



God of Justice, God of Mercy

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Life is not fair. Even though we know this, we expect God to be fair, which may be what irks so many about the Parable of the Lost Son. There is a part of our skewed human nature that agrees with the older son in the story. It certainly seems that the younger son was able to have his cake and eat it too, while the older son could only sit by and watch, missing out on the devil-may-care part of life. It didn't seem fair, and the older son said so.

The point of the story does seem to be that God is both just and merciful, but if ever one of those virtues seems to give way to the other, then, from God's perspective, divine mercy always trumps worldly justice. We,

however, think that's not fair. We grow suspect of deathbed conversions, worried that the person is trying to have life both ways. But do we give thought to the suffering such a life without God might entail? The humiliation and near starvation of the younger son as he lived his self-indulgent life?

We think we want God to be fair, but do we really?

In C.S. Lewis' novel, *Till We Have Faces*, one character asks another if the gods are just, to which is replied, "Oh, child, pray that they are not!" Do we really want to be treated with justice, getting exactly what we deserve and no more?

Or do we want to let God be God and be treated with mercy? ●

Reflect

Does my life seem unfair? More fair or less fair compared with others?

"Now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."

LUKE 15:32



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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

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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 |

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 30, 2025

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory Of Stephen A. Mammarella 7th Anniversary
And In Memory of Philip and Mary Morici*

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| SAT 5:15 PM Stanley Pinkos | THUR 7:00PM Sister Marie Rose Zielinski |
| SUN 7:30 AM Stephen A. Mammarella 7 th Anniversary | FRI 7:30AM John Robinson |
| 9:00 AM Marie Kozak | 9:00AM ICA MASS Nancy Iezzi |
| 11:00 AM Gerald Wright | SAT 5:15PM Francis Miller |
| MON 7:30AM Our Parishioners | SUN 7:30AM Charles Wagner |
| TUES 7:00PM Stella Powaski | 9:00AM Josie & Gus Fredriksen |
| WED 7:30AM John Effinger | 11:00AM Our Parishioners |

The Second Collection Next Week is the Church Building & Parish Maintenance 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: 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 Kusznir, Joseph Ondo, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Clara Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribarick, Rosemary Williamson, Nancy Guilliams, Tony Guilliams, Bob Warunek, Sharon Painter, Cletus McLaughlin, Carol Zawora, Rose Kubovcsak, Lyn Weidenhammer, Caraline Herb, Henry Wade, Jr., Joe Bailey, Daniel McLaughlin, Ann Hay, Geri Barth, Kathleen Grady, Jeff Stetina, Larry Palmer, Chris Owens & Donna Casper.

Please pray for the recently deceased: Edward Zawora, Gary L Romig, Sr. & Michael Daiello.

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

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 31st 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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO AFTERNOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 DUE TO AN EARLY DISMISSAL AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY. THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS ARE HELD EVERY FRIDAY EVENING DURING LENT AT 7:00PM. WE INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL LENTEN TRADITION.

Eucharistic Adoration

During the 40 days of Lent our church is open every Wednesday, 7-9pm for Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament is 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

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

ICC CYO Spring Track and Field Registration is open NOW until April 1st 2025. Track and Field is open to **5th through 8th Grade Girls and Boys** who participate in ICC CCD, or attend ICA. <https://bit.ly/4hdZzwG> and <https://iccyoberks.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

Our parish **Grief Support Group** meets monthly,. Next meeting: **Tues., April 1, at 7pm in the Church**. If you are planning to come, please call/text Toni 610 404-1389 for more information.

The **Esto Vir** group will meet in the meeting room in the Lower Level of the church office Building on **Saturday April 5th at 8:30 am**. The series centers on teaching everything you need to know about how the Bible took form. Coffee and donuts will be available starting at 8 am. The meeting will start at 8:30 am and will end at 10 am. A reminder that we will be cleaning the church after the meeting. If you have the time to help, it would be appreciated. We will finish cleaning by noon. If you can help, please go to the church social hall after the meeting

The K of C Lenten Food Drive - Please bring your non-perishable, canned and boxed food donations to Mass & drop them 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.. **Amity Township Crime Watch is Sponsoring the Annual Shredding Even on Saturday, April 26, 2025 9am-Noon, at the Redner's Parking Lot in Douglassville.**

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!

Dear Padre,

***Is it OK if I receive holy Communion more than once a day?
Part of my routine is to go to early morning Mass in my parish,
even on days I know I'm going to another Mass, like a wedding
or funeral, or sometimes another Mass for that day.***

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that by the very nature of what the Eucharist intends and celebrates, those who participate in the great mystery of our faith should “receive the Lord’s Body” (1388). In other words, reception of holy Communion is strongly recommended and is understood as the ordinary practice for all who participate in the Mass. Proper preparation and disposition are presumed as both necessary and important.

In response to a specific “dubium” or question about this practice and expectation, in 1984 the Pontifical Commission on the Code of Canon Law issued an authentic interpretation of the Church’s understanding of this practice. It mandated that “the faithful may receive the Holy Eucharist only a second time on the same day” (CCC, 1388, footnote 222). This directive is intended to establish the general norm and practice for the reception of holy Communion. Your practice, as a result of this norm, is directly representative of the understanding of the Church. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / 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 | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| March 31 | April 1 | April 2 | April 3 | April 4 | April 5 | April 6 |
| Lenten Weekday | Lenten Weekday | Lenten Weekday | Lenten Weekday | Lenten Weekday | Lenten Weekday | Fifth Sunday of Lent |
| Is 65:17–21 | Ez 47:1–9, 12 | Is 49:8–15 | Ex 32:7–14 | Wis 2:1a, 12–22 | Jer 11:18–20 | Is 43:16–21 |
| Jn 4:43–54 | Jn 5:1–16 | Jn 5:17–30 | Jn 5:31–47 | Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30 | Jn 7:40–53 | Phil 3:8–14 |
| | | | | | | Jn 8:1–11 |



THE PRODIGAL SON, PETER PAUL RUBENS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

There was a pop theatre production...about the prodigal son.... [The son writes a letter]: “Father, I have repented, I want to come back home.... If you want to welcome me, please put a white handkerchief in the window.” And when he was near home...what did he see? Not one handkerchief: it was full of white handkerchiefs, the windows, everywhere!

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 27, 2022