



Learning How to Die

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It has been pointed out that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, that is, to go where we would rather not go, to love when we know it will cost, to offer ourselves even when we know we will be used. If we die a bit every day, sometimes with struggle and sacrifice in those situations that may call for such, then at our final moment we will be able to stand before that specter face to face and not run, simply because we have met before and have been able to walk away the victor.

Dying well does not mean we do so without fear. Courage blossoms when we stand in a field of fear. Even the Lord Jesus “offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears” to God, as the Letter to the Hebrews notes. Dying well does not mean we do so cleanly. Dying is often messy, and it is always an uprooting that disrupts and scatters everything nearby.

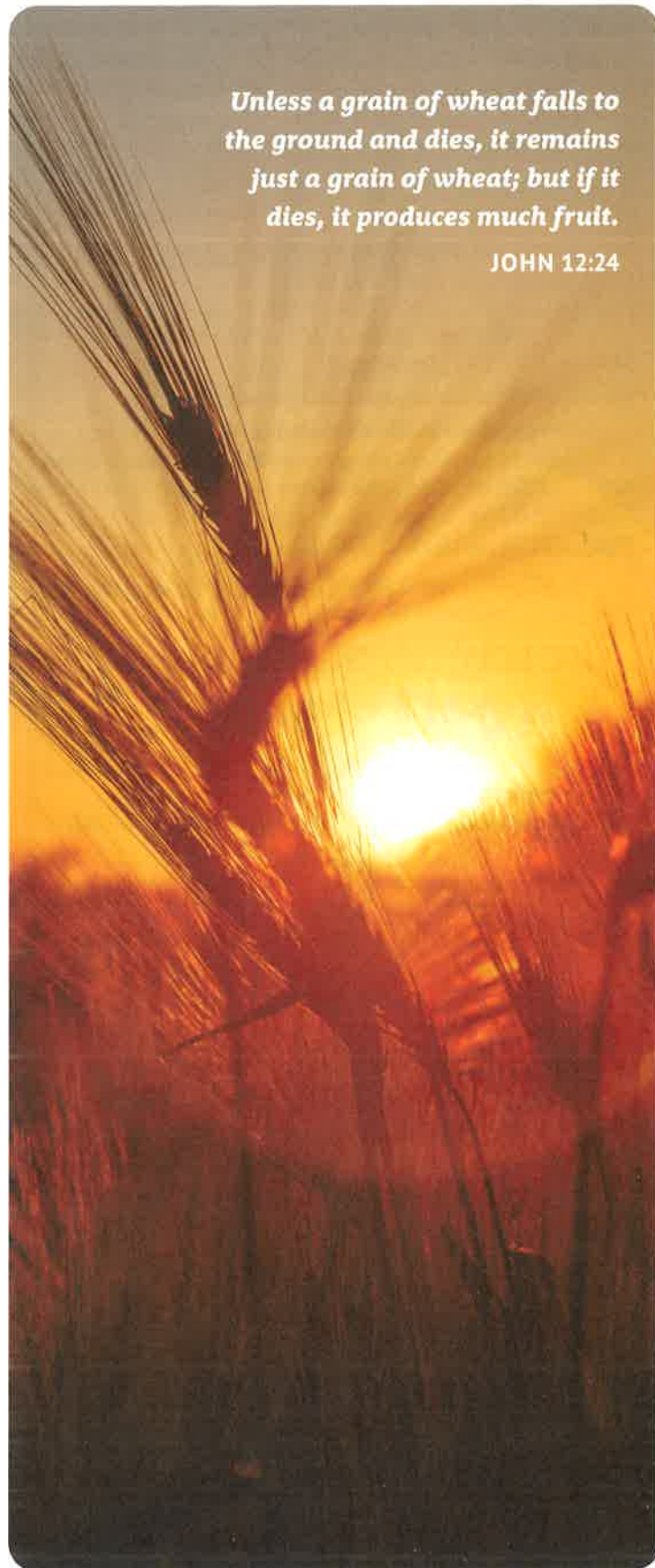
Nor does dying well mean we do so in control of the event. That is what is so devastating about death. It has complete and total control. At its best and at its worst the only way to die well is to say “yes” to it every time it demands our submission. And like the eye of stillness at the center of the hurricane, it is at the heart of death where we embrace resurrection and where the holy offers life. It is where we can have a deep encounter with the Lord Jesus. ●

Reflect

Can you accept the little deaths along the way as preparation for the final passing from this life?

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

JOHN 12:24



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
Parish Preschool610 404-8645
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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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 17, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Rev. Joseph J. Campion

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM Linda Bardi
SUN 7:30 AM Michael T. Kilareski
9:00 AM Frances Bambrick
11:00AM Our Living and Deceased Parishioners
MON 7:30 AM God's Blessings on Jeanne Hostrander
TUES 7:00 PM Linda Domergue
WED 7:30 AM Elmer Whitaker

THUS 7:00 PM Josephine, Peter & John Bogus
FRI 7:30 AM Thomas Grace, Sr.
SAT 5:15PM Joseph L. Marks 7th Anniversary
SUN 7:30AM Ollie Pribanick
9:00AM Our Living and Deceased Parishioners
11:00AM Gene Sterner

The Second Collection Next Week is the Charity Collection

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



Keep in touch with us via email and text!



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**ICBVM
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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 Kuszniar, 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: Anthony Cossa, Jr.

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 18th Catholic Social Teaching.

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.

Living Stations of the Cross will be held this week on Friday, March 22nd at 1:00pm with the ICA school children. Stations will also be held 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:

Wed. 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. The Rice Bowl is in the rear of the Church.

The **Women's Society** will meet **Wednesday, 20th at 7:00 PM** in the Social Hall, an **Agape Service** will take place. All women of the parish (member or not) are invited to join us for this special service.

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

A Request for Prayers: Please keep Shawn and Michol Kaeser & their family in your thoughts & 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 to become a living donor, call 610-402-8506 or www.lvhn.org/livingdonor. Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist (OLME) invites you to Divine Mercy Weekend with Bishop Alfred A. Schlert and the Dominican Sisters of Mary, **Doors open at 6:15 pm Saturday, 9:15 am on Sunday, April 7th..** Registration is required. Go to website: www.olme.org. **EASTER EGG HUNT** for our parish children age 12 & younger on March 30th at 11am. Donations of bags of individually wrapped candy will be appreciated.

Daniel Boone Area High School Presents "Mamma Mia!" March 22 and 23 at 7 p.m. & March 24 at 2pm

Amity Township Crime Watch. We are holding our annual shredding event on Saturday, **April 20, 2024**

Dear Padre,

What is the difference between temptation and sin?

The temptations of Jesus, as they are recorded in the Gospels (Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1, and Matthew 4:1), give us the proper direction with regard to sin and temptation. Jesus was tempted three times, but he did not sin. More than that, Jesus put his trust in God during the temptations. Jesus' message is clear: if you feel tempted, call out to God!

The Church teaches that sin is a deliberative process. Temptation is something that happens to you without your consent: a thought or desire pops into your mind. For temptation to become a sin, you have to entertain that thought or desire, or plan to act on it, or do it. That's when temptation "turns a corner" and becomes sin.

Although the sacrament of penance is available throughout the year, the Church places a special emphasis on it during Lent. There may be a communal penance service in your area. Perhaps you can commit now to participating in the service. If it's been a while since you've been to confession or you're not sure what to do or say, just tell the priest. He will show you. ●



ARTINA NASSI / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 18 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62 Jn 8:1-11	March 19 <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a	March 20 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	March 21 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	March 22 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	March 23 <i>Lenten Weekday</i> Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	March 24 <i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We are called to take on the paschal law of losing life in order to receive it renewed and eternal. And what does losing life mean?... It means to think less about oneself, about personal interests and to know how to "see" and to meet the needs of our neighbors, especially the least of them.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 18, 2018