Service...
Army Ranger Joseph Pope
Katherine Gilbreth *EM2 USN*
COL Brian Schoellhorn, *US Army*
OSSN Seth Spencer
Brandon Molner *USMC*,
SPC Dylan Stern *US Army*
Capt. Benjamin Thoma *USAF*
LTC Matthew A. Greb, *US Army*
Kristopher Castellanos, *US Marines*
Andrew J. Gilbreth, *USAF*
2nd Lt. Justin Habiger, *US Army*
Master Sgt Eve Dorshorst, *USAF*
Capt Aaron Toenjes *USAF*
Chase Mansfield, *USMC*
Tanner Autry, *USMC*

This Week's Liturgical Celebrations

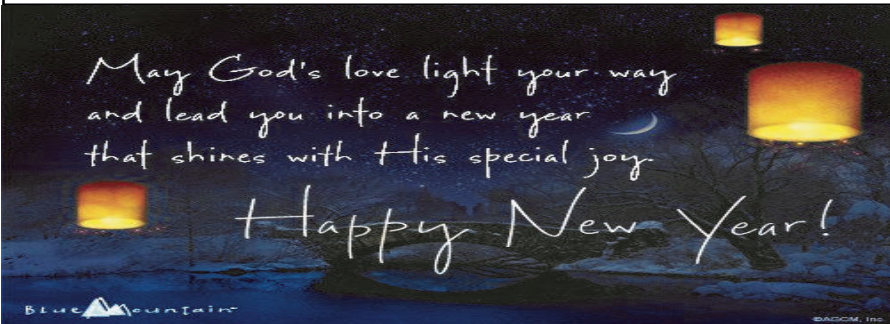
Monday Jan 3, 8:05 a.m..... We Pray For All Parishioners
 Tuesday Jan 4, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Bill Leingang
 Wednesday Jan 5, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Herb & Betty Lehr
 Thursday Jan 6, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Bill Kilian
 Friday, Jan 7, 8:05 a.m..... We Remember Our Sister Parish of St. Raymond's
 and all Impacted by Cancer
 Saturday Jan 8, 5:00 p.m..... We Remember John, Catherine & Jane Mallett
 Sunday Jan 9, 7:00 a.m..... (Park & Pray) We Remember Special Intentions
 9:00 a.m..... We Pray For Catherine Linnemann As She Celebrates
 Her 95th Birthday
 11:00 a.m..... We Remember Joan Johns

Discipleship Corner...

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family which is often associated with the exile of the Holy Family to Egypt. Pope Francis has compared this exile to the plight of modern-day refugees who flee oppression and seek dignity. In 2013, the last legislative attempt for immigration reform in the United States failed to get Congressional approval. Eight years later, politicians on both sides of the aisle lament our immigration issues but take no legislative action. Let's call and let our legislators know we expect them to meet their responsibilities which surely include legislation to address the immigration issues we face.

Vocations Corner...

Today's Gospel tells of Jesus starting the work of His "vocation". He begins His teaching at the age of 12. Our vocation starts (maybe even earlier than age 12) as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God's pull on our heart. It's often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, "We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish."



Pro-life Resources...

Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support:

- Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo & Red Bud) 618-939-4224 mylifenet.org and Birthright Counseling STL (on Lemay Ferry Rd in Dierberg's Plaza) 314-962-3653 birthrightstl.org Free and confidential hope and healing-counseling for anyone hurt by abortion
- Project Rachel 618-722-5068 hopeafterabortion.com
- Fontebella Maternity Home-A caring place for women who are pregnant and experiencing homelessness. 618/406-4355 caritasfamilysolutions.org/fontebella-maternity-home
- If you, or someone you know, have an unborn baby diagnosed with "fetal abnormalities" or an "adverse prenatal diagnosis", please refer to: **BeNotAfraid.net** and **PrenatalPartnersforLife.org** Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis.

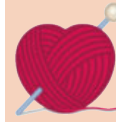
Weekly Reflections

January 2, 2022

First Reading: Sirach 24:1-4, 8-12

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

Gospel: John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14



Prayer Shawls Available!

Do you know someone who needs prayers?? Why not bring them some comfort with a hand made prayer shawl, from our Prayer Shawl Ministry?? Each Shawl will wrap your loved one in the prayers of our parish! Even during this vastly different time with COVID, we can get your loved one a prayer shawl. We deliver in sanitized bags and will leave on a porch or you can still pick up at the office during office hours. Call Marsha Narzinski at 314-517-4927 or Angie at the parish office 281-5105.

Need gift cards??

Stop by the Parish Office and buy Scrip! A percentage of each card will go to the CEAC!



A Simple Way to Help Out Our School!

ICS is still collecting the Box Tops for Education. This is FREE money for the school. You can still cut them off the actual boxes and you can also simply scan your receipt using the app. (see link)). NOW - you can turn in your receipts to the school office and we will do all the work for you. Again, this is FREE money to ICS!!!! https://www.boxtops4education.com/-/media/gmi/boxtopsforeducation/crc-downloads/2020/2020-08/site_download_btfeoverview2020.ashx?la=en





IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

~ School Principal: Dave Gregson Ext. 202 ~dgregson@icsmail.org

School Secretary: Beverly Epplin Ext. 200 bepplin@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Visit ICS on the web:
www.icscolumbia.org

Want to receive the good news about ICS? Send an email to: Mrs. Bev Epplin: bepplin@icsmail.org & she will add you to our distribution list.

ICS Art and Music Show...

On December 16, ICS held its' annual Christmas Art Show and Band/Chorus Concert. Lots of happy smiling faces could be found as the kids helped to usher in some holiday cheer!



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 Angie at the Parish office if you have questions. ***The initial course is now available online. Please contact Angie at the parish office for directions.** Not sure if you are compliant?? **Contact Angie at the parish office.** ***The online refresher course for the 2021-2022 IS NOW AVAILABLE! 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 Angie 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.

Sacramental Preparation...

Baptisms: Parents/guardians are asked to attend a preparation seminar (which happens on the 2nd Sunday of the month after 9am Mass—approximately 10am—in the lower-level library). Please contact the parish office to schedule your baptism or for more info.

Weddings: Please contact the Parish office a minimum of four 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.

RCIA: (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) The RCIA is for everyone who has been drawn by God to form 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 RCIA. Get to know God better and find out what it means to be Catholic. We meet in the Parish Office on Sundays, starting with "Breaking Open the Word" dismissal from 9 a.m. Mass, and catechetical sessions from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact **Lizanne Young**: at the Parish Office, 281-5105, ext. 354, or email lyoung@icmail.org.

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