



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

JOHN 20:1



## Bit by Bit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**L**ooking for proof of the resurrection is like looking for proof of love. Sometimes, we realize only gradually—bit by bit—that we are loved. John's Gospel abounds with images of light and darkness. So when this Sunday's Easter Gospel recounts Mary of Magdala going to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark, the gospel is not simply marking the time of day. It's noting that what was taking place was before they believed in the resurrection, when they were still in the dark. All sorts of hints about the resurrection begin to occur: Mary sees the stone rolled away, Peter and the other disciple go to the tomb and find the burial cloths. They see the cloth that had covered his head rolled up and set aside. No apparition of Jesus, no men in white garments, no angels. Only hints that with the resurrection of Jesus,

God has made all life new and destined for resurrection.

What, then, might one do who is plagued by doubts? Look for hints of resurrection, of life coming about where one expects only death (as if to symbolically enter the tomb). What types of hints? Going for counseling, as frightening as that may be, and finding peace. Talking through a problem in marriage. Finding that empty-nesting gives way to new life. Discovering retirement's gifts. Making a dreaded move to a new city or school. The resurrection of Jesus means God makes all life new. We only need to see it and discover that, bit by bit, it leads to faith. ●

### Reflect

***What are the hints of resurrection surrounding me? Have I missed any?***

# 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  
Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi  
Parish Office .....610 582-2411  
Parish Religious Education/CCD .....610 582-3880  
Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
Parish Website.....[www.icbvm.org](http://www.icbvm.org)  
Confessions Saturday .....4:00 to 5:00PM

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....[www.icaberks.org](http://www.icaberks.org)  
Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC, 800-791-920  
Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS, 610-871-5200, Ext 2  
Diocese of Allentown website.....[www.allentowndiocese.org](http://www.allentowndiocese.org)  
Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at [www.ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://www.ReportBishopAbuse.org) or by calling 800-276-1562

## EASTER SUNDAY

## APRIL 20, 2025

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Helen & Frank Janiszewski*

SAT 8:00 PM Easter Vigil  
SUN 7:30 AM Easter Memorial Envelopes  
9:00 AM Easter Memorial Envelopes  
11:00 AM Easter Memorial Envelopes  
MON 7:30AM No Mass  
TUES 7:00PM No Mass  
WED 7:30AM Michael Santos

THUR 7:00PM Josephine, Peter & John Bogus  
FRI 7:30AM Anna & Joseph Lastochie and Pasquale Appolino  
SAT 5:15PM Paul Kakalecik  
SUN 7:30AM Irene & John Palko  
9:00AM Linda Estelle  
11:00AM Our Parishioners

*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](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 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, Carole 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, Jeffrey Painter, Shirley Giordano & Eileen Filachek.

Please pray for the deceased: Larry Jagielski

***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.***

Dear Parishioners,

Easter Sunday celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus, the crowning truth of our faith. On this most holy day, during the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, each of us is afforded the opportunity to renew the promises of our baptism.

Today, we reject sin and all its empty promises and express anew our faith in Jesus Christ who suffered, died, and was buried and rose again on the third day. Jesus Christ is indeed our hope and our salvation.

I pray that God will bless you and your family with joy and happiness today and throughout the Easter season and, as always, I assure you of my continued prayers and best wishes. God bless you and Happy Easter!

*Monsignor John McCann*

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OUR PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY, 11 AM-3PM. IF YOU CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AND NO ONE IS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER YOUR CALL, PLEASE LEAVE A DETAILED MESSAGE, YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED IN A TIMELY FASHION, 610-582-2411.

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**Daily Mass Schedule:** Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> & Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

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Our parish OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults) continues on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7pm. We meet in the Lower Level Meeting Room in the office building.

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**BERKS CATHOLIC YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEERLEADING- 2025 Season Registration is now open-** This year you can register online by going to - <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/475623>

This program is open to girls and boys enrolled in Berks County Parochial Schools. Some age and grade restrictions do apply. FOR MORE INFO AND COST: [WWW.LEAGUELINEUP.COM/BCYFAC](http://WWW.LEAGUELINEUP.COM/BCYFAC)

We also invite you to join us at our **MEET & GREET on JUNE 5TH @ BCHS from 6-7:30PM**. You can also follow us on Facebook by going to: Berks Catholic Youth Football and Cheer-2020 and Beyond. For info call Danielle Fowler 610-374-1695 or email [DFOWLER@BERKSCATHOLIC.ORG](mailto:DFOWLER@BERKSCATHOLIC.ORG) For questions contact: Danielle Fowler 610-374-1695 or [DFOWLER@BERKSCATHOLIC.ORG](mailto:DFOWLER@BERKSCATHOLIC.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](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 appreciated!*

### **OUR LADY'S MISSIONARIES OF THE EUCHARIST**

Invites you to **DIVINE MERCY WEEKEND**

Very Rev. Basil Cole, OP,STD,STM

Prof. Emeritus of Moral & Spiritual Theology

Saturday, April 26:

Holy Hour at 6:30pm Evening Prayer & Confession

Sunday, April 27:

Holy Hour at 9:00am with Divine Mercy Devotions/Rosary/Confessions

Holy Mass at 11:30am

Lunch Break at 12:30pm

Conference at 2:00pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00pm

Evening Prayer at 3:15pm

Registration is required. Space is limited.

Go to [www.olme.org/events](http://www.olme.org/events).

Location 640 E. Main St Birdsboro

The Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus of the United States Province invite you to share in their year-long celebration. On August 23, 2025, the celebration continues when MSC Sisters and friends gather for a Mass celebrated by Bishop Alfred Schlert at Holy Guardian Angels and a luncheon at the DoubleTree in Reading, to commemorate 125 years of service to God's people around the world.

We invite you to rejoice with us this year through prayer and through participation in our 2025 Nun Run, MSC Oktoberfest, and various other occasions so that together we may express gratitude for the many blessings God has bestowed on us and on all whom we have served in 21 countries these past 125 years.



# Dear Padre,

***I was baptized as a baby, but I never really went to church. Lately, I've been attending Mass. Are there steps I should take before I receive Communion?***

The first step is to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). This is a wonderful opportunity to be officially welcomed back into full practice with the Church. After such a long absence, it is important to examine your conscience and celebrate the forgiveness of the Lord before you receive holy Communion.

I would also recommend that you “beef up” your understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. You might do this by participating in your parish’s process for the Christian Initiation of Adults (called OCIA or sometimes RCIA). The Liguori Publications program, *Journey of Faith*, is one resource used by many parish communities. Another possibility is to use some of the resources offered online, such as Bishop Robert Barron’s *Word on Fire* website, which has a fine reputation.

I am happy you have responded to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within you and answered the call to deepen your spiritual practice and journey. The Church needs you. The people of God welcome you. You are beloved among us, and your response in faith is a powerful witness, a reminder to those who may be tempted to take for granted the gift of faith. Thank you. ●



*A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class.* LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27
Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Second Sunday of Easter /
Acts 2:14, 22-33	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 4:13-21	Sunday of Divine Mercy
Mt 28:8-15	Jn 20:11-18	Lk 24:13-35	Lk 24:35-48	Jn 21:1-14	Mk 16:9-15	Acts 5:12-16
						Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
						Jn 20:19-31

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***We welcome the Easter message: “Peace be with you!” Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!... Let there be a decision for peace.... Please, please, let us not get used to war!... May the leaders of nations hear people’s plea for peace.***

**URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 17, 2022**

**The ICC Women's Society**  
**will be sponsoring a**  
**Spring Garden Geranium Sale**  
**4" pot for \$5**



All orders **must** be in NO later than **May 4<sup>th</sup>**.

Pick up will be in the **Social Hall** on **Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**between 9AM – 12 noon.**

Please return the below order form with your payment (made out to ICC Women's Society) in an envelope marked Women's Society in the **collection basket** or give it to any member of the **Women's Society**.

Any questions call Gina Maicher at (610) 223-5088

Cut here

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**Name:**

**Phone:**

We will be offering the following colors (please check all that apply with the quantity of each:

# \_\_\_\_\_ RED

# \_\_\_\_\_ PINK

# \_\_\_\_\_ White