



Immaculate Conception

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

October 19, 2025

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.icc-columbia-il.us

A Pumpkin Prayer

Father in heaven, like a farmer, you have watched me grow
And picked me out from all the rest to house your light and glow.

Open my mind to think of you. Open my mouth to sing.
Open my eyes to see your world and share the joy you bring.

Open my heart to be your home—a warm and welcome shell,
Washed clean of sin. A place wherein your love and light may dwell.



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. Brian Barker
ext. 358 or 618-281-5105
frbrian@iccmil.org

Deacon Tom Helfrich
deacontom@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@icsmail.org

**ICS Principal,
Mike Crean**
281-5353, ext. 202
mcrean@icsmail.org

**Pastoral Council Chair,
Tammy Hoefflinger**
parishcouncil@iccmil.org

**School Board President,
Jessica Wachtel**
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.

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 2025-2026 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 20	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Robert Reichert
Tuesday, October 21	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Josh Ritter
Wednesday, October 22	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Holy Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, October 23	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Judy Albrecht
Friday, October 24	8:05 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson
Saturday, October 25	5:00 p.m.	We Remember Jim Vogt
Sunday, October 26	7:00 a.m.	We Remember Carl & Bernice Riebeling
	9:00 a.m.	We Remember Margie Pautler
	11:00 a.m.	We Remember Babs Jackson



Please Pray For

Adam Brandt	Barbara Kendall	The Matt Smith Family	Delores Deleveski
Shane Martin	Jim Grau	Mark Fiore	Bob Braun
Jacob Nelson	Dolores G.	Emily Koenigstein	Susan Oswill
Bob Beckert	Nicole Pennington	Doug Mercille	Steve Dineen
Amanda Boitano	Harold Lutman	Theresa Zeisler	Walter Novak
Trace Ahrens	Jackie Lutman	Doris Boss	Carrie Dachsteiner
Molly Blevins	Elsa Wiemerslage	Karen Miller	Emmalyn Richardet
Curtis Sievers	John Stonis	Larry Greenfield	Corynn Becker
Craig Greer	Pedro Acevedo	Beth Heisel	Teresa Dorshorst
Janet Michael	Taylor Cygan	Ed Evertsen	William Christopher Crosson
Maryanne Klosterman	Nate Meyer	Arlene Kruse	

Troops in Service...

SGM Joseph Pope, US Army; Colonel Brian Schoellhorn, Samuel Campbell, Navy; Captain Benjamin Thoma, Captain Alex Kawalec, United States Air Force; Dustin Crawford, Kaiden Timmons, US Army

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

October 19, 2025

First Reading: Exodus 17:8-13

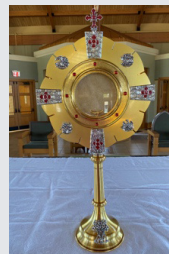
Second Reading: Second Timothy 3:14-4:2

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8



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!

October 12, 2025

Actual	12,492.36
Budget	22,900.00
Actual YTD	557,275.40
Budget YTD	587,850.00
Over (under)	(30,574.60)
Prior YTD	596,941.15
Over (under)	(39,665.75)
Guatemala	487.00
Votive	336.00
Capital Improvements	60.00
Gibault	40.00
World Mission Sunday	80.00
Sr. Thea Bowman	20.00
Phase 3	1,214.00



From Our Young Stewards

Time and Talent: I cleaned my room, helped get food at Sam's, I helped my sister.

Treasure: 124.36

SAVE TAXES ON IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS

Individuals subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) have an opportunity to use the distributions for charitable giving instead of taking a taxable distribution. If you are age 70½ or older, the IRS will allow you to distribute up to \$108,000 annually directly to qualified nonprofit organizations without incurring any taxable income. The benefit is known as the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable to a qualified charity, like Immaculate Conception Church or School. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year, if certain rules are met.

Here are the requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes non-deductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$108,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly, your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$108,000.)
- For a QCD to count toward your current year RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.
- Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year RMD.
- The QCD must be paid directly from your IRA to the charity to qualify. In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare. Also, QCDs require that you itemize, which, due to the tax law changes means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.

Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD. There are some other tax rules that may also apply to your situation, so consult with a financial professional for more details about this strategy.

— Immaculate Conception Planned Giving Council

Parish Events & News...



PRE-CANA MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our parish Pre-Cana is held once a year, and this year's date is Saturday, January 24th. We're looking for couples to join this beautiful ministry to help guide and support engaged couples preparing for marriage. If you feel called to share your experiences and witness of married life, please consider joining us! For more information or to sign up, contact Sarah & Eric Piel via email at smuss12@gmail.com.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE SAVE THE DATE FOR FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

God desires fellowship because it strengthens faith, encourages believers, and reflects His own nature of shared unity. It allows for mutual support, growth in understanding God's Word, and the opportunity to serve others in the name of Christ. Please join us for Fellowship, for coffee and donuts on the **fourth Sunday** of each month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in the garden level.

Parish Work Day! November 8, 2025

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 and Donut weekend for the 8th graders will be November 15 & 16. All proceeds go to the 8th graders' trip to Washington D.C.

Ministry News & Happenings

MEALS FROM THE



Just a reminder that we still have a group of parishioners available to make meals. So if you're going through a rough time, let us help you out! We provide meals as needed on a temporary basis. Just call or text Robin Billmeyer at 314-604-4495 if we can help out!



ICC Ministry Spotlight

ACTS Retreats

An ACTS (Adoration, Community, Theology, Service) Retreat is a parish-based event which offers parishioners an opportunity to experience the love of Jesus Christ. ACTS Retreats are given by parishioners for their fellow parishioners which builds Christian community within our parish and surrounding communities. This in turn fosters a desire for intentional discipleship.



Reach out to the Acts Core Team
at acts@iccmail.org
to learn how you can be a part of this
dynamic group!

Snippet from Mrs. Shea

For those of you who have been seeking out mental health services and find yourself frustrated by the lack of availability, here's a fast fact from Mental Health America that might give some perspective:

- In the U.S., there were 320 individuals seeking mental health services for every one mental health provider in 2024.
- I am so grateful to be part of a parish that supports a position like mine, and this data goes to show that we need more mental health professionals now more than ever! If you or your child ever feel called to a profession of mental or spiritual health, please do not hesitate to reach out.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays: 6:30 p.m. in the library. All are welcome! Contact Lizanne for more info at 618-281-5105, ext. 354.

THE 2025 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL

Hope in the Lord

With confidence in the Lord, today we are asking for your support of this year's Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. Your generous response will help our diocesan ministries grow and the compassion of Jesus will be experienced more profoundly in our communities by those who are in need.

Please consider making your gift today!



Pope Francis Said:

"Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods." (Laudato Si #25)

What can I do? Come up with a list of some real world implications of climate change that you have noticed.

ICCCW NEWS:

A Big Thank You to Liz Taylor who has accepted the CCW Vice President position at our October meeting.

In case you haven't noticed, the CCW purchased new server Albs recently. We need to have a very successful Fall Raffle to keep paying for the church needs of ICP.

All members, look for your raffle chances on the table in the Gathering Space.

Our next meeting will be November 6th at 6:30 p.m. Come welcome Liz to the Board.

Thursday, November 13th is our Annual Bunko night. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Bunko begins at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$20.00 and includes a snack buffet & wine. Our Fall Raffle winners will be drawn at the end of the Bunko evening.

Thursday, December 4th is the CCW Christmas party. Cost is \$15.00 and will be catered by Mission Catering. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. We will then attend the Advent piano concert presented by Fr. Brian in the church at 7:00 p.m.

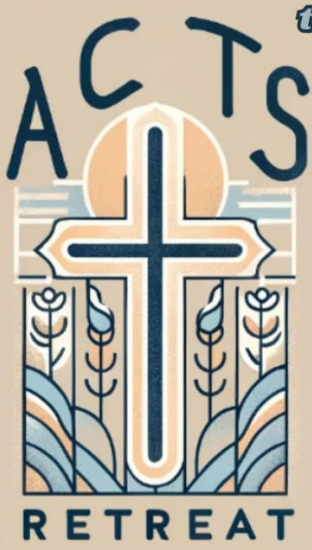
We are also in the process of scheduling our annual trip to the Hinke-Sensel Home for retired priests in the beginning of December. We attend Mass with them and then share lunch and take them some Christmas gifts in appreciation for their many years of service to our Diocese. It is a very enjoyable Christmas outing.

ICY ODD SUNDAYS

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



**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**

2025 DATES

MEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 16 - 19, 2025

2026 DATES

WOMEN'S RETREAT JANUARY 22 - 25, 2026

MEN'S RETREAT APRIL 23 - 26, 2026

WOMEN'S RETREAT OCTOBER 15 - 18, 2026



VOCATION

"My call to religious life began with a construction project at my college dorm. As jackhammers rang outside, I sought refuge in the chapel and at campus ministry events. My faith began to flourish and during those years, I providentially met a De La Salle Christian brother who opened up new opportunities for community and service. My Catholic education... played a significant role in my discernment. I similarly attribute my vocation in large part to my family, who have always encouraged me to be faithful to God and a disciple of Christ. My advice to anyone discerning is to remain true to yourself and God. Dedicate yourself to growing in faith, service, justice, hope and love."

– Brother Kyle Mena, *Brothers of the Christian Schools*;
Columbia Magazine, Oct. 2021.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

All Souls' Mass Memorial Service

11:00 a.m. Sunday, November 2.

All parishioners who have suffered a loss in the last year will be contacted by a member of the Bereavement Ministry to attend.

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.

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
- ~ Birthright Counseling STL (3 locations in St. Louis) birthrightstl.org
- ~ Free and confidential counseling for anyone hurt by Abortion – Project Rachel, 618-722-5068 or 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.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL

409 Palmer Road ~ 281-5353

School Principal: School Principal: Mike Crean, ext. 202 ~ mcrean@icsmail.org

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

Administrative Assistant: Lori Deffenbaugh, ext. 201 ~ ldeffenbaugh@icsmail.org

MISSION • COMMUNITY • SERVICE



UPCOMING PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETINGS

November 3rd, 2025
7:00 p.m. in the Garden Level

UPCOMING FATHER'S CLUB MEETINGS

November 20th, 2025
7:30 p.m. in the Garden Level

What's Happening at Gibault?

The 2026-27 New Student Application is NOW OPEN! Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> to apply. All 7th and 8th graders can schedule a shadow visit and spend the day with one of our Student Ambassadors. Come and experience what a day in the life of a Hawk is all about! Want to know more about Gibault? Schedule a private tour! Go to <https://gibaulthawks.com> to fill out our inquiry form and we will reach out to get you scheduled. Any questions can be emailed to our Admissions Coordinator, Pam Kueker at pkueker@gibaulthawks.com.



Gibault Women's Club

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, November 8, 2025

8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(1/2 price and bag sale after noon)

Donation drop-off at the front entrance:

Monday, November 3: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, November 4: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 5: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 6: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

- We will be accepting clean donations of any kind. (Large furniture, exercise equipment, TVs, and computers will be accepted at our discretion.)
- All items should be recently cleaned.
- Please try to have like items bagged together when dropping off donations in order to help our volunteers. (Ex: Men's small, Women's dresses XL, sheets (including sizes), knick-knacks, kitchen tools, baby boy (include sizes), etc.

Diocesan and Area Interests...

Peace A RETREAT FOR SINGLE MOMS

A time to pause and experience God's peace in the company of other women who understand your journey. Come as you are, with or without your children.

When: Saturday, November 1st, 12:00–5:30 PM (Including Mass)

Where: St. Nicholas Parish, 625 St. Nicholas Drive, O'Fallon, IL

Who: Single moms and their children (all ages welcome)

Cost: Free - Lunch, snacks, and childcare provided

Questions? Email: bellevillechapter@momentummothers.org

To Register



www.momentummothers.org

RESPECT LIFE CORNER

The *Diocese of Belleville Annual Respect Life Conference* will be held at St. Clare of Assisi Church, in O'Fallon, IL on November 15, 2025 from 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with Holy Mass at 5:00 p.m. The conference includes breakout sessions for teens and college-age students. Info and registration can be found at: <https://www.diobelle.org/respectlife/2025-respect-life-conference>.

“We are called to be signs of hope to all people, especially those whose goodness, value, and dignity are undermined. As members of the Body of Christ, we carry this hope with us as we continue Jesus’ mission on earth... We have been entrusted with a message of hope for the woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant or for the man diagnosed with a terminal illness. At these challenging moments, we must bring God’s presence, witnessing to His love, and inspiring a renewal of hope in those whose hearts are burdened.”

– USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: “Life: Our Sign of Hope”

ALL SAINTS' DAY MASS FOR HOMESCHOOLING AND PRE-SCHOOL FAMILIES

OCTOBER 30, 2025

Holy Mass 11:00 am
St. Peter's Cathedral, Belleville, IL

Tour of the Cathedral and Complimentary Lunch Follows

Come dressed as
your favorite saint!

RSVP to Molly King
(mking@diobelle.org)

Optional:
Come prepared to share
info about your saint!

1:30-2:30 Notre Dame Academy is offering books and toys for a donation, come take a look across the street after lunch!

ST. BRUNO CATHOLIC SCHOOL

presents the

20th Annual Dinner & Auction

November 8, 2025 | 6PM

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

\$25 - Adult

\$12.50 - Children 5 - 12

Free - Children 4 & under

Join us for an evening of
delicious food, exciting
silent & live auctions, and
fun for the whole family!

Please RSVP by calling 618-357-8276 or emailing
stbrunopto@gmail.com

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good deeds and praise your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:16

Procession

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

Offerory

Holy Kibb

Consecration

Mystery of Faith

Great Amen

Our Father

Gift of God

Communion

Procession

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

16

18

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25

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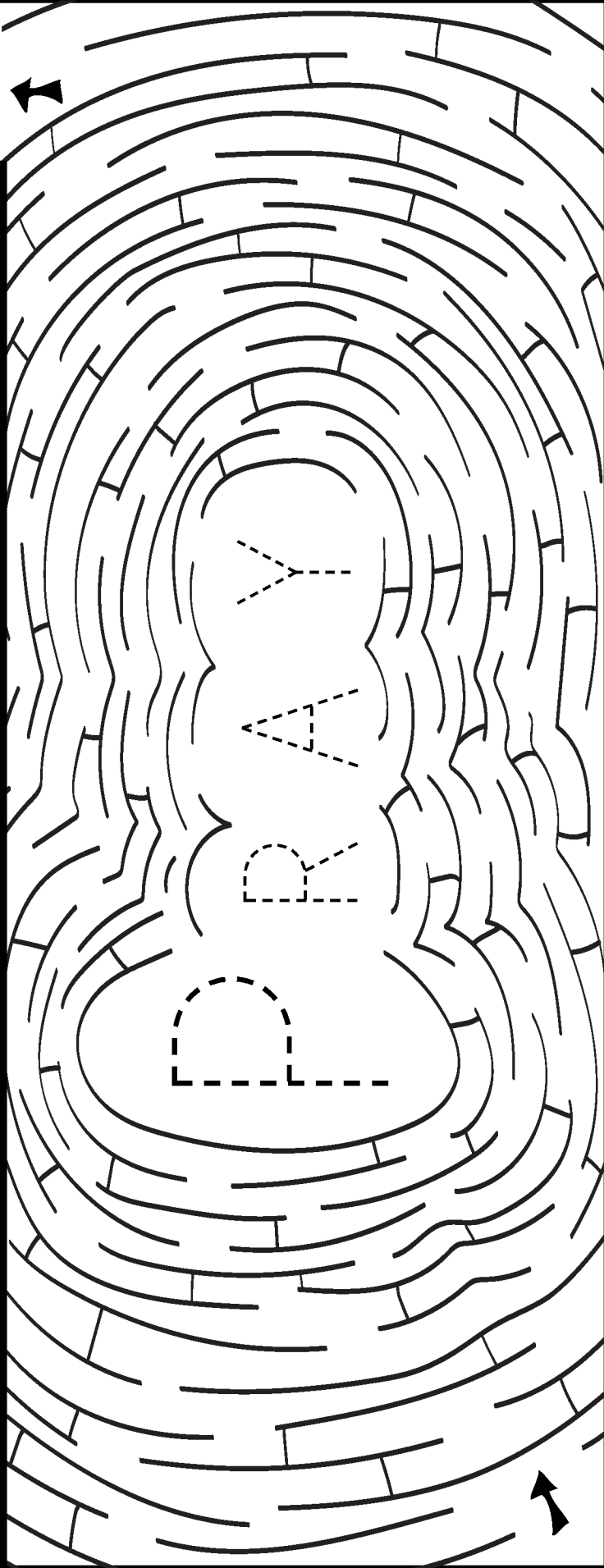
12

23

1

25

19



Gospel

Jesus tells a parable about prayer. He tells you to pray to Him all the time!
He loves you and wants you to share your life with Him.



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Meyer Zoysia, Bluegrass
TOM KEEVEN, Owner
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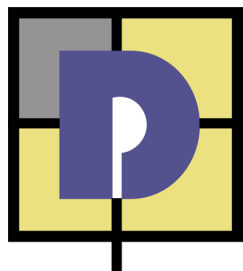
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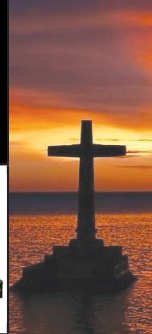
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