



Once Upon a Mountaintop

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

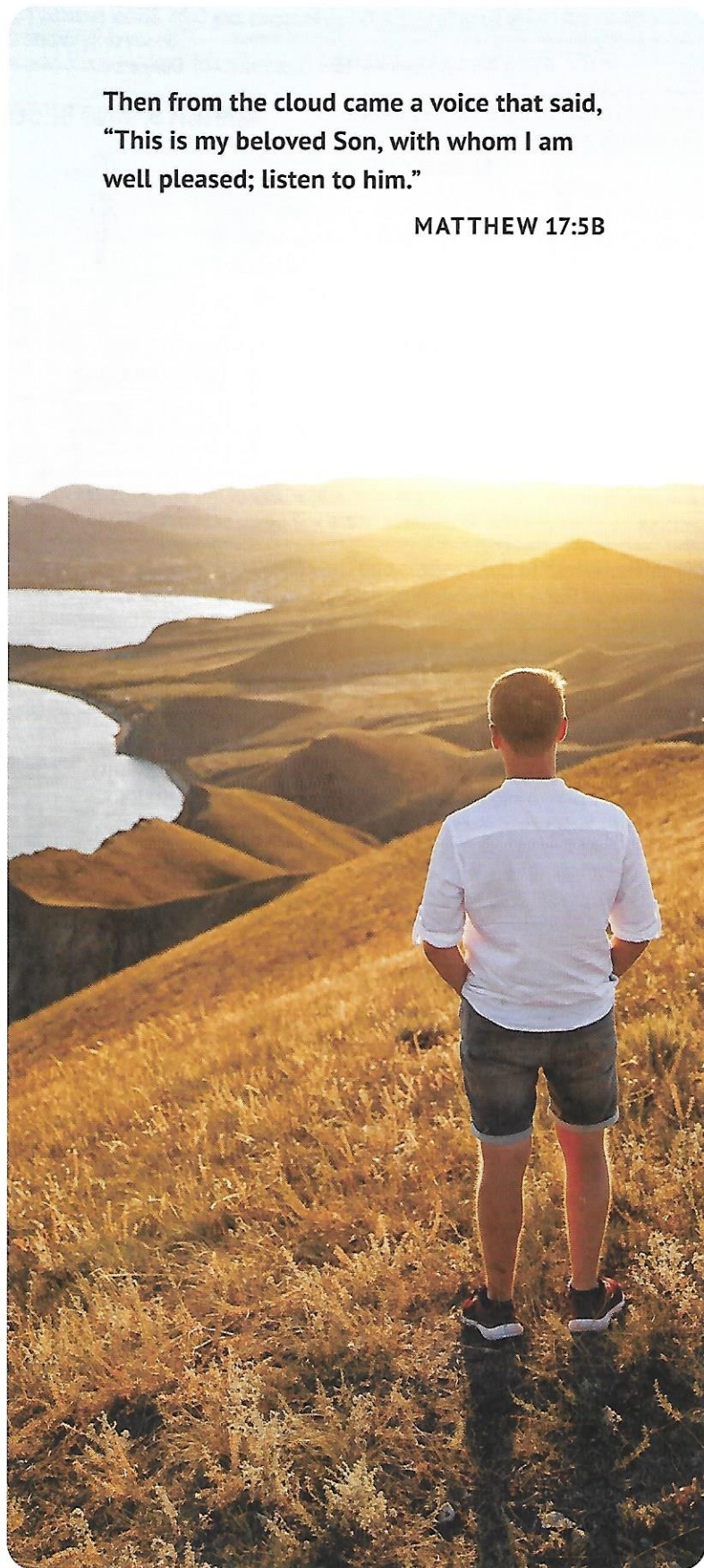
Many people, perhaps most people, have had a religious experience of some sort, something akin to that of Peter, James, and John atop the mountain with Jesus. It may or may not have included hearing a voice. Most often it is a deep sense of God's presence beyond anything they have ever known, like a profound realization of what life is about or how it is laced through and through with God. It usually occurs as we are idle, not doing anything in particular, and often when we are younger, yet it is also something that changes our understanding of what life and God are about.

Most people do not talk about such experiences for any number of reasons, partly because there do not seem to be words to describe such a moment in a way anyone would understand, like trying to describe falling in love. Partly because if we tried, we fear others would think us strange. And partly because we can find ourselves wondering whether it was real or simply our imagination. Yet always we remember the moment and know it to be true.

One additional characteristic of such moments is that they tend to take us to a new place in life, as with Abram in the first reading. For him it was to pack up his life and move. More likely for us it is to a life of service, caring, and treasuring all of life now in a new way. ●

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased; listen to him."

MATTHEW 17:5B



Reflect

*If you've had a religious experience,
is there someone you can talk to about
how it changed your faith?*

Dear Padre,

What is the value of lighting a candle in church?

Lighting candles is one of many customs that can be found in most of the world's religions. Lit candles, in church or at home, in front of a picture or statue of a favorite saint, serve a symbolic function. The light of the candle represents our desire that our prayer may be constant, as St. Paul urged (1 Thessalonians 5:17). The candle burns while we go about our daily tasks, symbolizing our desire to be at prayer with God. Similarly, Tibetan Buddhists spin prayer wheels and believe that as long as the wheels spin, a prayer is offered. Candles give light and banish the darkness. For Catholics they symbolize the light of Christ, by whose death and resurrection we are saved.

Lighting a candle isn't a required act. You can pray without lighting candles, without statues, without anything but your faith in God. However, we Catholics love our symbols. We like to engage all of our senses in our prayer experience: beautiful churches, colored light, incense, great music and, yes, candles.

One extreme position to avoid is lighting a candle hoping it will cause something else to happen, like the sudden cure of a loved one or relief from financial ruin. We are to avoid all appearance of using candles as if they have an untapped, magical power. Nevertheless, lighting a candle as a part of our prayer is a comforting custom and most things (and people?) look lovelier by candlelight. ●



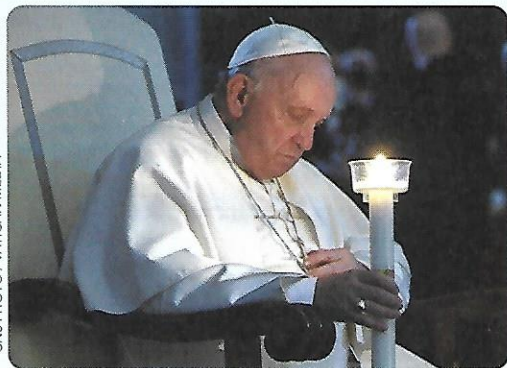
CNS PHOTO/JAMES RAMOS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD

Fr. Rick Potts, 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	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10	March 11	March 12
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Third Sunday of Lent
Dn 9:4b-10	Is 1:10, 16-20	Jer 18:18-20	Jer 17:5-10	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17-28	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20	Ex 17:3-7
Lk 6:36-38	Mt 23:1-12	Mt 20:17-28	Lk 16:19-31	Mt 21:33-43, 45-46	Lk 15:1-3, 11-32	Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 Jn 4:5-42



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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Do not be afraid to let yourself be guided by the Holy Spirit. Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy,... "The only great tragedy in life is not to become a saint."

GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE (ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD), MARCH 19, 2018



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 5, 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 6th
Tuesday, March 7th

No Mass - Montgomery City
5:30 PM Mass - Mont. City +Jim
Cochran Sr.

Wednesday, March 8th
Thursday, March 9th
Friday, March 10th
Saturday, March 11th
Sunday, March 12th

8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
NO Mass - Mont. City
8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City +Rose Lagana
5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City - Our Parish Family
8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg
10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City +Valerie Neudecker



Your Gifts to God!

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Church & School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
January 2023	\$75,117.25	\$50,816.49	\$24,300.76
Fiscal Year July-June 2022-23	\$462,061.80	\$401,648.04	\$60,413.76
Needed Weekly - \$ 13,232.95			
February 5th - \$3,837.00-Church; \$7,309.00-ICS/Daycare; \$11,146.00-Total			
February 12th - \$3,584.43-Church; \$3,739.00-ICS/Daycare; \$7,323.43-Total			
February 19th - \$6,422.23-Church; \$6,053.00-ICS/Daycare; \$12,475.23-Total			
February 26th - \$7,455.00-Church; \$6,689.00-ICS/Daycare; \$14,144.00-Total			

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 11th & 12th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector	Landon Pottebaum	Michael Smith
Children's Liturgy	Not During Saturday Evening Mass	Bonnie Walker
Communion Minister	Larry Brueggemann	Tudie Simpson
Ministers of Hospitality	Steve & Beth Cobb Kasey & Mary Pottebaum	Dana Schneider & Brady Craven Pat & Janet Stumbaugh
Servers	Mercer Cothren Jacob Roesner	Mylie & Zander Beck
Gift Bearers	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
Money Counters	Don & Sandy Oaks Judy Cobb	Megan Hans Steve Williams

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

For engaged couples preparing for marriage in our Church; that they may grow together in their love for one another as they seek to enrich their matrimonial commitments with the grace of God.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, March 6th	No Mass - Montgomery City
Tuesday, March 7th	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, March 8th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 9th	NO Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, March 10th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Saturday, March 11th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM)
Sunday, March 12th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 AM)

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, March 6th	7:00 PM - St. Vincent dePaul Mtg.
Tuesday, March 7th	6:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Adoration 5:00 PM - Benediction & Devotion To Divine Mercy
Wednesday, March 8th	7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
Thursday, March 9th	Diocesan Priests' Day of Recollection at Our Lady of Sorrows in Shrine in Starkenburg, MO 10:00 AM - Ministerial Alliance
Friday, March 10th	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 11th	
Sunday, March 12th	

Wedding Anniversary



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

*Alan & Marie Rock - 36 years of marriage on March 6th
Terry & Vicki Parker— 51 years of marriage on March 11th*

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements	\$ 655.00
3 in 1 Collection	\$ 50.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 90.00
Infirm Priests & Priest Retirement	\$ 420.00

(This is NOT included in Page 1 totals)

GRATEFUL LIVING SMALL GROUP PRAYER MEETINGS

Please pray for the success of the Grateful Living Small Groups.

January 28th – February 5th

Tuesday	2:00 PM	Tony Wessel 128 Baker Road, MC
Tuesday	6:30 PM	Vicki Oden 1884 Highway 161, MC
Wednesday	9:30 AM	Orlana Gardner 320 E. Spinsby St., MC
Wednesday	6:30 PM	Beth Roesner Immaculate Conception School
Thursday	6:30 PM	Dave Teeter 111 Two-Mile Branch Road or Knights of Columbus Building
Thursday	6:30 PM	Dianne Talley 434 Long Road, NF
Sunday	7:00 PM	Courtney Cothren (HS Students) 10 Craven Drive, MC

Congratulations!

We want welcome the newest member to our parish family, Justin Beabout, who was baptized last Sunday. He is the son of Blake & Melissa Beabout and of our parish. Congratulations to Justin and his family on this momentous occasion!

Second Sunday of Lent

As we continue this forty-day journey through Lent, we do not want to lose sight of what the future holds—for Jesus in the Gospel and for us in our own lives. Jesus will suffer greatly and will be put to death and laid in a tomb. But on the third day he will be raised and will ascent to the Father in glory, opening the way to eternal life for us all. We mark this season with prayer and fasting, almsgiving and repentance, knowing that our destiny lies in eternal life with the Lord. Let us worship him, for he has transformed our destiny.



Vacation Bible School

We are excited to offer Vacation Bible School this summer **July 11th thru 14th** from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM! Please mark your calendars now for these four exciting evenings where your child(ren) will learn more about their faith! More information in future bulletins!



Pick-A-Prize Fundraiser

What a “Kick Off” last weekend for our new fundraiser, “Pick a Prize”! We want to thank the parishioners for their great response and purchasing tickets. We will continue to sell tickets after weekend Masses and also at the Knights of Columbus Fish Fries. Each parish family is encouraged to try selling 2 to 3 tickets to help make this a successful fundraiser. You may request extra tickets by contacting Mary Pottebaum, Vicki Parker, or Beth Cobb. Proceeds benefit Immaculate Conception Parish, Montgomery City, MO.

Our Condolences

Donna Boes Whitehead, daughter of George and the late Punkey Boes “passed away” on February 28th. Her funeral arrangements can be found on www.hutchensfuneralhomes.com. There will be graveside services here at St. Mary’s Cemetery on Friday, March 10th at 3:00 PM. We offer our prayers and condolences to George and his family during this difficult time.

Immaculate Conception School News



- March 3rd - K of C/Home & School Fish Fry
Dr. Seuss Party (PK4-2nd) @ 1:30-3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross @ 3:00 pm
End of 3rd Quarter
- March 6th - School in Session
- March 10th - NO school
- March 12th - Daylight Savings Starts
- March 17th - K of C/Home & School Fish Fry
Stations of the Cross @ 3:00 pm

Yearbook sales have started! If you would like to purchase an ICS yearbook, please order online with link provided or contact the school office. <https://inter-state.com/YearbookEntry/73716W>

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.**

Fasting and Abstinence During Lent

To foster a greater spirit of penance, of reparation for sin, to encourage self-denial, and so guide us more closely in the footsteps of Christ, Holy Mother Church reminds us of the following obligations of fast and abstinence during Lent and also admonishes us all to deeper prayer and worship.

- 1. Abstinence:** all persons who have already celebrated their 14th birthday are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.
- 2. Fasting:** everyone, from the celebration of their 18th birthday to their 59th birthday, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is generally understood to mean eating only one full meal each day. Two other partial meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken; but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. Voluntary fasting on other weekdays of Lent is highly recommended. But please note: when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, neither the law of fasting nor the law of abstinence obliges. These are minimal penitential practices and should not be lightly excused. If in doubt, please consult your parish priest. Other recommended forms of fasting, as regards alcoholic drink, needless television, video games, internet use, and social entertainment, are of true spiritual value and strongly encouraged.

Question of the Week

What crosses have I found difficult to carry or been unwilling to carry? What crosses have I not even thought to carry, but my taking them up could ease the burden for someone close to me or someone else in need? What cross can I carry that will transfigure my life this Lent?

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

- March 5th - Church of the Risen Savior "All You Care to Eat"
Breakfast Sunday, March 5th from 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Valentine Hall in Starkenburg.
- March 12th - KC Hall in Martinsburg "All you Can Eat" Breakfast
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
- March 12th - St. Alphonsus Parish-Millwood Spring Sausage Dinner
from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- March 14th - 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 - 6:30 PM
Adults: \$13.00 Child: \$6.00
(both lunch and dinner)



Confirmation Candidates

There is a poster in the vestibule with the Confirmation candidates' pictures, names, and saint names. You are invited to take a paper with the names on it to pray for the candidates as they are preparing for the sacrament. Confirmation Mass is March 28 at 6:30 p.m. here at Immaculate Conception Church.

Head Count for February

February 4th - 67	February 5th - 132
February 11th - 83	February 12th - 129
February 18th - 77	February 19th - 130
February 25th - 52	February 26th - 159

Grand Total for February - 829

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, Ingrid Keller, and Mary Kay Johnson (sister-in-law of Sharon Pottebaum).

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

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our
Parish Family!**

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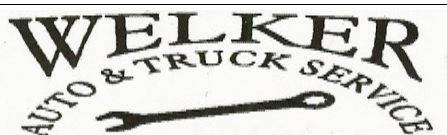
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Welcome
everyone, anytime
on Tuesdays
starting at
6:00 AM we have
Eucharistic
Adoration: A
special time to
worship and praise
our Lord and
Savior, Jesus
Christ and to
deepen your
intimate friendship
and be nourished
and strengthened
by his Presence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



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