



Yes or No?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Confronted by a social obligation I would prefer to avoid, I frequently find myself musing that the timing is right for me to break a leg or get the flu. Yet more often than not, once I go, I find myself enjoying the gathering. Not all invitations are exciting or even desirable, but many become the building blocks of our lives.

When the parable of Jesus tells of an invitation to come to a wedding feast, it's really a story of our invitation to the kingdom of heaven, where, if we accept, we will dwell in the divine presence and enjoy the peace, joy, and love of God. Heaven is not only *where* we are but also *how* we are. It's an invitation to deeper and richer life—a taste of heaven, even in this life.

So it's good to consider going where we'd rather not

go. It's not simply about social gatherings, though a social gathering may be the event where you meet the person you fall in love with. It also may mean going for counseling when that may be a bit scary, or confronting one's addiction, or moving to a new city, or accepting serious and lifelong illness, or saying yes to having a child with special needs, or not getting the job you hoped for. Saying yes to what life brings may be the wedding garment that enriches our lives. It may be saying yes to God. ●

Reflect

When has going where you'd rather not go enriched your life?

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son."

MATTHEW 22:2



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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—OCTOBER 15, 2023

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Deacon Jack DeTurck

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Rita Dougherty	THURS	No Mass
SUN	7:30 AM	Michael T. Kilareski	FRI	No Mass
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM Stephen Gresh
	11:00 AM	Greg & George White	SUN	7:30 AM John & Irene Palko
MON	7:30 AM	Jack Owens		9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:30 AM	Victor Gonzalez		11:00 AM Cynthia Schickram
WED		No Mass		

Second Collection Next Week is for Debt Reduction



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, Beppy McGee, David Mollura, Edith Ellison, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, Richard McCann, John Kuszniar, Nancy Williams, Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, Joseph Ondo, Andrea Hassler, Rose White, Barbara Ruby, David Hoagland, Nova Puszczkowski, Patricia Hylan

Pray for the deceased: John Spink

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.

Daily Mass Schedule - Please be advised that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Monday, October 16, 2023 and Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 7:30 a.m. There will be no daily Mass on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. Thank you very much for your kind understanding in this regard.

Order for Christian Initiation (OCIA - formerly RCIA) Expand your knowledge of our Catholic faith or encourage someone who is curious about it to attend. Visit our website at www.icbvm.org for program information or contact the church office.

October 16th - "Divine Revelation"

Church Office Lower Level Meeting Room, 7-8:30pm

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.

Eucharistic Adoration is Back! Come spend time with the Lord every Wednesday evening 7-9pm beginning October 18th through the year's end. Jesus looks forward to seeing you!

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 11am. 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

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.

Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception joyfully celebrates the young men and women of our parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on October 10th. On that occasion, Bishop Schlert anointed them with Sacred Chrism sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit. We pray that our young people, empowered by the Holy Spirit, may give courageous witness to the love of God in the world by word and deed.

Juliet Bauder, Weston Bentz, Kyle Berkhammer, Sophia Castiglia, Skylar Cava, Jerome Cline, Ryder Crozier, Angela Delia, Jacob Derer, Aisling Derrick, Nicholas DiGiacomo, Adam DiScala, Samantha Drozd, Morgan Ellis, Olivia Ferguson, Gabriel Herb, Lakota Keeler, Mason Kieffer, Julia Kramer, Lana Link, Jason Mariano Jr., Megan McCarthy, Ean McGee, Cassidy McGough, Joshua Mills, Amelia Myers, Darius Pestich, Bree Salaneck, Sarah Shank, Luke Sherman, Tyden Shuman, Katelyn Specht, Sofia Viola, Trapp Walsh, Sumner Waterman, Anthony Zoltack

Please continue to remember Monsignor Callaghan in your prayers. While he remains hospitalized, he is steadily improving. If you would like to send a card with the assurance of your prayers and best wishes you can mail it to Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan, St. Timothy Church 8 Oak Ave. N., Maple Lake, MN 55358

Berks Catholic High School is accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. To learn more about how Berks Catholic prepares students to be college and life ready, contact Mrs. Smith at nsmith@berkscatholic.org or 610.374.8361 ext. 244. All inquiries are confidential

Mary Queen of Peace Council meets on the first Tuesday at 7:30pm in the social hall. Join us to learn more about the Knights of Columbus and our parish group. Contact jimkaucher@gmail.com.

Handbell Choir meets Tuesdays 7:30-9:00pm
Adult Vocal Choir meets Thursdays 7:30-9:00pm

Rosary Prayer Group - Tuesdays, 6:30pm - When we pray together, we amplify the power of our prayers. Please join us in praying for our church's prayer intentions. If you have an intention you would like the group to remember, please place your intentions in the Rosary Prayer Box in the narthex. For information call Angela Peterson 610.610.6993.

Daniel Boone Optimist Club's Halloween Parade - 10/27, 6:30pm - Lake Drive Park and Recreation Area, Lake Drive, Douglassville. Groups and Floats welcome. Registration for the costume contest, groups and floats- 5:30-6:15pm. The Daniel Boone Optimist Club will award cash prizes to the most creative entries in multiple categories, including a pet category. Free refreshments will be given to registered participants. Food vendors will also be on hand, and One to One Productions will provide musical entertainment.

Dear Padre,

My prayer-group leader is encouraging us to write our own prayers for our meetings. Don't you need some formal religious training to write prayers? Will our prayers count?

It's given to every human being to be able to pray. On the level of the spiritual life, prayer is as basic as breathing is to physical life. Everyone at every moment has the grace to say a prayer.

Sometimes I ask people, "Do you pray?" At times they tell me they don't. Then I ask them, "Well, do you talk with God?" And most answer, "Of course." That's praying.

When writing your prayers, I suggest you use this ancient definition as inspiration: Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God. I'm sure your prayers will be that in word and feeling, and they will count.

When writing more formal prayers, it's nice to include the prayer elements the Church considers important: adoration of God, contrition and sorrow for sin, thanksgiving for life and for God's care of us in good times and bad, and petition for what we desperately need in our poverty. And for you, a final word. Remember that no matter how bad things may get, no matter how out of control things feel, you always have the gift and power of saying a prayer. Especially in time of temptation—when things really go bad—ask Mary your Mother to pray with you. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

MONDAY

October 16

Weekday

Rom 1:1-7

Lk 11:29-32

TUESDAY

October 17

St. Ignatius of
Antioch, Bishop
and Martyr

Rom 1:16-25

Lk 11:37-41

WEDNESDAY

October 18

St. Luke,
Evangelist

2 Tm 4:10-17b

Lk 10:1-9

THURSDAY

October 19

Sts. John de
Brébeuf and
Isaac Jogues,
Priests, and
Companions,
Martyrs

Rom 3:21-30

Lk 11:47-54

FRIDAY

October 20

Weekday

Rom 4:1-8

Lk 12:1-7

SATURDAY

October 21

Weekday

Rom 4:13,
16-18

Lk 12:8-12

SUNDAY

October 22

Twenty-ninth
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6

1 Thes 1:1-5b

Mt 22:15-21



WINNIE / SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The banquet hall is filled with the "excluded," those who are "outside," those who never seemed worthy to partake in a feast, in a wedding banquet. In fact, the master, the king, tells the messengers: "Call everyone, both good and bad. Everyone!"....He prepares his banquet for everyone: the just and sinners.

ANGELUS, ROME, OCTOBER 11, 2020