



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

January 26, 2025

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

HAPPY CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!!!!

This is always one of my favorite weeks as an educator. There are many things to celebrate this week.

We **GET TO** celebrate being Catholic and learning about our faith at school with our friends.

We **GET TO** Celebrate the Eucharist on Monday this week as we begin our 13th year in our beautiful church building.

We **GET TO** celebrate our talents as we compete in Volleyball, a Spelling Bee, and Trivia.

We **GET TO** celebrate our blessings by donating money to Life Network and help with meals for our local First Responders. We are also donating canned goods for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

We **GET TO** do all of this because we are all part of Immaculate Conception Parish as students and staff of Immaculate Conception School.

Only through the generosity of all of you are we able to celebrate this week. It is your **TIME, TALENT, and TREASURE** that provides all these things our students **GET TO** do at ICS. I want to personally thank all of you for being the generous, loving, faithful people that you are.

Although this week is set aside to celebrate Catholic Schools, every day is a day to celebrate being a student or staff member at Immaculate Conception School!!!

God Bless!!!

Dave Gregson, ICS Principal
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

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 Liturgy & Music,
Theresa Flores
ext. 312, tflores@iccmil.org

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,
Tammy Hoefflinger
parishcouncil@iccmil.org

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, January 27	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Sharon Range
Tuesday, January 28	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Mary Lou Ratajczyk
Wednesday, January 29	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Josh Ritter
Thursday, January 30	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Heather Muertz
Friday, January 31	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Jane Stahlschmidt
Saturday, February 1	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Angela Krupp
Sunday, February 2	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Bob Stadler
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Rich Dreher
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Elsie Hofstetter



Please Pray For

Adam Brandt	Trace Ahrens	Jim Vogt	Patricia Gober
Shane Martin	Molly Blevins	K. Myers	Jim Grau
Jacob Nelson	Curtis Sievers	Jane Menner	Delores G.
Bob Beckert	Craig Greer	Maryanne Klosterman	
John Kirk	Janet Michael	Margie Kolaz	
Amanda Boitano	Patricia Pulcher	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 and call the Parish Office at 281-5105.



Weekly Reflections

January 26, 2025

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Second Reading: First Corinthians 12:12-30
Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21



Our Sympathies...

To the family of James (Mike) Heller who passed away at the age of 74.



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.



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.

Stewardship...

Thank you for sharing your blessings with us!

January 19, 2025

Actual	\$	72,326.93
Budget	\$	66,000.00
Actual YTD	\$	1,269,066.60
Budget YTD	\$	1,314,575.00
Over (under)	\$	(45,508.40)
Prior YTD	\$	1,216,643.23
Over (under)	\$	52,423.37

**The above totals include online giving through 1/15/25.*

Guatemala	\$	882.00
Votive	\$	242.83
Capital Improvements	\$	424.00
Christmas Offering	\$	120.00
Flowers	\$	20.00
Cemetery Maintenance	\$	50.00
Gibault	\$	310.00
Sr Thea Bowman	\$	95.00
SVDP	\$	55.00
Needy	\$	30.00
Diocese Retired Priests	\$	
Retired Religious Fund	\$	20.00
ICCCW Dues	\$	75.00
Eugene Schorb	\$	
Education Endowment	\$	53.00
Phase 3	\$	12,840.35
CEAC	\$	515.00



From Our Young Stewards

Treasure: \$46.93

Time and Talent: Helping my mom make sandwiches; I have been nice to my mom; I took out the dogs.

WHY DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK TO CHARITY?

Giving stock instead of cash as a charitable donation can greatly benefit the donor as well as the recipient. You will find that many charities, churches, schools, and other nonprofit organizations will accept stock as a gift.

Tax Benefits of Donating Stock to Charity

If the stock has increased in value from the time of purchase, the owner can avoid paying capital gains tax by donating the security to a qualified charitable organization. When an appreciated security held for at least a year is donated to a charitable organization, its fair market value may be itemized as an income tax deduction. The resulting tax savings could be factored in to make a larger donation. For publicly traded shares, the fair market value is the average of the high and low price on the transfer date.

Considerations:

- Many nonprofits, such as hospitals, schools, and various other organizations, will accept stock as a gift or donation.
- Giving stock often results in a larger donation to the organization, as the gift is tax-deductible and there are no capital gains taxes to pay.
- If your stock has risen in value since purchase, donating it directly is preferable, but if it has lost value, it may be more advantageous to sell it first and then donate the proceeds, so the giver can take the tax loss.
- Most organizations will immediately liquidate the donation, converting the stock to cash.
- Depending on the organization you donate to and your adjusted gross income, a varying amount of your donation may be able to be deducted on your taxes.

Consult your tax or financial advisor for more information.

– Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

2024 ANNUAL TAX STATEMENTS

Your 2024 tax statements will be emailed to you by January 31st (if you have an email on file). If you do not have an email on file, then we will mail your statements to you. Please let the Parish Office know if you have any questions.



Parish Events & News...

PARISH WORK DAYS! February 8, March 8

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!

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. 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 February 15 and 16. 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.

- **January 27** – Bible Study on the Prodigal Son
- **February 10** – Trivia!
 - Prize for winner!
- **February 24** – Guest Speaker Sr. Mary Flick, CSJ on Ignatian Spirituality
- **March 9** – Family Gym Night at ICS, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
 - Open to all young adults (ages 18-35) with children
 - Come for fun games like Dodgeball, Spikeball, Cornhole and much more!
- **March 24** – Adoration & Board Games
 - Will attend Adoration at Immaculate Conception Church starting at 7:00 p.m., then head down to the Garden Level gathering space for board games and snacks



Pope Francis Prays...

“Jesus lived in full harmony with creation, and others were amazed: ‘What sort of man is this that even the winds and the sea obey him?’” (Laudato Si #98)

What can I do? Think of one way in which you might live in better harmony with the created world. Consider not spraying your lawn. Plant natives that require less or no watering.

THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul truly serves the poorest of the poor through its Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen, SVDP Thrift Store, Help Center and Night Drop-in Center. Men, women and children are provided the basic necessities of life – food, clothing and shelter – and the hope and the tools they need for a better tomorrow. Help St. Vincent de Paul serve those who have no place else to turn. Please make your gift to The Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal today.

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



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, 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 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.

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS

We want to thank you for purchasing hams.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

"Happy New Year" with Families Who Are Grieving

It's not easy to find hope or joy in the middle of grief. And oftentimes, well-meaning friends and loved ones wouldn't know what to say or do to ease the pain one is experiencing. That's why in these moments, it can be helpful to turn to words from others who have also experienced grief during the holidays. Here are a few comforting words to share when you feel you don't know what to say:

"You shared an unspeakable love, and it's okay if you don't have words for those you still have in your life. Your voice will come back when you need it."

"Remembering our loved ones who are no longer here brings both joy and pain. The only cure to grief is holding onto the memories that make us smile and find peace in knowing we were loved deeply."

"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love."

– Washington Irving

"The pain of grief is the price we pay for love."

– Queen Elizabeth II

"Grief changes shape over time, but it never ends."

– Keanu Reeves

"The journey of grief is not a linear path. There will be ups and downs, good days and bad days. Don't feel guilty for having moments of joy or happiness."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

For more information, see website:

Home Faith Family, 45 Quotes to Help Conquer Grief by Micah Klug, a Hospice Chaplain

Happy New Year from the Bereavement Ministry. May your year be filled with comfort and hope!

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.



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

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Preschool - 8th Grade
Sunday, January 26th
10am-12:30pm
ICS Main Entrance

All Are Welcome!

Mission
Community
Service

For more information:
icscolumbia.org
618-281-5353



Boy Scout Troop 328

SPAGHETTI DINNER FOR A CAUSE

A Fundraising Effort to
Help Feed the Less
Fortunate

FEBRUARY 1, 2025
4 - 7 PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CHURCH
LOWER LEVEL,
411 PALMER RD, COLUMBIA,
IL

\$10 per person
kids (under age 5) eat
free!

Carry Outs Available
(Dinner includes
spaghetti, salad,
breadstick, and dessert)

ICS PARENTS & FRIENDS PRESENTS:
DERBY & DINNER
HORSES, HATS & HIGH BIDS

ICS DINNER AUCTION
SATURDAY, FEB 22, 2025
6:00 IN THE EVENING
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
409 PALMER ROAD, COLUMBIA, IL

EARLY BIRD TICKETS ON SALE NOW

Upcoming Parents and Friends Meetings:
February 10, March 10

7th Grade Golf Ball Drop has been rescheduled. Ticket sales continue.

Ticket \$10
50/50 raffle



Come watch!
9:00 am
on March 17th
at ICS

Proceeds benefit
ICS 7th Grade trip to Space
Camp



Chicken Wing, Toasted Ravioli & Pizza Fundraiser Immaculate Conception School Fathers' Club



Jumbo Cut Chicken Wings

20 pieces for just \$30

Deep Fried, light dash of seasoning salt.
Your choice of sauce on the side:
Syberg's & Hot



Toasted Ravioli Local Made

20 pieces for just \$15

Deep Fried, light dash parmesan with
Marinara



Syberg's Signature Frozen 12" Pizzas \$12/each

Triple Cheese - Joe Mama Meat Lovers - Double Pepperoni - Signature Chicken

Big Game "Square Board" available for just \$25/square

Drive Thru Pick up from Noon to 4 pm, Sunday Feb 9th ICS Lower Level North of
ICS Gymnasium. Please use the same route as the KC fish fry.

To Order, scan the QR code or text **icswings** to 41444

Questions? Email: icsfathers@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!



What's Happening at Gibault?



GIBAULT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

FOR 1-8 GRADE GIRLS

GIBAULT SOCCER CAMP

FEBRUARY 1, 8, 15 & 22

9:00-10:00AM: 1-4 GRADE
10:00-11:00AM: 5-8 GRADE
FR. ED HUSTEDDE GYMNASIUM @ GCHS

\$60 for 4 SATURDAYS
CAMP T-SHIRT INCLUDED

REGISTER HERE



<https://igfn.us/form/0te35A>

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- TRAIN W/ HIGH SCHOOLERS & HEAD COACH
- TECHNICAL TRAINING
- FRIENDLY COMPETITION GAMES
- SPEED & AGILITY

TENNIS OR TURF SHOES
NO SOCCER CLEATS



GIBAULT CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SIGN UP TODAY



[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/9040D4AAEA72DA5F94-52690585-CONCESSION#/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040D4AAEA72DA5F94-52690585-CONCESSION#/)

Diocesan and Area Interests...

ILLINOIS PRO-LIFE MARCH



Diocese of Belleville Values ALL Life

SAVE THE DATE 3.25.25

Join the Diocese of Belleville at the Illinois Pro-Life March in Springfield, Illinois, on Tuesday, March 25, 2025!

The day will include Mass with Bishop Michael McGovern as homilist, followed by the Rally and March around the Illinois State Capitol building.

Parishes, schools, & individuals are encouraged to attend!

Registration coming soon!



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MKing@Diobelle.org



**ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
HECKER, ILLINOIS**
(15 miles South of Belleville on State Route 159)

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY





QUILT/CASH BINGO

FEBRUARY 9th, 2025

Hecker Community Center
230 E. Washington Street, Hecker, Illinois
Smoke Free Facility

Lightning Round Prior to Bingo

BINGO 1:30 P.M.
No one under 18 allowed in hall during bingo. BL #50884


Attendance Prizes – Raffle – Pot of Gold

Fried Chicken & Pork Sausage Plates
Serving 10:00 am-1:00 pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS COATS!

Cold winter weather has definitely arrived and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council desperately needs coats to distribute to those in need. Gently-used or new coats of all types in all sizes for all ages – toddlers, children, teens and adults (men and women) are being requested. Items can be dropped off at the St. Vincent de Paul office located at 8800 West Main Street, Belleville, across from Blessed Sacrament Church, or call Joe Hubbard or Pat Hogrebe at 618-394-0126 for additional information. Warm your heart by keeping someone warm and donate a coat today! Thank you very much.


 Diocese Of Belleville
 Young Adult
 Community

Holy Hour Happy Hour

Third Thursdays 6 p.m.
January 16, February 20, March 20

Cathedral of St. Peter
200 W. Harrison St.
Belleville, IL

Adoration Followed
by Fellowship
and a Few Beers
Ages 21-35

You Are Invited To A

Birthday Party

Join us as we celebrate
Reverend Monsignor Thomas Flach's
80th Birthday!

February

Sunday 2 Noon

Columbian Club of Pinckneyville
312 N. Gordon St.
Pinckneyville, IL 62274

Please RSVP before January 28th by calling or emailing the
parish office
618 542 3423 / 618 357 5510
sacredheartduquoin@gmail.com / stbsmm@yahoo.com

Meat, Salad, Cake & Drinks will be served. Please bring a side dish to share.

DOCTORS OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

The American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychiatric Association, and dozens of other medical groups oppose assisted suicide. The AMA says “Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physician’s role as healer.” Physicians are entrusted with saving lives, not ending them, and assisted suicide violates the Hippocratic Oath. Tell your state legislators to Vote NO on SB 3499 – assisted suicide. Visit www.ilcatholic.org for additional information and resources.

2025 ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN YOUTH CHORAL FESTIVAL & MASS

March 8, 2025
Cathedral of St. Peter, Belleville, IL
Bishop Michael G. McGovern, Celebrant

**AMERICAN FEDERATION
PUERI CANTORES**

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.



Gospel

Jesus prayed in the synagogue and read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He said, "Today, this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."



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Columbia, IL
Pete & Julie Ingold,
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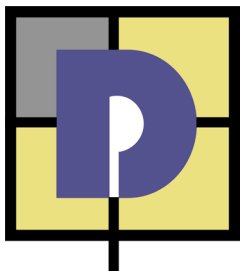
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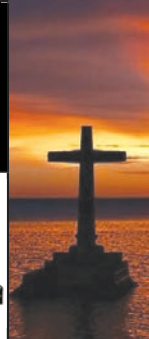
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