



Jesus said to them, "Come, have breakfast." And none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they realized it was the Lord.

JOHN 21:12

## The Abundance

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**wenty-five years ago, when Carl was about eighteen years old, he asked me how he would know when he had truly fallen in love. How would he know that it wasn't simply infatuation or passion and that she was the right person? Today, Carl tells me that I said something to him about recognizing that if you have to ask the question, it probably isn't love; it is probably the woman who best captures the most attractive aspects of all the women he has ever dated, liked, or loved.

For the next twenty years or so, Carl never seemed to find that love he was seeking—until one day, it happened. He fell in love and got married. Five years later, I asked Carl if it was indeed love. He said he believed it was, even though during those years of empty seeking, he thought true love would never come to him. He also said he's convinced that it was the hand of God that brought them together. Of that, he has no doubts.

In its own way, Carl's story is really the story of Peter and his friends going fishing and finding nothing all night long. Then, at dawn, a voice from the shore suggests that they try the other side of the boat. Lo and behold, an abundance appears where there had been only emptiness. That's when Peter and his friends realize, "It is the Lord!" For us, too, we have those moments when we recognize God's hand in our lives. ●

### Reflect

***Is there a hole in my life that's waiting to be filled? Where am I looking?***

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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[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, 800-791-9209  
Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS, 610-871-5200, Ext 2204  
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

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 4, 2025

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Deacon Charles Giordano*

SAT 5:15 PM Carol Ann McDevitt  
SUN 7:30 AM Marie & Edward Schleifenheimer  
9:00 AM Joyce Mahon  
11:00 AM Lori Morgan  
MON 7:30AM Our Parishioners  
TUES 7:00PM Ron Schwendt  
WED 7:30AM Leon & Lucy Doney

THUR 7:00PM Dr. Nicholas & Margaret Christ  
FRI 7:30AM Jana Lynn Nieckoski  
SAT 5:15PM Our Parishioners  
SUN 7:30AM Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish  
9:00AM Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish  
11:00AM Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish

*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**



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[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: Msgr. Nevin J. Klinger, Msgr. Edward Domin, Madge Butto, 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 & Kathy Giordano, Eileen Filachek. & Irene Hughes.

Please congratulate the newly Baptized: Bridget Nicole, Griffin Daniel & Sabastian Michael Thomer and Nina Elizabeth Neel.

Please pray for the deceased: Pat Fessler

***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.***



## Prayer for the Election of a Pope

O God, eternal shepherd, who govern your flock with unfailing care, grant in your boundless fatherly love a pastor for your Church who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen

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OUR PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY & 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, YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED IN A TIMELY FASHION, 610-582-2411.

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### Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday

Bishop Schlert will celebrate the 11:30 A.M. Mass on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025 at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, Allentown, wherein he will confirm adults of our Diocese. *Those to be confirmed are those adults who were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, received their First Holy Communion, are catechized, but never confirmed.* Please contact Msgr. McCann to discuss the details at 610-582-2411.

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Our parish **Grief Support Group** meets monthly, and you will find understanding and guidance as you strive to live without your loved one. Next meeting: **Tuesday, May 6, at 7pm** in the Church. If you are planning to come, please call/text Toni 610 404-1389

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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!*

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

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**Trout Rodeo – Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM – 1 PM**  
**K – 5<sup>th</sup> grades Rain or Shine**

This free, fun event with prizes and food is sponsored by the Daniel Boone Optimist Club at the South Birdsboro Archery Rod and Gun Club on Geigertown Rd.

Severe weather date: May 17th Check our Facebook Page for more info

Contact Chris Herold at 610-698-7794 with any questions.

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**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.**

# Dear Padre.

***I committed some grave sins many years ago, and I have been to confession to confess and be absolved, but I still feel guilty. Do I need to confess again?***

Absolutely not. There is no need to confess your sins again. This is not required, and it may indicate a lack of faith in the power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Thankfully, the sacrament does not require perfection.

It does not require any additional action on your part other than to be open to the movement of the Spirit of God.

Forgiveness is a gift from God. It is not something you merit. It is not something you earn. And there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive. Rather, it is a blessing you accept gratefully, thankfully, and with a profound knowledge and respect for the mercy of God at work in your life. To confess your sins again and again does nothing except make you feel more guilty. It is a way of punishing yourself; a futile attempt to try to earn what has been freely given. A better use of your time and energy would be to discover a way to remind yourself, not of guilt or imperfection, but of the love God has for you. It is indeed awesome and amazing, as the song so accurately celebrates: "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." ●

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org)**



JESUS CERVANTES / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

### Monday

May 5  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 6:8–15  
Jn 6:22–29

### Tuesday

May 6  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 7:51–8:1a  
Jn 6:30–35

### Wednesday

May 7  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 8:1b–8  
Jn 6:35–40

### Thursday

May 8  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 8:26–40  
Jn 6:44–51

### Friday

May 9  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 9:1–20  
Jn 6:52–59

### Saturday

May 10  
*Easter Weekday*  
Acts 9:31–42  
Jn 6:60–69

### Sunday

May 11  
*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 13:14, 43–52  
Rv 7:9, 14b–17  
Jn 10:27–30



SARAVUTPICS / SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***Brothers and sisters, when our nets are empty in life, it is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves, to take our minds off things, to return to old pastimes. It is time to begin again with Jesus, it is time to find the courage to begin again, it is time to put out to sea again with Jesus.***

**REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 1, 2022**