



Living in Fantasy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Filled with the Holy Spirit,
Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into the desert
for forty days, to be tempted by the devil.

LUKE 4:1-2A



I *f I Were a Horse* by Elizabeth Bridgman is a children's story about Jenny, who daydreams about being a horse and then accepts her true reality, as she realizes no one will recognize her as a horse. In the end, she finds that she likes herself as she truly is.

The story may also be a metaphor for our human fantasy about sin, by which we try to redefine the world on our own terms, only to realize that life does not go so well when we do this. It is our stealing by which we pretend that something belongs to us rather than to another. It is our lying that attempts to redefine truth in terms of what we want life to be, rather than in what life really is. It is our addictions that redefine the source of meaning and life not as God, but as ourselves and our wants. Lent brings us face to face with who we are—which is not a horse (real or otherwise), but, by God's design, is a daughter or son of God.

The temptations Jesus experienced in the desert were temptations to define life on his own terms, just as we are often tempted to do. Yet, Jesus was the one who got it right. For him, stones were stones, not bread. Power and glory were God's, not his. He would not put God to the test, thinking he could manipulate God and get God to do what Jesus wanted. Jesus was the faithful one. ●

Reflect

What about my life do I struggle to accept?

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 9, 2025

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Joseph D. Nanni 8th Anniversary and

In Memory of Gus Fredriksen

SAT	5:15 PM	Joseph D. Nanni 8 th Anniversary	THUR	7:00PM	Gus Fredriksen
SUN	7:30 AM	Our Parishioners	FRI	7:30AM	Anthony Pugliese
	9:00 AM	The Carmine & Guila Bascelli Family	SAT	5:15PM	Sandra Morris
	11:00 AM	Linda Domergue	SUN	7:30AM	Michael T. Kilareski
MON	7:30AM	Andrew Lakatos		9:00AM	Frances Bambrick
TUES	7:30AM	Donald B. Burnedt		11:00AM	Our Parishioners
WED	7:30AM	Doris Murtagh			

The Second Collection Next Week is for the Debt Reduction

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS
a part of our
Flock!



Keep in touch with us via email and text!



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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: Pope Francis, Msgr. Nevin J. Klinger, Msgr. Edward Domin, Madge Butto, Pat Fessler, Curt Miller, Loretta Hitchens, Dante Stetina, Barbara Ruby, Kara Morrison, Arlene Shirley, 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, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, Ralph Rapposelli, Joe Dantas, Debbie Simcock, Wanda Palmieri, Barbara Wright, Beppy McGee, Jerry Miscovich, John Kuszniar, Joseph Ondo, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Clara Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribanick, Rosemary Williamson, Nancy Guilliams, 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, Geri Barth, Frances Swiezak, Kathleen Grady & Jeff Stetina.

Congratulate the newly Baptized: Leonardo Joseph Tosco.

Please pray the recently deceased: Tony Zampella, Jonathan R. Lorenzo & George Ruby.

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-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

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.

Come and be Spiritually Refreshed!

Our parish **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)** The Program for 2024-25 continues on **March 10th 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

Daily Mass Schedule: *Please be advised that the Mass on Tuesday, March 11th will take place at 7:30am*

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD EVERY FRIDAY EVENING DURING LENT AT 7:00PM IN OUR PARISH CHURCH. WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL LENTEN TRADITION.

On Wednesday March 12th 2025 at 6PM, we will have an information session for the 2025 Berks County CYO. Track and Field is open to 5th through 8th Grade Girls and Boys who participate in ICC CCD, or attend ICA. Please RSVP so I can communicate any updates, and specific location. <http://bit.ly/41BpVUF> (Location will be dictated by the # of responses and the climate...either Breezeway or Social Hall, Parish Office, etc.)

Eucharistic Adoration

During the 40 days of Lent our church will be open every Wednesday, 7-9pm for Eucharistic Adoration starting on March 12. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the monstrance on the altar. You are welcome to come & spend some quiet time with the Lord Jesus. You may bring your own prayer books, use any of the books in our parish library, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, or just sit and relax and enjoy the peace that comes from simply being in the presence of God. faith. When you come, bring to the Lord your hopes & desires, your dreams and aspirations, your fears & anxieties and entrust all them all to God.

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

Friday Lenten Rosary - Starting Friday, March 7th at 6pm, our parish will be holding a Scriptural Rosary in the church. All are welcome. Make the Rosary a part of your weekly Lent prayer practice, along with Stations of the Cross which follow at 7pm. .

The **Women's Society** will meet Wednesday, March 19th at 7:00 PM in the social hall. At this meeting, an **Agape Service** will be held followed by a quick business meeting. **ALL** women of the parish (member or not) are invited to join us for this special service. Please join us The KoC Lenten Food Drive - Please bring your non-perishable, canned and boxed food donations to Mass & drop them off in the collection bin located in the narthex. Monetary donations are also accepted. All food donations are given to the St. Joseph Pantry of Reading. Monetary donations are presented to the Kennedy House..

EGG HUNT for our parish children age 12 and younger on April 19th at 11am in the social hall. We are collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and cash. A donation box is in the narthex of the church. Thank you for your support!

The 28nd Annual Daniel Boone Optimist Club Spring Craft Show is set for Saturday, April 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Daniel Boone Middle School, 1845 Weavertown Road, Douglassville. Over 120 crafters are attending with their hand-made products. Free admission, free parking, refreshments and raffle.

Dear Padre,

Who decided that fish isn't meat? I really dislike fish; also, it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."

Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law, as written in Latin, states that we must abstain from *carne* (meat), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. In the document "Questions and Answers About Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states, "While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up, like meat. Our fasting isn't just an external discipline—sacrifice for the sake of checking a box. It's supposed to be a sacrifice that leads us closer to God. When we take that deeper step ourselves, then we can invite our friends to go deeper, too. ●



SWEET MARSHALLOW / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus opposes the attractions of evil...by responding to temptations with the word of God, which says not to take advantage...to obtain privileges. Because true happiness and true freedom are not found in possessing, but in sharing; not in taking advantage of others, but in loving them; not in the obsession of power, but in the joy of service.



VATICAN MEDIA

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 6, 2022

Monday

March 10
Lenten Weekday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

March 11
Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

March 12
Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

March 13
Lenten Weekday
Est C:12, 14-16,
23-25
Mt 7:7-12

Friday

March 14
Lenten Weekday
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

March 15
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday

March 16
Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 15:5-12,
17-18
Phil 3:17-4:1 or
3:20-4:1
Lk 9:28b-36

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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