



Coming of Age, Coming of Faith

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It is said we never become a believer before age thirty-five. I don't think there is anything magical about that age. Some in their seventies still have not yet come to be people of faith, and there are those who, at a very young age, seem to have entrusted their lives to God. What the age of thirty-five does say, however, is that most people need to have lived a while and experienced a few ups and downs to recognize there is a power in their lives greater than themselves.

This week's Gospel story of the man born blind encapsulates a lifelong journey of coming to see who Jesus is, compressed into a few days. When asked who cured him of blindness, the man first says the man Jesus did it. Brought to testify before the Pharisees, he says that Jesus must be a prophet. Confronted by the

Pharisees a second time, he testifies that Jesus must be of God. Finally, when he sees Jesus again, he calls him Lord, a name for God. The story is a parable of sorts about how we come to have faith, to see with new and different eyes.

Faith involves trusting, sometimes trusting an unseen Power who feels absent at times; about surrendering control over our lives to God, as we come to see in an entirely new way. It can take a lifetime to begin seeing in such a way. ●

Reflect

*Where am I on the journey of faith?
How open are my eyes?*

[The man who had been blind] replied, "...One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."

JOHN 9:25



Dear Padre,

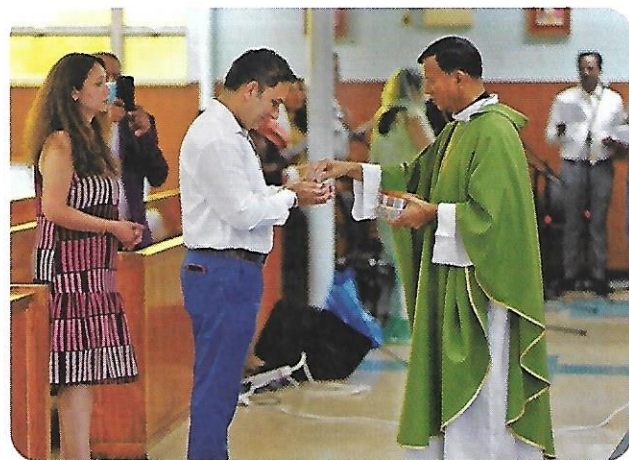
Why should I bother to be more religious? I'm a good person. Isn't that enough to get me into heaven?

When asked for advice about how people should decide on a vocation, St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, said they should do an imagination exercise. "Imagine that you are on your deathbed," he said. "From that point of view what would you wish you had done in your life?" That is still good advice.

Here's another exercise: Imagine you have a grandmother who is completely generous and caring toward you. Throughout your childhood, she was always there for you. But as a teen you belittled her and, in effect, told her that all she had offered is worthless to you. In a saner moment, won't you feel terrible about how you treated her?

Our life with God is much the same. God has given us absolutely everything, from our existence to every breath we take. God has also given us a way to know him through his Son, Jesus (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 73). And one way we know Jesus is through the Church and the celebration of the sacraments (CCC 1085). To refuse these gifts, to say, "I am already a good person. I don't need these gifts from God" is a bit presumptuous, don't you think?

To be "religious" is not just an outward show of piety. It's the way we have been given to learn God's language: the language of forgiveness, of faith, hope, and love. ●



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Bishop Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR / 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

March 20
St. Joseph
2 Sm 7:4–5a,
12–14a, 16
Rom 4:13,
16–18, 22 /
Mt 1:16, 18–21,
24a

TUESDAY

March 21
Lenten Weekday
Ez 47:1–9, 12
Jn 5:1–16

WEDNESDAY

March 22
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30

THURSDAY

March 23
Lenten Weekday
Ex 32:7–14
Jn 5:31–47

FRIDAY

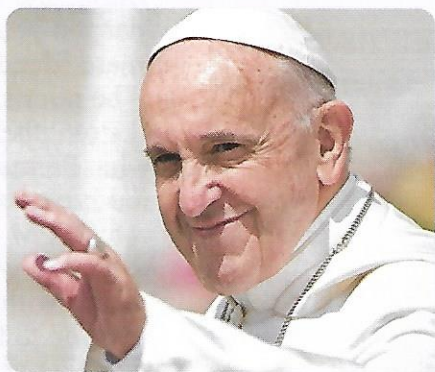
March 24
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12–22
Jn 7:1–2, 10,
25–30

SATURDAY

March 25
*Annunciation
of the Lord*
Is 7:10–14; 8:10
Heb 10:4–10
Lk 1:26–38

SUNDAY

March 26
*Fifth Sunday
of Lent*
Ez 37:12–14
Rom 8:8–11
Jn 11:1–45 or
Jn 11:3–7, 17,
20–27, 33b–45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We complain about things that are wrong in society, in the Church, in the world, without first questioning ourselves....Every fruitful, positive change must begin from ourselves. If we are blind, we cannot claim to be guides and teachers for others: indeed, a blind person cannot lead another blind person....

ANGELUS, FEBRUARY 27, 2022



Immaculate Conception Parish Family

162nd 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@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; Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, and Dennis Cobb



MARCH 19, 2023 FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 20th
Tuesday, March 21st

No Mass - Montgomery City
5:30 PM Mass - Mont. City +Hilda Schreiner



Wednesday, March 22nd
Thursday, March 23rd
Friday, March 24th
Saturday, March 25th
Sunday, March 26th

8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City +Jennie Ritter
8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City +Frances Graham
5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City - Our Parish Family
8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg
10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City +Delores Schmidt

Your Gifts to God!

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Church & School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
February 2023	\$74,690.68	\$74,419.76	\$270.92
Fiscal Year July-Feb. 2022-23	\$536,752.48	\$476,067.80	\$60,684.68
Needed Weekly - \$ 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 -			
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 March 25th & 26th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector	Vicki Oden	Richard Schierhoff
Children's Liturgy	Not During Saturday Evening Mass	Dianne Talley
Communion Minister	Gary Hoette	Dennis Cobb
Ministers of Hospitality	Ty & Courtney Cothren Family	Dave & Janet Cobb Charlie & Pat Korman
Servers	Jacob Roesner Beth Roesner	Leyla Beabout Natalie Beabout
Gift Bearers	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
Money Counters	Bill & Liz Huston Judy Cobb	Cathy McCormack Pam Schwartz

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 20th	No Mass - Montgomery City
Tuesday, March 21st	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, March 22nd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 23rd	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, March 24th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Saturday, March 25th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM)
Sunday, March 26th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 AM)

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, March 20th	7:00 PM - St. Vincent dePaul Meeting
Tuesday, March 21st	6:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Adoration 5:00 PM - Benediction & Devotion To Divine Mercy
Wednesday, March 22nd	6:00 PM - Parish Council/Finance Mtg. 7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
Thursday, March 23rd	
Friday, March 24th	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, March 25th	
Sunday, March 26th	



Wedding Anniversary

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

Paul & Kim Flake - 10 years of marriage on March 21st

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements	\$	25.00
3 in 1 Collection	\$	90.00
Pick-A-Prize Fundraiser (deposits to date)	\$	7,600.00

(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.

Holy Thursday – April 6th
Good Friday – April 7th
Holy Saturday – April 8th
Easter Sunday – April 9th

**For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light,
for light produces every kind of
goodness and righteousness and truth.**

Ephesians 5:8-9

Through Baptism, the “light” of the Blessed Trinity dwells within us. Let this light guide us from spiritual blindness and lead us to truly living in a way that reflects Christ’s light.



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Fourth Sunday of Lent

Today, having reached the halfway point of Lent, we celebrate Laetare Sunday. This Latin word, pronounced *lay-TAR-ray*, means “rejoice.” We rejoice in the knowledge that the cross does not end in death, that Jesus’ story does not end in the tomb. The Church also celebrates the second scrutiny today, a significant step for catechumens but also an opportunity of us to look into our hearts for the sinful habits and tendencies we may not even see. In today’s Gospel, Jesus heals a blind man. More significantly, he can heal our blindness to sin as well. Let us rejoice!

Holy Week Services



– April 6th
– April 7th
– April 8th
– April 9th

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

It’s hard to believe that Lent is half over this weekend 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.



Immaculate Conception School News



March 21st - Reconciliation for Confirmation Candidates at 6:30 PM
March 24th - K of C/Home & School Fish Fry Stations of the Cross @ 3:00 PM
March 25th - Diocesan Speech Meet
March 28th - Confirmation at 6:30 PM
March 30th - First Reconciliation & Parish Penance Service @ 6:30 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 8am.



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 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.**

Immaculate Conception School Athletics



Seventh and Eighth grade ICS students are eligible to participate with the public school 7th and 8th grade sports throughout the school year. The spring sports season has started and Max Angel – 7th grader, is on the middle school track team. All “Home” track meets are at the R-II High School/Middle School track campus. You are welcome to attend the meets to support our ICS student! The “Home” meets are listed. **THANK YOU** for supporting the ICS Middle School athletes!

Friday, March 24th – 4:15 PM
Thursday, April 13th – 4:15 PM
Monday, May 1st – 3:30 PM
Friday, May 5th – 4:15 PM

Prayers and Condolences

Mary Kay Johnson, sister of Harold Pottebaum of our parish family, passed away last Friday. We offer our prayers and condolences to Harold, Sharon, and their family during this difficult time.

Thank You!

The Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary wants to thank everyone for their support and purchasing quilt raffle tickets. The winning ticket was drawn at the Knight of Columbus Sausage Dinner, and the winner of the quilt was Donna Fennewald.

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
April 28th - KofC Ladies Auxiliary Spaghetti Luncheon at the KC Hall from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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 Update



As of last Sunday 76 tickets have been sold! Several parishioners have picked up tickets to sell. We are still encouraging each family to sell 2 or 3 tickets. They will be available after Mass. Just look for Vicki Parker, Beth Cobb or Mary Pottebaum. We will continue to sell tickets after weekend Masses and at the Knights of Columbus Fish Fries.

Head Count for March

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

Grand Total for March -

Question of the Week

What keeps me from seeing the truth? What keeps me from acknowledging what I see?

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

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.