



## Being Emptied

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

In his book *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Robert Fulghum lists those basic qualities that enable us to negotiate the rest of life somewhat successfully. It's what you might expect the curriculum of kindergarten to be about: being kind, saying you're sorry, getting along with others, and sharing. In short, what we learned in kindergarten is about putting others' needs ahead of our own comfort. It's a kind of emptying of our selfishness that seems to take place.

Unfortunately, the process isn't finished by the time we reach adulthood. We still tend to hoard, slam one another with insults, cheat in business, and neglect to apologize. In spite of that extended learning curve

that seems to take place, we slowly do take on those attitudes noted by Fulghum. Marriage can smooth our rough edges. Children's needs call for self-sacrifice. Aging tends to mellow us. And somewhere along the line we learn that talking things out works better than hitting.

Saint Paul encouraged the Philippians to take on the attitude of the Lord Jesus, who emptied himself for our sake. Still, I think much of that emptying takes place in us unconsciously. Some would say it is simply the process of life. Maybe, but then again it may be the gentle hand of God. Saint Teresa of Calcutta is said to have commented that even God can't fill what is already full. So then maybe that emptying is God's way of making room for God. ●



**Humbly regard others  
as more important  
than yourselves, each  
looking out not for his  
own interests, but [also]  
everyone for those of  
others.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:3B-4

### Reflect

**Since kindergarten, have you become better at putting others first? What do you still need to work on?**

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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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)

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

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—OCTOBER 1, 2023

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Josephine, Peter & John Bogus

#### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Rita Dougherty	THURS	7:00 PM	Paul Vignone
SUN	7:30 AM	Rev. Joseph Barnes	FRI	7:30 AM	Bishop Thomas Welsh
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Ruby, Kundrat, Hill & Hansen Families
	11:00 AM	Lew Del Grosse	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON	7:30 AM	Thomas Grace, Sr.		9:00 AM	Philip Kubovcsak - 7 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
TUES	7:00 PM	Ron Schwendt		11:00 AM	Lew Del Grosse
WED	7:30 AM	Louise Shaaber - 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary			

**Second Collection Next Week is for the Monthly Collection**



10 YEARS OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
 CELEBRATING A DECADE OF FOREVER 2013 2023

Please join us...

# State of the FOUNDATION 2023 Meeting

October 11 am at 4:30 pm  
 at Immaculate Conception Parish  
 Douglassville

Use QR Code to RSVP by Oct. 5, 2023



[catholicfoundationep.org](http://catholicfoundationep.org)

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, Beppy McGee, David Mollura, Edith  
 Ellison, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary,  
 Michael Bobb, Richard McCann, John Kuszniir,  
 Nancy Guilliams, Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan,  
 Joseph Ondo, Andrea Hassler

Welcome parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Megay  
 Congratulate the baptized: Cameryn Sue Simon,  
 Juliana Grace Somers  
 Pray for the deceased: Rev. Charles Dene

**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](http://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.

*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.*

**ICC Men's Group, Esto Vir** – October 7th, 8:30-10am in the church office, lower-level meeting room. The presentation will be the sixth (Our Father in Faith) in a series of 12 from the ST Paul Center for Biblical Theology on the bible from Genesis to Jesus. What is the Bible, where does it come from, and what is its purpose? How are Catholics supposed to read the Bible and what story does it tell? Coffee and donuts start at 8am.

**Monthly Church Cleaning** - October 7th, 10:15am. I hope you can help with this effort. Depending on participation, we should finish before noontime.

**Bosco's Friends Helping Friends** - The Women's Society are selling shopping passes in the narthex. This annual shopping event is October 18<sup>th</sup>, 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.

"Roses For Life:" Our parish Knights of Columbus members will be distributing "Roses for Life" lapel badges at all Masses this weekend in honor of "Respect Life Month." 100% of all donations will be given to Mary's Shelter, a crisis pregnancy center.

**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](mailto:secretary@icbvm.org).

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

**Annual Rosary Rally - October 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 - Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm**

**Adult Vocal Choir - Thursdays 7:30-9:00 pm**

Together, let's make a difference in the lives of our Clergy and Men and Women Religious by joining us on October 20 for Saint John Vianney Center's Day of Prayer for the Health and Wellness of our Clergy and Men and Women Religious. You are invited to participate in a Live-Streamed Mass at 11:00 a.m. (ET). Join us as we lift them up in prayer and show our appreciation for their unwavering commitment to the Church. Learn more and register at [www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer](http://www.sjvcenter.org/dayofprayer)

**On Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, at the 9am Mass, we will celebrate the children and families of our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception.** This inspiring and family-friendly event will bring together our cherished families, children, and the broader Parish community. We cordially invite you to join us for this special Mass, as it offers an incredible opportunity to build our community, nurture friendships, and create lasting memories.

\*Participate in Mass alongside our talented Immaculate Conception Academy eighth-grade students, who will serve in key roles in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

\*Children ages 4 to 8 will be able to participate in a special Children's Liturgy of the Word hosted by Mrs. Jonnie Korinko and Mrs. Nancy Hughes. The children will be invited by Monsignor McCann to participate in the **Children's Liturgy of the Word** immediately following the Sign of the Cross and the greeting. They will gather at the baptismal font where Mrs. Korinko and Mrs. Hughes will meet them and lead them to the Sunday Office located near the vestibule where our children will have the opportunity to learn about Jesus in the Gospel of the day. The children will return to the church and to their families at the offertory of the Mass. The Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held on the second Sunday of each month at the 9am Mass.

**\*After the 9am Mass, enjoy a delightful Social Sunday reception in the Social Hall**, where you can mingle with fellow Immaculate Conception families and make new connections.

\*Engage in a family-friendly atmosphere that welcomes all age groups.

Make sure to mark your calendars for **October 8<sup>th</sup>, 9am** and plan to attend the Family Sunday Mass.

**Save the Date and Spread the Word!**

**Confirmation:** We invite you to pray for the young men and women of our parish family of the Immaculate Conception who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will begin at 4:30pm. On that occasion, our children will be anointed with Sacred Chrism by Bishop Schlert and sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pray that our young people may be faithful and courageous witnesses to the love of God in the world. Please join us for this celebration.

**Scam Alert:** Please be advised of a SCAM that occurred at several parishes across the Diocese of Allentown including Immaculate Conception. Individuals have reported receiving text messages and emails from their pastor. The scamming individual pretended to be the Pastor and requested that the receiver respond by text regarding an urgent matter. The fraudulent text or email message often requests the receiver to purchase gift cards. Please exercise caution in this regard as these messages are fraudulent.

# Dear Padre,

**Where does Church teaching on angels come from? Where did we get their division into classes and the concept of the guardian angel?**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states that the existence of angels is “a truth of faith” known in both Scripture and Tradition (CCC 328). Here is an ancient definition: An angel is a mighty, concentrated personality standing in God’s presence, ready to do his bidding instantly.

Jesus famously speaks of what we take to be the guardian angels of children. He says the angels of these children always look on the face of God (see Matthew 18:10). Angels took care of Jesus (see Matthew 4:11).

The Church understands angels to be spirits. Angel means “messenger,” and angels are servants of God. Different classes of angels are mentioned in the Bible (for example, Ephesians 1:21 and 3:10, and Colossians 1:16). We speak of Michael, Raphael, and Gabriel as archangels because the jobs God gave them to do were so important.

The Church holds that Satan is a fallen angel (CCC 391). Jesus tells us Satan “was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in truth, because there is no truth in him” (John 8:44). ●



RENATA SEDMAKOVA / SHUTTERSTOCK

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

## **Daybreaks inspires during our Church’s holiest seasons.**

Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
October 2	October 3	October 4	October 5	October 6	October 7	October 8
<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. Francis of Assisi</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	<i>Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Zec 8:1-8 Mt 18:1-5, 10	Zec 8:20-23 Lk 9:51-56	Neh 2:1-8 Lk 9:57-62	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 Lk 10:1-12	Bar 1:15-22 Lk 10:13-16	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29 Lk 10:17-24	Is 5:1-7 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43



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## **A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS**

**Today let us look at our hands, so often empty of love, and let us try to think of some free gift that we can give without expecting anything in return. That will please the Lord. And let us ask him: “Lord, let me rediscover the joy of giving.”**

**HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 6, 2018**