



To Be or Not to Be...Spiritual

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Just as we may hear the voice of our mother echoing in our head long after she has passed away, in much the same way do we who gather week after week as people of faith begin to hear the words and wisdom of the Lord Jesus. It is how he shepherds us, and how we follow him—by hearing and then living his word.

There are some who say they are not religious, but they are spiritual. Ultimately, to be spiritual is to have a core set of values by which one lives. One's core values can take many shapes. For us, who call ourselves disciples of Jesus, to be spiritual is to take on the values and wisdom of Jesus—to allow his way to take root in the core of who we are. It means living by the wisdom of his word. Being spiritual includes *honesty, gentleness, patience, joy, civility, simple living, mercy, compassion, peace, reverence and awe, obedience, justice, courage, balance in life, humility, chastity, kindness, generosity, lightheartedness, care for the common good, prayerfulness, and respect for all of creation as holy.*

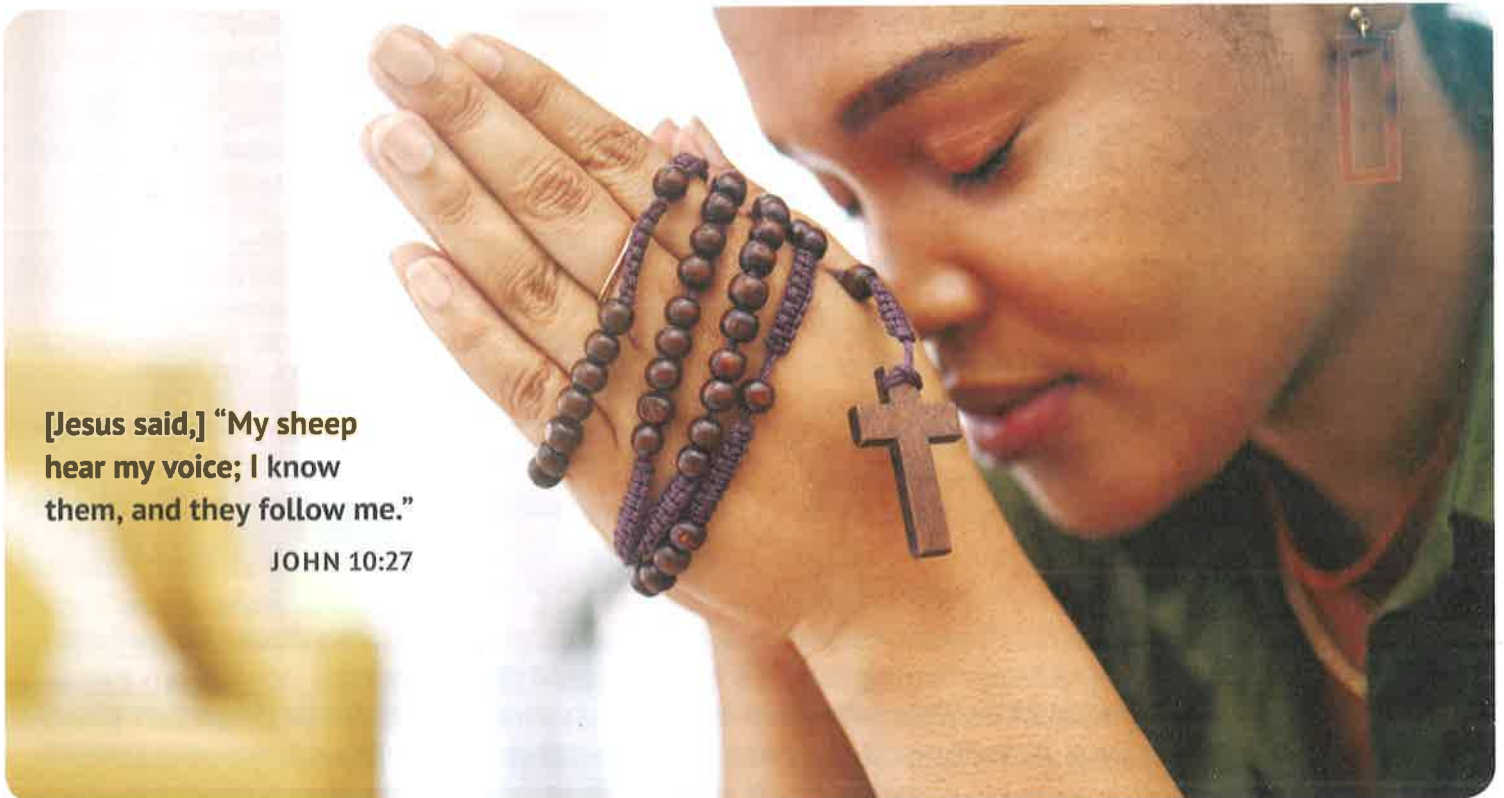
Spirituality is about absorbing the lifestyle of Jesus, about his word echoing in our lives, something that takes a lifetime. Religion, specifically our Catholic faith, is the practice of that spirituality in the company of others who are also trying to put those values into practice. Such practice, including weekly Mass and participation in the sacramental life of the Church, is necessary for the faithful followers of Jesus. ✠

Reflect

**Which qualities of a spiritual person do I have?
What do I need to work on?**

**[Jesus said,] "My sheep
hear my voice; I know
them, and they follow me."**

JOHN 10:27



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCannPastor
Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi
Parish Office610 582-2411
Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
Parish Preschool610 404-8645
Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org
Confessions Saturday4:00 to 5:00PM

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....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
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 or by calling 800-276-1562

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 11, 2025

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Frank Janiszewski

SAT 5:15 PM *Our Parishioners*

SUN 7:30 AM *Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish*
9:00 AM *Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish*
11:00 AM *Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish*

MON 7:30AM *Sophia Lakatosh*

TUES 7:00PM *God's Blessings on Deacon Paul & Cindy
Hiryak on their 46th Wedding Anniversary*

WED 7:30AM *William Peterson, Jr.*

THUR 7:00PM *Mass celebrated by Bishop Schlert
Frank Janiszewski*

FRI 7:30AM *God's Blessings on Kenneth Koller*
9:00AM *Theresa Swisher*

SAT 5:15PM *Our Parishioners*
7:30AM *Jake Maccarone*

9:00AM *Frances Bambrick*

11:00AM *Mary Stumhofer*

The Second Collection Next Week is the Debt Reduction 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: 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 Babiarez, Clara Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribranic, Rosemary Williamson, Nancy Williams, Tony Williams, 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, Irene Hughes, Hugh Chow Lin & Aileen Galazin.
Please congratulate the newly Baptized: Bennett Caldwell
Please welcome our new parishioners: Mark & Stefanie Hostrander and Julie Ann Brodowski

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.

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favorably on your servant Pope Leo XIV, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. 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

Dear Heavenly Father, on this Mother's Day, we lift up mothers in prayer. Grant them strength, patience, and boundless love. May Your grace guide them in their sacred journey of motherhood.

Bishop Alfred Schlert will celebrate the daily Mass in our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday evening, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in thanksgiving for the donors to the Because We Are Catholic Appeal. In the Diocese of Allentown, the annual Because We Are Catholic Appeal is an opportunity to bring the Light of Christ to each other and to our community. Generous donors, including so many of our parishioners, make it possible for the Church to serve thousands of children, families and adults throughout Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Schuylkill counties. Please join us on Thursday evening for this simple Mass of Thanksgiving and join us also in the Social Hall after Mass for light refreshments with the Bishop. All are welcome

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.

Spring Raffle - \$1500 in cash prizes sponsored by the Women's Society

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

The drawing will be held on Sunday, May 25th.

Tickets are available in the narthex

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 appreciated!

Thank you, Immaculate Conception Parish! Our 2025 Lenten Food Drive resulted in 1,324 lbs. of food donations and \$1,500 in monetary gifts for St. Joseph's Food Pantry and Kennedy House Soup Kitchen. May God bless you for your kindness and generosity. The Knights of Columbus, Mary Queen of Peace Council #17145.

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

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 For questions contact: Danielle Fowler 610-374-1695 or DFOWLER@BERKSCATHOLIC.ORG

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.

Dear Padre,

When is it OK to medicate for pain? If my relative is in hospice, should I permit the use of drugs that hasten his or her death?

When someone we love is dying, we do not want him or her to be in pain. It is only natural to want to ease or end all suffering. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers these guidelines: “The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable” (CCC 2279). In other words, it is permissible to medicate for pain, but you must not use narcotics as an end or means to hasten someone’s death—only to alleviate pain and minimize a person’s suffering. To give medication to cause death rather than merely to relieve pain is not allowed.

It is important to have a discussion about the types of treatment a person would want when they are dying. It is also important to have a discussion with your pastor or another priest or chaplain—someone who can help you discern whether the action, the intention, and the circumstances are consistent with Church teaching. Many times, one is forced to make very difficult decisions about medical care, and it is always good to have someone we trust who can help us make the best choice. ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18
<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>St. Matthias, Apostle</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Easter Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>
Acts 11:1–18	Acts 11:19–26	Acts 1:15–17, 20–26	Acts 13:13–25	Acts 13:26–33	Acts 13:44–52	Acts 14:21–27
Jn 10:1–10	Jn 10:22–30	Jn 15:9–17	Jn 13:16–20	Jn 14:1–6	Jn 14:7–14	Rv 21:1–5a
						Jn 13:31–33a, 34–35

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



NANCY BAUER / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

What do those who follow Christ do?... They go to seek those who are lost (cf. Lk 15:4), they take an interest in those who are far away, take to heart the situation of those who suffer, know how to weep with those who weep, they reach out their hands to their neighbors, carrying them on their shoulders.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, MAY 8, 2022