



## Embrace the Darkness

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

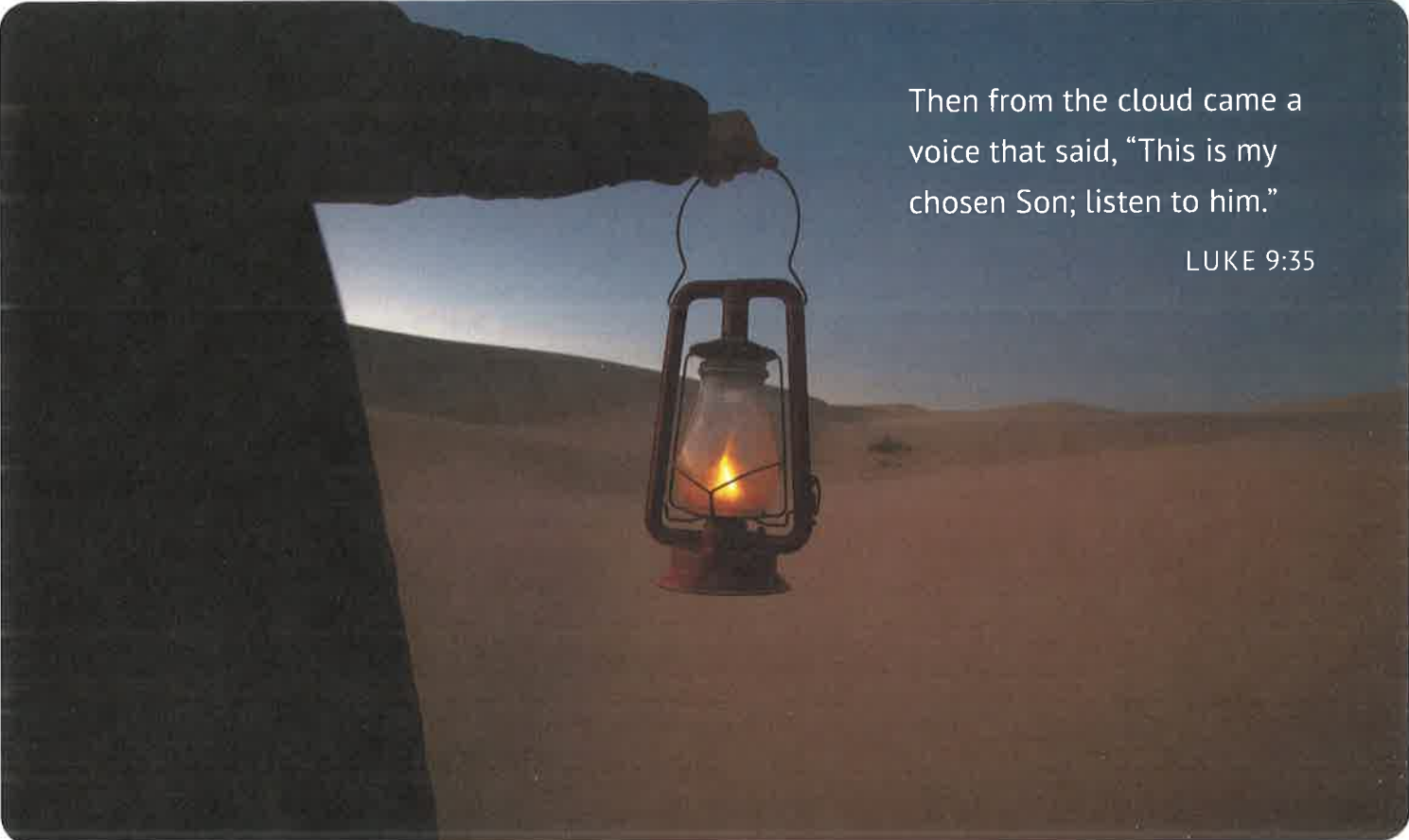
**T**he darkness can be unsettling. As a child, my nightly bedtime ritual included checking beneath my bed as well as in the dark hall closet. One could never know what denizens of harm might be lurking there, hidden in the shadows. As adults, the darkness we fear is no longer what lies hidden about our home. Rather, the darkness we attempt to escape is the unknown forces that have the power to overturn our lives. It is the death of someone we love that plunges us into fear and loss, forcing us to somehow make our way, alone and unsure. It is the frightening medical diagnosis that has the ability to dismantle our planned future. It is the financial security that dissolves before our very eyes. In such darkness, we grope blindly to find our way.

The Book of Genesis notes that a trance came upon Abram, a terrifying darkness that enveloped him. The gospel relays how Peter, James, and John became frightened atop Mt. Tabor when they found themselves in a cloud that obscured their sight. Yet, the darkness became for each of them a place in which they came to know their God in a totally new way; it set them on a new path of faith. It is then that we, too, are forced to surrender trust in our own wisdom.

Unable to see clearly what is in store for us, we can only rely on a new path, trusting that we will be accompanied by our God. ●

### Reflect

*When has life's darkness brought me to a new and deeper faith in God?*



Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

LUKE 9:35

# 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

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 16, 2025

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Monsignor Thomas Birch

SAT 5:15 PM Sandra Morris	THUR 7:00PM Sister Marie Rose Zielinski
SUN 7:30 AM Michael T. Kilareski	FRI 7:30AM Denny McKernan
9:00 AM Frances Bambrick	9:00AM ICA Mass Mary Agnew
11:00 AM Our Parishioners	SAT 5:15PM Our Parishioners
MON 7:30AM God's Blessings on Jeanne Hoffman	SUN 7:30AM Ollie Pribanick 5th Anniversary
TUES 7:00PM God's Blessings on John R. Peterson	9:00AM Elmer Whitaker
WED 7:30AM Thomas Grace, Sr.	11:00AM Bob Hocker 4th Anniversary

### 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: 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 Kuszniir, Joseph Ondo, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Clara Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribanick, Rosemary Williamson, Nancy Guillems, Tony Guillems, 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 & Larry Palmer.

Please welcome our new parishioners Joseph & Margaret Mack & Family.

Please pray for the recently deceased Robert Pendi

**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**

**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 17th 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

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD EVERY FRIDAY EVENING DURING LENT AT 7:00PM AND AT 1:45PM WITH THE CHILDREN OF THE ACADEMY IN OUR PARISH CHURCH. WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL LENTEN TRADITION.

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.

**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.***

**Friday Lenten Rosary** - Friday, 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. .

**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*

We will begin our clean-up at the ICC Cemetery. If you have any items on gravesites you wish to keep, please visit the Cemetery to retrieve the items prior to of March 30th.

**Operation Rice Bowl** – Fast and pray with your family and make a sacrificial offering to Operation Rice Bowl so as to help those who live with hunger and poverty both at home and abroad. The Rice Bowl is located in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

**The K of C 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..

**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.



**EGG HUNT** for our parish children age 12 and younger on April 19<sup>th</sup> 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!

# Dear Padre,

***Does the Church teach how we should dress to go to Mass?  
Maybe I'm just old-fashioned, but the way some people dress  
seems very disrespectful.***

Church teaching, dogmas, doctrines, and creedal formulations are not the specific resources to consult in order to answer this question. It is properly a matter of discipline and practice, although the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does direct that “bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey respect” (1387). There are many commentaries on what exactly “respect” might mean.

It would be very difficult to establish a universal dress code. The many different cultures, climates, and particular circumstances of a specific Catholic community make a dress code unmanageable. It seems that you judge the local practice not up to your standards. Your judgment may be correct, or you may have unreasonable expectations. There was a time when “Sunday best” was the established norm. In other communities, the expectation would be “business casual” as a bare minimum. Now, it seems standards and practices are very fluid and flexible. All of this being said, it is ultimately a pastoral concern, not doctrinal or dogmatic. Try not to allow how other people dress distract you from your purpose at Mass. While they may not look like you imagine they should, their prayer might be genuine and heartfelt. ●



BRICOLAGE / SHUTTERSTOCK

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***After the labors of each day, it will do  
us good not to switch off the light in the  
room without placing  
ourselves in the light  
of God.... Wonder  
at the boundless  
love of God, who  
never tires of us  
and has the power  
to transfigure our  
days, to give them a new  
meaning, a new, unexpected light.***



**ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 13, 2022**

UNSPLASH

### Monday

March 17  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Dn 9:4b–10  
Lk 6:36–38

### Tuesday

March 18  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 1:10, 16–20  
Mt 23:1–12

### Wednesday

March 19  
*St. Joseph, Spouse  
of the Blessed  
Virgin Mary*  
2 Sm 7:4–5a,  
12–14a, 16  
Rom 4:13, 16–18,  
22  
Mt 1:16, 18–21,  
24a or Lk 2:41–51a

### Thursday

March 20  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 17:5–10  
Lk 16:19–31

### Friday

March 21  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Gn 37:3–4, 12–  
13a, 17b–28a  
Mt 21:33–43,  
45–46

### Saturday

March 22  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Mi 7:14–15, 18–20  
Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

### Sunday

March 23  
*Third Sunday of  
Lent*  
Ex 3:1–8a, 13–15  
1 Cor 10:1–6,  
10–12  
Lk 13:1–9

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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