

## **FAITH FLASH!**

### **Faith Tip of the Week: Use those super powers!**

I don't follow the comics anymore. But I remember reading them when I was younger. Seems there was always some sort of freak accident or a serum that would cause someone to suddenly have super powers. Spiderman, the Hulk, and Captain America come to mind. Then some were born with super powers like Superman. Wouldn't it be great to have superpowers? I am writing this Faith Flash on Tuesday. Precisely, it is the Tuesday of Confirmation here at St. Johns. On this evening, we will have the 2024 Confirmation class receiving full initiation into the Church. They have been preparing for this moment for a long time. On this evening, they will receive their superpowers... the gifts of the Holy Spirit! They will leave the church ready to conquer the world (in a Jesus sort of way of course!). This weekend is the first Mass they will attend as fully initiated confirmed Catholics. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them. Pray for them. Let them know how glad you are they are here. It was by no freak accident that the Holy Spirit gave us these gifts: Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding, Counsel, Piety, Fortitude, Fear of the Lord. The Holy Spirit knew we would need them. If you are like me, some gifts I leave in the box and never use (hello rummage sale!). The gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be used every day and cherished. Let's remember to use those super powers!

### **Youth Group!**

Our next Youth Group gathering is Wednesday, April 24th at 6:30pm. All high schoolers are invited to attend. We will meet in the Church basement. Use the breezeway doors of the church to enter. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend!

Dave Hollinshead, Director of Faith Formation

**FORMED AND AMEN** are streaming platforms of religious resources that are available to all of our parishioners. Information for both are on the bulletin table.

## **DIOCESAN SPRING FARM BLESSING**

All are invited to join Bishop McGovern for the **Spring Farm Blessing**, which will be held on Friday, April 26, at 1:00pm at Braeutigam Orchards located at 2795 Turkey Hill Lane, Belleville. "Farm Blessing" signs will guide you. Those attending are invited to bring harvested grain, fruit, vegetables and garden produce in sealed, marked containers along with animals and farm machinery to be blessed.

*You are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the local food pantry. We look forward to having you join us!*



## **GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH** **SCHOOL NEWS**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Shadow Program – LAST CALL**

Last call for Shadow Visits! Your 7<sup>th</sup> grader can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they'll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch in our cafeteria, and more! 7<sup>th</sup> grade shadows are welcome to come back as 8<sup>th</sup> graders for another Shadow Visit, too!

**Summer Camps**-Registration for our summer camps is now open! Choose from art, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' volleyball, and boy's soccer.

<https://gibalthawks.com/2024-summer-camps/>

**Future Hawk Baseball Tailgate**-Cheer on the State Champion Hawks on May 1 at 4:30 p.m.

**Summer Classic Golf Tournament**-Tee up for the students of Gibault Catholic High School as part of our 27th Summer Classic Golf Tournament! This year's tournament will be held on Friday, June 21, 2024, and there are lots of ways to get involved. You can sponsor our event, donate raffle prizes, or gather a team to play at the beautiful Annbriar Golf Course. For more info, email [dfraisure@gibalthawks.com](mailto:dfraisure@gibalthawks.com) or visit our event website: <https://SummerClassic.givesmart.com>

**Poker Run**-Join the Gibault Women's Club for an afternoon of fun on April 28.

## **SJB SCHOOL NEWS**

**Spring Rummage Sale**-Our Spring Rummage Sale will be: Friday, April 26th (4-9pm.; everything priced); Saturday, April 27th (8am-1pm.; \$5/bag; we have bags); Sunday, April 28th (8am-1pm.; \$4/bag). Cash or local check with ID only. Item Drop-Off: Saturday, April 20th (8am-3pm); Sunday, April 21st (11am-4pm); Monday-Thursday (8am-7pm) We do not accept TVs, computers, monitors, printers, keyboards, used mattresses, non-working items, or heavily soiled items. Before dropping off large items, please call the school first 618-282-3215

## **St. Joseph's BBQ**

### **FUNDRAISER**

**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Red Bud IGA**

Starting at 10:30 a.m.



### **PORK STEAKS & BRATS**

**Sandwiches or Plates**

**PLATES COME WITH CHOICE OF 2 SIDES:**

Sweet & Smoky Baked Beans

Homemade Potato Salad

Picnic Recipe Slaw



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

### The Cupboards Are Bare

#### St. Vincent De Paul Needs Your Help!

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council reports record numbers of people staying at its OverNite Center and 300+ people per day coming for meals at Cosgrove's Kitchen. With these increased numbers, there is an urgent need for food. We humbly ask for your prayers for SVDP and its clients and, if you are able, your donation of food (all kinds) that will be cooked and served at the soup kitchen and/or individually packaged food items (cookies, fruit cups, tuna and chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt, cereal, instant oatmeal, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, soup or pasta in a cup) to distribute at the OverNite Center. Items can be dropped off at: **St. Vincent de Paul Council Office**-8800 West Main, Belleville (across from Blessed Sacrament Church) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00-2:30pm. or **SVDP Thrift Store/Soup Kitchen**-3718 State Street, East St. Louis. Monday-Friday 9:00-1:30 pm.; Saturday 9:00-Noon. For additional info contact Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity which enables St. Vincent de Paul's ministry to the poorest among us.

Can You Help?

### RESPECT LIFE

"Suicidal individuals—with or without a terminal illness—typically do not want to die; they want to escape what they perceive to be an intolerable situation, and they inaccurately believe that suicide is their only way out. The patient requesting assisted suicide is often asking, 'Does anyone want me to be alive, or care enough to talk me out of this request and support me through this difficult time?'"

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Every Suicide is Tragic"  
uscbb.org/every-suicide-tragic

#### **Pregnancy Resource Highlight**

Pregnancy Care Center, 180 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Belleville, IL  
Phone: (618) 233-2273

Pregnancycarecenter.org, open Mon, Tue, Wed from  
10 am-2 pm

Provide referrals for pregnancy care, clothing, diapers,  
and other assistance to mothers and families free of  
charge.

**LET US PRAY TO END  
ABORTION AND TO RESPECT  
ALL LIFE FROM CONCEPTION  
TO NATURAL DEATH!**



## CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

*Serve the Lord with gladness!--Psalm 100*

Your contribution to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal enables the Office of Education to impact the lives of over 11,128 students at 25 Catholic grade schools, three Catholic high schools and in PSR (Parish School of Religion) classes throughout our Belleville Diocese. If you haven't already done so, we prayerfully ask you to consider making a gift to The 2024 Appeal today...no amount is too large or too small! Thank you.

### VOCATION PILGRIMAGE WEEKEND WITH THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. PAUL

July 5-7-Curious about religious life? Spend a weekend with the Daughters of St. Paul, and participate in the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage as it passes through St. Louis! This dynamic weekend retreat will introduce you to the Eucharistic spirituality, media mission, and community life of the Daughters of St. Paul and give you quiet time with the Lord to pray about your vocation. Open to single Catholic women ages 18-30. Learn more or register at [connect.pauline.org/vocational-pilgrimage](http://connect.pauline.org/vocational-pilgrimage) or contact Sr. Amanda Marie at [stlouisvocations@paulinemediacom.com](mailto:stlouisvocations@paulinemediacom.com).

### THE MESSENGER

Memorial Day is fast approaching, and we hope to do a story related to this holiday. If anyone in your parish has a story to tell about someone they knew or a relative who died in war, please let us know.

We also print the names of military service members who were killed in action (WWII onward) in The Messenger. We have a list from years past, but if we have missed anyone, please send that person's name, rank if it is known, and the war in which they served and died.

In addition, we would like to include a list of military service people who are presently serving in harm's way, asking for prayers for their safe return home.

**Please submit any info that you would like me to forward to The Messenger by April 29. Sandy**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Rummage sale and bake sale**, Friday, April 26 from 7 am to 2 pm and Saturday, April 27 from 7-11 am inside St. Mary's Church Hall. 7362 Shawneetown Trail, Ellis Grove. 30 tables of miscellaneous items. (No clothing).

**God is Great!** Concert by Christian recording artist, Jennie Williamson, April 28th, St. John's Lutheran School, Red Bud. Free-will offering dinner at 5 p.m.; concert at 6:30 p.m.

**Prairie du Rocher American Legion fish fry**, May 17<sup>th</sup> 4:30-8 p.m. Serving three kinds of fish, chicken strips, French fries, slaw, baked beans, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes. Info: 284-9509.