



Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God’s temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life’s details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God’s Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

Reflect

What might be cluttering your life right now?



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
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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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 3, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Anthony Volpiccini

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT 5:15 PM George Sohn
 SUN 7:30 AM Anthony Volpiccini
 9:00 AM Our Living and Deceased Parishioners
 11:00 AM Jerome Setlock
 MON 7:30 AM God's Blessings on Amy Buck
 TUES 7:00 PM Ron Schwendt
 WED 7:30 AM William Peterson, Jr.

THURS 7:00 PM Laura Kemp
 FRI 7:30 AM Vicki Guilliams
 SAT 5:15PM Mary Butler
 7:30AM Joseph D. Nanni 7th Anniversary
 9:00AM Marie Kozak
 11:00AM Our Living and Deceased Parishioners

The Second Collection Next Week is the Monthly Collection

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



Keep in touch with us via email and text!



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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 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 Kuszniir, 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 Mary Luposki

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.

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 for program information or contact the church office.

March 4th Overview of the Ten Commandments, Sin and Temptation and Virtue.

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! If you have any questions, please contact Deacon James Bardi at 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 8th at 1:45pm with the ICA school children 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.

One way we can grow in holiness this Lent is by praying the Rosary daily. 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.**

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 & abroad. The Rice Bowl is in the rear of the Church.

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 and click the Parish Giving link on the lower left-hand side of the home page.
Your generosity to Immaculate Conception is greatly appreciated!

Women's Society Easter candy is available for pick-up on **March 9th** in the social hall 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. We thank you for your support! The **Women's Society** will meet Wednesday, 20th at 7:00 PM in the social hall. At this meeting, an **Agape Service** will be held followed by a quick business meeting. All women of the parish (member or not) are invited to join us for this special service.

A Request for Prayers: Please keep parishioners Shawn and Michol Kaeser and their family in your thoughts and prayers. Shawn is in end stage kidney failure and is in need of a transplant. Shawn is currently receiving dialysis and is on the transplant list. Please pray that a donor may soon be found. If anyone is interested in learning more about organ donation, please call Shawn at 610-906-2833 or contact him by e-mail at skaeser1969@icloud.com. The Kaeser family thanks you for your prayers and support. For additional information about becoming a living donor, please call 610-402-8506 or visit www.lvhn.org/livingdonor

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

The St. Benedict Women's Club is running a bus trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown on Tuesday, March 12th. For more info call Roseanne at 610-286+5568.

EGG HUNT for our parish children age **12 & younger** on **March 30th** 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,

My thoughts are my worst enemy. Sometimes they turn to lust and anger. When I recognize what I am thinking, I pray to Jesus and Mary, but I still struggle. What else can I do?

When angry and lustful thoughts enter our consciousness, we should say a prayer and turn our mind to something else. Such thoughts become sins only when we deliberately encourage them or when we make plans to commit the sin. The thoughts themselves are temptations, not sins.

Continue to put your trust in Jesus and Mary, and try to focus on what is good and peaceful. You might also consider what you are letting into your thoughts or imagination: What are you watching on TV or the internet? What music are you listening to? What are you reading? Are those helping to shape your thoughts and imagination in a new direction, or are they contributing to the problem?

A good thing to turn your attention to is God's word in Scripture. You might want to memorize all or part of the following New Testament verse: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). Peacefully reflect on these words when troubled by temptation. ●



FREEDOM STUDIO / SHUTTERSTOCK

[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](http://TheRedemptorists/DearPadre.org)

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| March 4 | March 5 | March 6 | March 7 | March 8 | March 9 | March 10 |
| <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>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> |
| 2 Kgs 5:1–15ab | Dn 3:25, 34–43 | Dt 4:1, 5–9 | Jer 7:23–28 | Hos 14:2–10 | Hos 6:1–6 | 2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23 |
| Lk 4:24–30 | Mt 18:21–35 | Mt 5:17–19 | Lk 11:14–23 | Mk 12:28–34 | Lk 18:9–14 | Eph 2:4–10 Jn 3:14–21 |



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Father sent [his Son] to cleanse the temple: not only the Temple of stone, but above all the temple of our heart. Jesus could not tolerate his Father's house becoming a marketplace (see John 2:16); neither does he want our hearts to be places of turmoil, disorder, and confusion.

HOMILY, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021