



And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours."

LUKE 6:20

It's All about the Roots

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Where we put down our spiritual roots matters. For some, the old adage "Bloom where you are planted" may offer wisdom; however, the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that if we find ourselves planted in a lava bed or a salty and empty land, we won't do much blooming. We'll be no more than a shriveled, barren bush. So, where we plant our inner spiritual lives makes a difference.

This week's gospel may seem to sap all the joy out of life. Woe if you have money to spend, a banquet to feast on, fun and laughter to dress up your days. Woe to you, it seems to caution, because when you die, the opposite will be your lot. What's so wrong, we wonder, with having cash in our pockets, food on our tables, and a good time once in a while? Life can be downright dreary otherwise.

The answer, of course, is that there is nothing wrong with any of that—unless that's where we put down our roots. In other words, if that's what life is all about, sooner or later, we are likely to discover we have become a barren bush standing in lava waste. Jesus didn't come to suck the joy out of life but to give us a heads up on how to live a life that is full. He hoped we might avoid the lure that can become a wasteland. He hoped we might become "like a tree planted beside the waters that stretches out its roots to the stream" (Jeremiah 17:8). ●

Reflect

Where are your roots? Are you growing and thriving?

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 16, 2025

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Bob Hocker 4th Anniversary

SAT	5:15 PM	Marcia Marks	THUR	7:00PM	Roger Wolf 4 th Anniversary
SUN	7:30 AM	Wagner Family	FRI	7:30AM	Rose White
	9:00 AM	Theona Kozak	SAT	5:15PM	Anne Louise Reeser
	11:00 AM	Our Parishioners	SUN	7:30AM	Our Parishioners
MON		No Mass		9:00AM	Stanley Pinkos
TUES	7:00 PM	Dr Nicholas & Margaret Christ		11:00AM	Stephen Fitzgerald
WED	7:30AM	Susan & William Peterson			

The Second Collection Next Week is the Religious Ministries 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: Msgr. Nevin Klinger, 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, Jerry Miscovich, John Kuznir, 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 & Frances Swiezak.

Congratulate the newly Baptized: Asher Thomas Bobb & Hunter Michael Bobb

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, 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 17, 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,

I have always been an “every Sunday” Catholic. My problem is that holy Communion doesn’t feel that special. I believe that it’s the Body and Blood of Christ, but receiving feels “routine.” Sometimes I’m even distracted while receiving. Help?

Do you remember the story of the transfiguration of Jesus? (See Luke 9:28–36.) Jesus took his three special disciples, Peter, James, and John, up on the mountain, and while Jesus was praying, what did they do? They fell asleep! In the very presence of Jesus, their Lord and Master.

Human beings cannot maintain feelings of awe and ecstasy for long periods of time. We would be exhausted. Feelings don’t always reflect the specialness of the moment. That is why good habits are so important. Feelings may elude us, but we can fall back on the habit of Sunday Mass. Just as two contented, long-married people don’t feel like they did on their honeymoon, they still quietly enjoy the habit of each other’s company.

Lent is coming soon. You might consider shaking up your routine a little. Attend one weekday Mass. Prepare for Sunday Mass by reading the Scriptures for that Sunday and praying the entrance antiphon or the psalm. If you don’t already, consider volunteering as a choir member, lector, or extraordinary minister of holy Communion. Meanwhile, continue to receive holy Communion, giving thanks that it is readily available, and perhaps offer a prayer for communities where Communion every Sunday is not possible. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



REIMER / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



STUDIO ROMANTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus says [his people] are blessed because they are poor. In what sense? In the sense that Jesus’ disciples do not find their joy in money, power, or other material goods; but in the gifts they receive every day from God: life, creation, brothers and sisters, and so on. These are gifts of life.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

Monday

February 17

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday

February 18

Weekday

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday

February 19

Weekday

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22

Mk 8:22–26

Thursday

February 20

Weekday

Gn 9:1–13

Mk 8:27–33

Friday

February 21

Weekday

Gn 11:1–9

Mk 8:34–9:1

Saturday

February 22

The Chair of Saint

Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

Sunday

February 23

Seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time

1 Sm 26:2, 7–9,

12–13, 22–23

1 Cor 15:45–49

Lk 6:27–38