



Life at the Edge

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We find ourselves living at the edge sometimes, when life could go either way, up or down. We may experience this as we begin marriage or first become parents. At other times, it may be frightening or sad, but also exciting, such as when graduation nears, or when we are faced with an “empty nest.” Then, we stand at the edge of a new beginning, eager for the onset of what we’ve dreamt of for so long, but also uncertain whether we will be able to navigate it. We also find ourselves living at the edge when someone we love dies.

The other day, someone came by, wanting to talk. She spoke of the chaos of her life, its pain, and of not knowing how to cope. As she was about to leave, she commented how, in spite of it all, it seemed

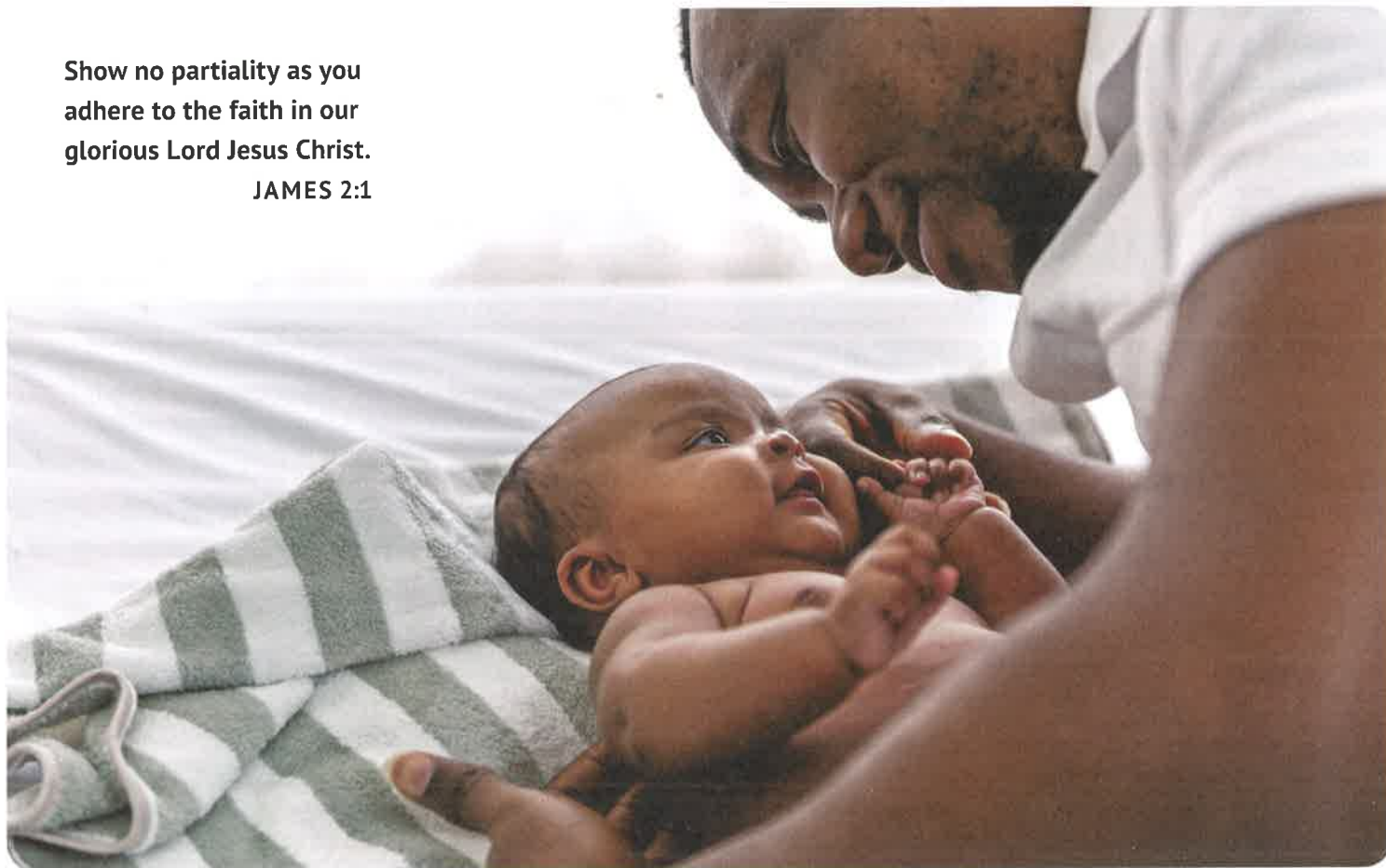
strange that God was also very much present. Strange indeed, yet chaotic times are when God’s presence is often perceived in our lives, perhaps out of our need, perhaps because we are not distracted by life’s glitter, or perhaps because, at last, we have nowhere else to turn. It was St. James who asked then and asks us now, “Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith?” (James 2:5). There are indeed many different ways of being poor, of being in need. For people of faith, it is often at the edge when we sense most clearly that God is with us. ●

Reflect

Do you feel God’s presence differently in hard times than you do in easy times?

Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

JAMES 2:1



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

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPT 8, 2024

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Henry Mammarella 17th Anniversary

★★ MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT 5:15 PM Catherine Alderman
 SUN 7:30 AM Henry Mammarella 17th Anniversary
 9:00 AM Our Parishioners
 11:00 AM Paul Swisher
 MON No Mass
 TUES 7:00 PM Angie Testa
 WED 7:30 AM Rita & Joseph Conrad

THURS 7:00PM Sybilla Miller
 FRI 7:30AM M/M Giak Chua & Josefina Tiu
 SAT 5:15PM Dominic & Sophie Palucci
 SUN 7:30AM Michael T. Kilareski
 9:00AM Our Parishioners
 11:00AM Ruby, Kundrat & Hill Families & Mary Ann Wilcox

The Second Collection Next Week is the Debt Reduction 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
 TO 84576**



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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, 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, Arlene Schaeffer, Shelly Weiler, 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, John Kuszniar, Joseph Ondo, Rose White, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Geraldine Christ, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribanick, Rosemary Williamson, Tony Williams, Bob Warunek, Sharon Painter, Cletus McLaughlin, Edward Zawora, Linda Walleigh, Rose Kubovcsak, Lyn Weidenhammer & Elaine Zampella.

Please pray for deceased: Sonny Motta, Marcia Marks & Lori Morgan

Please welcome the Phillips Family.

Please Congratulate the new Baptized Jackson & Sophia Bernet.

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 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 MANNER.

Daily Mass Schedule: Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, September 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 on October 7th at 7pm. 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 at 610-582-2411.

My Heart – A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Jesus. The 1st "Local Diocesan Pilgrimage, will be Friday, September 20, 2024, at The National Centre for Padre Pio in nearby Barto, PA. All the faithful in the Diocese of Allentown are invited! No registration is required. If you have questions about the Pilgrimage, please email pilgrimage@allentowndiocese.org Arrival & Welcome: 8:15 am – 9:00 am Pilgrimage Events: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Free Time at the Centre: 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm Mass with Bishop Schlert, Confession, Adoration, Keynote Address by Megan Murphy, Time for Personal Prayer & to explore everything the Centre has to offer Interactive Activities Eucharistic Procession

Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass Married couples from across the Diocese are invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage during the Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert, will take place in the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena on Sunday, Sept 22, 2024. Doors open at 2 p.m. Please visit the following link to register & for more info: <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass> Contact Rhady Tulloch, Director of Marriage and Family Life, rtulloch@allentowndiocese.org

WIN \$10,000 CASH!! The Berks Catholic High School Extravaganza Cash Raffle tickets are now available. The drawing will be held on FRIDAY, **October 11th** during the Extravaganza 2024 event. Donation \$100. To buy raffle tickets, please e-mail at Extravaganza@BerksCatholic.org

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!

Save the Date! Advent Retreat hosted by Bishop's Commission for Women, "Finding Hope Through Prayer." Mass with Bishop Schlert & Keynote Talk with Father John Frink.

Sat. Dec 14th, 9AM to 1PM, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 1046 W Cedar Street, Allentown.

Registration opens 9/1.

Love Music?

Consider serving God and your parish by joining the adult vocal choir, open to everyone 18 or older. We sing at the 11:00 Mass on Sundays and on other Holy Days from September through June. We rehearse from 7:30 to 9:00 pm on Thursday evenings, starting on September 5th. Contact Shirley at 610-582-2793 if interested. We'd love to have you join us!

Restore: A Women's Healing Retreat at St. Mary of Providence Center in Elverson. We invite you to join us if you are seeking Christ-centered healing from the emotional and spiritual effects of trauma and past wounding. In a supportive and caring environment, we listen deeply for the Holy Spirit's promptings as He reveals the memories, the moments, and the circumstances that caused disintegration within us. With Him, we will untwist distortions, renounce lies, expose the habitual ways we get stuck in anxiety, fear, or overwhelm, and, most importantly, open to Jesus' Come & let Him Restore you! Retreat Leaders: Father Stephen DeLacy and De Yarrison. register at <https://youaremadenew.com/restore-womens-retreat>

or email De at de@youaremadenew.com

Dear Padre,

What is the “gospel of prosperity”? Does it mean that being rich is a sign of God’s favor?

That’s a good question, as this month we listen to the challenging words of St. James. If there is a “gospel of prosperity,” Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John didn’t write it, and it isn’t about Jesus. If anything, the Gospels would be called “Gospels of poverty.” Jesus himself was born in poverty. Had he wished to extol riches and prosperity, he would have been born into the lap of luxury. But God chose the poverty of a stable.

Although the subject of riches and poverty appears in all the Gospels, Luke writes about it the most. It is thought that Luke was concerned about this topic because he came from wealth and dealt with people of means. Luke sees money and goods as dangerous to salvation. Although “nothing will be impossible for God” (Luke 1:37), Luke uses the image of a camel passing through the eye of a needle to explain that this impossible task is easier than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven (Luke 18:25). Scary words. Yet, poverty itself is not hailed as good, nor are riches condemned in themselves. It’s what wealth does to people that is the core issue. When we focus on riches and possessions, we risk turning from God and growing deaf to the cries of the poor. Possessions and wealth are to be shared, not hoarded. ●



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask ourselves: how is my capacity to listen going?Think about family life: how many times do we talk without listening first, repeating the same things, always the same things!....

The healing of the heart begins with listening....

We hear the words of Jesus addressed to us:

“Ephphatha, be opened!” Open your ears.

ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Monday

September 9

St. Peter Claver, Priest

1 Cor 5:1–8

Lk 6:6–11

Tuesday

September 10

Weekday

1 Cor 6:1–11

Lk 6:12–19

Wednesday

September 11

Weekday

1 Cor 7:25–31

Lk 6:20–26

Thursday

September 12

Weekday

1 Cor 8:1b–7, 11–13

Lk 6:27–38

Friday

September 13

St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

1 Cor 9:16–19, 22b–27

Lk 6:39–42

Saturday

September 14

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b–9

Phil 2:6–11

Jn 3:13–17

Sunday

September 15

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 50:4c–9a

Jas 2:14–18

Mk 8:27–35

Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church

A Roman Catholic Community • Serving the Birdsboro and Douglassville Areas

Dear Women of Immaculate Conception Church:

As the Women's Society embarks on our **88th** year of service to the parish, I would like to take the opportunity to invite each of you to attend the **Annual Covered Dish Social** being held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Please bring a dish you would like to share.

The annual dues of \$10.00 for the 2024-2025 year are now being collected. If you cannot attend the covered dish social, you may place your dues in the collection basket with the envelope addressed to Women's Society. If paying by check, please make payable to the ICC Women's Society. Also, if you have changes in your phone number, address, or email, or any other information, please let us know, and make sure to include your name.

The Officers serving are:

*Gina Maicher, President
Rose Anne Uhrig, Vice President
Anne Palmer, Secretary
Theresa Gaumer, Treasurer*

The Women's Society has played a vital role in meeting the social and economic needs of the church. **We can only continue to do so with your participation and support.**

If you are currently a member but have not regularly attended the meetings in the past, we welcome you to join as many meetings and activities as you can. All women of the parish are encouraged to join the Women's Society and to join in our activities or meetings (check the bulletin for details.) A true sense of belonging is gained, and lifelong friendships are formed, while working and praying side by side for each other and our parish family.

You have been most gracious in the past and we are looking forward to another successful season. All our profits go directly to the church.

Again, thank you for your continued support. We are always in awe of your joyful dedication to our parish family and look forward to serving as an officer. May God bless each of you!

Your fellow servants in Christ,

The ladies of the ICC Women's Society

Please Note – Monthly meetings during the winter months will be held on Saturday mornings at 9:30AM in the social hall. If evenings have not been an option for you consider joining us on Saturday mornings in November, January, & February.

Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church

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Women's Society 2024-2025 Calendar

Wednesday, September 18th, 6:30 p.m.	Covered Dish/Meeting
Saturday, September 21st/Sunday, September 22nd	Bake Sale
Tuesday, October 22nd	<i>Friends Helping Friends at Boscov's</i>
Wednesday, October 23rd, 7:00PM	Meeting
Saturday, October 26 th /Sunday 27th	Bake Sale
Saturday, November 16th, 9:30AM	Meeting
Saturday, November 23rd/Sunday November 24th	Soup Sale
Sunday, December 1st, 11:00AM Mass	Mass for Deceased Members
Sunday, December 1st, 12:30PM	Christmas Luncheon, Location TBD
Saturday, December 14th/Sunday, December 15th	Christmas Cookie Sale & Poinsettia Pickup (Sat 9:00 – 1PM)
Saturday, January 11th, 9:30AM	Meeting
Saturday, January 18th/Sunday, January 19th	Soup Sale
Saturday, February 8th/Sunday, February 9th	BIG Game Bake Sale
Saturday, February 15th, 9:30AM	Meeting
February/March (Candy Making – TBD)	Candy Making/Sale/Pick up Date TBD
Wednesday, March 19th, 7:00PM	Meeting/Agape Service
Wednesday, April 16th, 7:00PM	Meeting
Saturday, April 26th/Sunday, 27th	Bake Sale
Wednesday May 21st, 7:00PM	Meeting
May Fund Raiser	TBD
Sunday, June 1st, 11:00AM	Mass for Living Members
Sunday, June 1st, 1:00PM	Year-End Luncheon, Location TBD

*Please note the change in day & time of meetings during winter months of **November, January, & February.**

* All meetings are held in the Social Hall.

*All dates are subject to change. Please check the bulletin.

*We follow the Daniel Boone School District inclement weather policy. If the school closes or closes early, then we will have **no** meeting or event.