

Learning How to Die

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It has been pointed out that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, that is, to go where we would rather not go, to love when we know it will cost, to offer ourselves even when we know we will be used. If we die a bit every day, sometimes with struggle and sacrifice in those situations that may call for such, then at our final moment we will be able to stand before that specter face to face and not run, simply because we have met before and have been able to walk away the victor.

Dying well does not mean we do so without fear. Courage blossoms when we stand in a field of fear. Even the Lord Jesus “offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears” to God, as the Letter to the Hebrews notes. Dying well does not mean we do so cleanly. Dying is often messy, and it is always an uprooting that disrupts and scatters everything nearby.

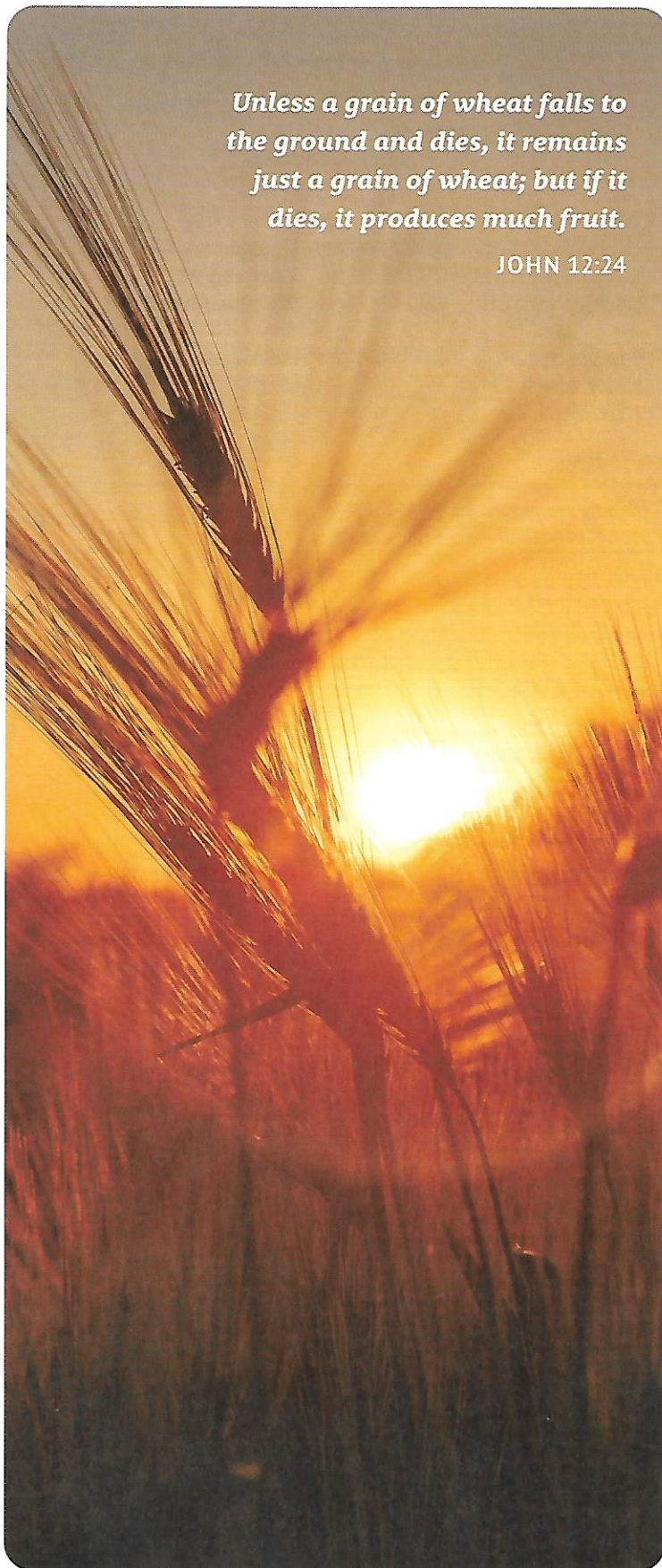
Nor does dying well mean we do so in control of the event. That is what is so devastating about death. It has complete and total control. At its best and at its worst the only way to die well is to say “yes” to it every time it demands our submission. And like the eye of stillness at the center of the hurricane, it is at the heart of death where we embrace resurrection and where the holy offers life. It is where we can have a deep encounter with the Lord Jesus. ●

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

JOHN 12:24

Reflect

Can you accept the little deaths along the way as preparation for the final passing from this life?



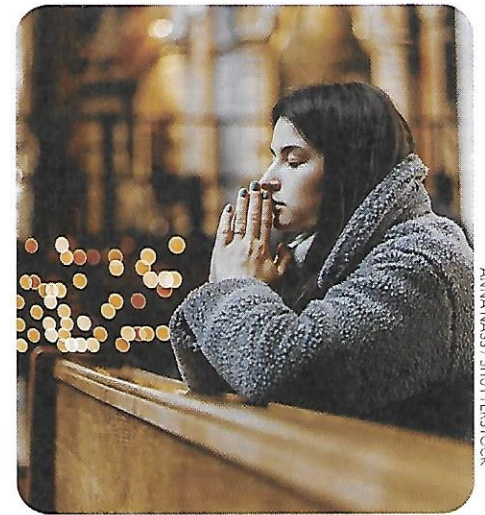
Dear Padre,

What is the difference between temptation and sin?

The temptations of Jesus, as they are recorded in the Gospels (Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1, and Matthew 4:1), give us the proper direction with regard to sin and temptation. Jesus was tempted three times, but he did not sin. More than that, Jesus put his trust in God during the temptations. Jesus' message is clear: if you feel tempted, call out to God!

The Church teaches that sin is a deliberative process. Temptation is something that happens to you without your consent: a thought or desire pops into your mind. For temptation to become a sin, you have to entertain that thought or desire, or plan to act on it, or do it. That's when temptation "turns a corner" and becomes sin.

Although the sacrament of penance is available throughout the year, the Church places a special emphasis on it during Lent. There may be a communal penance service in your area. Perhaps you can commit now to participating in the service. If it's been a while since you've been to confession or you're not sure what to do or say, just tell the priest. He will show you. ●



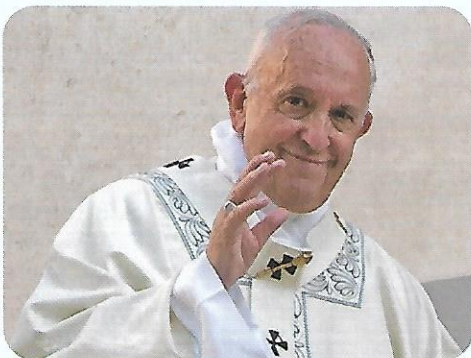
ANNA NASS / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 18	March 19	March 20	March 21	March 22	March 23	March 24
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>St. Joseph,</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Palm Sunday of</i>
Dn 13:1–9, 15–	<i>Spouse of the</i>	Dn 3:14–20,	Gn 17:3–9	Jer 20:10–13	Ez 37:21–28	<i>the Passion of</i>
17, 19–30, 33–	<i>Blessed Virgin</i>	91–92, 95	Jn 8:51–59	Jn 10:31–42	Jn 11:45–56	<i>the Lord</i>
62 or 13:41c–62	<i>Mary</i>	Jn 8:31–42				Mk 11:1–10 or
Jn 8:1–11	2 Sm 7:4–5a,					Jn 12:12–16
	12–14a, 16					Is 50:4–7
	Rom 4:13,					Phil 2:6–11
	16–18, 22					Mk 14:1–15:47
	Mt 1:16, 18–21,					or 15:1–39
	24a or					
	Lk 2:41–51a					

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We are called to take on the paschal law of losing life in order to receive it renewed and eternal. And what does losing life mean?... It means to think less about oneself, about personal interests and to know how to "see" and to meet the needs of our neighbors, especially the least of them.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 18, 2018



Immaculate Conception Parish Family



163rd YEAR OF SERVICE

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

Fr. Ernest Dike, Parochial Administrator, edike@diojeffcity.org

Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office | imm-con@sbcbglobal.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; Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, Dennis Cobb, & Jack Wells

MARCH 17, 2024 - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions



Your Gifts to God!

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Monday, March 18th **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
Tuesday, March 19th **5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City** +David Ritter
Wednesday, March 20th 8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 21st **8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City** +August Bloebaum
Friday, March 22nd **8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Karen Clark
Saturday, March 23rd **5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City** +Kenny Cunningham
Sunday, March 24th 8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg
10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City - Our Parish Family

Church & School Financial Report:

	Income	Expenses	Difference
January 2024	\$48,764.53	\$62,759.88	-\$13,995.35
Fiscal Year July-January, 2023-24	\$437,952.46	\$418,083.87	\$19,868.59
Needed Weekly - \$13,397.08			
March 3 rd - \$5,796.00-Church; \$8,062.50-ICS/Daycare; \$13,858.50-Total			
March 10 th - \$3,452.00-Church; \$4,096.00-ICS/Daycare; \$7,548.00-Total			
March 17 th -			
March 24 th -			

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/Confirmation: 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 exist 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 March 23rd & 24th (Palm Sunday)

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector & Passion Voice in Passion	Dennis Benney Dennis Cobb	Amanda Arens Michael Smith
Children's Liturgy	Not During Saturday Evening Mass	Diane Talley
Communion Minister	Beth Cobb	Jenidean Readey
Ministers of Hospitality	Kasey Pottebaum Family	Jerry Neale Tony Wessel Pat & Janet Stumbaugh
Servers (4)	Mercer Cothren Jacob Roesner Malorie Schulte Beth Roesner	Carl Smith Emilia Hans Leyla Beabout Natalie Beabout
Gift Bearers	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
Money Counters	John & Aggie Baldetti Darryl Rhoads	Pam Schwartz Cathy McCormack Dave Teeter

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

For those preparing for reception of the Easter sacraments this year; may our whole Church be renewed and invigorated by the celebrations of baptism, confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, March 18 th	NO Mass - Montgomery City	Monday, March 18 th	
Tuesday, March 19 th	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City	Tuesday, March 19 th	6:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Adoration 5:00 PM - Benediction & Devotion to Divine Mercy
Wednesday, March 20 th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg	Wednesday, March 20 th	7:00 PM - Knights of Columbus 7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
Thursday, March 21 st	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City	Thursday, March 21 st	6:00 PM - Penance Service @ MC 7:00 PM - OCIA @ IC School
Friday, March 22 nd	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City	Friday, March 22 nd	11:00 AM-1:00 PM & 4:30-6:30PM - Fish Fry @ KC Hall 2:45 PM - Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 23 rd	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM)	Saturday, March 23 rd	
Sunday, March 24 th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 AM)	Sunday, March 24 th	4:15-6:15 PM - 1-7 Grades-PSR Class



Wedding Anniversary

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

*Karl & Becky Queathem - 29 years of marriage on March 18th
Paul & Kim Flake - 11 years of marriage on March 21st*

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements/Maintenance	\$ 145.00
Retirement for Religious	\$ 55.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 100.00

Lent & Easter 2024 Schedule UPDATE

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday mornings after 8:30 AM Mass in Jonesburg
Wednesdays - 7:00 PM in Montgomery City
Fridays - 2:45 PM - ICS Students in Montgomery City - all are invited
Wednesday, March 27th - 2:00 PM - ICS Students Living Stations of the Cross (all are invited) in Mont. City

Penance Service

Wednesday, March 21st - 6:00 PM - Montgomery City

Easter Triduum

Holy Thursday – 10:00 AM - Morning Prayer/Office of Readings - MC
7:00 PM at Montgomery City
(Holy hour afterwards until 10:00 PM)
Good Friday – 10:00 AM - Morning Prayer/Office of Readings - MC
12 Noon - Stations of the Cross at Montgomery City
7:00 PM - Evening Service of the Passion of the Lord- MC
Holy Saturday – 10:00 AM - Morning Prayer/Office of Readings - MC
8:00 PM - Easter Vigil Mass at Montgomery City

Incense will be used on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday

8:00 AM Mass at Jonesburg
10:00 AM Mass at Montgomery City

April 7, 2024 - Divine Mercy Sunday

- 3:00 PM Service of Divine Mercy

Fifth Sunday of Lent

As we celebrate the final scrutiny and approach the holiest week of the year, we face a fundamental choice. We can live as we are used to or we can choose to live in the spirit of Christ, with the Holy Spirit giving new life by dwelling in us and guiding us to the One who gives eternal life. Let us use this opportunity to look into our hearts to find the attitudes, habits, and drives that bind us to our mortal, sinful selves and resolve to break these “burial bands.”



Question of the Week

How can I help loosen the bonds that keep someone else prevented from pursuing new life? Can I see myself taking the initiative to do this?

Holy Week Ministries

It's hard to believe that Lent is almost over and it's time to prepare for Holy Week.

A sign-up sheet for Feet Washing and other Holy Week Ministries is posted in the church vestibule. If you can help us out, please sign up! Parishioners from St. Patrick's have been invited to participate in these ministries as well.



Youth Group Meeting

The Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, April 7th following Mass. The meeting will be held in the IC School Cafeteria. Come and enjoy the fun and fellowship with each other.



See you there!

Pick-A Prize Tickets

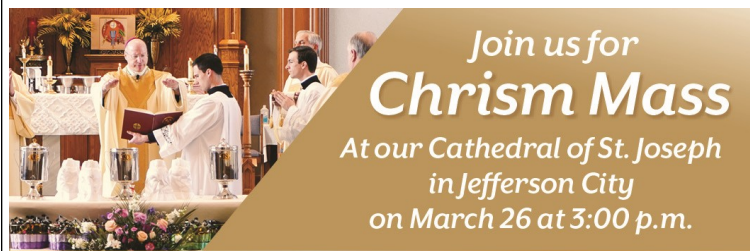
With only two weeks left to sell tickets, we are asking families to sell one or two tickets and to share on social media. Tickets can be picked up after the weekend Masses, at the Fish Fries, or the parish office.

Immaculate Conception School News



March 21st - ICS Spelling Bee- All are welcome!
March 22nd - Stations of the Cross @ 2:45pm-ICC
March 25th - School IN Session (Music Day)
March 27th - Living Stations of the Cross @ 2pm-ICC -
The entire community is invited to attend!

Thank you to the Park family for joining our school family!
Welcome to ICS!



Please join us for refreshments after Mass!



RSVP online at:
diojeffcity.org/Chrism-Mass-RSVP
or scan the QR code



Easter Special Collection

Supporting our retired priests and religious

As we celebrate the Easter season, let us remember retired Catholic priests and religious who have dedicated their lives to sharing the good news of the Risen Christ throughout our diocese.

Thank you for your generous support of our retired priests and religious!



Look for your envelope in the March 15 issue of *The Catholic Missourian* or donate online at

diojeffcity.org/donate-easter



But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord.

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33

As we approach the close of this Lenten season, let us each remember what is written on our hearts and live as faithful disciples of Christ through the sacraments, prayer and offering sacrifices to the Lord.



Stewardship
GROWING OUR FAITH



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

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

There are no events this week

Volunteers Needed



We are in need of volunteers to help mow the grass at the school. If you can help, please call or text Dennis Cobb at 573-253-9257.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to making our school run smoothly.

Head Count for March

March 2nd - 52	March 3rd - 126
March 9th - 97	March 10th - 85
March 16th -	March 17th -
March 23rd -	March 24th -
March 30th -	March 31st

Grand Total for March -



Invitation to (W)holiness

nurturing body, mind and spirit as women of faith

Journeying Into the Heart of God

Saturday, March 23

8:00 - 11:00 am

Immaculate Conception Church

**1206 E. McCarty St.,
Jefferson City**

Women of all ages are invited to join together for a morning of faith enrichment and quiet reflection journeying into the heart of God during this Lenten season.

The morning will begin with the celebration of Mass at 8 a.m., followed by a reflection with Fr. Matthew Flatley, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Come listen, learn and reflect on our individual and shared journeys to (w)holiness. Together, we will explore scriptures around Martha and Mary. Are you one or the other? Perhaps a bit of both? How can we both challenge and nurture all the parts of ourselves ... all the while, striving to give our all to God.

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 - Susie Ryan, Dorothy Bowman, Mary Pettig, and Bill & Lucille Muenz.

Resident of Oak Point Nursing Home in Warrenton, 700 Forrest Avenue, Warrenton, MO 63383 - Judy Topel.

Residents of Stonebridge in Hermann, 1800 Wein St, Hermann, MO 65041 - Tony & LaVerne Wessel, Sr.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for: Evelyn Strauss, Maxine Witte, Larry Brueggemann, Rosemary Brower, Beau Boschenreither (son of Cameron & Carolyn Bethel Boschenreither) Darrel Prior, Pat Stumbaugh, Sheryl Gibbs (daughter of Sue Fox), Ed Grillo, Tony Wessel, Sr., Ed Torbeck, Donald Oakes, Bill Dryden, Pat Klein, Nick Schneider, Rae Jean Rhoads, Lucille & Marvin Griesbauer, Pat Merz, Parker Calbreath, Al & Christine Barger, Don Zerr, Marla Daniels, Matt Brumagin, Kim Dryden, Ingrid Keller, Margaret Van Beek, and Terry Parker



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Brandon Wells, Noah Richard, Dylan Willis, Daniel Lohmann, and Donnie Wisdom.



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

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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.



Michael Auchly
Owner

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