



With many such parables [Jesus] spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

MARK 4:33

## Life Happens

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he adage that “life is what happens to us as we’re busy doing other things” seems to be a rewording of this week’s Gospel about the kingdom of heaven, namely about God’s reigning activity in our lives. It is a parable about a man who sows seeds in his field. The seeds sprout, grow, and bear fruit, all without his knowing how. In effect, the message says that it is *God* who happens to us as we’re busy doing other things.

We tend to convince ourselves that we have complete control over our lives, when in reality that is somewhat of an illusion. Though we may decide what we will have for dinner, what TV program to watch, or what we will wear, we have much less control over the portions of life that so often give meaning and shape to who we are. The person someone marries

is dependent upon the mutual commitment of the two people in love. The degree of job satisfaction we eagerly hope to find can partly depend upon the people with whom we work and the expectations of others. “We walk by faith and not by sight” reveals that we recognize the reigning presence of God bringing us to a life we’d never imagined. In reality, the one thing we do have control over is how we respond to life’s events, which can then open us to the ways by which God brings us to fruitful abundance. ●

### Reflect

**Think of three of your blessings:  
How much did you have to do  
with their coming about?**

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 [www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org) [secretary@icbvm.org](mailto:secretary@icbvm.org) [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org)

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann .....Pastor  
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi  
 Parish Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ....610 582-3880  
 Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
 Parish Website.....[www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org)

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....[www.icaberks.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562

## ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JUNE 16, 2024

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Americo “Jake” Maccarone

#### ★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Our Parishioners	THURS	7:00PM	Sally Dambaugh
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Fathers of the Parish	FRI	7:30AM	Kenneth Rumler
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Fathers of the Parish	SAT	5:15PM	Cody Luke Morris
	11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Fathers of the Parish	SUN	7:30AM	Helen Janiszewski 33 <sup>rd</sup> Anniversary
MON	7:30 AM	Josephine Fredriksen 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary		9:00AM	God's Blessings on Betty & John Effinger 60 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
TUES	7:00 PM	Matthew Pinciotti		11:00AM	Bill Komorosky
WED	7:30 AM	Peter Bogus			

The Second Collection Next Week is the Religious Ministries 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](http://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](http://flocknote.com/txt).

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Madge Butto, 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, Anthony Scaglione, Maryanne Emery, Pam Amos, Marianne Sutton, John Mingione, Henry J. Wade, Lois Muldowney, Terry Swisher, Arlene Schaeffer, Shelly Weiler, Joe Nowotarski, Steven Blanyar, Jennifer Gruber, Adele Nieckoski, Shawn Kaeser, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, Ralph Rapposelli, Joe Dantas, Debbie Simcock, Wanda Palmieri, Msgr. Nevin Klinger, Barbara Wright, Charlotte Glacken, Beppe McGee, David Mollura, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, John Kuszniir, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Geraldine Christ, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribranick, Rosemary Williamson, Christine Hummer, Tony Guilliams, Phyllis Villano & Bob Warunek.

**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](http://www.icbvm.org)

OUR PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN WEDNESDAY,  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 11 AM-3 PM. 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**

**Knighthood and Brotherhood:** Learn about  
the Knights of Columbus and our award-  
winning involvement at Immaculate  
Conception Parish and in our local  
community by visiting our Narthex display  
and talking with members of our Parish KofC  
Council during Membership Awareness  
Weekend on Saturday & Sunday, June 15 &  
16 following all Masses. For information and  
a local calendar visit our organizations page  
at <http://www.icbvm.org>

**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 interested in learning more  
about organ donation, call Shawn at 610-906-  
2833 or e-mail at [skaeser1969@icloud.com](mailto:skaeser1969@icloud.com).

**Rosary Prayer Group – Tuesdays at 6:30pm**  
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.

**Join us for 18 holes of fundraising fun,**  
with all proceeds going to support  
Immaculate Conception Academy!  
**June 24 Golf Scramble starts at 9am**  
**Where: French Creek Golf Club**  
**4500 Conestoga Rd, Elverson, PA 19520**  
**For more info contact ICAGOLFS.COM**  
**Register Now for the ICA Mini Golf Classic**

**Event Details:**

**Date:** June 22nd, starting at 10 am  
**Location:** Schell's Miniature Golf  
4625 5th Street Hwy, Temple, PA 19560  
**Registration:** Required in advance.  
**Website:** [ICAGOLFS.COM](http://ICAGOLFS.COM)

*Open to the public, we encourage you to extend  
this invitation to your friends.*

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](http://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!*

**Church Reminders: SCRIP is available**  
for Redners, Boscovs, Giant, Kohls,  
Boyers & Weis. SCRIP can be  
purchased in the church office, Wed. to  
Fri. & after the Sat. 5:15 pm & Sun.  
7:30am Masses. Please remember to  
save your Redner's tapes and place  
them in the box in the Narthex or drop  
off at the church office.

**MARRIED COUPLES –** When's the last  
time you gave your marriage a tune-up?  
Keep your engines running by getting  
away together on a Worldwide Marriage  
Encounter Weekend! The next in-person  
experiences are July 12-14 at Our Lady of  
Czestochowa, Doylestown. For more info  
visit: <https://www.wmme-philly.org>

**SAVE THE DATE**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**HERO HOTLINE-**

**Called Together to Serve God**  
**July 15-July 19, 2024 Ages 6-10**  
Registration forms are in the Narthex

# Dear Padre,

**Why did Jesus always speak in parables?  
Why didn't he give us clearer answers?**

Parables are short, relatable stories. Their simple images or comparisons convey a moral or religious lesson and put us in touch with the mystery of God and ourselves. Thus, parables confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice to enter God's kingdom: "One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to 'know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 13:11). For those who stay 'outside,' everything remains enigmatic" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 546).

About a third of Jesus' recorded teachings are in parable form. After the Pharisees rejected Jesus (Matthew 12:14), he immediately changed his straightforward preaching to parables. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]" (Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2).

Parables are intended to reveal as much about us as they do about God. As John Shea writes in *Stories of God*, "God not only loves to hear our stories, God loves to tell stories. And, quite simply, we are the story God tells." In the telling, we ourselves are told. The timeless, universal stories of Jesus speak to us at different stages of life and provide multiple levels of meaning to the openhearted. ●



RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON, GUERCINO / WIKICOMMONS

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Aloysius	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday
1 Kgs 21:1-16	1 Kgs 21:17-29	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14	Sir 48:1-14	Gonzaga, Religious	2 Chr 24:17-25	in Ordinary Time
Mt 5:38-42	Mt 5:43-48	Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Mt 6:7-15	2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20	Mt 6:24-34	Jb 38:1, 8-11
				Mt 6:19-23		2 Cor 5:14-17
						Mk 4:35-41



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***It may happen that we get discouraged, because we see the weakness of good as compared to the apparent power of evil.... The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality...to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life....***

**ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 13, 2021**

VARUNA / SHUTTERSTOCK