



in our parish library

Have you stopped by the parish library recently? It contains a little something for everyone—you're sure to find something you'd like to read!

Children's Books: An assortment of stories and books geared for elementary to middle school.

Fiction Books: A variety of Catholic best-selling fiction.

Catholic Nonfiction: Including best-selling works by renowned theologians; biographies; histories; bible commentaries, philosophical works; books to help with developing a prayer and spiritual life; works to help the soul and the healing process.

Reference Books: Including theological dictionaries, encyclopedias, anthologies, almanacs, bibles, concordances, patron saint indexes, catechisms.

Catholic Magazines and Newspapers: *The Catholic Post*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *America Magazine*, *U.S. Catholic*, and more.

Hours: The library is open during the week when the parish office is open, and on fourth and fifth Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Information about checking out materials is available beside the computer. If you need assistance or would like to volunteer to help at the library, please contact the library coordinator, Lori Mestre (lmestre@illinois.edu or 365-9004).

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If you would like to donate books on the parish library's wish list, please contact Lori Mestre (365-9004), library team coordinator. If you need help locating materials in the library, Lori or one of the other team members will be happy to help. The parish library is open weekdays during office hours and on the fourth and fifth Sundays of the month from 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.



Q: I received some mail recently about the 50th anniversary of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception. What is a basilica anyway?

A: A church is designated a basilica by the Holy Father, usually because of its antiquity, or because it is an important place of pilgrimage, or because it has a distinctive ministry. Because of its special ties to the pope, a basilica serves as a sign of the universality of the Church. There are more than 60 basilicas in the United States, including Our Lady of Sorrows in Chicago, and more than 1500 worldwide.

Every basilica has two distinctive items that would be called into use if the pope were to visit. One is a canopy that would be used to protect the pope from the elements as he arrives at the basilica. The other is a bell mounted on a pole, which would be carried in front of him to announce his presence.

The patron saint of the United States is Mary under the title of the Immaculate Conception. This



is one reason why the feast of the Immaculate Conception is especially significant in this country. It also explains the importance of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, which is located in our nation's capitol, both as a place of pilgrimage and as a center of prayer and study. It is near the Catholic University of America and the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. The church was dedicated 50 years ago, in November 1959 and was designated a basilica in 1990 by Pope John Paul II.

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Questions about Catholic practice or Catholic teaching may be sent to the Communications Committee in care of the parish office.

February Patron Saints

