



God, Death, and Us

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

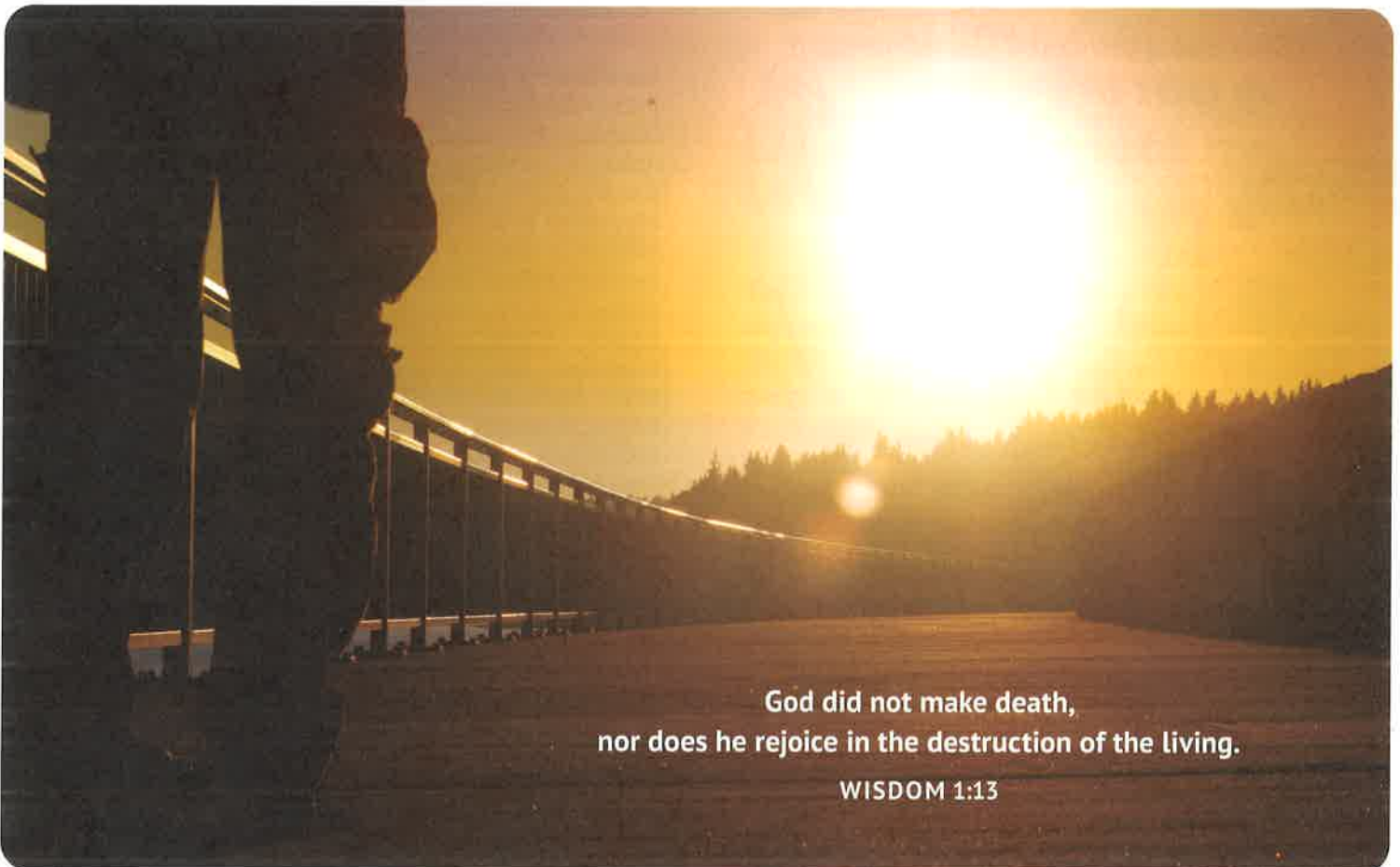
The hospital called, saying a young man had been in an accident and wanted to see a priest. As it turned out, I found him in a coma, and it was his parents who sparked the phone call. His girlfriend was there, and so the two of us talked about the accident and what happened, then about Michael and his interests and gentleness, and eventually his faith and goodness. She didn't understand, she told me, why God would do this to someone so good and how God certainly must have wanted this to happen.

I wanted to tell her I didn't believe God did this sort of thing, orchestrating traffic accidents. I hesitated, but then said so, only I tried to say it gently and kindly so it might be less like a lecture in Spirituality 101. I mumbled something about not believing in that sort of God, that I didn't believe God handed out death or suffering to folks. With her head hanging down, she just said, no—she thought God did.

Well, it seemed to me that that was not the time for any theological debate on questions about God, so I simply said no more about it. Then she and I prayed for Michael, or rather I prayed aloud, and she just sat there holding my hand and maybe praying silently or maybe not praying at all—I really wasn't sure. After I left I found myself wondering if she thought as much about my response as I thought about her answer. ●

Reflect

*Where do you find God
when bad things happen?*



God did not make death,
nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living.

WISDOM 1:13

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JUNE 30, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Helen & Frank Janiszewski

God's Blessings on Barbara & Ken Reis on their 60th Wedding Anniversary

★★ MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT	5:15 PM Barb & Ken Reis 60 th Wedding Anniversary	THURS	9:00AM Lois Wingle	INDEPENDENCE DAY
SUN	7:30 AM Helen and Frank Janiszewski	FRI	7:30AM No Mass	
	9:00 AM Our Parishioners	SAT	5:15PM Ruby, Kundratt & Hill Families & Mary Ann Wilcox	
	11:00 AM Teri Lynch	SUN	7:30AM Esther Pribanick 20 th Anniversary	
MON	7:30 AM Josefina Tiu		9:00AM Our Parishioners	
TUES	7:00 PM Ron Schwendt		11:00AM Linda Domergue	
WED	7:30 AM Thomas Grace, Sr.			

The Second Collection Next Week is the Church Building & Parish Maintenance 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, 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, Beply McGee, David Mollura, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, John Kusznr, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Michael Gulla, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Geraldine Christ, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribanick, Rosemary Williamson, Christine Hummer, Tony Guilliams, Phyllis Villano & Bob Warunek, Sharon Painter & Cletus McLaughlin

Please pray for the deceased Laverta Reppert

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

ON THURSDAY JULY 4TH, THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS WILL BE OFFERED AT 9:00 AM IN OBSERVANCE OF THE INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND TO PRAY FOR OUR NATION AND TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF FREEDOM.

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Friday, July 5th. Thank you very much for your kind understanding in this regard

OUR PARISH OFFICE, WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.

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

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.

Volunteers Needed! Our Parish, in conjunction with the Mary Queen of Peace Council Knights, will be providing and serving meals at Kennedy House, 532 Spruce St, Reading on August 10-11 from 11:30-12:30. Plan to leave from the social hall parking lot each day at 9:30. Email Todd Newman at ToddRNewman@msn.com or call the Parish office at (610) 582-2411, if interested in volunteering. You can also help financially. Monetary donations can be placed in the collection basket in an envelope marked "August Soup Kitchen."

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.

SAVE THE DATE

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
HERO HOTLINE

Called Together to Serve God
July 15-July 19, 2024 Ages 6-10

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

Friday, July 26, 2024 (10:15 AM to 12:00 PM)

Event: *Spirituality for Savvy Seniors*

All "seasoned adults" are welcome to join us at the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA for a morning of faith-sharing. We will celebrate the feast day of Saints Anne & Joachim. To register for this free event, please contact

angela@padrepio.org.

Location: National Centre for Padre Pio
111 Barto Road - Barto, PA 19504

Sunday, July 28, 2024 (11:30 AM to 3:30 PM)

Event: *Witnessing to Life with Sister Deidre Byrne, P.O.S.C.*

The National Centre for Padre Pio, joyfully welcomes Sister Deidre Byrne who will share her life's story as a Religious Sister, a soldier, and a surgeon. She will address the topics of Euthanasia and the Eucharist. Feel free to bring a bag lunch. No registration is required.

Location: National Centre for Padre Pio
111 Barto Road - Barto, PA 19504

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.wwme-philly.org>

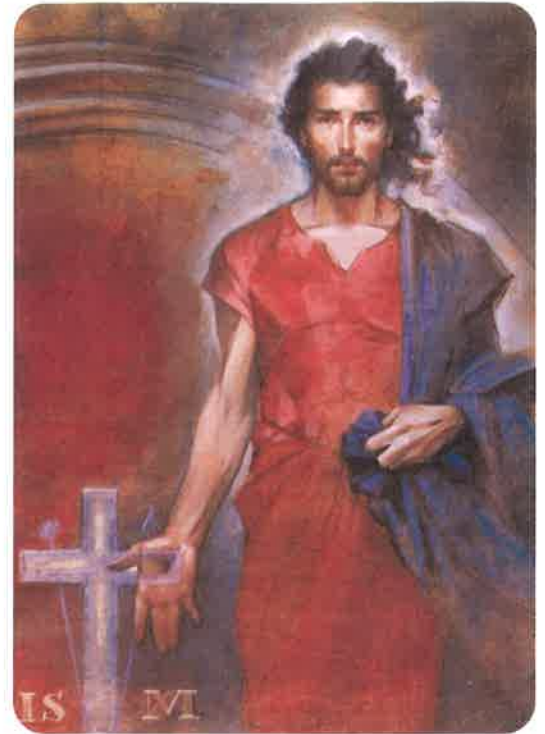
Dear Padre,

Does God have a plan for each of us?

We collaborate with God through continual prayer and discernment in planning out our best path of life. This path allows us to fulfill God's ultimate plan—namely, to find meaning in the life he gave us, enjoy his friendship while on earth, and spend eternal life with him in heaven.

God doesn't force us to live out our existence in some programmed, robotic way according to a predestined plan or inevitable fate over which we have no control. Rather, we're free and responsible for our own actions.

Moreover, God's plan for each of us is to experience his profound love and love him in return. "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16). As the supreme sign of God's love, his plan of salvation from the beginning of time was to send us his only begotten Son. "Jesus' violent death was not the result of chance in an unfortunate coincidence of circumstances, but is part of the mystery of God's plan, as St. Peter explains...in his first sermon on Pentecost: 'This Jesus [was] delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 599). "By giving up his own Son for our sins, God manifests that his plan for us is one of benevolent love, prior to any merit on our part" (CCC 604). ●



Fr. Byron Miller, 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	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6	July 7
Weekday	Weekday	St. Thomas, Apostle	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 2:6–10, 13–16 Mt 8:18–22	Am 3:1–8; 4:11–12 Mt 8:23–27	Eph 2:19–22 Jn 20:24–29	Am 7:10–17 Mt 9:1–8	Am 8:4–6, 9–12 Mt 9:9–13	Am 9:11–15 Mt 9:14–17	Ez 2:2–5 2 Cor 12:7–10 Mk 6:1–6a

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let Jesus look at and heal your heart.... And if you have already felt his tender gaze upon you, imitate him, and do as he does. Look around: you will see that many people who live beside you feel wounded and alone; they need to feel loved: take the step.... Love alone heals life.

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 27, 2021

PARISH FUNDRAISING EVENT

Benefiting Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Parish and the Knights of Columbus Chartles



Join Us for Some
ALL YOU CAN EAT!

BEEF 'N BEER

- AYCE beef with fixings; potato salad, baked beans, pasta salad, chips, pretzels, dessert and beer.
- Music, games, raffles and more!
- Cash bar for wine and liquor
- Ticket Prices: \$35 (21 & over) and \$25 (food only)

Sunday, September 8
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

[Click Here for
More Info](#)

Knight's Grove
Stowe, PA

Sponsors

*Immaculate Conception Parish Women's Society
Knights of Columbus...Mary Queen of Peace Council
Casey Service Club*