



I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. These also I must lead... and there will be one flock, one shepherd.

JOHN 10:16

Living with Our Instincts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We live with a maze of instincts—some from the dark side and some from the light. In her book *Caste*, Isabel Wilkerson describes how cultures tend to consign certain individuals to the bottom of the social ladder. She specifically compares the caste system in India with how the Nazis sought to suppress and eliminate Jews and with the way blacks were oppressed by slavery and even in our own time. She describes the instinct in every society to relegate others to a lower class, always seeking to ensure that we are not at the bottom. This instinct can come from the dark side of people.

There is also an instinct for goodness to others, an instinct of light—to recognize everyone as brothers and sisters. As Saint John notes, “we are God’s children now”

(1 John 3:2). It is the voice of the Shepherd instilled in the human spirit that calls us into one fold, the voice of God urging us to healing goodness.

It is the dark side that nurtures white supremacy. It is the light that enables us to see beyond the color of our skin. It is the dark side that excludes those who seem different. It is the light that welcomes and offers hospitality. It is the dark side that succumbs to fear. It is the light of God’s love that confronts the wolves of hate and urges us to follow. There is always tension between darkness and light. ●

Reflect

How does the voice of the Good Shepherd call you to reject the dark and embrace the light?

Dear Padre,

My son was raised Catholic and still claims he is Catholic, but he and his wife go to a Protestant church. How should I deal with my frustration?

Many parents and grandparents today share your frustration. They raised their children Catholic, maybe even sent them to Catholic schools, but the children have grown up and chosen not to continue to be faithful Catholics. A recent survey showed that nine out of ten people say they believe in God, but often they are not committed to a single religion or house of worship. About

half of the people questioned attend religious services less than once a month, or never. The loyalty to one Church that was evident in our own lives, or in our parents' and grandparents' lives, is lacking in today's people under age fifty-five.

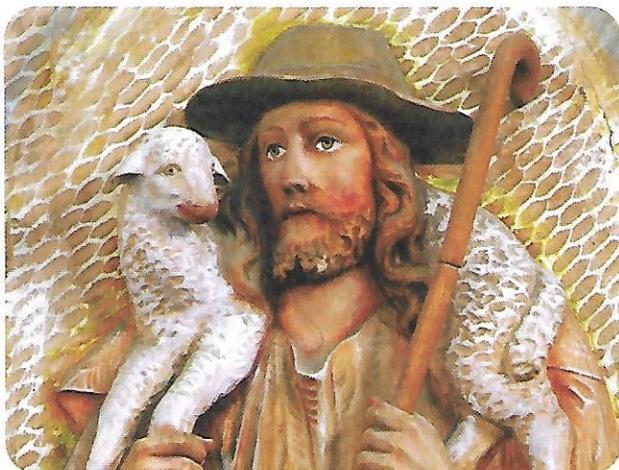
What can one do about this situation? Certainly pray for your children and continue to give a good example through your own loyalty to the Catholic Church and attendance at Sunday Mass. Invite your son and his wife to attend with you when they visit. As your children age, they may become more interested in your family's history and traditions, and the religion of their childhood may again appear attractive. Try to be patient and continue to pray that your children will return to the Church of their roots. ●



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The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| April 22 | April 23 | April 24 | April 25 | April 26 | April 27 | April 28 |
| Easter Weekday | Easter Weekday | Easter Weekday | St. Mark, Evangelist | Easter Weekday | Easter Weekday | Fifth Sunday of Easter |
| Acts 11:1-18 | Acts 11:19-26 | Acts 12:24-13:5a | 1 Pt 5:5b-14 | Acts 13:26-33 | Acts 13:44-52 | Acts 9:26-31 |
| Jn 10:1-10 | Jn 10:22-30 | Jn 12:44-50 | Mk 16:15-20 | Jn 14:1-6 | Jn 14:7-14 | 1 Jn 3:18-24 |
| | | | | | | Jn 15:1-8 |



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Christ's love is not selective; it embraces everyone.... He is everyone's shepherd. Jesus wants everyone to be able to receive the Father's love and encounter God....The Father entrusts everyone to Jesus the Good Shepherd, who gave his life for everyone. Brothers and sisters, Jesus defends, knows and loves all of us.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 25, 2021

ZVONIMIR ATLETIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

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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@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, Dennis Cobb, & Jack Wells

APRIL 21, 2024 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 22nd **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
 Tuesday, April 23rd **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
 Wednesday, April 24th **NO Mass - Jonesburg**
 Thursday, April 25th **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
 Friday, April 26th **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
 Saturday, April 27th **5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City** +Darlene Sachs
 Sunday, April 28th **8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg**
10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City - Our Parish Family



Your Gifts to God!

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Church & School Financial Report:

| | Income | Expenses | Difference |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| March 2024 | \$48,481.60 | \$66,937.56 | -\$18,455.96 |
| Fiscal Year July-March, 2023-24 | \$583,594.72 | \$592,233.81 | -\$8,639.09 |
| Needed Weekly - \$13,397.08 | | | |
| April 7th - \$3,713.00-Church; \$6,711.75-ICS/Daycare; \$10,424.75 -Total | | | |
| April 14th -\$3,590.65-Church; \$9,180.00-ICS/Daycare; \$12,770.65 -Total | | | |
| April 21st - | | | |
| April 28th - | | | |

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 April 27th & 28th

| Ministries | Saturday, 5:00 PM | Sunday, 10:00 AM |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Lector | Beth Cobb | Mark Brower |
| Children's Liturgy | Not During Saturday Evening Mass | Dianne Talley |
| Communion Minister | Mary Pottebaum | Jacob Lotton |
| Ministers of Hospitality | Steve & Beth Cobb Don & Lila Broz | Ron & Dianne Talley Jerry Neale Tony Wessel |
| Servers | Jacob Roesner Malorie Schulte | Keagan Rakers Carl Smith |
| Gift Bearers | Hospitality Ministers | Hospitality Ministers |
| Money Counters | Daryl Rhoads John & Aggie Baldetti | Steve Williams Dottie Brueggen |

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

For a greater awareness of and respect for our common home in building an authentic human ecology: May we be good stewards of the gift of creation in defending all human life.

Weekly Mass Schedule

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday, April 22nd | NO Mass - Montgomery City |
| Tuesday, April 23rd | NO Mass - Montgomery City |
| Wednesday, April 24th | NO Mass - Jonesburg |
| Thursday, April 25th | NO Mass - Montgomery City |
| Friday, April 26th | NO Mass - Montgomery City |
| Saturday, April 27th | 5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM) |
| Sunday, April 28th | 8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 AM) |

Upcoming Events & Announcements

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Monday, April 22nd | 6:30 PM - St. Vincent DePaul |
| Tuesday, April 23rd | 6:00 AM-5:00 PM - Adoration NO Benediction or Devotion to Divine Mercy |
| Wednesday, April 24th | |
| Thursday, April 25th | |
| Friday, April 26th | |
| Saturday, April 27th | 6:00 PM - ICS Dinner Dance @ KC Hall |
| Sunday, April 28th | |

Wedding Anniversary



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

*Jerry & Sue Beck - 46 Years of marriage on April 22nd
Rick & Beth Boschert - 32 years of marriage on April 25th*

Additional Financial Information

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Capital Improvements/Maintenance | \$ 376.00 |
| Retirement for Priests & Religious | \$ 225.00 |
| Holy Day (Ascension) | \$ 35.00 |
| Mass Intentions | \$ 120.00 |

Helpers for Mowing

We are in need of people who are able and willing to help mow the church and rectory lawns. If you are interested, please call Dennis Cobb at (573) 253-9257.



Pick-A-Prize First Winner!



HUGE to everyone that participated in the Pick-A-Prize portion of the 2024 Harvest Picnic!! We have sold all 200 tickets! Congratulations to our 1st winner, George Boes! He chose the \$500.00 gift card to Sams/Walmart! Next prize drawing will be held April 21st!

GRADUATION MASS

Immaculate Conception Parish will be honoring ICS 8th Grade graduates as well as high school and post-secondary graduates at **5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, May 11th**. Graduates are asked to wear their cap and gown at the Mass. This includes high school and any type of graduation or certification after high school. Please call or text Ruth Ann O'Keefe at (573) 823-2676 if you have a student who has graduated during this past year.



Fourth Sunday of Easter



Today we are reminded that Jesus is the Good Shepherd, committed to caring for this sheep through every danger, difficulty, and trauma. He told his disciples that he would lay down his life for his sheep. Indeed, this is exactly what he did. By laying down his life for our sins, he conquered death and raises us to eternal life with him. Let us allow the risen Lord to guide us to the idyllic pasture of salvation.

Question of the Week

In what specific way can I lay down my life this week for someone who needs what I can give them?

Our Prayers & Condolences to Father & His Family

Fr. Ernest's mother, Comfort Nkechinyere Dike, passed away unexpectedly on the evening of April 8th. Our prayers and condolences are with Father and his family during this time of sorrow. Father arrived safely in Nigeria for his mother's funeral. Fr. Mark Porterfield will be filling in for Fr. Ernest this weekend and next.

Life Line Screening



Life Line Screening is an organization that screens people for stroke and cardiovascular disease risks. They are partnering with Montgomery County Health Department to hold a screening on May 30, 2024. There are limited openings for the screening. They are also offering a few free screenings. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the vestibule for more information and contact them as soon as possible as the spaces are filling up fast.

Save The Date - June 1st

We will be "spring cleaning" our church! Watch for more information in future bulletins!

Immaculate Conception School News



- April 19th- Spring Special @ 6pm-KC Hall**
- April 24th- 7th/8th Grade Sketch Day @ Jefferson City**
- April 27th- ICS Dinner Dance**
- May 1st - Home & School Meeting @ 6pm**
- May 2nd - 8th Grade Mass @ St. Joseph Cathedral**

Please support the ICS Dinner Dance! Tickets will be available in the school office or at the door the evening of the event. Please join us!

The Revival Is Coming to the Diocese of Jefferson City

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will be traveling through our diocese from July 1-5, 2024, stopping in Sedalia, Boonville, Jefferson City, Columbia and Starkenburg. Here is a tentative schedule.

- July 1 — St. Vincent de Paul (Sedalia):** 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM potluck dinner (bring your favorite dish to share) at Sacred Heart School, bilingual program, and a solemn Eucharistic Procession to St. Patrick Chapel for Adoration and Confession.
- July 2 — Ss. Peter & Paul Parish (Boonville):** 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM potluck dinner (bring your favorite dish to share) , talks on the Mass and the Eucharist, Adoration and Confession.
- July 3 — St. Thomas More Newman Center Parish (Columbia):** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM Mass, Adoration, Confession and lunch.
- July 3 — Cathedral of St. Joseph (Jefferson City):** 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM potluck dinner (bring your favorite dish to share), talks on the Mass and the Eucharist, Adoration and Confession
- July 4 — Proto-Cathedral of St. Peter (Jefferson City):** *Rest and Revive* during the Jefferson City 4th of July festivities. We'll have Adoration all day with Confession available between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and talks periodically.
- July 5 — Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows (Starkenburg):** 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Adoration and lunch, talks on the Mass and the Eucharist, and a pilgrim send-off!

I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15

What a gift we have been given that our Shepherd loved us so much he laid down his life for us! Through his sacrificial heroic love, he calls us into relationship with him by his grace and compassion.



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

There are no events to post this week.

Head Count for April

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| April 6th - 74 | April 7th - 99 |
| April 13th - 80 | April 14th - 101 |
| April 20th - | April 21st - |
| April 27th - | April 28th - |

Grand Total for April -

Blood Drive



The Knights of Columbus and the American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive on **Wednesday, May 1, 2024** at the Knights of Columbus Hall here in Montgomery City. It will be from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org> to schedule an appointment. Give the "gift of life" today!

MidWest March For Life

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 1, 2024**

*To honor and glorify Jesus Christ
and defend innocent life.*



MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL

South Lawn • 201 W. Capitol Ave. • Jefferson City, Missouri
Activities planned from 8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Capitol Grounds
Over 30 life-affirming exhibitors!



Fundraising lunch 11 am to 1 pm sponsored by
Knights of Columbus • St. Peter Church • Fulton, MO

WEAR RED FOR LIFE!

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: Avery Penn, Jim Wortmann, Lindsey O'Bryan, Michael Hanneken, Evelyn Strauss, Larry Brueggemann, Rosemary Brower, Beau Boschenreither (son of Cameron & Carolyn Bethel Boschenreither) Darrel Prior, Sheryl Gibbs (daughter of Sue Fox), Ed Grillo, Tony Wessel, Sr., Ed & Dorothy 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, 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
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