

## Do I Have to Die?

**W**ho has not asked this question, at least to oneself? It's a valid question, because at the core of every living being is the drive to live. Jesus also must have asked this question. Today's Gospel account implies this in John 12:27. ("I am troubled now.") Despite his passion for living, Jesus was more passionate about the transformation that would take place later. The example of the grain that must die if a harvest of wheat is to be produced is a perfect metaphor to make this point. Just as the grain is insignificant compared with the possible harvest, so—our faith assures us—there is no comparison between this life and the wondrous transformation that awaits us. And yes, in order to move from this life to that splendorous future, we will have to die.

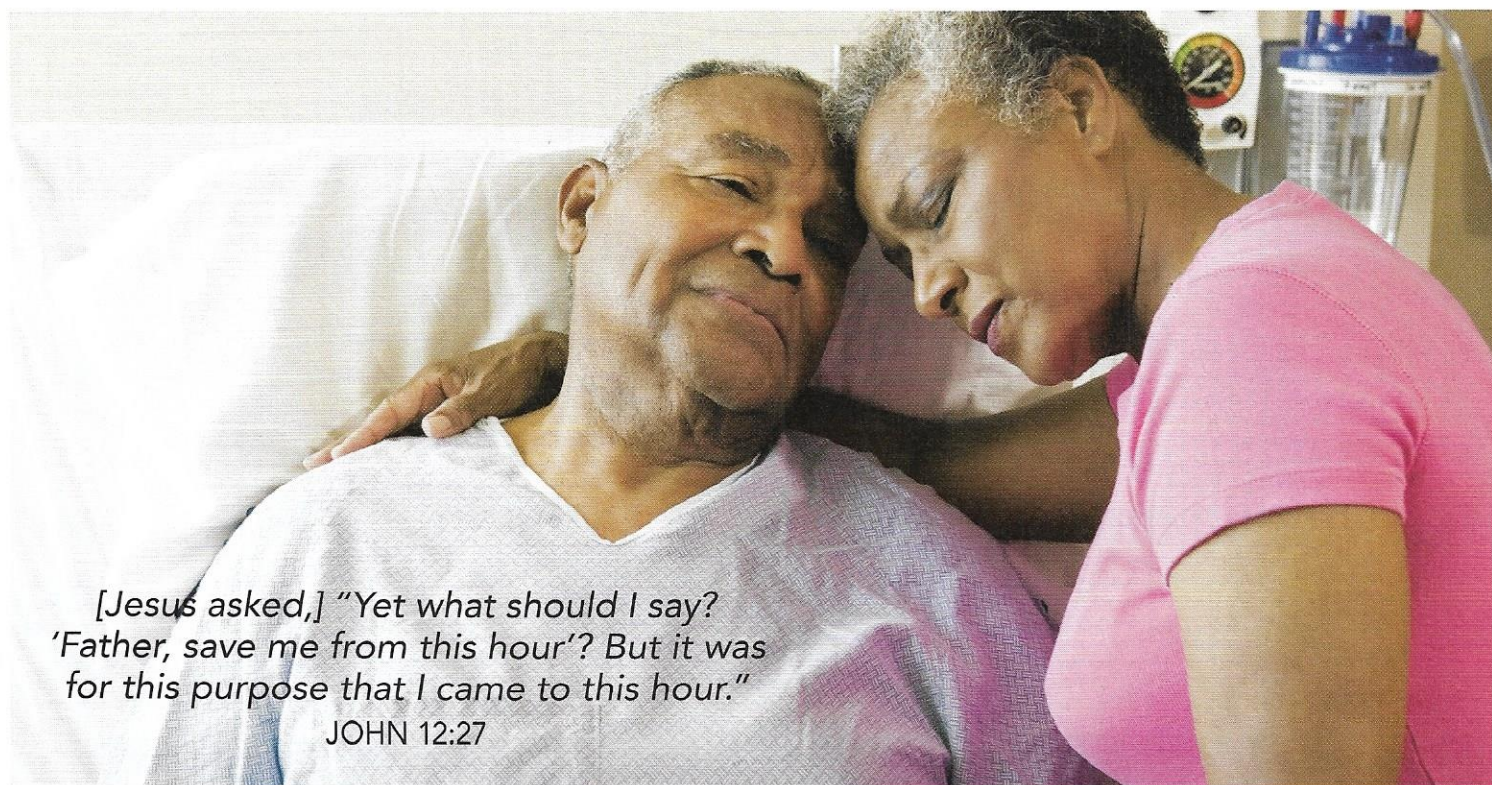
Our Lenten meditations will soon focus on the suffering and death of Jesus. However, to concentrate solely on suffering and death is like examining the

death of the grain without any thought of its transformation and the bountiful harvest that will come. We must not minimize Jesus' suffering. However, it was precisely by means of his having been lifted up on the cross in suffering and death that he was lifted up in glory and exaltation. This is why we claim that death is not the end of life but the gateway to new life. So, as difficult as it might be to leave the life we love, like Jesus we have to die in order to enter that new life.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### *For Reflection*

- ✦ *Begin to place yourself in God's hands with little things so that you are better able to do so in bigger things.*
- ✦ *The second reading reminds us that Christ is the source of our eternal salvation. Spend a moment in gratitude for this great gift.*



*[Jesus asked,] "Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."*

JOHN 12:27



# Dear Padre,

## I'm a non-Catholic church secretary who receives questions about a Purgatorial Society. What is it?

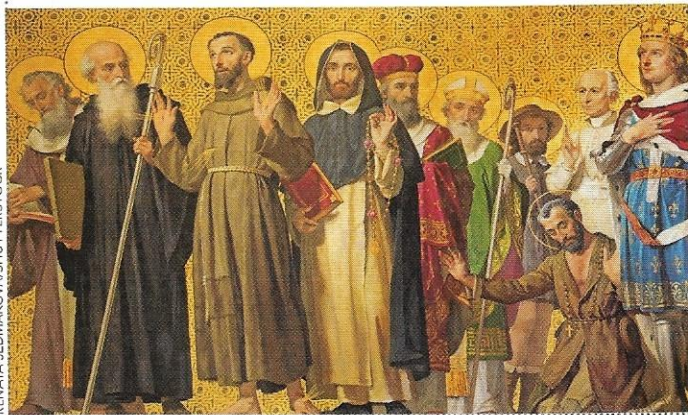
**T**hose who die in God's grace and friendship imperfectly purified, although they are assured of their eternal salvation, undergo a purification after death, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1054). This process of purification is known as purgatory. Saint Gregory the Great (540–604) wrote "certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come" (see *Dialogues* 4, 39). This forgiveness of sins granted after death is also suggested in Matthew 12:32 and 2 Timothy 1:18.

Because Catholics believe we're in communion with one another through an active relationship that transcends death, our prayers and sacrifices benefit the deceased (see 2 Maccabees 12:38–46). Thus, a Purgatorial Society is a formal association of Catholics who offer prayers, Masses, and other works of charity to benefit the souls in purgatory. Souls that get to heaven, in turn, offer their prayers to benefit the living. This mutual assistance affirms our belief in an earthly and heavenly Church forming one body in Christ.

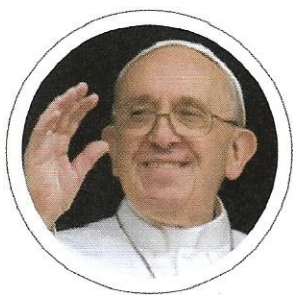
Purgatorial societies were especially prevalent from the Middle Ages through the previous century, but they're currently seeing a revival in some church parishes and religious communities. Societies generally maintain a

registry to enroll names of the deceased so that Masses are regularly offered for the holy souls in purgatory—especially during the month of November.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



RENATA SEDMAKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*By visiting the tombs of our loved ones we remember that we have a multitude of saints who before God intercede for our needs. Let us not forget, however, that so many deceased also await our spiritual support. Let us remember them in our prayers...asking that they be welcomed into the ranks of the elect in heaven.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 31, 2018

## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 22

Lenten Weekday

Dn 13:1–9, 15–17,

19–30, 33–62

or 13:41c–62

Jn 8:1–11

### Tuesday

MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday

Nm 21:4–9

Jn 8:21–30

### Wednesday

MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday

Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95

Jn 8:31–42

### Thursday

MARCH 25

The Annunciation

of the Lord

Is 7:10–14, 8:10

Heb 10:4–10

Lk 1:26–38

### Friday

MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

Jer 20:10–13

Jn 10:31–42

### Saturday

MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

Ez 37:21–28

Jn 11:45–56

### Sunday

MARCH 28

Palm Sunday of the

Passion of the Lord

Mk 11:1–10 or

Jn 12:12–16

Is 50:4–7

Phil 2:6–11

Mk 14:1–15:47

or 15:1–39





# Immaculate Conception Parish Family



**160th YEAR OF SERVICE**

**307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361**

**Fr. Paul Hartley, Pastor** | Deacon Wayne Korte | Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office

imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org | Office Hours M-Th 9:00am-3pm **Bulletin Deadline: Wed. 9:00 AM**

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org | 573.564.2679 - School Office

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

Parish Council Members: Beth Cobb-President; Dennis Benney-Vice-President; Secretary-Mary Pottebaum, Laura Yelton, & Vicki Parker

## MARCH 21, 2021 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Mass Intentions

Monday, March 22nd	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday, March 23rd	<b>5:30 PM Mass</b> - Mont. City +Roger Richard
Wednesday, March 24th	<b>8:30 AM Mass</b> - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 25th	<b>8:00 AM Mass</b> - Mont. City +Bill Worland
Friday, March 26th	<b>8:00 AM Mass</b> - Mont. City +Marian Busken
Saturday, March 27th	<b>5:00 PM Mass</b> - Mont. City +Mary Dryden
Sunday, March 28th	<b>8:00 AM Mass</b> - Jonesburg
	<b>10:00 AM Mass</b> - Montgomery City - Our Parish Family



**July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021**

Church/School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
<b>February 2021</b>	\$75,568.00	\$65,558.17	\$10,009.83
<b>Fiscal Year July - Feb. 2020-21</b>	\$401,808.84	\$393,260.46	\$8,548.38
<b>Needed Weekly</b> - \$ 11,835.50			
March 7th -	\$11,900.32		
March 14th -	\$ 5,646.81		
March 21st -	\$ 9,863.40		
March 28th -	\$		

Last Week's Envelopes: 43 of 179

*With God all things are possible*

*(No Mass if there is a funeral or school has been cancelled.)*

**Parish Membership:** Call the parish office to register.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** 3:30 to 4:10 PM Saturday or call for an appointment. Additional times have been schedule for Lent. See page 2

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Call the parish office to set up an appointment to meet with Fr. Hartley.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.

**To Become a Catholic:** Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Call for details.

### Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exit in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

### Who is an Active Parishioner?

- Registered in the parish
- Regularly participates in Mass and the sacraments
- Supports the parish financially
- Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form and fulfills that commitment

## HOLY WEEK LITURGIES

	Lectors	Servers
<b>Palm Sunday - Saturday Mass-5:00 PM</b> (March 27, 2021)	Reader 1 - Dennis Benney Reader 2 - Beth Roesner	Jacob Roesner Reed Pottebaum
<b>Palm Sunday - Sunday Mass-10:00 AM</b> (March 28, 2021)	Reader 1 - Michael Smith Reader 2 - Richard Schierhoff	Maddy Queathem Chase Queathem
<b>Holy Thursday - 8:00 PM</b> (April 1, 2021)	Gary Hoette	Maddy Queathem Chase Queathem Elizabeth Schierhoff
<b>Good Friday - 7:00 PM</b> (April 2, 2021)	Reader 1 - Michael Smith Reader 2 - Richard Schierhoff	Landon Pottebaum Reed Pottebaum Elizabeth Schierhoff
<b>Holy Saturday - 8:00 PM</b> (April 3, 2021)	Reader 1 - Beth Cobb Reader 2 - Dennis Benney	Emerson, Hudson, & Fallon Schroeder Jacob Roesner Kendra Rakers
<b>Easter Sunday - 10:00 AM</b> (April 4, 2021)	Michael Smith	Zander Beck Noah Beck Carl Smith

**Bishop McKnight's March prayer intention for our Local Church is:**

Through the example and intercession of St. Joseph, husband of Mary, may a gentle disposition rule our hearts and allow for charity, reconciliation, and mercy in our lives.

## Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, March 22nd	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday, March 23rd	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, March 24th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 25th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, March 26th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Saturday, March 27th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary @ 4:30 PM)
Sunday, March 28th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary @ 9:30 AM)

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, March 22nd	7:00 PM - St. Vincent dePaul Mtg.
Tuesday, March 23rd	6:15 PM - School Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 24th	
Thursday, March 25th	
Friday, March 26th	2:30 PM - Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 27th	
Sunday, March 28th	6:00 PM - Confirmation Class

### *Wedding Anniversary*



*Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!*

*There are no anniversaries this weekend.*

### **Additional Financial Information**

Capital Improvement	\$ 35.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 100.00
Bulletin Ads	\$ 00.00
Special Collections:	
3 in 1 Collection	\$ 296.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 40.00

### **Holy Week**



As Holy Week is approaching, I thought it might be good to explain what will be happening in these days that focus so clearly the work of our redemption.

We begin with **Palm Sunday**, a day of triumph for Our Lord when He enters to the sound of rejoicing by the crowds waving palm branches, but it also is a day when we hear St. Mark's account of Our Lord's Suffering, Crucifixion, Death, and Burial. We take our blessed palms home to remind us of this day that heralded our salvation.

Lent officially ends at noon on Holy Thursday. It is then that the Church begins the observance of the Sacred Triduum, three days that are the very heart of our Catholic Faith. On **Holy Thursday** we join with Our Lord and the Apostles in the Upper Room where we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper when Our Lord gave us the great gift of His Most Holy Body and Blood in the Eucharist. At the end of the Mass that night, we are asked to spend some time in quiet adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, but our vigil does not end as we prepare to remember Good Friday.

**Good Friday** is a day in which we fast and abstain in order to unite our hearts and minds with that of Christ Jesus as we remember His Passion and Death. Stations of the Cross will be offered at noon at

Immaculate Conception Church with the children performing the Living Stations. A collection will be taken up to assist the charitable work of the Ministerial Alliance. At 3:00 PM, the hour at which Our Lord laid down His life on the Cross, Stations of the Cross will be offered at St. Patrick's. Then at 7:00 PM, the Liturgy of the Passion will be observed at Immaculate Conception.

**Holy Saturday** during the day is one of quiet reflection and prayer in our homes as we contemplate Christ Jesus lying in the tomb. Then as darkness falls, we see the Light of Christ shine in the Easter Vigil that will be at Immaculate Conception at 8:00 PM during which time we hear the ancient prophecies and rejoice in the news of the Risen Christ. We renew our Baptismal promises and sing songs of joy and gladness that Our Lord is truly Risen.

Then, on **Easter Sunday** we will gather together at St. Patrick's at 8:00 AM Mass as the sun rises to greet the glory of Easter Morning and then at 10:00 AM at Immaculate Conception to add our songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord who has triumphed over the grave and called us to the glory of being called the children of God.

Because the Easter Triduum is seen as one continuous liturgy, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are so closely linked that they are to be celebrated in the same location each year. This gives a continuity to what we are remembering and what is revealed to us about God's Plan for our salvation. This year the Sacred Triduum will be held at Immaculate Conception but everyone from St. Patrick and any other surround parishes are welcome to take part in witnessing these wonderful expressions of our Faith that are presented through the scriptures, through our prayers together, and in the unity that we share as members of the Mystical Body of Christ.

I hope that all of us will prepare well for Holy Week this year as we receive the news of great joy that Jesus Christ has died for our sins, has risen from the dead, and who brings us the promise of eternal life.

God bless all of you!

Fr. Hartley

## Immaculate Conception School News



- March 19th - Early Dismissal @ 12:00 PM  
- Teacher Professional Development Day  
- KC Fish Fry
- March 21st - IC Students lead Mass at Church
- March 26th - NO SCHOOL - Diocesan PD Day  
- KC Fish Fry

Rural King will donate 10% for each valid Rural King receipt total to ICS during March 14-27, 2021. Visit [ruralking.com/churchweek](http://ruralking.com/churchweek) for details.

ICS is now enrolling for grades Kindergarten through 8th grade.

## ECLC Happenings

The ECLC kids are looking forward to starting on Spring and Easter crafts and Projects!



ECLC is now enrolling for Preschool and school aged summer care with our ECLC program. For more information, please contact Peggy Brower at (573) 564-2679.

## IC Scrip Program



**We now have Bundy's gift cards. Thank you to Bundy's for their generous donation of 10%! We also have FastLane cards available.**

Whenever you purchase a gift card from the IC School Scrip Program, the school receives a percentage of the purchase price. The percentage will vary from one company to another but there is no extra charge to you. A \$25 card costs you \$25. Why not let some of your money that you would spend anyway go to a good cause? There are a few ways to obtain the cards. You may purchase physical cards at the school or after Masses on the first full weekend of the month. **You may also go online to [www.ShopWithScrip.com](http://www.ShopWithScrip.com) to create an account to purchase e-cards, reload select cards, or place a large order for physical cards. If you have any questions, call Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.**



## 2021 LENTEN SCHEDULE

(March 22nd - March 28th)

- March 22nd NO MASS
- March 23rd 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at IC  
5:30 PM Mass at Immaculate Conception
- March 24th 8:30 AM Mass at St. Patrick
- March 25th **FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION**  
8:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception
- March 26th **DAY OF ABSTINENCE**  
8:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception  
2:30 PM Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Conception
- March 27th 3:30 PM Confessions at Immaculate Conception  
5:00 PM Mass at Immaculate Conception (Rosary at 4:30 PM)
- March 28th **PALM SUNDAY (BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK)**  
8:00 AM Mass at St. Patrick  
10:00 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception (Rosary at 9:30 AM)

## Events Around the Community (See Flyers if available in the church vestibule.)

March 26, 2021 - Drive-thru Lenten Fish Fry @ KC Hall - Last one!  
April 16, 2021 - KOC Ladies Auxiliary Spaghetti Luncheon

## Annual Lenten Fish Fries

February 19 - March 26, 2021  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
4:30 - 6:30 PM



The last fish fry is March 26th! The \$10.00 plate will feature Cod and/or Catfish with sides. If you have some spare time, we will be peeling potatoes, making potato salad, and slaw again this Thursday, March 25th at 10:30 AM. Please bring your favorite paring knife and/or peeler.

## Liturgical Ministers

After Easter will begin assigning Liturgical Ministers for weekend Masses. Watch for this in future bulletins.



## Capital Campaign Update

As you may have guessed, all of this rain is not helping with a starting date for the concrete work. Just as soon as the weather allows, concrete removal and replacement will begin. We are looking forward to that.

Our current total of pledges and donations remains at \$209,000 on our way to \$850,000. Pledge cards can be dropped in the basket after Mass or dropped at the office at the Rectory. We are grateful for each donation and we ask for your prayerful consideration in helping us with our Capital Campaign.

## New Address

Marvin (Smiley) and Lucille Griesbauer of our parish have moved to Oak Grove, Missouri to be closer to their son and family. Their new address is: 1004 North White Oak Lane, Oak Grove, MO 64075. Sources tell us that Smiley fell and is in the same rehab hospital as Lucille.

## Please keep in your prayers the following people:

**Residents of St. Andrews New Florence Nursing & Care Center**, Hwy 19 & Picnic Road, New Florence, MO 63363 - Susan Ryan

*Contact the parish office to have someone added!*



**Please pray for:** Karen Clark, Alex Clark (granddaughter of Karen Clark), Nick Schneider, Lucille Griesbauer, Marvin Griesbauer, Pat (Cobb) Hunn, Donna Bell, Susan Schipper, and Charlee Kate (niece of Sue Beck).

*Contact the parish office to have someone added*



**Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces.** Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Michel James, and Daniel Lohmann.

*Contact the parish office to have someone added!*





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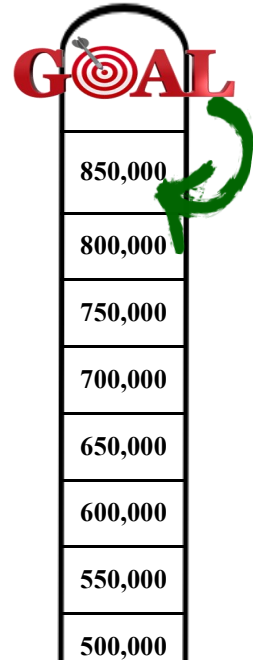
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150,000
100,000
50,000

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