



## Truth-Sayers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**he prophets were the truth-sayers of their day. They were willing to say difficult things—at times to kings, sometimes to religious leaders, and still at other times to the entire community when the community was unfaithful to the Lord God. In our own time, we continue to need those who speak the truth to us. While it is not always pleasant, it is a grace to have people in our lives who smooth out our rough edges. Spouses can be that for one another. Parents are that for their children, as they teach, correct, and discipline in ways that nurture the young ones into adulthood. Presidents need someone willing to say difficult things to them, as do pastors of parishes and anyone in a position of responsibility.

Sometimes social movements rise up and call our attention to injustices that need to be addressed.

Those voices can be prophet-like in our own time. The Church is such a voice when it advocates for the protection of the unborn, the immigrant, and those oppressed. The civil rights movement is such a voice in the face of violence and injustice to people of color. There are voices who call the Catholic Church to be accountable for abuse. Scientists call on us to pay attention to the environment. Whenever and wherever truth-sayers call human beings to become their better selves, there lies the Spirit of God raising a prophetic voice. ●

### Reflect

***Who has been a truth-sayer for you?  
How have they impacted your life?***



Whether they hear or resist—they are a rebellious house—they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

EZEKIEL 2:5

# 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

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 7, 2024

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Monsignor Thomas J. Birch

### ★★ MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Ruby, Kundratt & Hill Families & Mary Ann Wilcox	THURS	7:00PM	Mary Dolan 11 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
SUN	7:30 AM	Esther Pribanick 20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	FRI	7:30AM	God's Blessings on The Guilliams/Coscarella Family
	9:00 AM	Our Parishioners	SAT	5:15PM	Paul Kakalecik
	11:00 AM	Linda Domergue	SUN	7:30AM	Our Parishioners
MON	7:30 AM	No Mass		9:00AM	Robert Lubrano & Alfreda Kelly
TUES	7:00 PM	Leonard Cline, Sr.		11:00AM	Linda Bardi
WED	7:30 AM	John Bogus			

The 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](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, Beppy McGee, David Mollura, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, John Kusznrir, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiartz, 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 & Edward Zawora.

Please Congratulate the recently married Grace Kathleen Manidis & Davis Andris Gulbis.

Please pray for the deceased Patrick O'Donnell

**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 IS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER YOUR CALL, PLEASE LEAVE A DETAILED MESSAGE AND YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED IN A TIMELY FASHION. 610-582-2411

**Daily Mass Schedule:** Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, July 8, 2024. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Come and be Spiritually Refreshed! Our parish OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) Program for 2024-25 will begin in early October. This year's theme is "Come to the Living Water" from Isaiah 55:1 and John 4:14. The program is open to Catholics and non-Catholics who want to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Visit the parish website (select Religious Education, then OCIA) for program and registration information or contact the parish office

**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).

**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](mailto: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.

## 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!*

### SAVE THE DATE

#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HERO HOTLINE

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

**Friday, July 26, 2024 (10:15 am to Noon)**  
**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](mailto: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

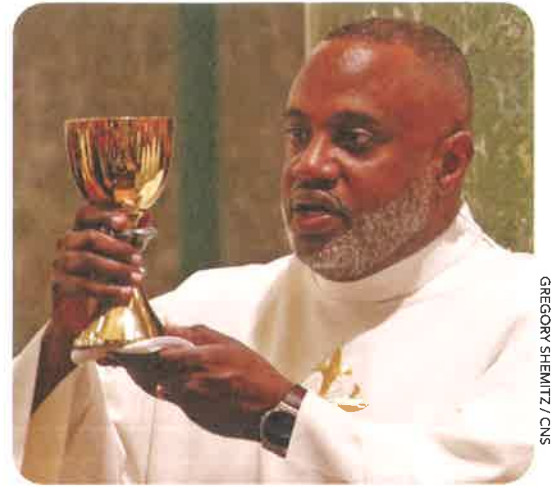
# Dear Padre,

***My Protestant friends asked me why we call priests “Father” when Jesus said not to. I don’t know how to answer.***

Jesus instructs his disciples, “As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven” (Matthew 23:8–9). Taken in context, Jesus is denouncing the scribes and Pharisees for bestowing honors and titles on themselves. If taken literally, this passage would also prohibit us from calling our biological fathers by that name, or our instructors “professor.”

Jesus assures us that God is Father of us all. The early Christian community adopted family terms—father, mother, brother, sister—to show their affiliation through baptism and their mutual faith in the Lord (See Luke 8:21, “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it.”)

Thus, St. Paul refers to Timothy as his “child in faith” (1 Timothy 1:2; Philippians 2:22). He also tells his Christian converts, “I am writing...to admonish you as my beloved children. Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (1 Corinthians 4:14–15). Like St. Paul, who speaks of himself as a father in nurturing the faith, priests are called “Father” for their pastoral role in the Church. ●



GREGORY SHERNITZ / CNS

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

## **Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11	July 12	July 13	July 14
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Benedict, Abbot</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Hos 2:16, 17c– 18, 21–22	Hos 8:4–7, 11–13	Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12	Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9	Hos 14:2–10	Is 6:1–8	Am 7:12–15
Mt 9:18–26	Mt 9:32–38	Mt 10:1–7	Mt 10:7–15	Mt 10:16–23	Mt 10:24–33	Eph 1:3–14 or 1:3–10 Mk 6:7–13



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

***The radical change Jesus brought about commits his disciples of both yesterday and today to a personal and community [self] examination.... Today, the Lord asks us to adopt an attitude of humble listening and docile expectation because God’s grace often manifests itself in surprising ways that do not match our expectations.***

**ANGELUS, ROME, JULY 8, 2018**