



Why Is There Evil?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

At some point in one's faith journey, every believer asks: If God is good and loving, why is there evil in the world? Why is there war? Why do children die prematurely? Why do pandemics rage? The biblical story of Job seeks to speak to that question, though it never really answers it.

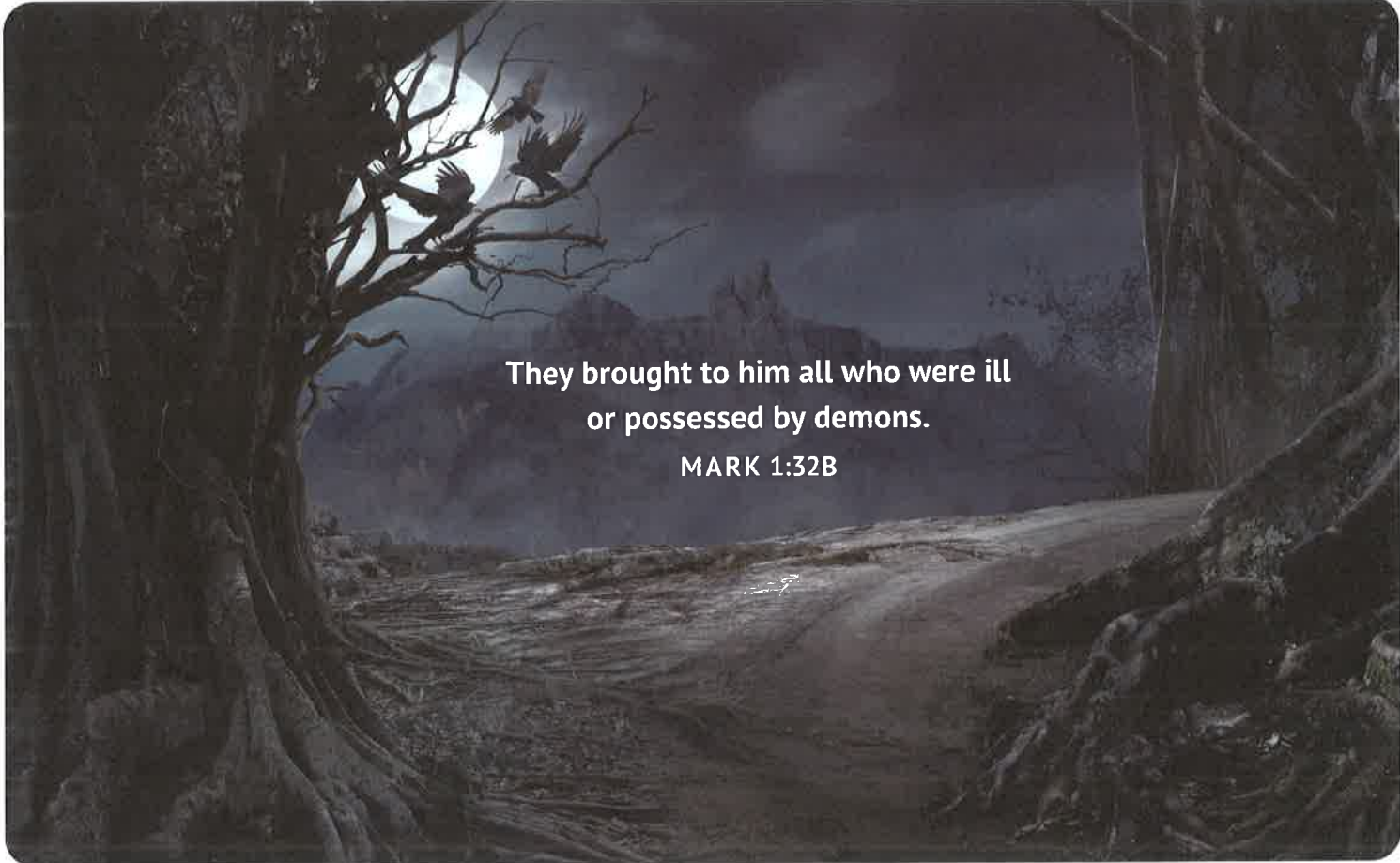
God and the satan (the name he is called in the Book of Job) are discussing Job and what a fine man he is. The satan suggests Job is a good man only because everything is going well for him. God then tells the satan that he may do whatever he wishes to test Job but may not harm him. By a series of catastrophes, then, Job loses his flocks, his camels, and even his sons and daughters. It is at this point that we hear today's first Scripture reading—Job's lament of misery and hopelessness.

Though Job's friends suspect that the cause of all

that has befallen him must be due to some grave sin on his part, Job denies this accusation and continues believing in the goodness of God, never wavering in his faith. Though frustrated by what life has brought, Job never blames God or asks God to fix his life. God is God, concludes Job, whether we understand the ways of life or not. To seek any more is to seek to be God. He continues to trust in God and admits that the ways of God are incapable of being understood. This becomes Job's only answer to the question about the "why" of evil. ●

Reflect

How do you answer the question of why evil exists?

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a full moon in the sky. Several birds are flying in the air. The scene is dimly lit, with a path leading through a rocky, wooded area.

**They brought to him all who were ill
or possessed by demons.**

MARK 1:32B

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 4, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Rev. Joseph Barnes

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT 5:15 PM Bob Thomas, Jr.
SUN 7:30 AM Our Parishioners
9:00 AM Frances Bambrick
11:00 AM Bob Hocker 3rd Anniversary
MON 7:30AM Bunnie Druzba
TUES 7:00 PM Ron Schwendt
WED 7:30 AM Henry Ciu

THURS 7:00 PM Nelson Ciu
FRI 7:30 AM Angelo DiGuglielmo
SAT 5:15PM Brother William Sudzina
SUN 7:30AM Anthony Volpiccini 34th Anniversary
9:00AM Our Parishioners
11:00AM Tony Stavenski

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!



**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, 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 Kuszniir, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Nova Puszczkowski, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarez, Dante LaScala, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Frances Swiezak.

Please pray for the deceased: Joseph Butto, Joyce Mahon, Michaelene Fox and David Hoagland.

Please welcome our new Parishioners: The Burns Family

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.

February 5th - The Sacraments of Healing:

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick

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

Mark your calendar: Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024

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 will host The Big Game Bake Sale on February 10th and 11th. Stop by the table and pick up a few goodies to enjoy while you are watching The Big Game! We will be accepting donations of baked goods before all Masses. Even if you are not a member, if you love to bake and would like to make one of your family favorites, we will be most grateful for your donation.

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

The Bell Choir meets on Tuesday evening at 7:30pm

The Adult Choir meets on Thursday evening at 7:30pm

It is time again for Mary's Shelter's 2024 Bowl-A-Thon, which will be held on March 17th from 3pm to 5pm. Help us raise money for our clients and programs at Mary's Shelter, and enjoy a great day of bowling with family and friends. The Registration form and sponsor pledge form are attached, along with a sheet on how to get started.

Rosary Prayer Group - Tuesdays, 6:30pm - When we pray together, we amplify the power of our prayers. Please join us in praying for our church's prayer intentions. If you have an intention you would like the group to remember, please place your intentions in the Rosary Prayer Box in the narthex.

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!



A TIME FOR PRAYER

Allentown Diocese Commission for Men presents a Morning of Reflection

Saturday, March 2, St. Jane de Chantal, 4049 Hartley Ave., Easton

Mass at 9:00 AM, coffee and doughnuts, with speakers starting at 10:00 AM

Speakers: His Excellency Alfred Schlert; Father Alex Brown, St. Anne's Bethlehem; Father Keith Laskowski, Our Lady of Mercy, Easton

Confessions available, admission is free, but please register at www.menaliveinchrist.org

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERY MAN THERE!

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.

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 information and to register go to www.scsyouth.weebly.com

Did you know that The Lancaster County Career and Technology Center sponsors a Dental Hygiene Clinic offering an affordable way to access dental hygiene services provided by their higher education program students. You will receive a thorough routine cleaning, a complete dental exam, all necessary x-rays, fluoride treatment and home care instructions for a very modest fee. The students can also provide deep (periodontal) cleanings, sealants and other preventive services. For more information or to make an appointment call 717-464-7050 & reference A. Forkin or email

LCCTCDentalClinic@Lancasterctc.edu

Dear Padre,

*In the Our Father, we pray, “thy kingdom come.”
Will God’s kingdom come only at the end of the world?*

God’s kingdom will come in its fullness only at Jesus’ Second Coming, but the kingdom came into the world with Jesus’ first coming as a man. That means we are in God’s kingdom right now, but not in its fullness.

In the Scriptures, we read that John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the messiah or if they need to wait for another. Jesus responds, “The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Luke 7:22). These are all signs of the kingdom of God.

In the meantime, we don’t have to just wait for God’s kingdom to come in its fullness. We can make God’s kingdom more of a reality on earth by visiting the sick, caring for the poor, and being kind to others. Loving your spouse is a sign of the kingdom of God. God’s kingdom is among us, not completely but partially, and we can make it more of a reality in the good that we do for each other.

Jesus’ Second Coming will be at the end of time, an event Jesus himself did not know the time of: “But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32). ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR
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

February 5
*St. Agatha,
Virgin and
Martyr*
1 Kgs 8:1–7,
9–13
Mk 6:53–56

TUESDAY

February 6
*St. Paul Miki and
Companions,
Martyrs*
1 Kgs 8:22–23,
27–30
Mk 7:1–13

WEDNESDAY

February 7
Weekday
1 Kgs 10:1–10
Mk 7:14–23

THURSDAY

February 8
Weekday
1 Kgs 11:4–13
Mk 7:24–30

FRIDAY

February 9
Weekday
1 Kgs 11:29–32;
12:19
Mk 7:31–37

SATURDAY

February 10
*St. Scholastica,
Virgin*
1 Kgs 12:26–32;
13:33–34
Mk 8:1–10

SUNDAY

February 11
*Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time*
Lv 13:1–2,
44–46
1 Cor 10:31–
11:1
Mk 1:40–45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus shows a particular predilection for those who are wounded in body and in spirit: the poor, the sinners, the possessed, the sick, the marginalized. Thus, He reveals Himself as a doctor both of souls and of bodies, the Good Samaritan of man. He is the true Savior: Jesus saves, Jesus cures, Jesus heals.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 8, 2015

EASTER CANDY SALE



Ready just in time for filling your Easter baskets, the Women's Society will be making home-made, hand dipped, chocolate peanut butter eggs wrapped in yummy milk chocolate and delicious coconut cream eggs covered in deep dark chocolate. We will offer 1/2 pound boxes and 1 pound boxes. Ordering early will help us with planning and ingredient purchases.

Drop your order, along with payment, into the collection basket or you may drop your order off at the Church or School offices. Orders may also be mailed to the Church Office Building, 905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, 19518.

Orders may be picked up in the social hall on March 9th 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.* There won't be many extras, so **please pay and pre-order by Sunday, February 25th** to make sure you get your favorites. Checks should be made payable to ICC Women's Society.

*****Please note that this candy may contain nut products.*****

1/2 pound boxes - \$8.00

1 pound boxes - \$15.00

Peanut Butter

Coconut

1/2 lb. Boxes (\$8 each)

1 lb. Boxes (\$15 each)

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Total # of Boxes ordered _____

Amount enclosed _____