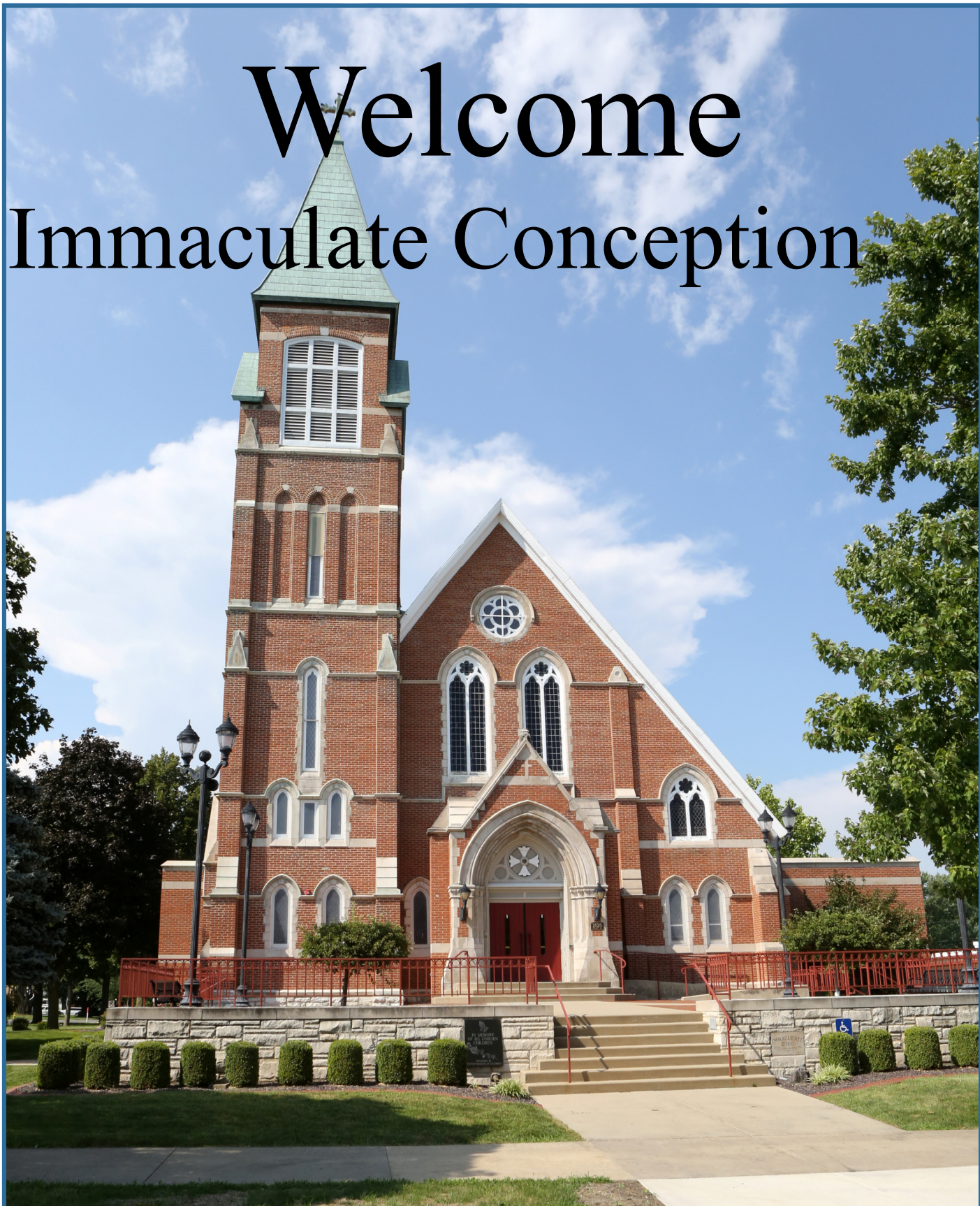


Welcome Immaculate Conception



Welcome Home

Welcome to your new parish family

You have registered in a wonderful faith community. We have a long tradition of Catholic worship, witness, and service. In fact, our parish is over 150 years old!

As you read through this booklet, you'll learn more about us and what we can offer you and your family through our parish community. I hope that you will feel "at home" among us. Please, contact me should you have any questions or needs. We are glad you are here.

Sincerely,

Fr. John Titus



Immaculate Conception Church

320 North 21st Street
Mattoon, IL 61938
Phone: (217) 235-0539
Fax: (217) 235-0593
Parish Center: (217) 235-2189
Email: icchurchsec@gmail.com
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
www.mattoonimmaculateconception.org

Fr. John M. Titus, Pastor
Email: jtitus@dio.org

Gene Uptmor, Deacon
Office Hours
Tuesdays9:00 a.m.–3 p.m.
Parish Center(217) 235-2189

Kim Coffey, Administrative Assistant /
Safe Environment Coordinator
Email: icchurchsec@gmail.com

Carla Will, Director of Christian Formation
Email: carlajanewill@yahoo.com
Christian Formation Center..... (217) 235-0431

Julie Robinson, Senior Ministry Coordinator/
Bulletin Editor
Email: st.columcillesullivan@gmail.com

Mass Schedule:
Saturday 4 p.m.
Sunday 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Weekday (Mon., Tues., Thurs.)...5:30 p.m.
Weekday (Wed) 7 a.m.
Weekday (Fri.) 8 a.m.
Holy Days call for schedule

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
Weekdays30 minutes prior
to Mass
Saturdays 2:30–3:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Liturgy

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Members of the parish who have completed the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist and reached 16 years of age may become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion after formation. An Extraordinary Minister, becomes a privileged member of the Church who administers the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ during the liturgy or during visits to the sick, elderly, or homebound.

Greeters

A greeter is often the first person who worshippers meet when they arrive at our church. The greeters represent the rest of the assembly as they welcome and offer hospitality to everyone who enters the church. A warm smile and words of welcome that reflect God's love for them can help all worshippers easily enter and set the tone for full participation in the celebration of the liturgy. A smile, ability to open doors, and a few handshakes are all the qualifications needed for this rewarding ministry.

Lectors

As a minister of the Word, you bring to life the Old and New Testament personalities, happenings, and teachings at parish liturgical gatherings. This is a great opportunity to proclaim the Word of God to the assembly. Lectors are needed for every Mass and other liturgical celebrations. A training session will prepare you for this ministry to proclaim the sacred scriptures for the assembly.

Ushers

Our worshippers are in the capable hands of this ministry as the ushers create a welcoming and prayerful atmosphere. They greet parishioners as ministers of hospitality, assist individuals in seating, take up the collection, and assist people throughout the liturgy in various ways. Through this ministry, you will be able to meet your fellow parishioners on a regular basis. A warm smile and a willingness to help others are all that are required for this ministry.

Mass Servers

All students who have been Confirmed are invited to share their time and faith in service at the altar for Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Students must complete a series of training sessions.

Share the Word

Sundays during school months, children between preschool and second grade are invited to Share the Word, held in the lower level of the Church during the scripture readings and homily at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. The readings are explained in youthful terminology followed by a question-and-answer session. This is a great way for your child to understand these readings.

Adult Choir

The organist and adult choir lead the congregation in song at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass and at all special liturgies such as Confirmation /First Communion. The choir sings a variety of traditional liturgical music and special anthems and is open to all men and women of the parish. Members rehearse one hour during the week and at special rehearsal times for Christmas and Easter celebrations.

Faith Enrichment Opportunities for Adults:

Faith Study Groups

Faith study group meets on Thursday for a morning session and/or evening session in the Parish Center. Our parish priest or Director of Christian Formation leads us in a discussion of a book and/or DVD series. These materials deal with a variety of topics concerning Biblical teachings, Catholic doctrine, or spiritual nourishment. Each studies length is dependent on the series being utilized, with breaks taken throughout the year.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

This program prepares initiants for Baptism or Profession of Faith, Confirmation, and Eucharist when joining the Catholic faith. Initiation takes place at the Easter Vigil or a Sunday liturgy. Volunteers are needed to assist in preparation and act as sponsors.

Scriptural Prayer Group

Founded in 1984, this group offers prayer support for anyone needing prayer. Their own prayer lives are nourished and deepened as they gather in Jesus' name to pray with scripture. Members meet each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Center Conference Room.

Spanish Language Community

Our Spanish Language Prayer Group meets at 6 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Parish Center. An 8:30 a.m. bilingual (Spanish-English) Mass is offered the first Saturday of each month. Please check the bulletin for additional Spanish language opportunities.



Faith Formation Opportunities for Youth:

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the Catholic Faith. Our PSR program is here to help children develop a deeper understanding of their faith and relationship with God. Our catechists provide sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Classes for Grades K-8 meet at the Christian Formation Center and in the lower level of Church on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15 a.m. throughout the school year.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School is held the first Saturday and Sunday in June at the Christian Formation Center. VBS is for incoming K-6th grade students and meets from noon until 4 p.m. both days. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass will be a special VBS Mass for Vacation Bible School families to attend.

Middle School Youth Group

Our hope at Immaculate Conception is to continue to integrate youth into the life of our parish. The second Saturday evening Mass from September through May is our monthly Middle School Youth Group Mass. Students, Grades 6-8, will participate in Mass as a reader, greater, server, or gift bearer. Check out the church bulletin for upcoming events!

High School Youth Group

Our Youth Group nights are filled with games, food, faith-filled activities, music, and fun! In addition to these fun-filled nights with friends of the same faith there are many opportunities to serve our community. Their service activities have included "homeless weekends" to gain first-hand experience of what it is like to be homeless, mission trips, assistance with Friday fish fries during Lent, assistance with church grounds cleanup and church dinners, as well as helpful participation at the local food pantry. An annual Pilgrimage to the March for Life in Washington, DC is made each year. The ultimate goal is to complete the transition of our youth into responsible and faithful Catholic adults.

May Crowning

The first Sunday in May at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, our parish will recognize the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Queen of Heaven, Queen of Earth, and Queen of Peace. Children will lead a processional to crown Mary as we sing "Bring Flowers of the Rarest."



Parish Service & Parish Life

Apostles

This group of loyal, faith-filled people tend to the physical needs of the Immaculate Conception Church buildings and grounds. All able-bodied souls are cordially invited to participate in the never-ending internal and external upkeep of our beautiful campus.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic men's fraternal organization dedicated to the principles of charity, unity, and patriotism. Following the basic principle of charity, the 280 members of Mattoon Council 1057 have served the parish, school, and community for over 110 years. Their building is an asset to our campus and serves as their meeting place, hosts social functions and dinners, and is also available for rental. The Knights' fall raffle and 5K "Race the Cross" provide funds for their many philanthropic activities in our parish and community. The fourth degree, the highest degree in this organization, was approved in 1900. Fostering the spirit of patriotism is the primary purpose of the fourth degree. Knights in their colorful regalia are often seen serving as honor guard for religious functions or at the bier of one of their members. They also sponsor social programs for members several times a year. Mattoon Assembly 0223 comprises membership from Charleston, Sullivan, and Mattoon.

Social Committee

The ability to draw people together is an integral part of a successful parish community and is a primary focus for the social committee. Working with Fr. John—and sometimes in conjunction with other organizations in the parish—the social committee will host a variety of adult and/or family-oriented, fun activities and events throughout the year, such as the summer ice cream social and chili cook-off, and monthly coffee and donuts to promote unity, foster friendship, and enhance community. All parish social events are free of charge.

Golden Hearts

This organization serving the "over 50" parish members was organized in 1995. Social gatherings are held in the Parish Center at 11:30 a.m., the second Friday of each month, except during summer. A potluck luncheon is followed by an activity or program of local or senior concerns. One-day bus excursions are also taken. There are no dues, no officers, no attendance requirements, and everyone is welcome.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

This ministry helps those in need. Founded in 1937 and inspired by Gospel values, this Catholic lay organization leads men and women to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy or suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

Ladies Guild—ICCCW

The Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women was founded in 1980. The organization's ministry is to provide lunch for bereaved family and friends after the funeral of their loved one.

Parish Service & Parish Life

Sister Parish Ministry

Founded in 2005, the ministry of this organization is to support St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Barquisimeto, Venezuela, by establishing a relationship, both spiritually and financially, while growing in faith together.

Homebound and Nursing Home Ministries

The homebound and nursing home ministries provide pastoral care for the sick, elderly, or homebound when parishioners or relatives are unable to participate in weekly services due to illness. Volunteers visit and share their faith and Eucharist with these parishioners at their homes or nursing homes in our area. Let us know if you or someone from your family becomes a resident at a nursing home and we will arrange pastoral visits.

We Care Ministry

This ministry is here to help when times get a bit rough and the last thing you need to worry about is making a meal for your family. Ministry members will provide meals for parish members who have medical treatments, surgery, or other events when a home cooked meal—whose main ingredient is love—will help out. Special attention will be given to dietary needs or concerns. If you would like to be a part of this ministry and would be willing to make a meal for a family, please call Denise Cooling, at 217-254-7300. If you are in need of this very special ministry, you may contact Denise or the parish office to arrange for meals to be delivered to you.

Brookstone Rosary

A monthly rosary lead by parish volunteers is prayed with residents of Mattoon Brookstone South on the fourth Tuesday of each month. This is a wonderful opportunity for faith filled interaction with our friends and parishioners at Brookstone.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Widows Group

A monthly luncheon is held on the third Wednesday of each month for parish widows at a local restaurant. This is a wonderful opportunity for parish fellowship.

Monthly Social Outings

The parish van is utilized for a monthly social outing for adult parishioners and friends. Such outings have included visits to Effingham, Moonshine, and Springfield.

Community Service

Coles County Habitat for Humanity

www.colescountyhabitat.net

Coles County Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness by providing adequate and affordable shelter to qualifying families in our community. Habitat is not a giveaway program. To-be-owners of the house work alongside the Habitat volunteers providing many hours of "sweat equity" into a new build or renovated one. Volunteers are always needed to help with construction, plumbing, electrical wiring, painting, and landscaping. Volunteers are also needed in the Habitat's ReStore, a business that offers quality used and surplus building materials. Sales of these products help to fund Habitat for Humanity houses.

Habitat ReStore

520 West Lincoln Avenue
Charleston, IL 61920
Phone: (217) 348-7066
Email: colescoun-tyrestore@gmail.com

There are many ways to put your talents to good use with Coles County Habitat for Humanity. Phone: (217) 348-7063 or email: colescountyhabitat@consolidated.net

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities is an organization of the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, with a local facility that serves Coles, Douglas, and Edgar counties. Although Catholic Charities is not an organization of Immaculate Conception Church, it is supported by the members of our parish through monetary donations, food, clothing, and volunteer hours. One of Immaculate Conception's largest contributions is through our involvement in One Stop Christmas via our association with Catholic Charities.

Volunteer help is key to the success of Catholic Charities and is always welcomed. Opportunities for volunteer service will be listed in the Immaculate Conception bulletin.

St. Hedwig Haus

St. Hedwig Haus of Hospitality, a nonprofit entity, provides temporary housing for women and children who are in need. Using the Catholic Worker Movement's guiding belief to respect "the God-given dignity of the human person," St. Hedwig Haus defines itself not as a shelter but a true home for its residents. Besides room and board, the residents are given emotional and social support. Each guest is assigned a contact person to assist with goal setting, finding a job (if necessary), and vision setting. Volunteers assist the workers who provide assistance to the guests. Private donations as well as attendance at the St. Hedwig Haus Oktoberfest and January Soup Supper help fund St. Hedwig Haus, where the women and children live in a family setting while trying to break the cycle of poverty.

Peace Meal

Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program's mission is to provide quality meals (lunches) for healthier lives. The Peace Meal program extends over 14 central Illinois counties where meals are served in churches and senior centers as well as meals delivered to the homebound. Immaculate Conception volunteers deliver lunches to Mattoon residents one week out of a six-week rotation. Deliveries are made mid-morning and usually require one hour or less of the volunteer's time. A person may volunteer for one delivery day or several days. The Peace Meal delivery week announcement will appear in the bulletin.

The Haven

In 2001, concerned citizens gathered to find a solution to homelessness and hunger in our area. With the support of the community, they decided to form a non-profit called Mattoon Area PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter).

The Haven, as it is now known, is a nonprofit organization that provides safe and hospitable shelter, supportive services, and advocacy in order to assist homeless or at-risk individuals and families to achieve a higher level of self-sufficiency in collaboration with religious and community groups. Volunteers are needed in the soup kitchen to prepare and serve lunch and dinner to the shelter's guests.



Mattoon Community Food Center (Food Pantry/Bank)

The food bank's mission is, simply stated, to help provide food to people in need. This agency serves clients in Mattoon, Lerna, and Humboldt. Volunteers work with clients to assess their eligibility information, unload trucks, stock the shelves, and distribute food. Volunteer food donations are also accepted.

Blessings in a Backpack

Immaculate Conception parish supports Mattoon families in need with our Blessings in a Backpack ministry. Thanks to the generous monetary and food donations by our parishioners, we are able to distribute bags of food during the school year to children in need.



Sacramental Life

Baptisms

Baptisms are usually celebrated during Mass. Contact the parish office for details and arrangements.

Reconciliation

This sacrament is celebrated on Saturday afternoons from 2:30–3:30 p.m., 30 minutes before daily Mass, or by appointment. Our parish and other local parishes have communal celebrations during Lent and Advent.

Eucharist

The celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of all Catholic worship. To actively participate in the celebration of the Mass is vital to our spiritual life. Students of Immaculate Conception PSR receive their First Communion in third grade. Students complete the necessary requirements by attending classes. Students who are beyond third grade can make special arrangements to receive these sacraments for the first time. Contact the parish office for details.

Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated by students in third grade who have participated in yearly religious education classes and who attend Immaculate Conception Parish. Students are required to complete various course work as well as service projects during this two-year preparation period. Those to be confirmed select a Confirmed sponsor who is a good role model, faithful to his/her religious obligations, committed to the Church

Anointing of the Sick

Parishioners who are ill or having surgery should contact the pastor for the celebration of this sacrament.

Marriages

To be married at Immaculate Conception, one should be a registered parishioner or the child of an active parishioner. Catholics asking to be married at Immaculate Conception are expected to be practicing members of the Catholic Church. The pastor should be contacted at least six months before the wedding date, and only he can set a date for the wedding once he has determined that there are no impediments to the marriage and has secured the promise of the couple that they will cooperate with the pre-marriage program. Weddings are usually celebrated on Friday evenings or Saturday by 1:00 pm. Contact the parish office to make an appointment or to obtain more information.

24-Hour

Eucharistic Exposition

Eucharistic exposition is held in the chapel each month following the 8:00 a.m. Friday Mass until the 8:30 a.m. first Saturday Mass. Adorers are invited to sign up for a specific time commitment or to come and pray whenever they can.

Holy Orders

Contact the Diocesan Vocations Office at (217) 698-8500, ext. 182.

