



## Called from the Pits

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**W**hen I feel sorry for myself or just down in the dumps, when I feel buried by life not going the way I think it should, sometimes I remember to stop thinking about myself and my problems, and I say to myself, *I need to go care about someone else*. It seems that doing so pulls me out of that tomb of darkness and back into the light. Then I ask myself, *Why didn't I do that sooner?* The truth is, I didn't remember. But the very fact that I eventually do remember is the spirit of God dwelling within me that pulls me back into life, just as Paul once wrote (Romans 8:9 and the verses afterward). It's like hearing a voice calling me out of a dreary tomb of death, just as sure as Lazarus heard Jesus calling him out.

Have you experienced times when your spirit feels deader than dead, but then someone or something calls

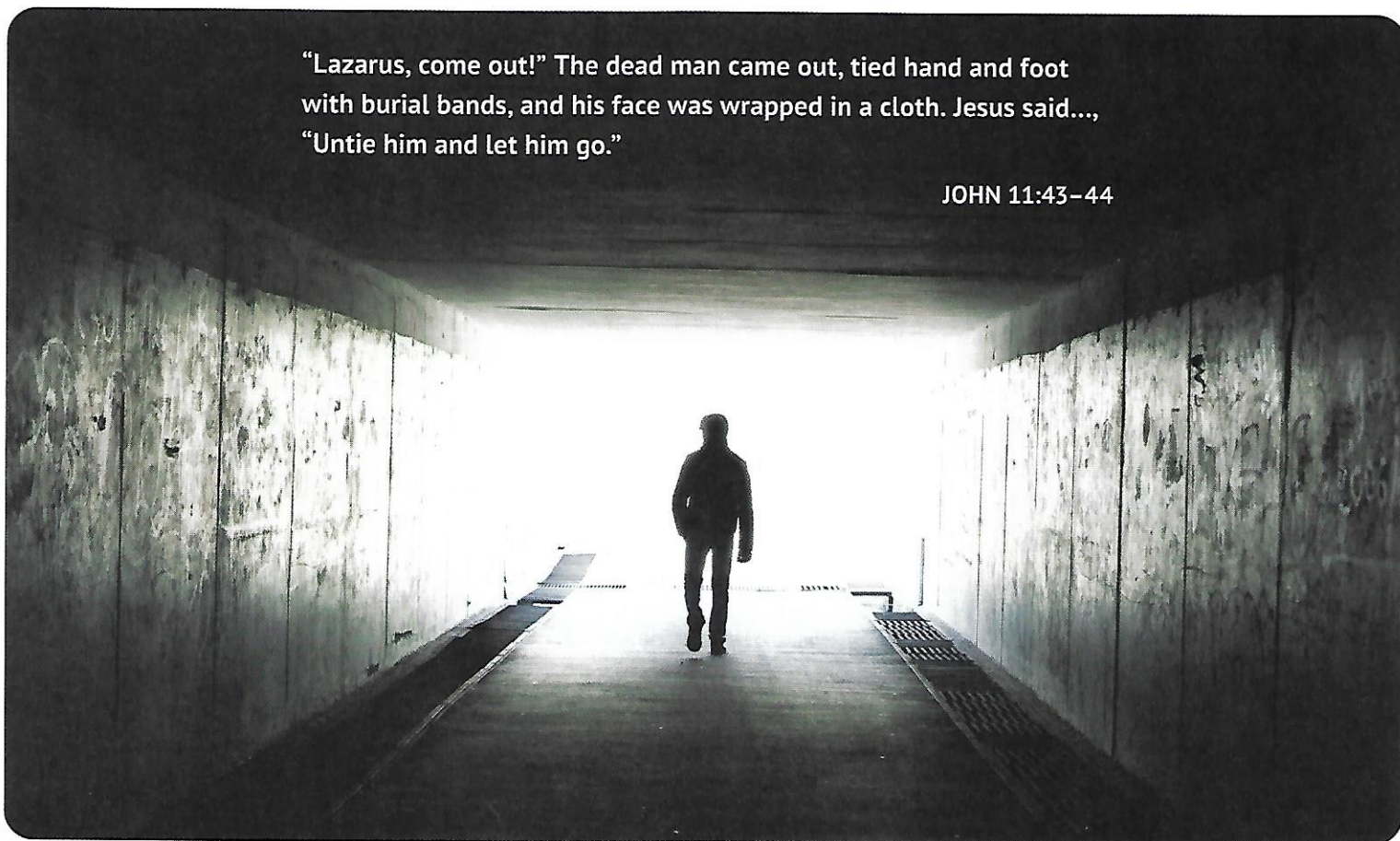
you back into life? I have. When that happens to us, I think we've been blessed with a hint of the resurrection. When I find myself wondering if there is really life beyond death, if resurrection really does happen to us, then I think about all the times that what I thought was a death turned out to be some unexpected doorway to new life. If that happens with such little deaths along the way, wouldn't it also happen on our last day on this earth? ●

### Reflect

***Have you ever experienced something that seemed terrible at the time that turned out to be a blessing in disguise?***

**"Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said..., "Untie him and let him go."**

**JOHN 11:43-44**





# Dear Padre,

## Are Catholic religious orders dying?

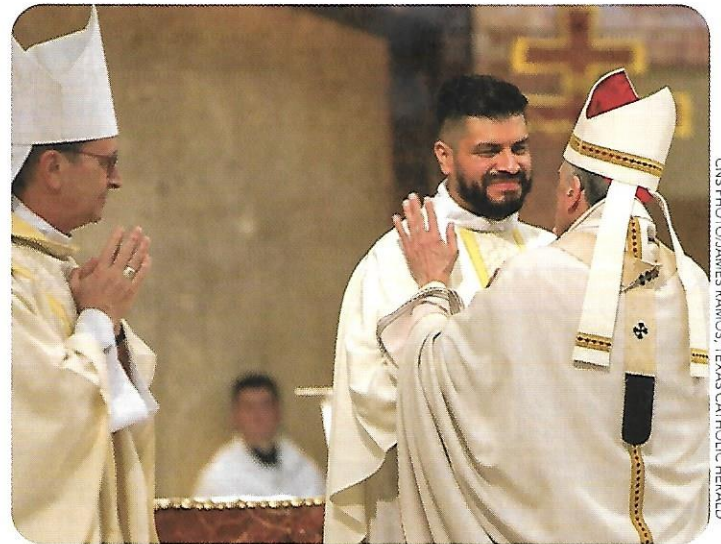
Yes...and no.

In Africa and Asia, some religious orders are vibrant, with orders of men and women religious increasing in number. In the United States, Europe, and Oceania, it's a different story. As many as 300 of the 420 institutes of women religious in the US are in their final decades of existence (*Leadership Conference of Women Religious*, 2019). One-third of all women's congregations in the US have fewer than fifty members. In the US, sisters over age ninety far outnumber those under sixty. Consequently, many communities fall short of the number of active ministers needed to replace their elderly and retiring members. The story is similar for many orders of religious men.

As those in religious orders struggle to remain effective in their mission and ministry for God and humanity, they are reimagining styles of leadership, levels of administration, and, in short, ways of getting the job done. This includes, for example, creative partnerships with laypeople to share in the charism, community life, and ministry of the religious order.

People are still drawn to Jesus and the work of building the kingdom. Only God knows how this "building process" will look in the future. As in all challenging times, the Church remains hopeful. From crisis comes resurrection! ●

**Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org**



CNS PHOTO/JAMES RAMOS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or Dn 13:41c-62 Jn 8:1-11	Nm 21:4-9 Jn 8:21-30	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Jn 8:31-42	Gn 17:3-9 Jn 8:51-59	Jer 20:10-13 Jn 10:31-42	Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56	<i>of the Lord's Passion</i> Mt 21:1-11 Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27:66 or Mt 27:11-54
<b>Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective</b>						
<i>Catholic Update</i> explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit <a href="http://Liguori.org">Liguori.org</a> or call 800-325-9521.						



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Take away the stone from your heart! Let the Word of God restore life where there is death. Jesus repeats to us: "Take away the stone." God did not create us for the tomb....He created us for life, [which is] beautiful, good, joyful.**

ANGELUS, MARCH 20, 2020



# Immaculate Conception Parish Family



162nd YEAR OF SERVICE

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

Fr. Ernest Dike, Parochial Administrator, [edike@diojeffcity.org](mailto:edike@diojeffcity.org)

Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office | [imm-con@sbcglobal.net](mailto:imm-con@sbcglobal.net) | [www.mcicparish.org](http://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](mailto: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; Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, and Dennis Cobb

## MARCH 26, 2023 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

### Mass Intentions

Monday, March 27th  
Tuesday, March 28th

**No Mass - Montgomery City**  
**6:30 PM Mass - Mont. City** +Lorraine  
Brower

Wednesday, March 29th  
Thursday, March 30th

8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg  
**8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Vincent & Delores  
Schimweg

Friday, March 31st  
Saturday, April 1st  
Sunday, April 2nd

**8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Charles Lagana Jr.  
**5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City** +Brad Hilkemeyer  
8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg  
**10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** - Our Parish Family



### Your Gifts to God!

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Church & School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
<b>February 2023</b>	\$74,690.68	\$74,419.76	\$270.92
<b>Fiscal Year July-Feb. 2022-23</b>	\$536,752.48	\$476,067.80	\$60,684.68
<b>Needed Weekly</b> - \$ 13,232.95			
March 5th - \$6,844.16-Church; \$6,164.00-ICS/Daycare; \$13,008.16-Total			
March 12th - \$4,459.60-Church; \$4,366.50-ICS/Daycare; \$ 8,826.10-Total			
March 19th - \$5,487.80-Church; \$8,399.00-ICS/Daycare; \$13,886.80-Total			
March 26th -			

**A friendly reminder: That if there is a funeral at any of the two parishes or a school cancellation due to weather, there will be no scheduled Mass.**

*Thank you for your support!*

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

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturdays 4:15 PM - 4:45 PM, or by appointment.

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Call the parish office to set up an appointment.

**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.

If you are hospitalized or if you have a family member who is homebound, please call the office/rectory at 573-564-2375.

### 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

## Liturgical Ministers for April 1st & 2nd (Palm Sunday)

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
<b>Lector &amp; Passion Voice in Passion</b>	Beth Roesner Gary Hoette	Michael Readey Dennis Cobb
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Not During Saturday Evening Mass	Geri Park
<b>Communion Minister</b>	Ruth Ann O'Keefe	Jacob Lotton
<b>Ministers of Hospitality</b>	Steve & Beth Cobb Kasey & Mary Pottebaum	Jacob & Megan Hans Family
<b>Servers (4)</b>	Mercer Cothren - Jacob Roesner Malorie Schulte - Reed Pottebaum	Heath Gotsch - Leyla Beabout Carl Smith - Owen Merz
<b>Gift Bearers</b>	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
<b>Money Counters</b>	Don & Sandy Oakes	Megan Hans Steve Williams

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

For a greater respect for the dignity of all human life; may our Catholic faith inspire us to recognize all human beings—no matter their age, race, or condition—as our brothers and sisters in the Lord.



## Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, March 27th	<b>No Mass - Montgomery City</b>
Tuesday, March 28th	<b>6:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City</b>
Wednesday, March 29th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 30th	<b>8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City</b>
Friday, March 31st	<b>8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City</b>
Saturday, April 1st	<b>5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM)</b>
Sunday, April 2nd	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg <b>10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 AM)</b>

## Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, March 27th	
Tuesday, March 28th	6:30 PM - Confirmation
Wednesday, March 29th	7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
Thursday, March 30th	6:30 PM - First Reconciliation/Penance Service
Friday, March 31st	11:00 AM-1:00 PM - Fish Fry 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM - Fish Fry 3:00 PM - Stations of the Cross by ICS Students
Saturday, April 1st	
Sunday, April 2nd	6:00 PM - 5th/6th Grade PSR Class 6:00 PM - Confirmation Class



### **Wedding Anniversary**

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

*Richard & Gayle Adams - 34 years of marriage on April 1st*

### **Additional Financial Information**

Capital Improvements	\$ 221.00
3 in 1 Collection	\$ 304.00
Catholic Home Mission Appeal	\$ 15.00
Easter	\$ 100.00
Pick-A-Prize Fundraiser	\$ 2,000.00

(This is NOT included in Page 1 totals)

### **Lenten Penance Service**

Wednesday, March 29th at 6:30 PM - Jonesburg  
Thursday, March 30th at 6:30 PM - Montgomery City

Fr. Henry Ussher, Fr. Joseph Abah, and Fr. Philip Kane will be assisting.

### **Confirmation**

Please pray for our confirmation candidates, **Justin Beabout, Noah Beck, Zander Beck, Heath Gotsch, Owen Merz, Reed Pottebaum, Kendra Rakers, Brody Rieke, Jacob Roesner, Emersyn Schroeder, Brennan See, and Carl Smith**, who will be confirmed this next Tuesday, March 28th by Bishop Shawn McKnight. Everyone is invited to attend Mass and Confirmation which starts at 6:30 PM.



### **Question of the Week**

What spiritual darkness is Jesus calling me to come out of today?  
What difficulties can I anticipate in shedding these burial bonds that separate me from God's grace?

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

On this final Sunday of Lent before Palm Sunday, we hear Jesus call Lazarus forth from the tomb. Jesus calls us as well, calls us forth from our tombs of sin and death, where our harmful habits and attitudes separate us from God, from life. He is the resurrection. He is the life. Jesus' words to Martha then are his words to us now: Do you believe this? Do you believe that God can bring life out of death? Do you believe that God can free us from the burial bands of sin? Let us recover that faith within us and so prepare ourselves to witness the Resurrection.

### **Holy Week Services**



Holy Thursday (April 6th) - 7:00 PM  
Good Friday (April 7th) - 7:00 PM  
Holy Saturday (April 8th) - 8:00 PM  
Easter Sunday (April 9th) - 10:00 AM

We want to let you know that incense will be used during Masses on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday), and Easter Sunday morning.

### **Holy Week Ministries**

Thank you to those who have signed up for Liturgical Ministries during Holy Week. We still have a few slots open. If you can help us out, please sign up in the church vestibule!



**THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION ON MARCH 28TH DUE TO CONFIRMATION.**

## Immaculate Conception School News



March 25th - Diocesan Speech Meet  
March 28th - Confirmation- 6:30pm  
March 30th - First Reconciliation & Parish Penance Service- 6:30pm  
March 31st - K of C Fish Fry  
                    - Stations of the Cross- 3pm  
April 3rd - School IN Session PE Day  
April 5th- Living Stations of the Cross- 2pm  
                    Home & School Meeting- 6pm  
April 6th -14- Easter Break  
April 7th - Good Friday Living Stations of the Cross - 12:00 PM

There will NO Prayer Partner Mass on April 6, 2023 due to Easter Break. April's Prayer Partner Mass will be held on April 20, 2023 at 10 AM followed by a Prayer Partner luncheon at ICS. The last Prayer Partner Mass of the school year will be held on May 4th at 8:00am.



### IC Scrip Cards

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.RaiseRight.com](http://www.RaiseRight.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.**



### New Defibrillator for Church

We received a donation of an automatic external defibrillator (AED). It is stored in the back of church under the steps on the shelf where the vestments used to hang. Sometime very soon we will offer some type of training for the proper use of the unit. More information will be made available prior to the training.



### New Knights of Columbus Program

The Knights of Columbus Council 2044 voted to provide our building for better health of our parish community. On a trial basis we will open the doors Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday for walking exercise in the hall. This will start on Monday, March 20th. To begin we will limit the hours from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We plan to do this until the end of April. For more detailed health regimen contact Achieve Fitness. For further information contact Jerry Witthaus at (573) 308-7429, Grand Knight.

### ACH

ACH is now up and running and working well (at least we have not heard any complaints!). If you would like to take advantage of having your checking account automatically debited instead of writing checks each week or month and misplaced your form, please let the office know (573) 564-2375 or [imm-con@sbcglobal.net](mailto:imm-con@sbcglobal.net) and Janet will send you another form.

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

April 11th - Starkenburg Mo - Second Tuesday Mass - Reconciliation at 11:00 AM; Rosary at 11:40 AM, Mass at 12 Noon followed by lunch

### Annual Lenten Fish Fries

February 24 - March 31, 2023  
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
4:30 PM - 6:30 PM  
Adults: \$13.00 Child: \$6.00  
(both lunch and dinner)



### Pick-A-Prize Fundraiser Clarification

There has been some confusion about the Pick-A-Prize Fundraiser. We are asking all parishioners to pick up a couple of tickets to sell family, friends, neighbors, etc. The tickets will be available to pick up after weekend Masses or by contacting Mary Pottebaum (573) 619-3320, Vicki Parker (573) 544-6375 or Beth Cobb (573) 999-0337. It takes the whole "family" to make this a success! Thank you!

### Head Count for March

March 4th - 84	March 5th - 104
March 11th - 83	March 12th - 126
March 18th - 79	March 19th - 110
March 25th -	March 26th -

### Grand Total for March -

### Spaghetti Luncheon

We were informed that the KofC Ladies Auxiliary Spaghetti Luncheon will be held sometime in October NOT on April 28th.

### 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 - Dorothy Bowman, Mary Pettig, and Susie Ryan

*Contact the parish office to have someone added!*



**Please pray for:** Pat Klein, Nick Schneider, Lucille & Marvin Griesbauer, Pat Merz, Parker Calbreath (son of Chris & Stacy Calbreath), Al & Christine Barger, Marla Daniels, John Rybacki (father of Sue Beck), Christine Welter (niece of Kathy Holtz), Matt Brumagin, Don Zerr, Peggy Readey, Becky Queathem, Warner Walton (great, great nephew of Vicki Parker), Kim Dryden, and Ingrid Keller.

*Contact the parish office to have someone added!*



**Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces.** Corey Stulce, Noah Richard, Dylan Willis, and Daniel Lohmann.

*Contact the parish office to have someone added!*





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See!  
I will not forget  
you, I have carved  
you on the palm of  
my hand.  
*Isaiah 49:15*



**God Bless  
our  
Parish Family!**

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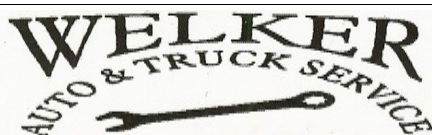
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Welcome  
everyone, anytime  
on Tuesdays  
starting at  
6:00 AM we have  
Eucharistic  
Adoration: A  
special time to  
worship and praise  
our Lord and  
Savior, Jesus  
Christ and to  
deepen your  
intimate friendship  
and be nourished  
and strengthened  
by his Presence  
and Love. At  
5:00 PM  
Adoration will  
close with  
Devotion to the  
Divine Mercy and  
Benediction.  
Mass will start at  
5:30 PM.