



Late Bloomers

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Human beings grow and mature at different paces. Turning twenty-one is no marker of maturity. We've all known the ten-year-old whom people say is already an old man because of how he thinks and acts. Just as surely, we've known the forty-year-old who still acts and dresses like a teenager. If this is true with human growth, would it not be true as well with growth in faith?

This Sunday's parable of the landowner who pays all his laborers the same even though they have not all worked the same amount of time often sparks the comment that it's not good business sense. But the parable is not about business. It's about how we all come to faith at different times in life, all according to God's plan, not ours. Why then do some complain about deathbed conversions as being unfair? Who's to say when someone finally catches up to God's love and goodness? Too often human wisdom and divine wisdom spin in different worlds.

Pope Benedict XVI once commented on this Gospel's wisdom and how we should be patient with young people as they seek the sacraments. Jesus was patient with us, he said, so we should follow his lead. Federico Lombardi, SJ, the Vatican spokesman for Pope Benedict, reported that the pope had commented, "I used to be more strict about this, but the example of Christ led me to become more welcoming in cases in which, perhaps, there is not a mature and solid faith, but there is a glimmer, a desire of communion with the Church." ●



[The LORD said,]

"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
my thoughts higher than your thoughts."

ISAIAH 55:9

Reflect

Has your faith matured over the years, or have you stopped growing?

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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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

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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Gregory White

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM Ron Schwendt 3rd Anniversary
SUN 7:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 AM Fiorini Family
11:00 AM Jana Lynn Nieckoski 6th Anniversary
MON 7:30 AM Rita McDonnell
TUES 7:00 PM Gregory White
WED 7:30 AM Kenneth Rumler

THURS 7:00 PM Lew Del Grosse
FRI 7:30 AM Mary Varney
SAT 5:15 PM Rita Dougherty
SUN 7:30 AM Rev. Joseph Barnes
9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
11:00 AM Lew Del Grosse

Second Collection Next Week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

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 when the money is withdrawn; weekly or monthly
- † Use your Credit/Debit card or your own checking account
- † At any time, you can see your year-to-date contributions
- † 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!

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Madge Butto, Deb Petras, Fannie Hunter, Pat Fessler, Rita Ferry, Sonny Motta, Curt Miller, Loretta Hitchens, Baby Lucas, Linda Domergue, Dante Stetina, Arlene Shirley, George Ruby, Harriet Yeager, Marjorie Hansen, Mark Vignone, Jason Leman, Ann Washko, Geri Barth, Brianna, Dominic Strock, Anthony Scaglione, Aaron Gulla, Maryanne Emery, Pam Amos, Norma Nanni, Miriam Leman, Marianne Sutton, John Mingione, Henry J. Wade, Lois Muldowney, Terry Swisher, Arlene Schaeffer, Shelly Weiler, Christopher Shirk, Joe Nowotarski, Stephen Blanyar, Dianne Marie Longwell, Jennifer Gazda Gruber, Adele Nieckoski, Alex Lopacki, Shawn Kaeser, Gene Raser, Sharon Rozenberg, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, Tanya Sanders, Louis & Renee Cutillo, Ralph Rapposelli, Marguerite Smolen, Leslie Della Croce, Joe Dantas, Debbie Watson Simcock, Judy Jones, Wanda Palmieri, Msgr. Nevin Klinger, Barbara Wright, Bill Palmer, Baby Thomas Joseph Hafer, Charlotte Glacken, Jack Gramling, Beppe McGee, David Mollura, Edith Ellison, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, Richard McCann, John Kusznr, Nancy Williams, Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan

Pray for the deceased: Nancy Iezzi

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. You may access the live-streaming Mass from our parish website at www.icbvm.org.

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.

We are pleased to announce that SCRIP gift cards are once again available for purchase before and after the 5:15pm and 7:30am Masses. The gift cards sold through the SCRIP program are for everyone who eats, shops and buys groceries. The purchase of a simple gift card to a store where you shop regularly can have an enormous impact in terms of helping our parish family. Thank you.

Women's Society News...

Bake Sale this weekend Stop by the table and pick up a few goodies for your family to enjoy. We are accepting donations of baked goods before all Masses. Even if you are not a member, if you love to bake and would like to make one of your family favorites, we will be most grateful for your donation.

Bosco's Friends Helping Friends - The Women's Society are selling shopping passes in the narthex. This annual shopping event is October 18th, 8am-11pm. Pass is \$5 with 100% of the proceeds to the parish and you receive 25% off the lowest sale prices. Shop in-store only. Enjoy refreshments, entertainment, and a chance at some valuable prizes.

GRIEF SHARING GROUP - October 3rd, 7-8pm in the church office lower-level meeting room. All who grieve are welcome. If you are planning to come, please call or text Toni at 610 404-1389.

OCIA (formerly RCIA) or Order for Christian Initiation of Adults begins October 9, 2023 and is designed to help us learn more about the Catholic Faith. Contact Msgr. McCann or Deacon Hiryak if interested at 610-582-2411 or email secretary@icbvm.org.

Bishop Schlert, in conjunction with the Bishop's Commissions for Women, Men, and Young Adults, cordially invite all high school age students and adult faithful to **Gender Ideology: What Catholics Need to Know Workshop** on October 8, 2-6pm, at Notre Dame of Bethlehem Church, 1861 Catasauqua Rd, Bethlehem. Gender Ideology has permeated our culture, influencing medicine, business, sports, media, entertainment, government, and education. This workshop will provide Catholics with clarity, education, and compassionate guidance. This event is FREE. The workshop will feature two presentations by Mary Rice Hasson, JD from the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington DC, light refreshments, and a Q&A panel!

Info and **register by September 25** (no walk-ins) visit <https://www.allentowndioocese.org/gender-ideology>

In Honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Blessing of Animals will occur on Saturday, October 7th at 3:30 pm in front of the church. Please bring your pets leashed or caged for their safety.

Annual Rosary Rally - October 8th, 3pm - Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, 640 E. Main St., Birdsboro - This is a national event to pray for our Country and Church. Please consider joining us. Lasts about 45 minutes.

Handbell Choir has resumed weekly rehearsals on Tuesday evenings after Mass (7:30-9:00pm).

Adult Vocal Choir has resumed rehearsals on Thursday evenings after Mass (7:30-9:00 pm).

Collection for the Victims of the Wildfires in Hawaii

We have all been made aware of the deadly wildfire that swept the town of Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii. Sadly, the death toll continues to mount, with so many persons still missing. Adding to this tragedy is the almost total destruction of the town. But God works in mysterious ways even in these tragic events. The parish church of Maria Lanakila, an historic Catholic Church, was left unscathed amidst the destruction of the rest of the town. Maria Lankila is translated as Our Lady of Victory. The pastor, Father Kuriakose Nadooparambil, who was permitted to enter the fire area to visit the church, reported that not even the flowers in the church were wilted or singed. There was only a covering of ash on the pews. The parish rectory was also spared but the parish school, convent and hall were destroyed. Despite this "miracle," the parish and town face the immediate need to provide food and shelter for thousands left homeless and the future challenge to rebuild. Recognizing the great need posed by this tragedy, His Excellency Bishop Schlert has authorized a special diocesan collection to be taken up in the parishes of the Diocese of Allentown. The funds raised through this special collection will be transmitted to the Diocese of Honolulu for distribution through the local Catholic Charities office. If you would like to contribute to this endeavor, please place your gift in an envelope marked "Hawaii Wildfire Relief" and place it in the collection basket during the month of September. Thank you very much for your generosity in this regard. Please continue to pray for those who have died, for the families who mourn, for those still missing, for those who have lost their homes and their livelihoods, and for the emergency responders who have gone to their aid. God bless you.

Please join the Saint John Vianney Center on October 20 for a Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of our Clergy and Men and Women Religious. The main event for the day will be a Live-Stream Mass at 11am. We invite you to unite in support and gratitude for the selfless service of our Church Ministers. Visit www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer to register and info.

Check out our website at www.icbvm.org for up-to-date information about activities and Mass times.

Also, if you are leaving the parish, please contact the office at 610-582-2411.

Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church

A Roman Catholic Community • Serving the Birdsboro and Douglassville Areas

Women's Society



Help support Immaculate Conception Church by buying 25% off coupons for Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" fundraiser for \$5 each to be used on **Wednesday, October 18, 2023**.

Here's how it works:

See Carol Janiszewski in the Narthex before or after all masses from September 2 through October 15 to purchase tickets. Cost is \$5 each.

On October 18th, use your coupon to shop at any Boscov's location.

It's as simple as that! You will enjoy awesome in-store discounts, free refreshments, and have the chance to win a \$100 gift card. **The best part is 100% of the proceeds will benefit our Church.** The Women's Society would like to thank you for your support to raising money for our Church.

Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church
905 Chestnut Street
Douglassville, PA 19518

Dear Padre,

When can I take photographs in church? During my niece's baptism, I was told to put my camera away. We have a confirmation and a wedding coming up, and I don't want to get in trouble again.

Reverence and courtesy are the issues here. Reverence keeps in mind that what is real about baptism and all the sacraments does not come out in photos. Courtesy notes that other folks are trying to enter into the awe and joy of the mystery, and people taking photographs can get in the way or distract.

Parishes differ in rules and regulations. Many parishes prohibit the taking of pictures. Certainly taking flash pictures is annoying in a way that taking available-light photos is not. But even with nonflash pictures, the photographer is trying to get around people and into a good spot.

Weddings call for photos from approved photographers. In most United States cultures, photos at funeral Masses are out of place. However, there are exceptions, such as the situation of an infirm woman who was unable to attend her sister's funeral. She was extremely upset until her niece thought to record it with her phone. The pastor had no problem with this solution.

No matter what the situation, it is always best to check with the parish office before the event. If it is permitted, get a few good pictures and then be sure to close your eyes in prayer so you can see what is really going on. ●

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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
September 25 Weekday	September 26 Weekday	September 27 St. Vincent de Paul, Priest	September 28 Weekday	September 29 Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels	September 30 St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church	October 1 Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezr 1:1-6 Lk 8:16-18	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20 Lk 8:19-21	Ezr 9:5-9 Lk 9:1-6	Hg 1:1-8 Lk 9:7-9	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a Jn 1:47-51	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a Lk 9:43b-45	Ez 18:25-28 Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5 Mt 21:28-32



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the laborers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard....It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us.

ANGELUS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017