



# Immaculate Conception

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

October 20, 2024

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

[www.icc-columbia-il.us](http://www.icc-columbia-il.us)



## Halloween Hullabaloo

**Sunday, October 27**

Gym & Garden Level

(Ages 0-14 must be accompanied by adults)

4:00pm: Claim a table and your Halloween Treat Station in the Gym (Bring treats to share!)

4:30pm: The Fun Begins!

- Trick-or-Treat at the stations in the gym
- Visit the Spooky Saints in the Haunted Hallway! ICY will present scenes of some of our favorite martyrs.
- Enjoy Hot Dogs in the Garden Level, thanks to the Knights of Columbus!

6:00pm: Hayrides courtesy of Schaefer Farms, weather permitting

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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>

## Parish Office Hours

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@iccmil.org

**Business Manager,**

**Kara Dell-Hunt**

ext. 350, kdell-hunt@iccmil.org

**Director of Music,**

**Karen Lundy**

618-719-1815

karenlundy@gmail.com

**Director of Faith Formation,**

**Lizanne Young**

ext. 354, lyoung@iccmil.org

**IC-PSR Coordinator,**

**Rebecca Husman**

ext. 353, rhusman@iccmil.org

**Bookkeeper,**

**Sheryl Oglesby**

ext. 351, shoglesby@iccmil.org

**Secretary,**

**Michelle Muckensturm**

ext. 300, iccmil@iccmil.org

**Spiritual and Mental Health**

**Advocate, Shea Christensen**

ext. 352, schristensen@iccmil.org

**ICS Principal,**

**Dave Gregson**

281-5353, ext. 202

dgregson@iccmil.org

**Pastoral Council Chair,**

**Bill Simmons**

wsimmons85@yahoo.com

**School Board President,**

**Jolene Sasser**

boardpresident@iccmil.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.

**OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults):** OCIA (formerly known as 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 OCIA. Get to know God better and find out what it means to be Catholic. Individuals will meet with our director of faith formation (Lizanne Young) to discuss the process. We meet as a group on Sundays (from Autumn through the Triduum just before 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 at the Parish Office, 281-5105, ext. 354, or email lyoung@iccmil.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. \*The initial course is now available online. Please contact Michelle at the Parish Office for directions. \*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>. Not sure if you are compliant, or have additional questions? Contact Michelle 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, October 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Marlene Augustine
Tuesday, October 22	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday, October 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Jane Frey
Thursday, October 24	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Harold Netemeyer
Friday, October 25	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Anna Lawlor
Saturday, October 26	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Carl & Bernice Riebeling
Sunday, October 27	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Chester & Lillian Kopec
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Helen Marquardt
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Ed Janson



## *Please Pray For*

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

*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.



## *Weekly Reflections*

*October 20, 2024:*

**First Reading:** Isaiah 53:10-11  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 4:14-16  
**Gospel:** Mark 10:35-45



## *Our Sympathies...*

To Robert Simek and his family on the death of his wife Judith, 84, of Columbia

To Mike Soete and his family on the death of his brother, Kevin Soete.



## Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

October 13, 2024

Not available at time of printing



*From Our Young Stewards*

Not available at time of printing

## WHAT IS A 529 PLAN?

A 529 plan is an investment account that offers tax-free withdrawals and other benefits when used to pay for qualified educational expenses. You can use a 529 plan to pay for college, K-12 tuition, apprenticeship programs, and even student loan repayments. Any leftover funds can be used in different ways, including funding a Roth IRA. There are two primary 529 plans: education savings plans and prepaid tuition plans.

### Education Savings Plans

Also known as 529 college savings plans, these are tax-advantaged investment accounts that are designed for educational savings. They work much like a Roth 401(k) or Roth IRA by allowing you to invest your after-tax contributions in mutual funds or similar investments. 529 plans offer several investment options from which to choose. The 529 plan account will go up or down in value based on the performance of the investment options.

### Prepaid Tuition Plans

These plans let you prepay all or part of the costs of an in-state public college education. You may also convert them for use at private and out-of-state colleges. The Private College 529 Plan is a separate prepaid plan for private colleges sponsored by more than 250 private colleges. Educational institutions can offer a prepaid tuition plan but not a college savings plan.

### Tax Advantages of 529 Plans

529 plans offer federal tax benefits and may offer state tax benefits depending on the state where the account owner or person contributing to the plan lives. Earnings in your account accumulate tax-free. In other words, no income taxes are due on earnings as long as the money stays in your account. You will not have to pay federal income taxes on withdrawals as long as the money is used to pay for qualified educational expenses. In most cases, these withdrawals will also be exempt from state income taxes. Contributions to a 529 plan are not deductible for federal income tax purposes, however. Some families use 529 plans as an estate planning vehicle because contributions are considered completed gifts to the beneficiary. Up to \$18,000 per donor, per beneficiary, qualifies for the annual gift tax exclusion in 2024. Depending on where you live, you may also qualify for a state tax benefit. Over 30 states offer either state income tax deductions or state tax credits for 529 plan contributions. The tax benefit is typically available for residents who invest in their home state's 529 plan. However, many states offer a tax benefit for contributions to any state's 529 plan. These tax benefits make 529 plans more valuable for college savings than traditional savings or investment accounts.

For more information about 529 plans, contact your financial or tax advisor.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

# Parish Events & News...

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE 3 UPDATE

Exciting things happening! The Parish digital sign is up! Thank you to those of you who made this possible! Your Capital Campaign pledge money is making great things happen!



If you haven't made your pledge yet, please do so as soon as possible. You can turn it in to the Parish office or drop it in the offertory basket.

## PARISH WORK DAYS! November 9, December 14

## 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!

## ICY



## 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 [iccmil@iccmil.org](mailto:iccmil@iccmil.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 November 23 & 24. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington, D.C.

Blood Drive in the garden level on  
November 1st from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

# Ministry News & Happenings

## 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.*

## 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.

- October 21 – Board Game Night!

## 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...

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey toward your infinite light. (*Laudato Si* 246)

**What can I do?** Think twice before throwing something away. It will end in the landfill or in streams, and take years to disintegrate. Repair. Re-use. Recycle.

## Discipleship

Few of us live earthly lives without times of trouble. But remember that “No trial has come to you but what is human. God is faithful and will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out, so that you may be able to bear it.” (1 Cor:13). Winston Churchill said, “If you’re going through hell, keep going.” And as you’re going, ask God for wisdom, a way out of your mess. Become a “man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection.” (Thomas Paine)

## ICCCW NEWS:

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

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.

Thursday, December 5, 2024 – IC Council of Catholic Women Christmas Extravaganza.

## ANNUAL ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COAT & WINTER ITEMS DRIVE

The Annual Drive is this weekend. We are accepting all winter clothing and shoes for all sizes, infant through adult, and bedding. Collected items will be given to St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store and Overnight Shelter in East St. Louis. Your support is appreciated!

– ICC St. Vincent de Paul Society

## THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

*Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100*

“With confidence in the Lord, I am turning to you today asking for your support of this year’s Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. My hope is that your generous response will help our ministries grow and the compassion of Jesus will be experienced more profoundly in our communities.”

– Bishop Michael McGovern

Please consider making your gift today!

## BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

All members of a family, no matter what age, who have lost a loved one suffer from grief. From toddlers to adults, a death in the family creates a void where it was once filled. A wide range of emotions occur, and these emotions come and go over time. The grieving process can take years. Learn more about grief, its stages and effects, in this section in upcoming Sunday bulletins. Contact Kathy Fern at 618-719-1632, if you have any questions about our activities or the Bereavement Ministry.

### Upcoming events:

All Souls Mass – November 2nd at 5:00 p.m.

## ACTS



**Stay Connected with  
the ACTS Community!**

**Embrace the calmness and reconnect with the ACTS family. If you're not receiving emails from [acts@iccmail.org](mailto:acts@iccmail.org), you might be missing out! Update Your Info Now! If you're not on our mailing list, simply send us an email at [acts@iccmail.org](mailto:acts@iccmail.org) with your latest contact information. Let's keep you in the loop and build a stronger, connected ACTS family together!**

**SAVE THE DATES!**

Upcoming ICC ACTS  
Retreats

**MEN'S RETREAT JAN 23 - 26, 2025**

**WOMEN'S RETREAT APRIL 24 - 27, 2025**

**MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2025**

**ACTS**

## COMFORT WITH A PRAYER SHAWL

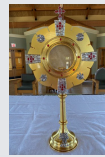
If you, or someone you know, needs comfort and prayers, consider bringing them a Prayer Shawl, handmade by Immaculate Conception parishioners. Each crocheted or knitted shawl is unique, and prayers are said throughout the process of the creation. The goal is to provide comfort to the recipient, knowing 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.

## 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>.



### EUCCHARISTIC 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.

### 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.

### PRO-LIFE/PREGNANCY RESOURCES...

- Free and confidential pregnancy testing, counseling, and practical support: Life Network of Southern Illinois (in Waterloo & Red Bud) – 618-939-4224, [mylifenet.org](http://mylifenet.org)
- Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis) [birthrightstl.org](http://birthrightstl.org)
- Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by abortion; Project Rachel, 618-722-5068, [hopeafterabortion.com](http://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](http://BeNotAfraid.net) or [PrenatalPartnersforLife.org](http://PrenatalPartnersforLife.org). Both offer free parent-centered case management and parental support for parents carrying to term following a prenatal diagnosis. [Birthrightstl.org](http://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.

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OCTOBER 26, 2024

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FOR ANY QUESTIONS: (618)-939-3883

BEHIND EVERY MASK  
THERE IS A FACE &  
BEHIND EVERY FACE  
THERE IS A STORY



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

School Principal: Dave Gregson, ext. 202 ~ dgregson@icsmail.org

School Administrator: Beverly Epplin, ext. 200 ~ bepplin@icsmail.org

Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh ~ ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE

Congratulations to the girls cross country team who won their regional and are now are off to state!!!



Congrats to our two boys heading to the cross country state meet!



Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings:  
November 11, December 9

## *Diocesan and Area Interests...*



### Donations Needed



**St. Anne Cradle of Hope, Carbondale**

St. Anne Cradle of Hope needs clothing donations to help families in need!

We are asking for summer clothing for boys sizes 2T-4T



To donate:

Drop off at 2015 W Main St suite b, Carbondale, IL 62901 on Mon or Wed 10-2 pm,  
Mail to St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at 303 S Poplar St, Carbondale, IL 62901,  
Or visit our Amazon wish list at <https://www.diobelle.org/stanne-coh>



## CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS APPEAL

Support the Catholic Home Missions Appeal today! Over 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are considered mission territories because they are unable to fund essential pastoral activities needed in their communities. Your support funds religious education, seminary formation, lay ministry training, and other programs that build vibrant faith communities right here in the United States, including in our own Belleville Diocese. Please be generous. More information can be found at [www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions).



**Quilt, Cash & Turkey**  
**BINGO**  
**Prairie du Rocher American Legion**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3**  
BINGO STARTS AT 1 PM  
EARLY BIRD GAME: 12:30 PM  
PAPER BINGO CARDS - RAFFLE PRIZES

**Lunch**  
SERVING AT 11 AM - DINE IN OR CARRYOUT  
PULLED PORK - HAMBURGERS - HOT DOGS  
NACHOS - PULLED PORK NACHOS  
HOMEMADE SIDES - DESSERTS - ICE CREAM

**Proceeds go to St. Joseph's Cemetery**

## 2025 ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN YOUTH CHORAL FESTIVAL & MASS

March 8, 2025

Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, IL  
Bishop Michael G. McGovern, Celebrant



Pueri Cantores, the national student choral organization of the Catholic Church, invites all parish & school treble and mixed voice choirs (grades 4-12) in the region to participate in a Festival & Mass.

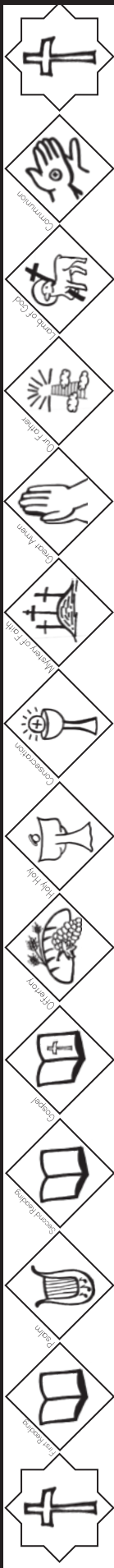
Singers will unite with hundreds of their peers as one combined choir to sing beautiful music from the Church's rich historical repertoire. More information will be available soon at [www.pcchoirs.org](http://www.pcchoirs.org).

“Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion. ... Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.”

*USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, “A Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe”*

“Virgen de Guadalupe, patrona de los niños en el vientre materno, te imploramos tu intercesión por cada niño en peligro de ser abortado. ... Guía a nuestros funcionarios públicos a defender cada vida humana mediante leyes justas. Inspíranos a todos a traer nuestra fe a la vida pública, para hablar por aquellos que no tienen voz. Te lo pedimos en el nombre de tu Hijo, Jesucristo, quién es Amor y Piedad. Amén”.

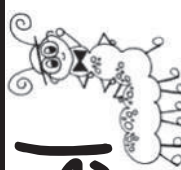
*USCCB Secretariado de Actividades Pro-Vida, “Oración a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe”*



Pick up  
your toys.

Jesus told his disciples to  
serve others. Fill each sign  
with something you can do to  
serve your friends and family.

Say Thank  
You.



# Gospel

The disciples, James and John, asked Jesus if they could sit by Him in Heaven. He told them that if they want to be great, they should serve others instead of trying to get the best seats in Heaven.



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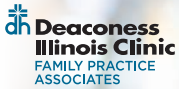
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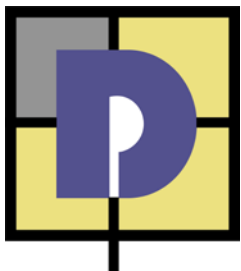


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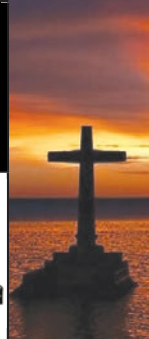
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