



*And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,
because their works were evil.*

JOHN 3:19

The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans.

A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus.

Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so. ●

Reflect

**How have you been saved and
how do you need saving now?**

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 www.icbvm.org secretary@icbvm.org ccd@icbvm.org

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCannPastor
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi
 Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
 Parish Preschool610 404-8645
 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 10, 2024

***The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of 7th Anniversary of Joseph D. Nanni and
 In Memory of Gus Fredriksen 42nd Anniversary***

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Mary Butler	THURS	7:00 PM	The Baglione Family
SUN	7:30 AM	Joseph D. Nanni 7 th Anniversary	FRI	7:30 AM	Cynthia Schickram
	9:00 AM	Marie Kozak		9:00 AM	ICA Mass Mariann Norton
	11:00 AM	Our Living and Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15PM	Linda Bardi
MON	7:30 AM	Nancy Iezzi		7:30AM	Michael T. Kilaeski
TUES	7:00 PM	Marie Lakatosh		9:00AM	Frances Bambrick
WED	7:30 AM	Gus Frederiksen 42 nd Anniversary		11:00AM	Our Living and Deceased Parishioners

The Second Collection Next Week is the Debt Reduction 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, 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, & Geraldine Christ.

Please pray for the deceased: Julia McDonald, Norma Mcnerney & Warren Ciabattoni.

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 11th Overview of the Ten

Commandments, Sin and Temptation & 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 15th 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2024

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday evening Mass at 5:15PM

Sunday Masses at 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00 AM

Blessing of Palms at all Masses

Living Stations at 4PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

LENTEN CONFESSIONS

Monday, March 25, 2024 7-8PM

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7-8PM

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 7-8PM

MONDAY

Mass at 7:30 AM

TUESDAY

Mass at 7:30 AM

WEDNESDAY

Mass at 7:30 AM

7 to 9PM Eucharistic Adoration

HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 PM Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Family Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

(Come, "Watch One Hour" with Jesus)

After Evening Mass to 10:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 PM Commemoration of the Lord's Passion

Confessions following until 5:00 PM

Day of Fast and Abstinence

HOLY SATURDAY

Noon - Blessing of Food

Confessions from 12:30 to 1:30 PM

8:00 PM - The Easter Vigil Mass

EASTER SUNDAY

Masses: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, and 11:00 AM

Blessing of the children's Easter Baskets at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

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

Starting the week of March 17, we will begin our clean-up at the ICC Cemetery. If you have any items on gravesites you wish to keep, please retrieve the items prior to the week of March 17.

Dear Padre,

In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?

The “respectability” of the location or publisher doesn’t matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo’s intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn’t arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at usccb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: “Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity....The sin of pornography needs the Lord’s forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord’s mercy and his power to free and heal you.” ●



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

If God is the God of life...

then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.

If God is the God of peace...

then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.

If God is the God of love...

then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



MONDAY

March 11
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17–21
Jn 4:43–54

TUESDAY

March 12
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1–9, 12
Jn 5:1–16

WEDNESDAY

March 13
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30

THURSDAY

March 14
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7–14
Jn 5:31–47

FRIDAY

March 15
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12–22
Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

SATURDAY

March 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18–20
Jn 7:40–53

SUNDAY

March 17
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31–34
Heb 5:7–9
Jn 12:20–33

Timely Topics Viewed with a Catholic Perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.