



When [the Pharisees] heard this they were amazed, and leaving him they went away.

MATTHEW 22:22

Night Goggles

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It was a gathering of longtime friends. The conversation drifted from the shore of one topic to another like leaves bouncing down a river. Eventually the talk bumped up against politics. Because we tended to think alike, it turned to smashing and bashing the opposition—all until someone asked, “Can you name the wisdom in the others?” “There isn’t any,” came someone’s swift reply. “But surely there is,” the questioner persisted. “No one has all the wisdom, and everyone has some of the wisdom.” What followed was dumbfounded silence. Truth can do that.

We live in a time when the wisdom on the street, over our backyard fence, and at the coffee pot at work all tend to skew “You’re only OK if you think the way I do.” It’s a

hard-core bias that surrounds not only politics but also raising children, what constitutes a clean house, and the best way to boil spaghetti. Nothing remains untouched.

When Jesus was challenged about whether or not to pay taxes to Caesar, his response was, “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God” (Matthew 22:21b). In other words, it’s OK to pay taxes to Caesar because even Caesar belongs to God. Everything and everyone does. God’s wisdom finds a home everywhere.

Having faith is a bit like wearing night goggles. We begin to see what no one else sees, even though it may be a bit blurry, and what we see is the hand of God at work everywhere, even in the opposition. ●

Reflect

Are you able to find truth in an opinion with which you disagree?

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—OCTOBER 22, 2023

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Rita & Guy Klang

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Stephen Gresh	THURS	No Mass
SUN	7:30 AM	John & Irene Palko	FRI	No Mass
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM Guy Klang
	11:00 AM	Cynthia Schickram	SUN	7:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON	No Mass			9:00 AM Matthew Manegold
TUES	No Mass			11:00 AM Jeanne Moyer
WED	No Mass			

Second Collection Next Week is for Religious Ministries

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, Beppe McGee, David Mollura, Edith Ellison, Mary Louise Myers, Mary Ann Uivary, Michael Bobb, Richard McCann, John Kuszniar, Nancy Guilliams, Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, Joseph Ondo, Andrea Hassler, Rose White, Barbara Ruby, David Hoagland, Nova Puszczkowski, Patricia Hylan
 Welcome parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Greenland
 Congratulate the baptized: Presley Julia Rowland

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 there will be no daily Mass this week, Monday, October 23, 2023 through Friday, October 27, 2023. 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 23rd "The Holy Trinity"

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

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

The ICCYO will be meeting October 26th, 7pm in the church office, lower-level meeting room.

Topics will include the upcoming basketball season, the clearance process, and a review of the activities planned for the Winter and Spring. Many volunteer and leadership positions are still available! The ICCYO is open to all ICC parishioners and ICA Families.

Thanksgiving Gift Cards for Those in Need

To assist families in need, all of the churches in the Birdsboro and Douglassville area have traditionally agreed to adopt a particular school for the Thanksgiving holiday. Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception, has for many years adopted the Daniel Boone High School for this endeavor, providing Thanksgiving gift cards to families in need with children enrolled in the high school. All of us recognize that the need remains great especially in these difficult and challenging times. So as to assist families in need this Thanksgiving, we will again be providing families with gift cards to local grocery stores which will enable them to purchase all of the ingredients needed for a Thanksgiving meal. If your family would like to contribute gift cards for a family in need, please contact the parish office at 610-582-2411 or secretary@icbvm.org to sign-up. It has been suggested that gift cards totaling \$100 would enable a family to secure all of the ingredients needed for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal. Some families often have issues with transportation so we ask that the gift cards be from either Boyer's or Redner's to ensure families easy access to these local stores. **Contact the office at 610-582-2411 to purchase the gift cards through our SCRIP program. The deadline to sign-up is Friday, November 17th.** Thank you for your concern for those in need.

The Women's Society is hosting a bake sale this weekend. Stop by the table and pick up a few treats. We will be 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.

Women's Society meeting will be held this month on October 25th at 7pm. All women of the parish are invited to join us! Hope to see you all there!

A word of gratitude and appreciation is expressed to all of our parishioners who contributed so very generously to the collection to benefit the victims of the wildfires in Hawaii. Our parish family committed \$2,945.00 to benefit those whose homes and lives were so terribly devastated by this tragedy. The funds raised have been transmitted to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Honolulu. Please continue to pray for those who have died, for their families who mourn, for those who have lost their homes and their livelihoods, and for the emergency responders who went to their aid.

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.

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.

Dear Padre,

Is it a sin to break the law? It is illegal to use fireworks in my city, but every year I do it anyway. Should I mention this in confession?

Strictly speaking, to break a government law does not automatically constitute the definition of sin, so it needn't be mentioned in the sacrament of penance. By definition, sin damages (or, with grave sin, destroys) communion with God and the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1472). Some actions may not be objectively destructive to our relationship with God and Church—and therefore are not sinful—but they may affect others. Church members are part of society, which depends on its citizens to abide by the laws. Saint Paul encouraged everyone to obey the authorities, for all authority that exists is established by God (see Romans 13:1–7).

Not all sins are equally offensive to God; similarly, not all civil laws are equal in their gravity. To knowingly travel a few miles over the posted speed limit isn't the same as intentionally starting a fire in a posted area of a forest. The danger is in thinking one's actions are without consequence. Sensible civil laws are designed to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens, and many municipalities outlaw fireworks because of the hazards they pose.

When any civil law is broken for mere self-indulgence or when breaking the law places others at risk, the act has the potential of constituting the definition of sin. In that case, it would rightfully warrant sacramental reconciliation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



TZIDO SUNS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
October 23 Weekday	October 24 Weekday	October 25 Weekday	October 26 Weekday	October 27 Weekday	October 28 Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles	October 29 Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Rom 4:20–25 Lk 12:13–21	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17–19, 20b–21 Lk 12:35–38	Rom 6:12–18 Lk 12:39–48	Rom 6:19–23 Lk 12:49–53	Rom 7:18–25a Lk 12:54–59	Eph 2:19–22 Lk 6:12–16	Ex 22:20–26 1 Thes 1:5c–10 Mt 22:34–40



VATICAN MEDIA/CNA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] acknowledges that the tribute to Caesar must be paid—for all of us, too, taxes must be paid—because the image on the coin is his; but above all he recalls that each person carries within him another image, that of God, and therefore it is to him alone that each person owes his own existence, his own life.

ANGELUS, ROME, OCTOBER 18, 2020