

# Immaculate Conception, Mattoon

## St. Columcille, Sullivan

3rd Sunday of Lent: March 8, 2026

**NEXT SATURDAY: SIGN UP NOW!**



**A Men's Morning with St. Joseph  
Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**at Immaculate Conception, Mattoon  
Begins with Holy Mass at 7:30 A.M.**

**Presentations in the Lower Level of Church**

followed by:

3 Talks and Discussion on St. Joseph in scripture and in the life of the Church, as a model for young men and the single life, for marriage and family life. Presenters include Fr. Seth Brown, deacon candidate Dr. David Skocy, and Catholic educator Thomas Schniers.

**Concludes with midday prayer and lunch.**



**All men 18 years of age and older  
please register by calling  
217-235-0539 or email Fr. John at  
[jtitus@dio.org](mailto:jtitus@dio.org)**

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH**

Mattoon, Illinois

**ST. COLUMCILLE CHURCH**

Sullivan, Illinois

**MARCH 8, 2026**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**



*“The water that I shall give will become a spring of eternal life.”* John 4:5-42

**Prepare For Next Sunday’s Readings**

*For the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we are reading about the healing of the man born blind. In the first part of today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus’ response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man’s blindness—his own or his parents’. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man’s disability, God’s power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man. The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13: Samuel is sent to anoint David as king.**

**Ephesians 5:8-14: The Ephesians are told to live as children of light.**

**John 9:1-41: Jesus heals the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man.**



**MARCH 9-15**

**MONDAY– St. Frances of Rome**

**7:00AM– Verna Ochs**

**TUESDAY**

**8:30AM– For All Paternal & Maternal Ancestors**

**5:30PM– Ralph Ohm**

**WEDNESDAY**

**7:00AM– Dave Cisna**

**THURSDAY**

**5:30PM– Duane & Nan Welton**

**FRIDAY**

**7:00AM– Benefactors & Deceased of Calvary**

**Cemetery**

**SATURDAY**

**7:30 AM-Fr. Jim Neuman**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent Vigil**

**4:00PM– Joyce Lafleur**

**SUNDAY– Fourth Sunday of Lent**

**8:00AM– People of Our Parish**

**10:30AM– Rose & Peely Hoisington**

**Readings for the Week of March 8, 2026**

**Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15/Ps 42:2, 3; 42:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30**

**Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5, 6&7, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35**

**Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19**

**Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23**

**Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-8, 8-9, 10-11, 14&17/Mk 12:28-34**

**Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21/Lk 18:9-14**

**OUR GIVING: 573 Parish Households**

**Fiscal Year– July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026**

**Weekly Budget 11,750.00**

03/01/26– Weekly Offering 9,016.00

03/01/26– OnLine Giving 1,100.00

**Week Total: 10,116.00**

**Deficit/Surplus for Weeks - 1,634.00**

Year-To-Date Budget 411,250.00

Year-To-Date Collected 383,768.40

**Deficit/Surplus for Year - 27,481.60**

**St. Columcille:**

**Wed., March 11 at 12:10 PM: Marlene Meyer**

**Thurs., March 12 at 7:00AM: Return of family members to the Holy Catholic Church**

**4th Sunday of Lent Vigil**

**Sat., March 14 at 6:00 PM: Fr. John Sohm**

3-1-26 Vigil Collection total: \$2,307.00

**PLEASE NOTE: Julie and the parish office have a new email account. Please update to: [office@stcolumcillesullivan.org](mailto:office@stcolumcillesullivan.org)**

**Fish Fry Fridays**

Join us at Saint Columcille Parish Hall for **Fish Fry Fridays** on **March 13, and March 27** from **5:00–7:00 PM!** Enjoy an **all-you-can-eat** meal featuring fish, potatoes, slaw, applesauce, hush-puppies, drinks, and desserts. **Adults: \$12, Kids (6-12): \$6, Under 6: FREE.** Proceeds benefit **Choices Pregnancy Center and the Council of Catholic Women.** We need help with Set-Up and Clean-Up Crews. Please contact Kathy Woodworth or Lori Creek if you can help. We hope to see you there!

**Fish Fry Fridays – Bakers Needed!**

Attention all bakers! We need baked goods for the upcoming Lenten Fish Frys. If you would like to bake and donate, or just donate a store-bought baked item, please contact Kathy Woodworth or Lori Creek!

**Lenten Friday Devotions**

Join us every **Friday during Lent** for the **Rosary at 6:30 PM** and the **Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM** in the church. This year, our devotions will be with the intention of our Fallen-Away Catholics at Saint Columcille Parish. Take this time to reflect and pray as we walk with Christ on His journey to Calvary. All are welcome!

**The Rosary for Life will take place before Mass NEXT weekend. Please join us!**

**St. Isidore Cemetery, Rural Bethany has requested that all old flowers, decorations and ornamentals be removed by March 15th for spring cleaning. Thank you!**

**Sullivan Prayer List:** Msgr. Leo Enlow, Fr. Bob Spriggs, Dawn Becker, Jack Creek, Sheila Littleton, The Mosier Family, Judy Marucco, B.J. Stirrett, Donna Walker, Pat Neuhauser, Sally Bradshaw, Van Anderson, Chuck Woodworth, Dan Guillory, Dave Hudspath, Gayle Moody, Carole Blasche, Toby Howard, Kathy Frier, Kelly Sullivan, Fritz New, the Cook Family, Marveen Walker, Gary Smith, Ron & Marylyn Crnich and Rebecca

**St. Joseph Table**

**St. Joseph Table is a wonderful Italian tradition that combines a love for the Father of the Holy Family, food and outreach to the poor. Collection is centered around the March 19th Solemnity of St. Joseph but can be brought in anytime. Our efforts will be donated to the Moultrie County Food Pantry, Mattoon Food Pantry and Catholic Charities through March 22nd. Donations most needed:**

Spaghetti	Spaghetti Sauce
Cereal	Tuna Casserole
Mac N Cheese	Canned Vegetables
Canned Soups	Canned Fruits
Canned Soups	Peanut Butter

**Feed the Hungry: Corporal Work of Mercy**

**Widows Lunch:**

**All Widows of IC and St. C. are invited to lunch on Wednesday, March 18th at 11:30 AM at Bennys Grill, Mattoon.**

**Brookstone Rosary:**

We will be praying the Rosary at Brookstone SOUTH on Wed., March 11th at 10:00 AM.

We will be praying the Rosary at Brookstone NORTH on Wednesday, March 25th at 10:00 AM. Join us for this grace filled time!

All are welcome!

**COME JOIN US! Card Club open to all! Coming to Immaculate Conception Lower Level beginning Thursday, March 12th at 1:00 PM. Have an interest? Show up and we will figure out the games and teams!**

**One Stop Community Christmas:**

There will be an organizational meeting on Sunday, March 15th at 11:45 AM in the lower level of IC Church to form a committee for One Stop tasks that take place throughout the year. Questions: Steve or Pat Conner at 540-207-7805.

**Volunteer Opportunity:**

IC & St. C. parishioners will volunteer at the Mattoon Food Pantry at 5:45 PM on Thursday, March 19th. Consider joining us!

**Adult Faith Formation Opportunity:**

**Why We Confess**

“An eye-opening two-part Bible Study on the Sacrament of Reconciliation” 2 DVD presentations by Dr. Brant Pitre/Facilitated by Fr. John on Sunday March 15th and March 22nd at 6:00 PM in the IC Family of Faith Center. No pre-registration, just come the first night.

**Lenten Penance Service:** at Immaculate Conception at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 29th.

**Catholic Radio for Mattoon  
102.5 FM**

**Eucharistic Adoration & Exposition:**

Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, reserved in the tabernacle, is available every day. Our parish churches are open during daylight hours.

Eucharistic Exposition on Wednesdays at IC from 5:30-6:30 A.M. and 7-8 PM

And from 7:30 A.M. the Friday before First Saturday until 8:00 A.M. on First Saturday.

For APRIL this will begin on Friday, MARCH 27th after the 7:00 AM Mass DUE TO GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER). Exposition begins immediately after Mass.

There will be a Holy Hour for Vocations from 7:00 –8:00 PM Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1057, All are Welcome!

At St. Columcille on Wednesdays beginning at 11:00 AM.

Please pray especially for our loved ones to return to the practice of our faith.

**During Lent:**

The Rosary will be prayed at 6:30 PM and Stations of the Cross will be at 7:00 PM on Fridays at BOTH St. C. and Immaculate Conception. Join us!

The IC Knights of Columbus will have a fish fry every Friday of Lent. We will be serving from 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

The price for fish dinner is \$12 as it has been the last couple years. There will be an all you can eat fish price of \$15.

The menu is as follows:

fried or baked/grilled fish

Baked Idaho potato or sweet potato

Slaw, Hush puppies

Grilled cheese sandwich & drink

Desserts provided by the IC St. Vincent de Paul

**Adult Faith Formation Opportunity:**

**Why we Worship**

Confused About “worship?” Should it be all preaching? All music? Entertaining? What does the Bible say? Why do Catholics do what we do at mass? Why We Worship, A 6 week DVD series with Dr. Brant Pitre/Facilitated by Fr. John beginning Thursday March 12th at 6:30 PM in the IC Family of Faith Center. No pre-registration, just come the first night.

**March for Life: Springfield**

On March 19th, you are invited to join thousands of pro-life advocates, being a joyful witness to life and raising your voice for the voiceless at the Illinois Pro-Life March. The day begins with Mass at 10 AM. at the Nelson Center Ice Rink celebrated by Bishop Thomas John Paprocki. After the Mass, there is a rally and march at the Capitol at 1:00 PM. The parish van will be leaving from Sullivan at 7:30 AM. Call the parish office to reserve your seat.

**Spanish Evangelization Retreat:**

March 21st from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM with Adoration from 2:00-3:00 PM in Church

**Luminaries for Life**

Will be placed on Immaculate Conception Church Plaza and St. Columcille entrances the weekend of March 21st-22nd as a visible witness to all and a reminder to ourselves of our parishes commitment to Life.

## In the Month of March we consider St. Joseph

St. Joseph may be one of the most quiet saints in the Bible, but he's also one of the most powerful. As the foster father of Jesus and the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, **St. Joseph's quiet strength, humility, and obedience** make him a model for every Catholic—especially in a world that often overlooks the hidden and humble.

Quick Biography: St. Joseph (1st century B.C.–A.D.) is venerated as the foster father of Jesus Christ and the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A humble carpenter from Nazareth, Joseph came from the royal line of King David, **fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy** that the Messiah would descend from David's house (**Matthew 1:1–16**).

Though Scripture records no spoken words of Joseph, his actions reveal his character—righteous, obedient, and protective. When he discovered Mary was with child, he planned to quietly divorce her feeling unworthy to father the Son of God, but an angel appeared in a dream, assuring him that the child was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Joseph accepted his role without hesitation, taking Mary as his wife and naming the child Jesus, which means “God saves” (**Matthew 1:21**).

Joseph faithfully protected the Holy Family: leading them to Egypt to escape Herod's wrath, providing for them through his trade, and raising Jesus in a home of love, faith, and work. He taught Jesus the skills of carpentry, modeled trust in God, and lived a life of hidden holiness.

Tradition holds that Joseph died in the presence of Jesus and Mary, making him the patron of a happy death. Though little is recorded of his life, his silent strength, deep faith, and steadfast love have made him one of the most beloved saints of the Church.

**A Just Man with a Big Mission:** We first meet Joseph in the Gospel of Matthew. He's engaged to Mary and finds out she's pregnant—but not by him. Instead of reacting in anger or fear, he chooses to trust in God. He plans to divorce her quietly.

But then—like so many great saints—**his life changes through a dream.** An angel tells him the child is conceived by the Holy Spirit and that he should not be afraid to take Mary as his wife.

He doesn't hesitate. He obeys. And from that moment, he becomes **protector, provider, and guardian** for the Holy Family.

**THE SILENT SAINT WHO LED WITH COURAGE:** Joseph never gives a speech in Scripture. But **his actions speak volumes.**

He leads his family to safety in Egypt when Jesus' life is threatened. He returns when the danger has passed. He works as a carpenter to support Mary and Jesus. He raises the Son of God with love, discipline, and faith.

Tradition says he died in the presence of Jesus and Mary—making him the **patron of a happy death.**

**Why He Matters Today:** St. Joseph is the **patron of the universal Church**, fathers, workers, and all who desire to live humbly and faithfully. In a culture that often prizes noise, power, and recognition, **Joseph shows us the strength of quiet obedience and sacrificial love.**

He reminds us that you don't need to be loud to be faithful—and that God works powerfully through the hidden, everyday parts of life.

### Want to Imitate St. Joseph?

- Practice **obedience** in your prayer life—even when it's hard
- Do your daily work with **intention and love**
- **PRAY FOR A HAPPY DEATH—ASK JOSEPH TO BE WITH YOU WHEN YOUR TIME COMES**

(EXCEPTS TAKEN FROM FOCUS.ORG)

**Catholic Charities Annual Fundraiser**  
**Catholic Charities Mystery Theater Dinner,**  
Murder on a Train, **March 28th at 5:00 PM,**  
Immaculate Conception Parish Center, **\$30 per ticket.**

### IC CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN GOAL

**\$900,000.00**

### IC CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN CEMETERY MONEY RECEIVED

**\$146,749.00**

### IC CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN MAJOR PROJECTS MONEY RECEIVED

**\$559,731.00**

### IC CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN TOTAL MONEY RECEIVED

**\$706,480.00**



**Immaculate Conception:**

Msgr. Leo Enlow, Fr. Bob Spriggs, Chuck Brown, Cassie Stahler, Sally Fleming, Marguerite Bennett, Lana Cline, Jennifer Bullock, Billy & Lila Wade, Cameron Bianco, Scott Cedar, Duane Schlabach, Barb Kirts, Julie Ohm Wilkerson, Ella Orsi, Ella Chamberlain, Pat Sheehan, Desra Lindemann, Cathy Strohl, Robert Smith, Donna Lawson, Jennifer Kosnicki, Bert Kastl, Kristian Beadles, Jared Brown, Fred Sherer, The Deisher family, Teresa Valdez, Carole Maxey, Peggy Fuesting, Elizabeth Brinza, Carol O'Neill, Alice Farmer, Madonna Collinsworth, Bryce Summary, Linda Sullivan, Sally Wolff, Michelle Simpson, Connie Harris, Bonnie Kinney, Ryan Hardin, Cook Family, Liz Slater, Pat and Guy Levingston, Mary O'Dell, Michael Grady, Angie Fox, Addison Graham, Wesco Family, Sara Clayhorn, Mark Buran, Ann Clark, Louise Farrell, Wendy Carter, Edna Probst, Rich Fafara, Sheila Rosine, Zale Vincent Walk, Chris Magnotta, Jim Pendell, Wyatt Edwards, Eddie Sullivan, Kelly Sullivan, Elisa Gonzalez, Liz Newton, Dennis James, Don Clark, Jr., Cassandra and Nora Olinger

*If you have a loved one who should be added to our Parish prayer list, please call the parish office.*

**TO REPORT ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR BY CLERGY-EVEN IF IT IS IN THE PAST**— individuals are encouraged to call the Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation number (217) 321-1155. Individuals may also contact Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE, or contact your local police authority.

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Contact Parish Office to schedule a Baptism. New parents seeking the Sacrament of Baptism for an infant or child are asked to attend ONE pre-baptism session. Call the parish office at 235-0539 for information and to register.

**Sacrament of Marriage**

Contact Parish Office at least (6) months before the date to make arrangements.

**CHOICES Pregnancy & Health-234-3312**

**Www.choices4pregnancy.org**

**Project Rachel-888-456-4673**

**Diocesan Child Abuse Reporting and Investigation Number 217-321-1155**

**DEADLINE FOR PARISH BULLETIN- Monday at 10:00AM**

**Immaculate Conception Calendar of Events:**

- Sun., March 8:** Family of Faith meets at 9:15 AM in the Family of Faith Center
- Sun., March 8:** Deanery Teen Retreat begins at 11:30 AM in the Family of Faith Center
- Mon., March 9:** KC Meeting at 7:00 PM in the KC Hall
- Tues., March 10:** Nazareth Catholic Academy meets all day in the Family of Faith Center
- Tues., March 10:** Mother of Perpetual Help Novena at 5:00 PM in Church
- Tues., March 10:** OCIA Faith Inquiry Class continues at 6:30 PM in the FOFC
- Wed., March 11:** Adoration from 5:30-6:30 AM & 7:00 —8:00 PM in Church, use door code
- Wed., March 11:** Rosary at Brookstone South, Mattoon at 10:00 AM
- Wed., March 11:** Spanish Prayer Group at 6:00 PM in the PC
- Thurs., March 12:** The Creed Class continues at 9:30 AM in the Family of Faith Center
- Thurs., March 12:** Card Club begins at 1:00 PM in the lower level of Church
- Thurs., March 12:** Why We Worship Class begins at 6:30 PM in the Family of Faith Center
- Thurs., March 12:** KC Bingo at 6:30 PM in the KC Hall
- Fri., March 13:** Men's Group at 5:30 AM in the LL of Church
- Fri., March 13:** KC Fish Fry from 4:30—7:00 PM in the KC Hall
- Fri., March 13:** Stations of the Cross and Rosary beginning at 6:30 PM in Church
- Sat. March 14:** Men's Morning with St. Joseph begins with 7:30 AM Mass in Church
- Sat. March 14:** Youth Choir practices at 2:30 PM
- Sun., March 15:** Youth Choir sings at the 8:00 AM Mass
- Sun., March 15:** Family of Faith meets at 9:15 AM in the Family of Faith Center
- Sun., March 15:** One Stop Christmas meeting in the lower level at 11:45 AM
- Sun., March 15:** Why We Confess Class begins at 6:00 PM in the Family of Faith Center

**Knights News and Notes:**

**The Next Knights of Columbus club meeting will take place on Monday, March 9th at 7:00PM in the KC Hall.**

**Knights of Columbus bingo will continue on Thursday, March 12 & 26 from 6:30-8:30 PM in the KC Hall. Join us!**

**Springfield Diocesan Council of Catholic Women News: The 2026 High School Female Graduate Scholarship Application is now available on the table at the entrance to Church.**



**ALL LADIES ARE WELCOME!**

**Mattoon Deanery  
Council of Catholic Women Meeting  
Monday, March 16, 2026  
“Ladies’ Day Out, Irish Style”**

**Immaculate Conception  
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**9:30 AM – 10:15 AM Registration;  
10:30 AM Mass**

Lunch, Meeting and Drawings to follow  
Guest Speaker: Fr. R. Dean Probst  
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