



Love Takes Work

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

If you believed your own natural death was imminent, would that affect the decisions you make? When St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, that was his expectation—that the Lord’s return was going to take place quickly, that the Second Coming was just about to occur and could happen at any time.

While St. Paul writes to the Corinthians that it is better to be unmarried than married, the purpose of this advice is to keep life simple and focused on what is important. Don’t make any long-term commitments like buying a field, or starting a business, or even getting married. Be ready and prepared because the end of the world could literally be tomorrow. “I should like

you to be free of anxieties,” he wrote. Much later, St. Paul realized the end was not going to happen as soon as originally expected.

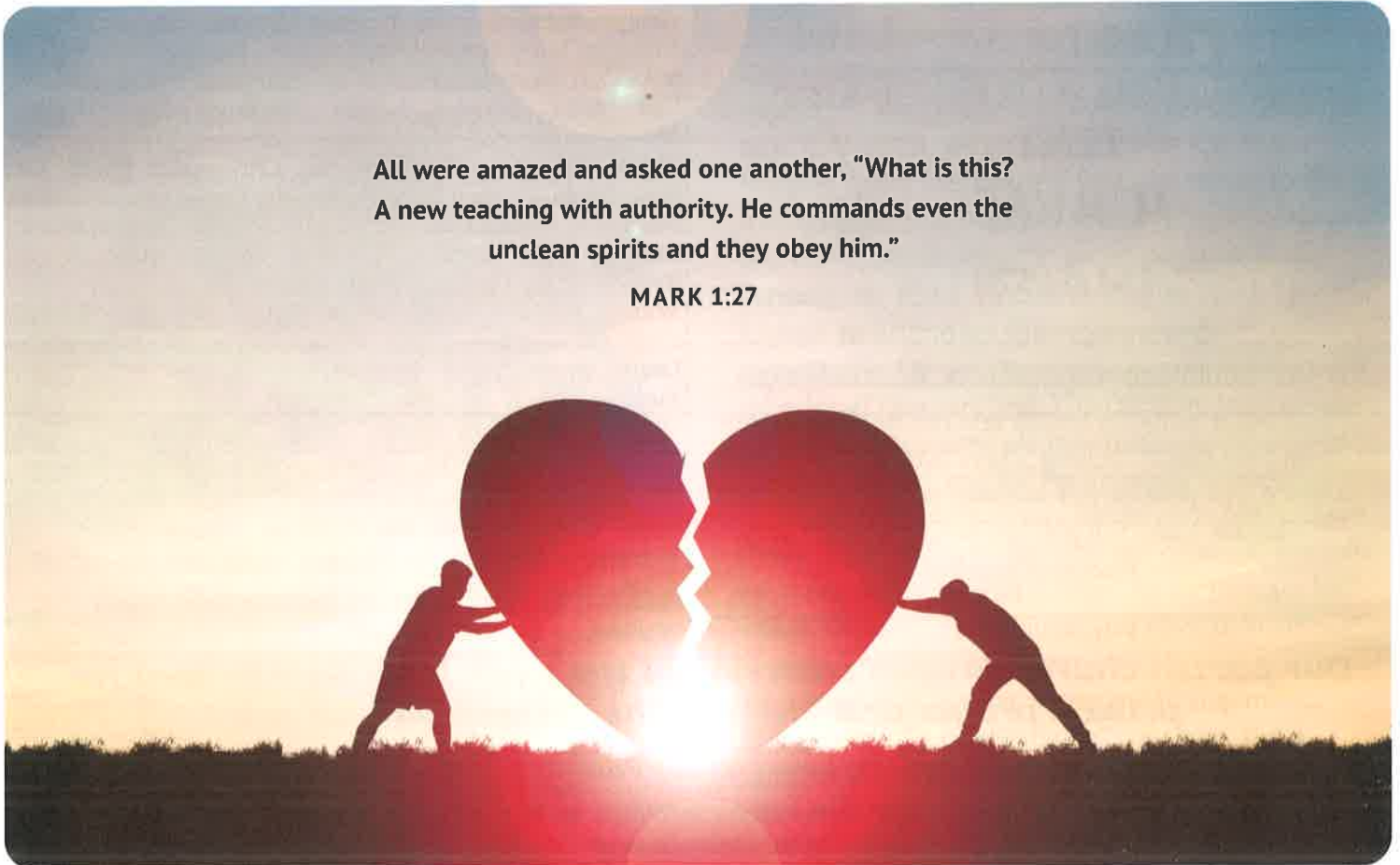
Saint Paul was not against marriage. He would be the first to say that, ideally, marriage can and often does reveal the depths of human love, but he would also say that it takes work; it doesn’t happen all by itself. Just as readily, St. Paul would also note that, ideally, celibacy can and often does reveal the breadth of love given in service to others, whether the celibate person is lay, a priest, or a religious. It can seem, however, that the unclean spirit that Jesus cast out continues to roam human lives. All of us struggle to live out love as best we can, wherever we find ourselves in life. ●

Reflect

What in your life gets in the way of loving as well as you would wish?

All were amazed and asked one another, “What is this?
A new teaching with authority. He commands even the
unclean spirits and they obey him.”

MARK 1:27



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 IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 28, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Monsignor Richard Loeper

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT 5:15 PM *Helynne Mich*
SUN 7:30 AM *Charles Wagner*
9:00 AM *Theona Kozak*
11:00 AM *John Iezzi 8th Anniversary*
MON 7:30AM *Our Parishioners*
TUES 7:00 PM *Angelo DiGuglielmo*
WED 7:30 AM *Linda Bardi 1st Anniversary*

THURS 7:00 PM *Helen Schwendt*
FRI 7:30 AM *Agnes & Ralph Bascelli*
9:00AM *ICA Mass Geri Serpico*
SAT 5:15PM *Bob Thomas, Jr*
SUN 7:30AM *Our Parishioners*
9:00AM *Frances Bambrick*
11:00AM *Bob Hocker 3rd Anniversary*

Second Collection Next Week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

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 & Joe Butto, Deb Petras, Pat Fessler, Rita Ferry, Sonny Motta, Curt Miller, Loretta Hitchens, Dante Stetina, Arlene Shirley, George Ruby, Harriet Yeager, Marjorie Hansen, Mark Vignone, 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, Stephen 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 Kuzsnir, Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, David Hoagland, Nova Puszczkowski, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarez, Dante LaScala, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Frances Swiezak, Rose Kubovcsak

Please pray for the deceased Joyce Kocon

Please Congratulate the newly Baptized Rose Amelia Walker

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.

January 29th - The Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

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

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 Soup Sale has also been rescheduled to this weekend Jan 27-28.

Helping Hands Needed: The **Women's Society** is looking for volunteers to help make our Easter eggs this year. If you are able to help on **any** of the following dates: **February 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th** to weigh & roll the eggs and on **March 4th & 5th** to pack please contact Marsha at 610.329.9501 for more details. We will begin at 9:00 AM each day in the Social Hall.

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.

Berks Catholic High School Open House- Tuesday,

January 30th 5:30-7:00pm. Come feel the energy of our community! Open registration for new students, activity fair, tours, opportunity to speak with teachers and administrators.! Please RSVP at:

<https://forms.gle/GA1wnt4wp4aM2x9G9>

The ICC Men's Group, Esto Vir, will meet in Lower Level Meeting Room in the church office building on **Saturday February 3rd at 8:30 am.** The presentation will be the ninth (Rise of Covenant Kingdom) in a series of 12 from the St Paul Center for Biblical Theology on the Bible from Genesis the Jesus. What is the Bible, where did it come from, and what is its purpose? 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 cleaning the church starting at 10:30 am after the Esto Vir meeting We should be finished cleaning by around noon. If you can help please go to the church social hall after the Esto Vir meeting.**

Youth Retreat: Saint Catherine of Siena Parish is hosting a Youth Retreat open to high school freshmen and sophomores February 23-25, 2024 at Camp

Manatawny. Teenagers from all of the parishes in Berks County are invited to attend. For additional

information and to register go to

www.scsyouth.weebly.com

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!

Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) cordially invites you to our Annual School Showcase, a unique opportunity to experience our commitment to academic excellence and Catholic values. This event provides prospective families an exclusive, private tour of our beautiful campus. As we celebrate our **20th year of service**, we are proud of the countless lives positively influenced by our educational approach. We believe that every child deserves the best, and at ICA, we strive to provide just that. Register today and take the first step towards joining a community that nurtures academic achievement and moral development in equal measure **Date: January 28, 2024 Time: Starting at 10:15** Space is limited. Families must pre register here - https://bit.ly/School_Showcase. Join us in marking a milestone! **February 2nd, 2024 at 9am**, Immaculate Conception Academy warmly invites our treasured families, alumni, and ICC Parishioners to participate in the 20th ICA Anniversary Celebration Mass. Share in the joy of this occasion with our children, and join us at the reception that follows. As we prepare for this event, we kindly request you *RSVP through our Google form*, aiding our Home and School Organization in making necessary arrangements. This is not just a celebration of our years, but a testament to the power and resonance of Catholic education <https://forms.gle/Qc4ueZ5p3yjHCu9h7> or RSVP by phone 610-404-8645.

Dear Padre,

**Why is the Old Testament part of Christian worship?
Parts of the Old Testament seem to be opposed to the
teachings of Christ.**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says it best: “The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked” (CCC 121).

The Old Testament, also referred to as the Hebrew Scriptures, is the only Bible Jesus ever knew. That is an important reason to try to understand these Scriptures. The Pentateuch (first five books), the prophets, the Book of Psalms, and the wisdom writings all had a profound impact on Jesus. His image of God as Father, his preaching, his parables, and his proclamation of the reign of God were all influenced by the Hebrew Scriptures.

It is true that Jesus’ preaching also goes beyond the Old Testament. At times he substitutes what the law has to say with an even more demanding requirement (see, for example, the Sermon on the Mount). In general, however, the Old Testament forms a context for understanding what Jesus was doing. His passion and death made no sense to his first followers except in light of the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament (Isaiah 52:13–53:12). There are many more examples like this one. Thus, the *Catechism* says “the Old Testament bears witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God’s saving love” (CCC 122). ●



VOLODYMYR ZAKHAROV / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
2 Sm 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13 Mk 5:1–20	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a, 30–19:3 Mk 5:21–43	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17 Mk 6:1–6	1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12 Mk 6:7–13	Mal 3:1–4 Heb 2:14–18 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32	1 Kgs 3:4–13 Mk 6:30–34	Jb 7:1–4, 6–7 1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23 Mk 1:29–39



CHAT KAREN STUDIO / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Do we listen to Jesus’ words, which are authoritative?
Always...carry a small copy of the Gospel...to read throughout
the day, to listen to that authoritative word of Jesus. And
then...let us ask Jesus: “Jesus, you are the prophet, the Son of
God, the one who was promised to us to heal us. Heal me!”**

**ANGELUS, ROME,
JANUARY 31, 2021**

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.



© 2024 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in USA. *Imprimatur*: “In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on April 5, 2023, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission.” No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible*, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Download our latest catalog, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.