



# Blessings of Many Shapes

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**I**t is always a blessed and holy occasion when parents bring their child to the parish church for baptism. They gather family and friends and proudly present their child to both God and the faith community. Somewhere in the midst of it all, they will wonder who their child will become, what their child's gifts and talents will be, and what hopes and dreams their child will have. Yet like Simeon, who blessed the Holy Family in the Temple, they will also realize that life is not always favorable to us. As Simeon foretold, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many...and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Luke 2:34–35).

Although we recognize that suffering is a part of everyone's life, and we would never wish it upon a child, we might hope that the child does not run from every suffering, for it becomes the path to wisdom and compassion—perhaps the only path. We might also wish on the child a bit of loneliness, for it teaches us to treasure friends. And amid hoping for the blessing of success, losing can also be a gift and a blessing, for it is how we learn to deal with failure and understand the important lesson that we cannot always have our own way. Failure can be the seed of humility. Fortunately, while doing our best as parents, we must allow God to decide how our children will be blessed and what will nurture their growth into the image of Jesus. We simply present them to God from whom they came. ●

## Reflect

***Call to mind someone you love deeply and remind yourself that God loves him or her even more.***



When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] took [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

LUKE 2:22

# 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	Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645..... <a href="http://www.icaberks.org">www.icaberks.org</a>
Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi	Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC, 800-791-9209
Parish Office .....610 582-2411	Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS, 610-871-5200, Ext 2204
Parish Religious Education/CCD .....610 582-3880	Diocese of Allentown website..... <a href="http://www.allentowndiocese.org">www.allentowndiocese.org</a>
Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645	Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop,
Parish Website..... <a href="http://www.icbvm.org">www.icbvm.org</a>	please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at <a href="http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org">www.ReportBishopAbuse.org</a>
Confessions Saturday .....4:00 to 5:00PM	or by calling 800-276-1562

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – FEB 2, 2025

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Father Joseph Barnes

SAT 5:15 PM Helen Schwendt 18 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	THUR 7:00PM Jeannette Burrell
SUN 7:30 AM Alice & Robert Arantowich	FRI 7:30AM Ralph & Agnes Bascelli
9:00 AM Our Parishioners	SAT 5:15PM William Sudzina, S.J.
11:00 AM David Mollura	SUN 7:30AM Bob Thomas, Jr.
MON No Mass	9:00AM Rose Copeland
TUES 7:00 PM Ron Schwendt	11:00AM Sonny Motta
WED 7:30AM Victor Gonzalez	

### 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, 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, Lois Muldowney, Arlene Schaeffer, Shelly Weiler, Steven Blanyar, Jennifer Gruber, Shawn Kaeser, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, Ralph Rapposelli, Joe Dantas, Debbie Simcock, Wanda Palmieri, Msgr. Nevin Klinger, Barbara Wright, Beppy McGee, Mary Louise Myers, Jerry Miscovich, John Kuszniir, Joseph Ondo, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Clara Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribanick, Rosemary Williamson, Tony Guilliams, Bob Warunek, Sharon Painter, Cletus McLaughlin, Edward Zawora, Rose Kubovcsak, Lyn Weidenhammer, Caraline Herb, Henry Wade, Jr., Joe Bailey, Daniel McLaughlin, Ann Hay & Tony Zampella.

Welcome the Newly Baptized: Levi John McKeever.

Please pray for the recently deceased: Mary Lou Myers & Cynthia Lynch.

**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)**

**Hospital Visitations: If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, call the parish office at 610-582-2411.**

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 FASHION.

610-582-2411

***Daily Mass Schedule: Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, February 3, 2025. Thank you.***

***Come and be Spiritually Refreshed!***

Our parish OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) The Program for 2024-25 continues on Feb 3rd at 7pm. We meet in the Lower Level Meeting Room in the office building. Visit the parish website (select Religious Education, then OCIA) or program registration info or contact the Parish Office at 610-582-2411.

First Friday Communion Calls: Please know that Monsignor McCann and Deacon Bardi bring Holy Communion to our parishioners who are sick and homebound on the First Friday of each month. If you or a member of your family is unable to attend Mass because of illness or infirmity, please call the parish office at 610-582-2411 and we will gladly bring Holy Communion to you.

CCD/Religious Education Inclement Weather Procedures: Please be advised that if the Daniel Boone Area School District is closed or dismisses early due to inclement weather our CCD (Religious Education) classes that day are also cancelled.

The Women's Society will host their BIG Game Bake Sale on February 8th and 9th. Stop by the table and pick up a few goodies to enjoy while you are watching the Super Bowl! We will be accepting donations of baked goods before all Masses. Even if you are not a member, if you love to bake and would like to make one of your family favorites, we will be most grateful for your donation.

Family Mass - On February 9th at the 9am Mass, we will celebrate the children and families of our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception. This inspiring and family-friendly event will bring together our cherished families, children, and the broader Parish community. We cordially invite you to join us for this special Mass, as it offers an incredible opportunity to build our community, nurture friendships, and create lasting memories. Participate in Mass alongside our talented Immaculate Conception Academy students, who will serve in key roles in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After Mass, enjoy a delightful Social Sunday reception in the Social Hall.

Our parish Grief Support Group meets monthly, and you will find understanding and guidance as you strive to live without your loved one. Next meeting: Tues Feb 4 at 2pm in the Church. Call/text Toni 610 404-1389 for more info.

## 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!*

If you are a coach, or interested in coaching for the CYO, the last coaches clinic for the 24/25 school year will be held on Saturday March 1st at our own Immaculate Conception Church. It is a one-time requirement for all rostered coaches, to be completed within the first year of coaching. Please register at <https://tinyurl.com/y228r5fn>

***A Request for Prayers: Please keep parishioners Shawn and Michol Kaeser & their family in your thoughts & prayers. Shawn is in end stage kidney failure & is in need of a transplant. Shawn is currently receiving dialysis & is on the transplant list. Please pray that a donor may soon be found. To learn more about organ donation, please call Shawn at 610-906-2833 or contact him by e-mail at [skaeser1969@icloud.com](mailto:skaeser1969@icloud.com). The Kaeser family thanks you for your prayers & support. For additional information about becoming a living donor, please call 610-402-8506 or visit***

[www.lvhn.org/livingdonor](http://www.lvhn.org/livingdonor)

#### A Simple Act of Care for 2025

As we pause and reflect on our blessings after the holidays and a busy winter season ahead, the Diocese of Allentown invites you to show simple act of care to yourself, your loved ones, and even [Parish]: **creating your will**. In thanks for your support, we partner with **FreeWill** so you can make a will and find peace of mind. It's completely free to use. Please scan the QR code or visit



<https://allentowndiocese.mygiftlegacy.org/> to get started

# Dear Padre,

**What happened to Candlemas? When I was a child, there was one day when everyone brought candles to church to have them blessed. At the end of Mass, the priest would bless everyone's throats with the candles.**

Candlemas is another name for our celebration of the Presentation of the Lord: the day Mary and Joseph presented their child to God in the Temple at Jerusalem in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:22–38). We remember how the elderly believers Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus as their longed-for Messiah and how, addressing God in a canticle, Simeon proclaimed Christ to be “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel” (Luke 2:32).

Mass on this day often begins with the blessing and lighting of candles, which the priest and people carry into the church. The name Candlemas springs from this ritual blessing.

The day after the feast of the Presentation is the memorial celebration of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr. According to tradition, St. Blaise was instrumental in healing a person who was choking. The Church remembers this encounter and celebrates the intervention of the Spirit of God through the blessing of throats, using the blessed candles from the feast of the Presentation. It is a wonderful and very practical spiritual practice that is much appreciated and anticipated each year. ●



EVGAMBRILOV / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, 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*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
February 3 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 11:32–40 Mk 5:1–20	February 4 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 12:1–4 Mk 5:21–43	February 5 <i>St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i> Heb 12:4–7, 11–15 Mk 6:1–6	February 6 <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> Heb 12:18–19, 21–24 Mk 6:7–13	February 7 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 13:1–8 Mk 6:14–29	February 8 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 13:15–17, 20–21 Mk 6:30–34	February 9 <i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Is 6:1–2a, 3–8 1 Cor 15:1–11 or 15:3–8, 11 Lk 5:1–11



DANIEL IBAÑEZ / CNA

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Like Simeon, let us also pick up this child, the God of newness and surprises.... Let us be restless, let us be moved by the Spirit, like Simeon and Anna.... If, like them, we live in expectation, we will embrace Jesus, who is the light and hope of life.**

**HOMILY, ROME, FEBRUARY 2, 2024**