

# Immaculate Conception

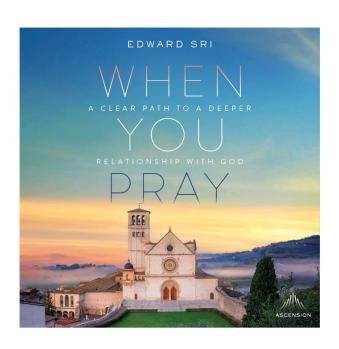
A Full Stewardship Parish - Partner Parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, Dupo, IL 411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL 62236 | 618-281-5105 | Fax 281-6848

September 8, 2024

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

# When You Pray: A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God



You know that prayer is important but still find it challenging. Perhaps it's hard to find time, or you're unsure what to do when you pray. Or maybe you feel discouraged by your weaknesses and your inability to overcome them.

If you have any of these feelings, you are not alone. Many of the saints struggled in prayer. They were like us. But each time they fell, they got up again and learned to rely more on God's grace.

What God did in the lives of countless saints, he wants to do in the lives of ordinary people like us. And that's what this study is about: the journey of prayer God wants to take us on.

Join us for When You Pray: A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God, beginning October 7th, 2024, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. and continuing every Monday for eight weeks. For more information or to register for the study, contact Joe Dent at 618-210-2003 or by email at joe@dentsoft.com.

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.

## 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 618-281-5105, and our secretary will be happy to help make that happen!

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

We livestream! To participate, please use this link: https://www.youtube.com/c/ImmaculateConceptionCatholicChurchColumbiaIL



Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Phone: 618-281-5105

Parish Staff

Pastor, Fr. Steve Thoma, C.R. ext. 358 or 805-670-3541 frsteve@iccmail.org

Business Manager, Kara Dell-Hunt ext. 350, kdell-hunt@iccmail.org

Director of Music, Karen Lundy 618-719-1815 karenslundy@gmail.com

Director of Faith Formation, Lizanne Young ext. 354, lyoung@iccmail.org

IC-PSR Coordinator, Rebecca Husman ext. 353, rhusman@iccmail.org

Bookkeeper, Sheryl Oglesby ext. 351, soglesby@iccmail.org

Secretary, Michelle Muckensturm ext. 300, iccmail@iccmail.org

Spiritual and Mental Health Advocate, Shea Christensen ext. 352, schristensen@icsmail.org

ICS Principal, Dave Gregson 281-5353, ext. 202 dgregson@icsmail.org

Pastoral Council Chair, Bill Simmons wsimmons85@yahoo.com

School Board President, Kyle Doerr boardpresident@icsmail.org

### Sacramental Information

**Baptisms:** Parents/guardians are asked to attend a Preparation Seminar scheduled on the second Sunday of the month after 9:00 a.m. Mass (approximately 10:00 a.m.) in the lower-level library. We celebrate Baptisms on the first Sunday of the month during any Mass, and the third Sunday of the month after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. (No Baptisms are scheduled during Lent.) Please call the office to schedule at 281-5105.

Weddings: The parish is happy to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony with adults who are currently registered members of Immaculate Conception Church (bride or groom). If you are one of many who would like to "come home" to celebrate the Sacrament with family and friends, please provide the name of the parish where you are now a member, along with contact information. We ask that you contact the IC Parish Office a minimum of four months prior to Marriage, but in most cases couples will need to allow time for Pre-Cana formation, and we suggest beginning to plan your Sacrament 12 or 18 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 a 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 (September-Easter), starting with "Breaking Open the Word" dismissal from 9:00 a.m. Mass, and catechetical sessions from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Contact Lizanne Young at the Parish Office at 281-5105, ext. 354, or email lyoung@iccmail.org.

Reconciliation: Reconciliation is offered from 4:00-4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and by appointment.

#### **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 Kara at the Parish Office if you have questions. \*The initial course is now available online. Please contact Kara at the Parish Office for directions. Not sure if you are compliant? Contact Kara at the Parish Office. \*The refresher course for 2024-2025 IS AVAILABLE ONLINE! Follow the link on our website! If you can't find it there, it is also on the Diocesan website at https://diobelle.safeenvironment.org/login/index.php. Questions? Contact Kara at the Parish Office at 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 at 800-640-3044.

Purchase Scrip Gift Cards from all of your favorite stores, restaurants, etc... in the Parish Office!

This Week's Liturgical Celebrations

Masses – Saturday, 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 a.m.

Monday, September 9 8:05 a.m. We Remember Marlene Augustine
Tuesday, September 10 8:05 a.m. We Remember Margaret Ann Conrad
Wednesday, September 11 8:05 a.m. We Remember Joseph & Dorothy (Dottie) Iorio

Thursday, September 12 8:05 a.m. We Remember Lawrence Becherle Friday, September 13 8:05 a.m. We Remember Babs Jackson

Saturday, September 14 5:00 p.m. We Remember Ralph Herrmann

Mary Lou Mees

Sunday, September 15 7:00 a.m. In Honor of Jerry & Marybeth Harbaugh – 60th Wedding Anniversary

9:00 a.m. We Remember Margie Pautler 11:00 a.m. We Remember Mary Wessel

## Please Pray For

Danielle Dorlac Jean Conrad Sandy Kirpatrick Special Intention Donna Archambault-Kania Liam Pugh Jim Grau Darrell May Arlin Stechmesser Don & Shirley Mehrmann Geri Griffin Beth Johns Dakota Schutt Dolores G. Donna Ritson Hope Weinhoff Janice McDermott Elliana Cloin Owen Kinane Mark Belt Delores Deleveski Earl & Arlene Kruse Ken Breitenstein Doug Mercille Brian Kreher Mrs. Steele Wanda Schewe Brian Hirsh Rich Sambo The Kruse Family Katie Schoellhorn Don Day Catherine Sambo Betty Schmieder Kristen Brewer Brother John Ritter Nicole Pennington Lynn Naumann Casey Kasen Greer Mary Schroeder Ellen Dietz Christine Baldas Bill Kutz Roger Karsten Chris Peel Jamie Moravec Irma Proffer Barbara Kendall

Troops in Service... SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn; Samuel Campbell, Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, United States Air Force; Captain Alex Kawalec, United States Air Force

Prayer List Guidelines: Please be mindful – if your loved one no longer needs to be on the Prayer List, call the Parish Office at 281-5105.

Bill Kessler



Joan Thoma

Weekly Reflections

September 8, 2024:

First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a Second Reading: James 2:1-5 Gospel: Mark 7:31-37



Adam Brandt

## Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

Septem	ber 1, 202	24
Actual	\$	42,672.30
Budget	\$	62,900.00
Actual YTD	\$	350,075.79
Budget YTD	\$	367,225.00
Over (under)	\$	(17,149.21)
Prior YTD	\$	314,595.94
Over (under)	\$	35,479.85
*The at	bove totals	include online

\*The above totals include online giving totals through 8/31/2024.

Guatemala	\$ 523.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 289.00
Picnic Donation	\$ 225.00
Gibault	\$ 395.00
Votive	\$ 223.00
Retired Priests	\$ 180.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	\$ 573.00
SVDP	\$ 81.00
Phase 3	\$ 3,669.49
CEAC	\$ 565.00



# From Our Young Stewards Treasure: \$10.82 Time and Talent: Cleaned the windows;

being kind to friends; made my bed.

WILLS AND LIVING TRUSTS

In the world of estate planning, Wills and Living Trusts often take center stage because they are the most common documents used to pass assets after one's death. They are similar, yet different – kind of like siblings, but without all the fighting. Both are legal tools that transfer your property to those you love. The main difference is that one can be effective while you are still alive and the other goes into effect only after you die. There are a few more important distinctions you should know about. Let's go over each one, starting with the basics, so you can decide what's best for you.

#### What Is a Will?

A Will is a legal document that explains what you want to have happen when you die – and puts it all in writing. It outlines things like who you want to get your property, your money, and guardianship of your kids or pets. The important thing to note about a Will is that it does not avoid the probate process, which is a common misconception. When you die, the person(s) you've named as Personal Representative (a.k.a Executor), must present your Will to the court in the county where you reside at death and ask the judge to recognize your Will as valid and grant what are known as "letters testamentary" to the person(s) you've name. It is only then that your Personal Representative has the legal authority to administer the terms of your Will.

#### What Is a Living Trust?

A Living Trust is a legal document that governs what happens to your assets during your lifetime as well as at death, quickly and easily. It's referred to as "living" because the Trust goes into effect while you're alive, as opposed to a Will, which only becomes effective at your death. You can transfer things like bank or savings accounts, cars, real estate, art, jewelry and even intellectual property (like your novel manuscript) into a Living Trust. There are several significant advantages that a Living Trust provides that a Will does not. Those include incapacity planning – your Trustee (i.e. the person(s) you've designated to manage trust assets after you can no longer do it yourself) can manage your trust assets for you if you become incapacitated; privacy – the actions taken under a Living Trust are private between your Trustee and your beneficiaries; and probate avoidance – a Living Trust if properly funded will avoid the probate process, where a Will does not. Also Living Trusts, just like Wills, can be changed or completely rewritten as many times as you determine necessary prior to your incapacity or death. When a Living Trust is used as the primary estate planning document, a Will is still recommended to "catch" any property that was not placed in your Living Trust prior to your death, and to then add that property to your Trust at that time.

- Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

# Parish Events & News...

#### LOOKING FOR A LITURGY DIRECTOR

#HELP WANTED

Immaculate Conception is seeking a Director of Liturgy

who will report to the pastor and be responsible for planning and coordinating all liturgical celebrations, including Sunday and daily Masses, as well as funerals, weddings and special occasions. The ideal candidate will have a love of God and Church, spirit of collaboration, independent judgement and initiative, and liturgical/theological education and experience. Please contact Kara Dell-Hunt, IC business manager, for a complete job description. Kara can be reached at kdell-hunt@iccmail.org or 618-281-5105, ext. 350.



#### PRAY AND PLAY AT LITTLE CHURCH, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 15

Little Church begins its new school

year in Preschool Room #220 of the Catholic Education & Activity Center on Sunday, September 15, at 11:00 a.m. Mass. We are looking forward to greeting all our friends and sharing God's love together! (Register through the parish website!) Little Church participants must be 3 (and potty trained) by this September, and may participate through Kindergarten. The Little Church School Year ends the Sunday before Labor Day, and takes holiday breaks. For more information, contact Lauren Bernhard at 314-461-3530 or lbernhard104@gmail.com.

# SIGN UP FOR THE PADRE ABDIAS WELCOME CEREMONY/LUNCHEON

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22** 

GARDEN LEVEL FOLLOWING THE 11 AM MASS

Hear From PADRE ABDIAS:

"What the Sister Parish Relationship Means"

There is No Cost to Attend

#### **RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 8**

- Contact Karen Waide at 618-281-4715 or cooperwaide@aol.com or
   Call Parish Office at 618-281-5105 or
  - (3) Fill Out & Drop Off RSVP Slip Found in the Gathering Space

# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE 3 UPDATE

We continue to see the generosity of our parishioners in regards to Phase 3 of the Capital Campaign. We are slightly over the halfway point toward the goal of

eliminating the current debt and enhancing the church and school with the four proposed projects. Please take time to prayerfully consider making a pledge to the campaign so we can reach our goal. You can mail your pledge card to the Parish Office or drop it in the offertory basket. Thank you for your support!



#### **PSR**

Is that still, small voice calling you? Volunteer for PSR! A love of God and children is all that is needed. We are looking for volunteers for the 2024-2025 school year to help our PSR program continue to grow. Contact Rebecca Husman at 618-281-5105, ext. 353 or Lizanne Young at 618-281-5105, ext. 354. We look forward to meeting you.

**ICY** 



# SCRIPTURE DISCUSSIONS FOR MEN AND WOMEN

How's this for a Plan: Come to Mass on Sunday ready to engage in the Gospel, Old and New Testament Readings and even the homily by spending an hour praying with them in advance, with friends!

- Women's Bible Study meets every week in the Library on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- The Pathfinders Men's Group meets every week in the Knights of Columbus Room on Saturday mornings from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Just show up, you're more than welcome!

#### PARISH WORK DAYS!

October 12, November 9

#### BULLETIN DEADLINE

All submissions for the bulletin will need to be in to the Parish Office two Thursdays before you need it in the bulletin. Submissions will need to be sent to iccmail@iccmail.org. If you have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

#### D.C. PRETZEL AND DONUT SALES...

The next Pretzel & Donut weekend will be September 21 & 22. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

# Ministry News & Happenings

# THEOLOGY ON TAP'S UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and Topics are below. All dates are at Sunset Overlook in Columbia, IL unless otherwise noted. All at 7:00 p.m.

- September 9 Gym Fun @ ICS gym, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- September 23 Salt Lick hike (weather permitting),
   5:30 p.m.
- October 7 Knights of Columbus Speaker Series, location TBD
- October 21 Board Game Night!

#### **OUR CAMPAIGN PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, You have created us in Your own image, to love, serve and honor You with our lives. You have tasked us with building Your Church, and passing from one generation to the next the treasure trove of our faith. Bless the work of our hands as we undertake our next phase in serving You. Keep us strong in faith, hope, and love, so that all we do may bring glory and honor to You, forever and ever.

AMEN.

#### **ICY ODD SUNDAYS**

Every Sunday with an odd date is an Odd Sunday ICY Meeting. Check out the QR code for more details.





Pope Francis Says ...

We can speak of the priority of being over that of being useful. (German Bishops' Conference 1980 as quoted by Pope Francis in Laudato Si 69)

What can I do? Name five things you like that are not necessarily useful. What plants or animals add joy to your life though not "use-ful."



#### JUST FAITH CLASS

You are invited to participate in the last of the three classes on the Climate, *Sacred Water: Oceans and Ecosystems.* Water is central both to our Christian theology and to our survival. *Sacred Water: Oceans and* 

*Ecosystems* guides small groups in discerning how they can better care for the earth's waters, as well as the creatures and communities who live in and around them.

Sr. Marcia Kruse, 618-570-4084, ASC, Faith Clark, 618-420-3164, and Carol Waide, 618-910-1648, will facilitate the 8 sessions which will begin September 18. Mark your calendars. If interested, you can register at https://justfaith.org/product/sacred-water-immaculate-conception-catholic-church/. You will need to set up an account in order to register. If you had one from last year you will need to set it up again, as a new system was put in place. Cost will be \$35.00-\$75.00. Our two previous classes have been well received. Come join in and learn how you can help.

#### **ICCCW NEWS:**

ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS – We wish you the very best in your new school year. We hope and pray for your success in all your endeavors. Please be sure to sign up every year for the Keeping College Kids Connected program, so we have your updated information. Parents can also sign up their students. Forms can be found in the gathering space. You can return them in the collection basket or to the Parish Office.

BOXES OF JOY – We are still collecting items for the Boxes of Joy Program. You can donate items for a box (see box in Gathering space) and we will pack it, you can take a whole box to fill, or you can make a donation and we will do the shopping for you. Just drop your donation in the collection basket and mark it Boxes of Joy. Items suggested are small toys, school supplies, bar soap, comb/brush, toothbrush and toothpaste, socks, chapstick, rosary, headbands and ponytail holders, etc....

#### **UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:**

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 we are hosting the Metro East Vicariate Fall Day of Prayer and Meeting. The day begins with check-in at 8:30 a.m., Mass at 9:30 a.m., a speaker and then lunch about 11:45 a.m. Then there will be the MEV Fall meeting which should conclude by 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Call Lori Doerr at 618-210-5881 to make a reservation.

Wednesday, September 11, 2024 our Fall Raffle sales will also begin.

Sunday, September 22, 2024, some funeral teams will be getting calls to provide side dishes that day for the welcome lunch for Padre Abdias.

Thursday, November 14, 2024 is our annual Bunko Night of Fun. We will also be drawing our Fall Raffle winners on this evening. More details to come.

# THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100

The Messenger, our diocesan newspaper, brings local, national and international news of our Catholic faith right into your home through its print and online editions. Your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal helps to support *The Messenger*. If you haven't done so, subscribe to *The Messenger* today and also make your gift to The Appeal! Thank you for your generosity.

#### **ACTS**



#### **WOMEN'S ACTS**

# ACTS RETREAT

TESTIMONIAL

#### "What Is It that Makes the Retreat Such a Life Changing Experience?

"My ACTS experience started like most others. My neighbor and a good friend kept inviting me to attend a retreat. I had all the excuses, "my children needed me at home," "I was too busy at work," and "I am not religious enough to attend a retreat." My life was too hectic, and I did not need "one more thing to do." I told my neighbor I just needed some peace and quiet. My friend smiled and said, "The retreat can help you find that peace." I reluctantly said "yes" and attended my first retreat.

Well, my friend was correct, I found peace during that retreat. I remember not feeling alone in this new community. I was reassured that God was with me during all the chaos, and I discovered new and simple ways to incorporate prayer into my everyday life, which helps me find more peace.

Looking back over my past retreats, I see how these retreats have become milestones in my spiritual journey. Each a stepping-stone towards a more faith-filled, centered, and grounded version of myself. The chaos still exists, but now, I navigate it with God and a deepened sense of peace, love, and hope.

Theresa Stearns

#### SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE NEXT LADIES RETREAT – October 17 - 20, 2024

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER – https://icc-columbia-il.us/acts-retreats/womans-acts-retreat/





#### **EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Please join us for Eucharistic Adoration on Tuesdays from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Spend some quiet time with the Lord.

#### COMFORT WITH A PRAYER SHAWL

If you, or someone you know, needs comfort and prayers, consider bringing them a Prayer Shawl, handmade by Immaculate Conception parishioners. Each crocheted or knitted shawl is unique, and prayers are said throughout the process of the creation. The goal is to provide comfort to the recipient, knowing that they are wrapped in the prayers of the parish. The Prayer Shawl can be delivered to you, or you may stop in the Parish Office during business hours and pick up what you need. Prayer Shawls are available for children as well. Call Helen Csik at 314-651-5033 or the Parish Office at 618-281-5105.

#### PRO-LIFE/PREGNANCYRESOURCES...

- Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support: Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo & Red Bud) – 618-939-4224, mylifenet.org
- Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis) birthrightstl.org
- Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by abortion; Project Rachel, 618-722-5068, hopeafterabortion.com
- A caring place for women who are pregnant and experiencing homelessness Fontebella Maternity Home, 618-406-4355.
- If you, or someone you know, has an unborn baby diagnosed with "fetal abnormalities" or an "adverse prenatal diagnosis," please refer to: BeNotAfraid.net or PrenatalPartnersforLife.org. Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. Birthrightstl.org offers their Melissa's Smile program, a counseling and supportive resource for mothers and fathers whose baby has been diagnosed prenatally with a genetic abnormality or whose baby has been born with a disability or serious medical condition.



#### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Looking for your place in the parish? Do you like helping others, providing comfort and being part of a larger purpose? The Bereavement Ministry is looking for new members. The ministry meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden level. Contact Kathy Fern to learn more at 618-719-1632 or email kaammifern@gmail with your interest.

#### Upcoming events:

October 20th: Walk to Remember – 3:00 p.m. November 2nd: All Souls Mass – 5:00 p.m.

#### **QUILTERS' CORNER**

Join our super fun quilters' group on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30 a.m. All skill levels welcome and appreciated, even beginners! Contact Carlene at 281-5877.

# What's Happening at Gibault?

#### **ENROLLING FOR FALL 2024**

There is still time to be a Gibault Hawk this fall! We are accepting incoming freshmen and transfer students at all other grade levels. To learn how you can be part of the Gibault family, visit https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire.





## 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

# Fall Mum Fundraiser Ends Soon August 26-September 9

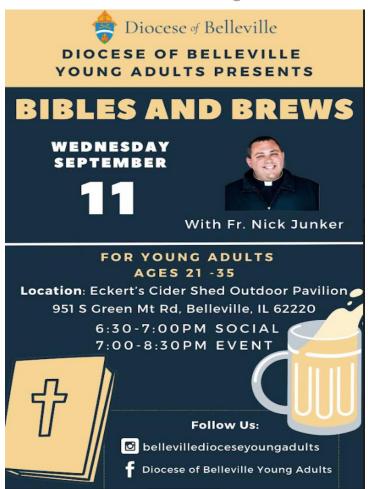
The ISC Fall mum fundraiser will be ending soon. If you haven't already ordered, now is the time to get your order in!! The mum fundraiser consists of two types of products: premium mum with a fall themed tin character pot OR just a premium mum. Mums come in four colors and the character tins haev four fall fun designs, two new ones debuting this year.

For more information, to volunteer, or to place an order, contact: Emilee Dufford at 618.616.6878 or emileedufford@gmail.com (or talk with an ICS student)



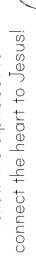
Sponsored by ICS Parents and Friends, all proceeds benifit Immaculate Conception School.

# Diocesan and Area Interests...









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washing their hands. Jesus told them that people become unclean because of dirtiness in their hearts, not on their hands. People should try to keep their hearts close to Jesus. The Pharisees asked Jesus why the disciples didn't follow the old church rules about

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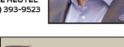
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