



They left everything
and followed him.

LUKE 5:11



Unsolicited Calls

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Sometimes life calls us to a place that feels just right, as if it's where we're meant to be. I know a person who has always wanted to be a dad, and so he is—a stay-at-home dad of three, and he loves it. On the other hand, sometimes life's calls unfold in directions beyond our plans and seem to flow from a wisdom greater than our own. Author John Grisham studied to be a lawyer, something that unfolded into his becoming a writer of mysteries and thrillers instead. Calls seem to be written upon our spirits. How else would God call us?

Isaiah, Paul, and Peter found themselves called by God into lives they never wanted, baffled by God's whys and wherefores. Their calls pushed them into lives they initially resisted.

Such calls can happen to us as well. A man finds himself caring for his aged mother after his father's death. His siblings seem unwilling or unable to help, so there is no one else. Grandparents find themselves raising their grandchildren because their son's or daughter's life is frayed beyond repair, and there is no one else to nurture and love the children. The calls of God at times are calls into lives not of our own choosing. They arise from greater needs when there seems to be no one else but us to say "yes." Our reluctance and anxiety may attest that these calls come from God. They then become paths to ever-deepening faith and trust in God. ●

Reflect

***Do you experience God calling you?
What is your answer?***

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 www.icbvm.org secretary@icbvm.org ccd@icbvm.org

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCannPastor	Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645..... www.icaberks.org
Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi	Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC, 800-791-9209
Parish Office610 582-2411	Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS, 610-871-5200, Ext 2204
Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880	Diocese of Allentown website..... www.allentowndiocese.org
Parish Preschool610 404-8645	Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop,
Parish Website..... www.icbvm.org	please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org
Confessions Saturday4:00 to 5:00PM	or by calling 800-276-1562

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES – FEB 9, 2025

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Anthony Volpiccini

SAT	5:15 PM	Brother William Sudzina, S.J.	THUR	7:00PM	Anne Hiryak 5 th Anniversary
SUN	7:30 AM	Bob Thomas, Jr.	FRI	7:30AM	Josephine & Barney Roberti
	9:00 AM	Rose Copeland		9:00AM	Our Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Sonny Motta	SAT	5:15PM	Marcia Marks
MON		No Mass	SUN	7:30AM	Wagner Family
TUES	7:00 PM	Anthony Volpiccini		9:00AM	Theona Kozak
WED	7:30AM	Paul Vignone		11:00AM	Our Parishioners

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!



**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, 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 Kusznir, 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: Imogene Michele Haynes.

Please welcome the Colin & Allison Wilson Family & Olivia Hall to the Parish.

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

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, 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, February 10, 2025. Thank you.

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 Bake Sale on February 15th & 16th. Stop by the table and pick up a few goodies. We will be accepting donations of baked goods before all Masses.

Berks Catholic High School Presents: "Cinderella: Enchanted Edition" Step into the magic this spring! Friday, February 28 @ 7:00 PM, Saturday, March 1 @ 2:00 PM Franco-Post Auditorium

955 E. Wyomissing Blvd Reading, PA 19611
Join us for a magical retelling of the timeless story of Cinderella, the musical based on the classic fairy tale and featuring enchanting songs by Rodgers & Hammerstein. This show is full of wonder, laughter, and unforgettable music that will transport you to a land where dreams really do come true.

Ticket Information: Tickets are available at the door. Adults \$15 – Seniors \$10, Students \$5 Bring your friends, family, & loved ones an unforgettable evening.

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>

Part-time positions: Mary's Shelter is seeking part time Youth Advocates who have the desire help homeless youth – teaching them life skills through Positive Youth Development. We create a safe and supportive environment while motivating youth to explore education, employment, and housing opportunities. We are currently seeking part time staff for a variety of shifts and days. If you have experience or want to learn to work with youth and want to make a difference in a young person's life, we look forward to hearing from you! Please email Sandee Burns, Human Resources, at Sandee@Marysshelter.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!

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. 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

Pope John Paul II High School will be hosting their annual college fair on Tuesday March 4, 2025. Pope John Paul II High School College Fair March 4, 2025 6-8pm in PJP Main Gym 181 Rittenhouse Rd. Royersford PA Free & Open to the Public - No registration required

Over 70 Colleges in attendance

Rosary Prayer Group – Tuesdays, 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, place your intentions in the box in the narthex.

Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception is blessed with many active groups and organizations. So as to ensure that everyone can utilize the facilities of our parish including the social hall and meeting rooms, it is imperative that group leaders contact the parish office at 610-582-2411 or secretary@icbvm.org to schedule events and reserve spaces. The times to be reserved not only pertain to the event itself but also any time needed for set-up and/or clean-up of the event

Dear Padre,

Who was St. Valentine? Do our Valentine's Day traditions of love and romance have anything to do with the actual St. Valentine?

There were actually three St. Valentines. One was a priest who was beheaded in Rome on February 14 in the year 269. Another was a bishop, who was also martyred in the third century. Both are buried on the Appian Way in Rome. The third St. Valentine is a lesser-known saint who died in Africa with a number of companions during the early centuries of the Church. The tomb of this St. Valentine became a center of popular devotion in the early Middle Ages. In 496, Pope Gelasius set aside February 14 to honor this particular St. Valentine.

The popular romantic customs that surround our present Valentine's Day trace their origins back to the Middle Ages. The English writer Geoffrey Chaucer noted that halfway through the second month of the year, February 14, the birds begin to choose their mates. For this reason, the day was looked upon as specially consecrated to lovers and as a proper occasion for writing love letters and sending lovers' tokens. People who gave or received these tokens or letters were referred to as "valentines." In the Middle Ages, a legend also developed that St. Valentine the priest left a farewell note for his jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and that he signed that note "From Your Valentine." ●



SOKOR SPACE / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / 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

February 10
St. Scholastica, Virgin
Gn 1:1-19
Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday

February 11
Weekday
Gn 1:20-2:4a
Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday

February 12
Weekday
Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17
Mk 7:14-23

Thursday

February 13
Weekday
Gn 2:18-25
Mk 7:24-30

Friday

February 14
Sts. Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop
Gn 3:1-8
Mk 7:31-37

Saturday

February 15
Weekday
Gn 3:9-24
Mk 8:1-10

Sunday

February 16
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jer 17:5-8
1 Cor 15:12, 16-20
Lk 6:17, 20-26



ANTOINE Y. MEKARY / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

With Jesus, we sail the sea of life without fear...without giving up and saying, "there is nothing more that can be done." Always...there is something beautiful and courageous that can be done, always. We can always start over.... So let us accept the invitation: let us...put out to sea with Jesus!

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 6, 2022