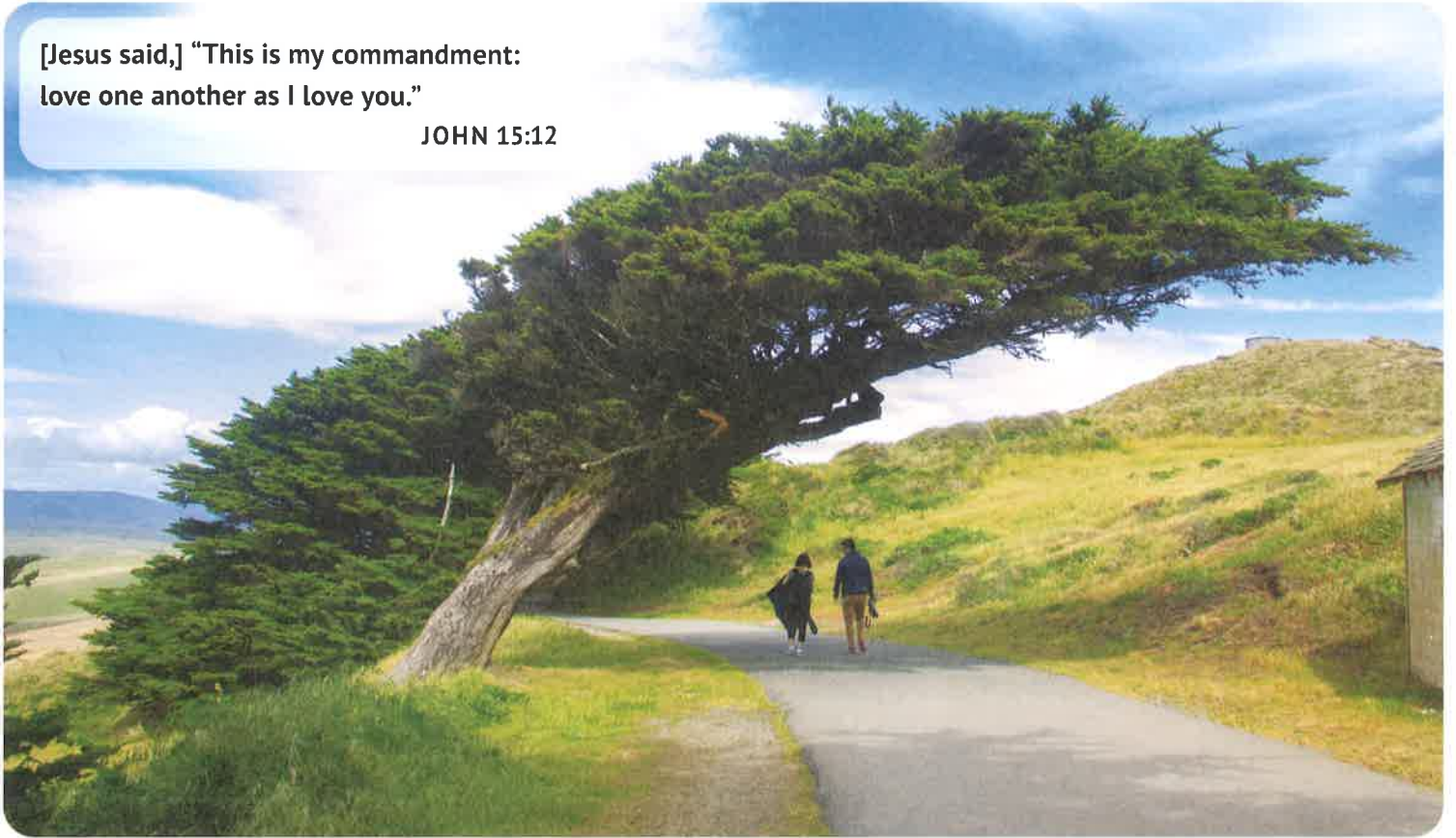




[Jesus said,] “This is my commandment:
love one another as I love you.”

JOHN 15:12



We're Like Trees

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A while back I decided to plant two saplings that were about ten feet tall along the property line of the parish home where I lived. Some time after I planted them, I noticed that one was leaning in one direction and the other a bit in the opposite direction. *Strange*, I thought, *for it seemed that when I planted them they were staked with rope and stood straight.* So I bought some six-foot fence posts and tied the trees to them, thinking that as they grew they would straighten themselves. Not so. After three years the trees seemed to insist on growing their own way, one leaning into the wind and the other a bit twisted. It seemed the only solution was to love them the way they were.

It is so with the people in our lives as well. Sooner or later we find ourselves needing to love them with their idiosyncrasies and foibles and perhaps even their sinfulness. We may try to reshape them, but ultimately it is usually to little avail. They have been created by God, after all, and if God has chosen us—as the Gospel suggests—then God also has chosen us to love them as they are, and perhaps to love them into all that they can be. Ultimately though, God does the pruning, the reshaping, not us. We participate in that process by caring for them and bringing good to them, always in the image of Jesus. ☺

Reflect

Think of everyone with whom you have some difficulty and name a good quality of each one.

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 5, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Father Joseph Barnes

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT	5:15 PM	John Hughes	THUR	7:30 AM	Matt Manegold
SUN	7:30 AM	Jake Maccarone		9:00 AM	Paul Swisher
	9:00 AM	Roger Wolf		7:00 PM	Florence Beadle
	11:00 AM	Our Living & Deceased Parishioners	FRI	7:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Koller Family
MON	7:30 AM	George Sohn	SAT	5:15 PM	Our Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Ron Schwendt	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish
WED	7:30 AM	God's Blessings on John R. Peterson		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish
	7:00 PM	Vigil Our Living & Deceased Parishioners		11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish

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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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, 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, Joe Nowotarski, Steven Blanyar, Jennifer Gazda Gruber, Adele Nieckoski, Shawn Kaeser, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, 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, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Dante LaScala, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Geraldine Christ, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribanick & Rosemary Williamson.
Please pray for the Deceased Rita Ferry

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 WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 11AM-3PM. IF YOU CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AND NO ONE ANSWERS YOUR CALL, PLEASE LEAVE A DETAILED MESSAGE AND YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED 610-582-2411

On Thursday, May 9th our parish family of the Immaculate Conception will celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven. The Vigil Mass will be offered on Wednesday evening, May 8th at 7pm. On Ascension Thursday, May 9th, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 7:30am and 7pm and at 9am with the children of Immaculate Conception Academy.

This weekend we kickoff the 2024 Because We Are Catholic Annual Appeal in our parish and throughout our Diocese. In 2024 the Appeal will provide support for evangelization, vocations, Catholic education, Catholic Charities and care for our retired and infirmed priests. I am so grateful for your continued generosity to this important Diocesan fundraising initiative and ask you to prayerfully consider joining me in making your gift to the Appeal and support these important ministries.. We are stronger together! Together we will make a difference in the lives of many people. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how big or small. To make your gift, please return the pledge form that you will receive in the mail or visit the Appeal's website at BecauseWeAreCatholic.org or call the Appeal Office at 800-831-4443

The Women's Society is sponsoring a raffle, \$1500 in cash prizes. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The drawing will be held this Sunday, May 5th. They are also sponsoring a Geranium Sale 4" pot for \$5. Orders are due this Sun, May 5th.

Our parish GRIEF SHARING GROUP is here to help you through those times of loss—trying to cope with the death of a loved one. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7, 7-8pm. If you plan to attend call/text Toni at 610 404-1389.

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

Immediate Help Needed at John Paul II Center for Special Learning, Shillington

Substitute Nurse The John Paul II Center for Special Learning is in immediate need of a substitute nurse to assist with school related responsibilities and to administer daily medications. This is a part time position three

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!

to four days per week from 9 to 2:30. Looking for an immediate start date and continue through June 6, 2024. LPN or RN with time, dates and salary negotiable

Direct Support Professionals The John Paul II Center for Special Learning is looking for individuals to join our staff as Direct Support Professionals for the Center's Adult Program. This is a perfect job for retired teachers, empty nesters and recent graduates looking for a vocation to serve the Lord through service to others. Hours are 8:00 to 3:00, Monday Through Friday, year round.

Speech and Language Therapist needed for 2024-2025 school year. John Paul II is looking to hire a full or part time Speech Language Therapist to provide speech/language therapy for our school age students with Intellectual Disabilities. Perfect opportunity for retired SLP, recent graduates or an SLP looking for a fresh start in a small, family oriented, caring, Christian community. For more info or to request an interview call 610-777-0605

Join us for 18 holes of fundraising fun,

with all proceeds going to support Immaculate Conception Academy!

When: June 24 Golf Scramble starts at 9am

Dinner Starts at 5pm

Where: French Creek Golf Club

4500 Conestoga Rd, Elverson, PA 19520

For info contact debra.petras@icaknights.org

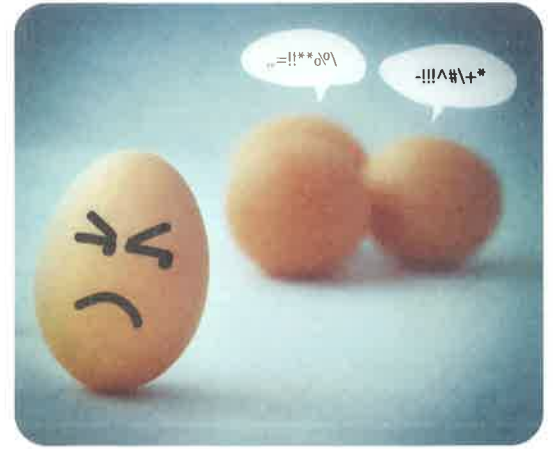
Dear Padre,

**Please clarify for me what the Church considers as “gossip.”
Is it that bad?**

Human beings have the great gift of speech. We continually talk to one another and we talk about one another. Gossip, at its most basic level, is just idle talk. It is neither good nor bad. But it is a tool we can use to build up another human being or tear a person down.

Gossip is sinful when we use our words to unjustly hurt the reputation of another or to judge another person rashly. The two words that the Church uses to describe this evil side of gossip are “detraction” and “calumny.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that detraction is “without objectively valid reason, disclosing another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them.” Calumny occurs when a person, “by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them” (CCC 2477).

To judge whether your own gossip is good or evil, simply ask yourself: Do the words I am saying help others or hurt others? Am I building them up or tearing them down? Hopefully, as a Christian, you are committed to the commandment of Jesus we hear in today’s Gospel: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you” (John 15:12). 🍌



ANDRES SONNE / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / 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
May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9	May 10	May 11	May 12
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>
Acts 16:11–15 Jn 15:26–16:4a	Acts 16:22–34 Jn 16:5–11	Acts 17:15, 22–18:1 Jn 16:12–15	Acts 18:1–8 Jn 16:16–20	Acts 18:9–18 Jn 16:20–23	Acts 18:23–28 Jn 16:23b–28	Acts 1:1–11 Eph 1:17–23 or Eph 4:1–13 or 4:1–7, 11–13 Mk 16:15–20

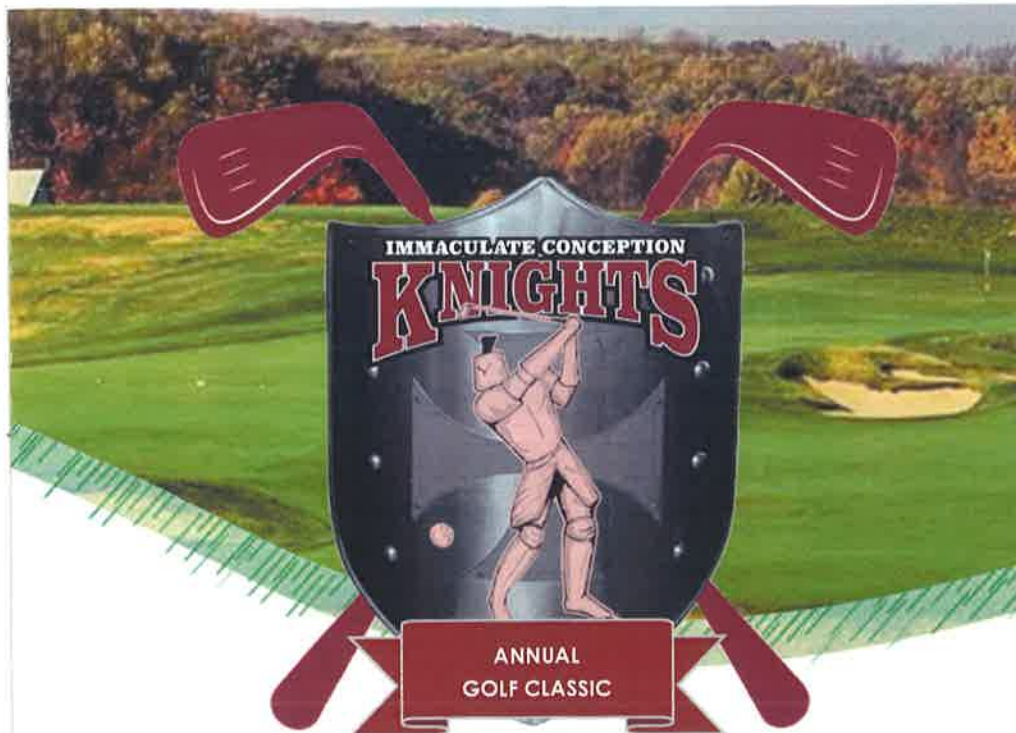


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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

To love as the Lord loves us means to appreciate the people beside us, to respect their freedom, to love them as they are, not as we want them to be; as they are, gratuitously....Not controlling, serving them. Opening our heart to others, this is love, to be trusting, giving ourselves to others.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 9, 2021



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY
*and mini golf **
ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

BY THE ICA BOARD OF LIMITED JURISDICTION

WHEN: MONDAY, JUNE 24TH, 2024

WHERE: FRENCH CREEK GOLF CLUB
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ELVERSON, PA 19520

*Purchase your
tickets today!*



www.ICAGOLFS.COM

The ICC Women's Society
will be sponsoring a
Spring Garden Geranium Sale
4" pot for \$5



All orders **must** be in NO later than May 5th.
Pick up will be in the **Social Hall** on **Saturday May 18th**
between 9AM - 12 noon.

Please return the below order form with your payment (made out to ICC Women's Society) in an envelope marked Women's Society in the **collection basket** or give it to any member of the **Women's Society**.

Any questions call Gina Maicher at (610) 223-5088

Cut here

Name:

Phone:

We will be offering the following colors (please check all that apply with the quantity of each:

_____ RED

_____ PINK

_____ White