



Bringing Outsiders In

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As a child, were you teased, bullied, chosen last for a team? Did you feel apart from the in-crowd? If so, in various ways this treatment may have kept you from being fully engaged with the larger community, possibly continuing to scar you in even your grown-up world.

In 2021, the news media reported that a Louisiana cemetery refused burial for Darrell Semien because he was black. Though he had served his community as a deputy sheriff for fifteen years and had helped raise seventy-two foster children, none of that was of any significance. After the news broke, the cemetery quickly lifted its whites-only stipulation, but the damage had been done. In so many ways, we continue to exclude others from the human community, even in death.

Our Sunday Gospel tells of Jesus curing a leper, enabling the man to again become part of the community. Even more startling, by touching him, Jesus himself became "impure," and thus isolated himself from the community, thereby switching roles with the man. Bringing others into community even at a cost to ourselves is divine.

Such compassion is exemplified when people work to reform prisons, seek to integrate immigrants into national life, give voice to the voiceless, improve mental health care, strive to alleviate paralyzing poverty, and more. The world witnessed compassion at its finest during the COVID-19 pandemic when medical personnel worked to heal the sick, even at the cost of isolating themselves from their own families. Compassion toward those in need is holy. ●

Reflect

Who made you feel welcome when you felt locked out? Can you do the same for another?

A leper came to him [and kneeling down] begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

MARK 1:40



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
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 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....www.icaberks.org
 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC, 800-791-9209
 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS, 610-871-5200, Ext 2204
 Diocese of Allentown website.....www.allentowndiocese.org
 Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop,
 please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or
 by calling 800-276-1562

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 10, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Anthony Volpiccini

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT 5:15 PM Brother William Sudzina, SJ
 SUN 7:30 AM Anthony Volpiccini 34th Anniversary
 9:00 AM Our Parishioners
 11:00 AM Tony Stavenski
 MON 7:30 AM Cecilia Tshudy
 TUES 7:00 PM Dr Nicholas & Margaret Christ
 WED 7:30 AM God's Blessings on Blanche Marnon
 9:00 AM ICA Mass - Anne Hiryak 4th Anniversary
 7:00 PM Paul Vignone

THURS 7:00 PM Roger Wolf 4th Anniversary
 FRI 7:30 AM Doris, Angelo & Michael Bascelli
 SAT 5:15 PM Linda Bardi
 SUN 7:30 AM Alice & Robert Arantowicz
 9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
 11:00 AM Anne Louise Reeser

Second Collection Next Week is the Catholic Home Missions/Black & Indian Missions Collection

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS
**a part of our
 Flock!**



Keep in touch with us via email and text!



TEXT
ICBVM
TO 84576



or connect with us online at

immaculateconceptionbvmc.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Madge Butto, Deb Petras, Pat Fessler, Rita Ferry, Sunny Motta, Curt Miller, Loretta Hitchens, Dante Stetina, Arlene Shirley, George Ruby, Harriet Yeager, Marjorie Hansen, Jason Leman, Ann Washko, Geri Barth, Dominic Strock, Anthony Scaglione, Aaron Gulla, Maryanne Emery, Pam Amos, Miriam Leman, Marianne Sutton, John Mingione, Henry J. Wade, Lois Muldowney, Terry Swisher, Arlene Schaeffer, Shelly Weiler, Christopher Shirk, Joe Nowotarski, Steven Blanyar, Jennifer Gazda Gruber, Adele Nieckoski, Shawn Kaeser, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, Tanya Sanders, Louis & Renee Cutillo, Ralph Rapposelli, Joe Dantas, Debbie Watson Simcock, Judy Jones, Wanda Palmieri, Msgr. Nevin Klinger, Barbara Wright, Charlotte Glacken, Beppy McGee, David Mollura, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, John Kusznir, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Nova Puszczkowski, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Dante LaScala, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Frances Swiezak.

Please pray for the deceased: Mark Vignone, Phyllis Martiensen and Brenda DelGrosse.

Congratulate the newly Baptized: Ilianna Grace Taveras

Our parish church is open each day of the week from 8am to 3pm for private prayer and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Each Sunday, the 11am Mass is live-streamed on our Facebook Page for those who are sick and homebound. You may access the live-streaming Mass from our parish website at www.icbvm.org.

Our parish office is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11am-3pm. If you call the parish office and no one is available to answer your call, please leave a detailed message and your call will be returned in a timely fashion 610-582-2411.

Order for Christian Initiation (OCIA - formerly RCIA) Expand your knowledge of our Catholic faith or encourage someone who is curious about it to attend. Visit our website at www.icbvm.org for program information or contact the church office. February 12th The Sacraments of Vocation, Matrimony and Holy Orders

Church Office Lower Level Meeting Room, 7-8:30pm

Mark your calendar: Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Follow in the footsteps of Jesus as he carried the cross for our salvation.

Stations of the Cross will be held this week on Friday, February 16th at 1:45pm with the children of Immaculate Conception Academy and at 7:00pm.

Join us for a Lenten rosary this Friday at 6pm in the church. The Angelus and Chaplet of Divine Mercy are also prayed. Hope to see you.

Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration:

Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM in the Church, beginning February 21st and continuing through Wednesday, March 27th.

Parish Giving

SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING

Through Parish Giving, you are able to make your Sunday Offering, along with special diocesan and other contributions online!

Thank you for your commitment to our parish family and its Mission to proclaim the good news of the Gospel!

Won't you join us? It's easy, safe and secure. And YOU have control over your online account. How?

**† You determine a monthly or weekly withdrawal
† Use your Credit/Debit card or your own checking account**

† At any time, you can see your year-to-date contributions

† Best of all, you don't have to worry about missing a Sunday Collection even if you are away for any reason!

Go to www.icbvm.org and click the Parish Giving link on the lower left-hand side of the home page.

Your generosity to Immaculate Conception is greatly appreciated!

Operation Rice Bowl – Fast and pray with your family and make a sacrificial offering to Operation Rice Bowl so as to help those who live with hunger and poverty both at home and abroad. The Rice Bowl is located in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

Mary Queen of Peace Council meets on the first Tuesday at 7:30pm in the social hall. Join us to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and our parish group. Contact jimkaucher@gmail.com.

The Women's Society will be weighing and rolling candy on Tuesday, February 13 and boxing on March 4 and 5. Please contact Marsha at 610.329.9501 for more details. We will begin at 9:00 AM each day in the Social Hall.

Pope John Paul II High School will be hosting a College Fair on March 5, 2024 in our Main Gym from 6-9pm, high school students and their families are welcome to attend.

Gotta Have My Wawa. Wawa shorti hoagie coupons are back and available for \$6.00 each. Email Rick McCann at phlyrsfn@gmail.com or Mike Bailey at mikerb@ptd.net to request coupons in any amount. Coupons never expire and can be used at any Wawa retail location.

The Technology Center sponsors a Dental Hygiene Clinic offering an affordable way to access dental hygiene services provided by their higher education program students. You will receive a thorough routine cleaning, a complete dental exam, all necessary x-rays, fluoride treatment and home care instructions for a very modest fee. The students can also provide deep (periodontal) cleanings, sealants and other preventive services. For more information or to make an appointment call 717-464-7050 & reference A. Forkin or email

LCCTCDentalClinic@Lancasterctc.edu

Dear Padre,

I am having a difficult time receiving Communion from a eucharistic minister who has been behaving in a manner that I don't consider moral. When I receive Communion from her, I feel like I am condoning her actions. Would it be wrong of me to go to a different person to receive Communion?

It seems unlikely that someone would assume you are condoning her actions by receiving Communion from her. We do not sin by receiving a sacrament from an unworthy person. What matters is how worthy we are to receive it. It might be wise to receive Communion from a different person if you are more concerned with this minister's behavior than you are with Jesus when you approach the sacrament.

It is not our task to expose and punish the sinner. If you look at the life of Jesus, you will see that he did everything possible not to condemn sinners but to save them. We should take that as the model for our own lives. Try to find ways to encourage her to live a good life. Perhaps friendship would serve her better than a boycott of her Communion line.

When Jesus was presented with the woman caught in adultery, he did not pretend that it was right. Neither did he rush to condemn her. He looked for his opportunity to forgive and tell her to avoid sin. Use that as your example about how to treat the woman at church.



SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16	February 17	February 18
Weekday	Weekday	Ash Wednesday	Thursday after	Friday after	Saturday after	First Sunday of
Jas 1:1-11	Jas 1:12-18	Jl 2:12-18	Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	Ash Wednesday	Lent
Mk 8:11-13	Mk 8:14-21	2 Cor 5:20-6:2	Dt 30:15-20	Is 58:1-9a	Is 58:9b-14	Gn 9:8-15
		Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Lk 9:22-25	Mt 9:14-15	Lk 5:27-32	1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Compassion means "to suffer-with-another." Jesus' heart manifests God's paternal compassion for (the leper), moving close to him and touching him. And this detail is very important. Jesus "stretched out his hand and touched him.... And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean" (Mark 1:41-42). God's mercy overcomes every barrier....

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Helping Catholics Apply Gospel Messages Today!

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14 February 2024
Ash Wednesday

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we journey through the sacred seasons of our faith, none is more rigorous than the Holy Season of Lent. During this time, the Church urges us to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In my Lenten Letter this year, I would like to reflect with you on the practice of *fasting*. Already by the second century, fasting was integrated into the lifestyle of Christians. Fasting is not merely an ancient ritual but a timeless discipline that deepens our spiritual relationship with God.

In this act of self-denial, we emulate Christ's sacrifice and cultivate virtues such as humility and temperance. Fasting redirects our focus from worldly desires to the eternal truths of our faith, fostering a spirit of prayer, holiness, and charity.

In the New Testament, Jesus fasts forty days and nights in the desert, modeling for us the forty-day period of Lent. When Jesus' disciples were disappointed because they could not cast out a certain evil spirit, He told them that "only prayer and fasting can cast this kind out, nothing else can." (Mark 9:29).

Because the very life and teaching of Our Lord exemplify the practice of fasting, we can conclude that a spirit of denial is integral to the life of a Christian and the overcoming of the Evil One. Saint Athanasius wrote, "Devils take great delight in fullness and drunkenness, and bodily comfort. Fasting possesses great power and it works glorious things. To fast is to banquet with angels."

When we fast, we deny ourselves legitimate things so that we can master our cravings instead of being driven by them. The spiritual purpose of fasting should not be linked to the desire — which can be commendable for health reasons — to lose weight. Spiritually, fasting is linked to a desire for penance which in turn focuses our attention more clearly on prayer and the overcoming of sin.

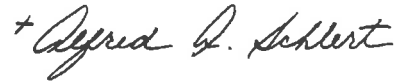
Fasting is also a path of solidarity with the less fortunate, which leads to the Lenten practice of almsgiving/good works. It is a reminder of the hunger for justice

in our world, especially in our time of disrespect for human life, of growing marginalization between people, and of multi-national conflicts. Let us, then, courageously approach the discipline of fasting with sincerity, seeking spiritual renewal and a closer union with the suffering Christ.

During this Lenten season, may we embrace fasting not as a burden, but as a transformative spiritual journey. By willingly surrendering certain comforts, we can open our hearts to God's grace and allow His love to fill the void left by material indulgence.

May God's grace guide us through this Holy Season of fasting, leading us to a richer, more profound experience of His love and mercy as we "banquet with Angels" in preparation for a joyous Easter.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alfred A. Schlert". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

✠ Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert
Bishop of Allentown

Enroll Your Child in Kindergarten Today!

EDUCATION IS ABOUT NURTURING THE WHOLE CHILD—MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT.

At ICA, we aim to ensure students are not another face in the crowd, but cherished individuals whose every success is celebrated and talents fostered. We commit ourselves to unveil the boundless potential within each student, respecting their pace and personal journey.

SCHEDULE A TOUR OR ENROLL NOW.

We invite you to see our vibrant classrooms firsthand, hear the joyful laughter of engaged learners, and witness the transformative effect of compassionate mentorship.

Reserve your spot on this voyage of discovery and growth. Enroll your child in Immaculate Conception Academy's Full Day Kindergarten and be part of a community where the leaders of tomorrow are shaped today.

Our Full Day Kindergarten program beckons young learners into an enriching world where education is more than knowledge—it's a journey of character building within a nurturing small school community.

Traditions, Values, and Faith.



Visit us online to enroll or request a tour
www.icaberks.org

Enroll Your Child in Preschool or PreK Today!

EMBARK ON A FAITH-BASED EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY WITH YOUR CHILD.

We are thrilled to announce our Preschool (for children three years old by October 15th) and PreK (for children four years old by October 15th) programs, designed to elevate the educational experience of our youngest scholars. Recognizing the significance of early learning, we invest in nurturing, dedicated educators and private classrooms for each grade to foster a focused and effective learning journey for our students.

SCHEDULE A TOUR OR ENROLL NOW.

ICA families will now have a calendar that aligns with their children in our Academy program—starting the Early Education program earlier in the school year and extending it through May. We have added program options that allow even our youngest students to utilize our aftercare program. And we are streamlining the pickup and drop-off process to ensure families can spend less time waiting and more time together. We pride ourselves on the enhancements we've incorporated, directly reflecting the preferences and needs of our dedicated families.

We recognize that every child is a unique gift from God.

Our programs are designed to meet each student where they stand and guide them to realizing their utmost potential.

Our program offers full day and half day options for Preschool and PreK.



Visit us online to enroll or request a tour

www.icaberks.org

EASTER CANDY SALE



Ready just in time for filling your Easter baskets, the Women's Society will be making home-made, hand dipped, chocolate peanut butter eggs wrapped in yummy milk chocolate and delicious coconut cream eggs covered in deep dark chocolate. We will offer 1/2 pound boxes and 1 pound boxes. Ordering early will help us with planning and ingredient purchases.

Drop your order, along with payment, into the collection basket or you may drop your order off at the Church or School offices. Orders may also be mailed to the Church Office Building, 905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, 19518.

Orders may be picked up in the social hall on March 9th from 9AM until noon. *If you are unable to pick up during this time please contact Gina Maicher at 610-223-5088 to make other arrangements.* There won't be many extras, so **please pay and pre-order by Sunday, February 25th** to make sure you get your favorites. Checks should be made payable to ICC Women's Society.

*****Please note that this candy may contain nut products.*****

1/2 pound boxes - \$8.00

1 pound boxes - \$15.00

Peanut Butter

Coconut

1/2 lb. Boxes (\$8 each)

1 lb. Boxes (\$15 each)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Total # of Boxes ordered _____

Amount enclosed _____