



## Transfigurations in a Mutilated World

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

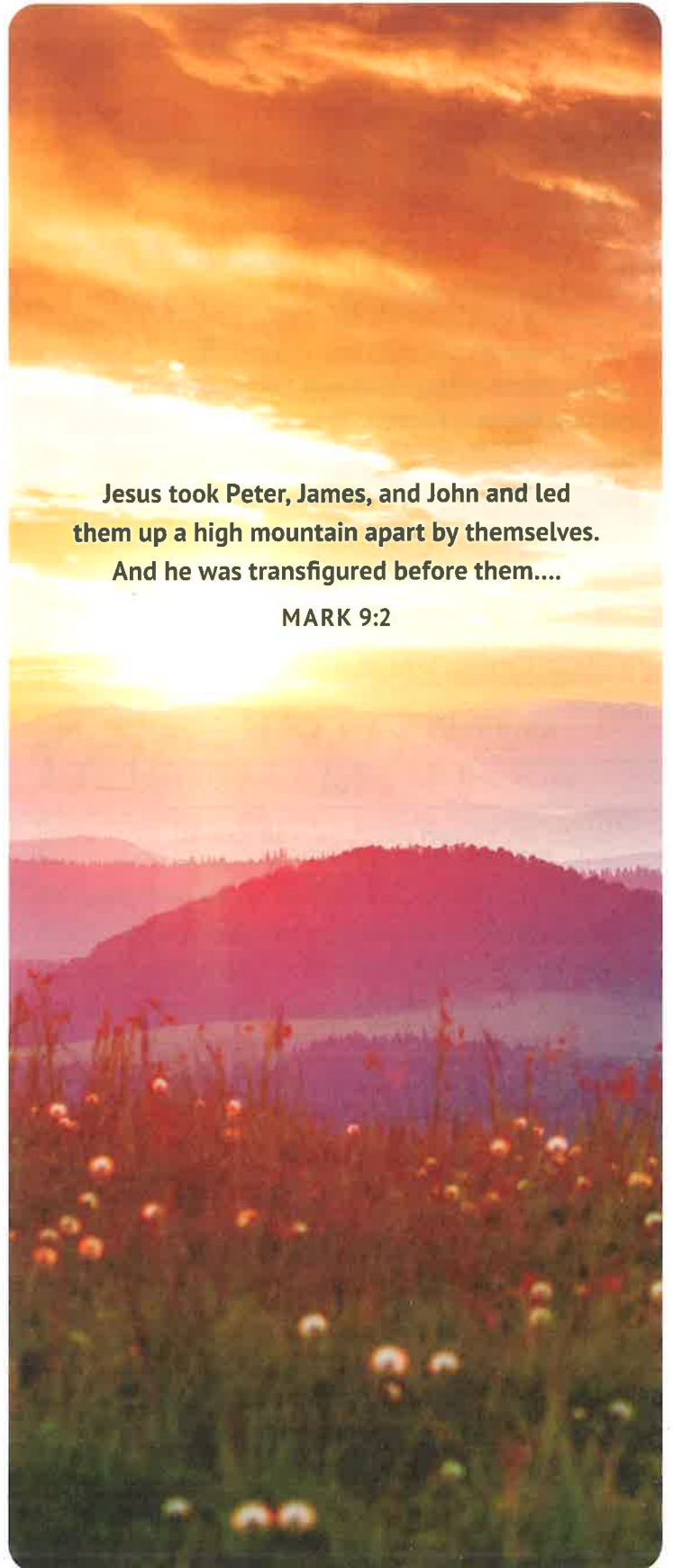
I've never met anyone who thought today's story in Genesis of Abraham and Isaac to be a good story. Abhorred, they ask, "Why would God test someone by asking him to sacrifice his son?" But what if we change the question and ask, "Why would the Hebrew people include that story in their most holy writings? Why would they tell it over and over?" Because of the ending—that's why. Like a movie we watch over and over even though we know how it ends, we watch it, in part, because the ending is satisfying.

The ending of the Abraham/Isaac story shows God is not interested in death and human sacrifice, contrary to the gods of that time. The God of the Hebrews is a God of Life—that's the surprise ending they love, and they keep telling it over and over lest they forget. For them, the part about the testing is simply a means to that unbelievable ending when God insists upon life, contrary to false gods.

In his poem "Try to Praise the Mutilated World," Adam Zagajewski writes of life's Godly moments in a world we have mutilated by violence, greed, division, and more. He muses on tender moments when we fall in love, on laughter until our sides hurt, on nature's dazzle, on the sweet taste of wine—all simple moments of a life-giving God transfigured in a mutilated world, for our God insists upon life. ●

### Reflect

**Remember and give thanks for the moments  
of this past week that made you smile.**



**Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led  
them up a high mountain apart by themselves.  
And he was transfigured before them....**

**MARK 9:2**

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 [www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org) [secretary@icbvm.org](mailto:secretary@icbvm.org) [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org)

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann .....Pastor  
 Deacon Paul J. Hityak, Deacon James A. Bardi  
 Parish Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ....610 582-3880  
 Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
 Parish Website.....[www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org)  
 Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....[www.icaberks.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562

## **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 25, 2024**

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Josephine Bogus and  
 God's Blessings on Mary & Dave Emerick on their 57<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary*

### **★★MASS INTENTIONS★★**

SAT	5:15 PM	Stephen Fitzgerald 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	THURS	7:00 PM	Tulsa Herflicker 9 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
SUN	7:30 AM	Josephine Bogus	FRI	7:30 AM	George & Greg White
	9:00 AM	Our Living and Deceased Parishioners		9:00AM	ICA Mass Tony Stavenski
	11:00 AM	Stanley Pinkos 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary	SAT	5:15PM	George Sohn
MON	7:30 AM	B Raymond D'Allesandro	SUN	7:30 AM	Anthony Volpiccini
TUES	7:00 PM	Joseph Hughes		9:00 AM	Our Living and Deceased Parishioners
WED	7:30 AM	Bunnie Druzba		11:00AM	Jerome Setlock

**The Second Collection Next Week is the Church Building & Parish Maintenance 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](http://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](http://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, Barbara Ruby, Kara Morrison, Arlene Shirley, George Ruby, Harriet Yeager, Marjorie Hansen, Jason Lemman, Ann Washko, Geri Barth, Dominic Strock, Anthony Scaglione, Aaron Gulla, Maryanne Emery, Pam Amos, Miriam Lemman, 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 Kusznr, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Nova Puszczkowski, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Dante LaScala, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Frances Swiezak & Geraldine Christ.

Please pray for the deceased Rosalee Devlin

**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. Access the live-streaming Mass from our parish website at [www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org).**

**Our parish office is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 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](http://www.icbvm.org) for program information or contact the church office.

**February 26th A Catholic Perspective on the Final Things**

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

The first step in helping Immaculate Conception Church assess our greatest strengths and opportunities is to complete the **Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey today!** Share your perspective now to help strengthen Immaculate Conception Church and better prepare us for the future – as we seek to grow in missionary discipleship! For more information on Next Generation Diocese refer to the Flocknote that was distributed on Feb. 8, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon James Bardi at [jxb21@psu.edu](mailto:jxb21@psu.edu). Please visit this link to take the Next Generation Diocese survey.

<https://portal.catholicleaders.org/dmi/survey/byd935>. You can make a paper copy of the survey and place it in the Next Generation Diocese Box located in the narthex.

**Stations of the Cross** will be held this week on **Friday, March 1st at 7:00pm**. Due to an early dismissal there will be no ICA Stations of the Cross on **March 1st at 1:45pm**.

**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.**

**One way we can grow in holiness this Lent is by incorporating the Rosary into our daily practices and Lenten observances. The Seven Sorrows Rosary will accompany you with Mary to the suffering she experienced as you grow closer to Jesus' Passion. The Sorrowful Mysteries are prayed on Tues. evening at 6:30 pm before Mass.**

**Lenten Food Drive, Feb 14-Mar 31**

Mary, Queen of Peace Council is again sponsoring the **Lenten Food Drive** this Lenten season. Our collection bins will be located in the Narthex. You may donate non-perishable food items or make a cash donation. Food donations will go to the **St. Joseph's RCC Food Pantry** and the monetary donations to the **Kennedy House Soup Kitchen in Reading.**

## 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 checking account
  - † See your year-to-date contributions at any time
  - † 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](http://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.

**Women's Society Easter candy reminders – Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup> is the last day to pay & pre-order your Easter eggs. Orders may be picked up in the social hall on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9AM – noon. Thank you!**

The ICC Men's Group, **Esto Vir**, will meet in the meeting room in the lower level of the parish office building on **Saturday March 2nd at 8:30 am**. The presentation will be the tenth (Features of the Kingdom) in a series of 12 from the St Paul Center for Biblical Theology on the Bible from Genesis the Jesus. Coffee and donuts will be available starting at 8 am. The meeting will start at 8:30 am and will end at 10 am. **A reminder that we will be cleaning the church starting at 10:30 am after the meeting. If you have the time and are able to help, it would be appreciated. We should be finished by noon. If you can help please go to the church social hall after the Esto Vir meeting.**

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](mailto:jimkaucher@gmail.com).

**EASTER EGG HUNT** for our parish children age 12 & younger on **March 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am** in the social hall. We're collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and h. A donation box is in the narthex of the church. Thank you for your support!



# Dear Padre,

**What are the guidelines for producing a passion play? My pastor said there are special guidelines to follow. What are they?**

Please read "Criteria for the Evaluation of Dramatizations of the Passion," issued in 1988 by the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of what was then called the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (The document is located at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).)

Passion plays should emphasize the saving action of Christ's death and resurrection without becoming stumbling blocks to understanding the role of the Jewish people in salvation history. The document warns that "'stock ideas,' unfortunately, can become vividly alive in passion dramatizations. It is all too easy...to resort to artificial oppositions...to heighten interest or provide sharp contrasts between the characters." We must avoid portraying the Jewish tradition as "a religion of only justice, fear, and legalism with no appeal to the love of God and neighbor."

It is simplistic and incorrect to blame Christ's death on certain historical groups and neglect the complexities of the Gospel portrait and of Christ's life. Christ freely undertook his passion and death because of the sins of all, so that all might attain salvation. This is the truth that passion plays should strive to communicate most clearly. ●

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**



GORA KALWARIA, POLAND / STANISLAW TOKARSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 26	February 27	February 28	February 29	March 1	March 2	March 3
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	1 Cor 1:22-25
						Jn 2:13-25



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Our Father said this to these Apostles, and says it to us as well: "Listen to Jesus!" The Pope is not saying this, God the Father says it to everyone: to me, to you, to everyone, all people! It is like an aid for going forward on the path of Lent. "Listen to Jesus!" Don't forget.**

ANGELUS, MARCH 16, 2014

SPONSORED BY THE NFP TASK FORCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BISHOP'S COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

# mother TEA daughter



Lillian Fallon



AUTHOR OF "THEOLOGY OF STYLE:  
EXPRESSING THE UNIQUE &  
UNREPEATABLE YOU"

**MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS (AGE 9-13) ARE INVITED  
TO SPEND AN AFTERNOON CELEBRATING THE  
GIFT OF FEMININITY!**

FEATURING PRESENTATIONS ON THE PHYSICAL AND  
EMOTIONAL CHANGES GIRLS EXPERIENCE AND  
EMPOWERING TIPS ON MODESTY, VIRTUE,  
AND PERSONAL STYLE.

DAUGHTERS ARE WELCOME TO INVITE OTHER  
SPECIAL WOMEN IN THEIR LIFE.

\$25 PER FAMILY

Kathleen  
Chovanes



FERTILITY AWARENESS EDUCATOR

RSVP APRIL 7



SUNDAY | 28 APRIL | 1-4PM

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH HALL  
1046 W. CEDAR STREET, ALLENTOWN, PA 18102  
CONTACT: KOSENBACH@ALLENTOWNDIOCESE.ORG