

Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS


When Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God’s temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life’s details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God’s Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

Reflect

*What might be cluttering
your life right now?*



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of
Passover, many began to believe in his name
when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

Dear Padre,

My thoughts are my worst enemy. Sometimes they turn to lust and anger. When I recognize what I am thinking, I pray to Jesus and Mary, but I still struggle. What else can I do?

When angry and lustful thoughts enter our consciousness, we should say a prayer and turn our mind to something else. Such thoughts become sins only when we deliberately encourage them or when we make plans to commit the sin. The thoughts themselves are temptations, not sins.

Continue to put your trust in Jesus and Mary, and try to focus on what is good and peaceful. You might also consider what you are letting into your thoughts or imagination: What are you watching on TV or the internet? What music are you listening to? What are you reading? Are those helping to shape your thoughts and imagination in a new direction, or are they contributing to the problem?

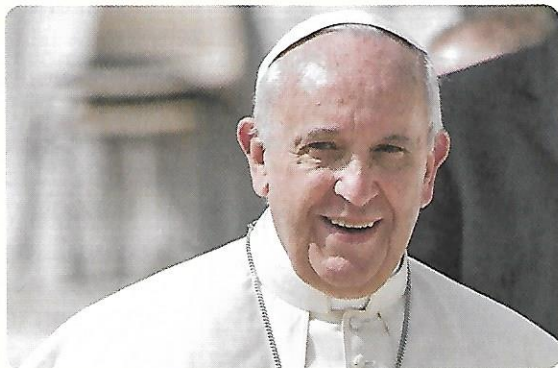
A good thing to turn your attention to is God's word in Scripture. You might want to memorize all or part of the following New Testament verse: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). Peacefully reflect on these words when troubled by temptation. ●

The Redemptorists / 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 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10
<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>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1–15ab	Dn 3:25, 34–43	Dt 4:1, 5–9	Jer 7:23–28	Hos 14:2–10	Hos 6:1–6	2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23
Lk 4:24–30	Mt 18:21–35	Mt 5:17–19	Lk 11:14–23	Mk 12:28–34	Lk 18:9–14	Eph 2:4–10 Jn 3:14–21



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Father sent [his Son] to cleanse the temple: not only the Temple of stone, but above all the temple of our heart. Jesus could not tolerate his Father's house becoming a marketplace (see John 2:16); neither does he want our hearts to be places of turmoil, disorder, and confusion.

HOMILY, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



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



MARCH 3, 2024 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions



Monday, March 4th **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
Tuesday, March 5th **5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City** +Albert & Alvina Collins
Wednesday, March 6th 8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 7th **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
Friday, March 8th **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
Saturday, March 9th **5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City** +Clara Antram
Sunday, March 10th 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
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			
February 4th - \$6,957.32-Church; \$6,943.75-ICS/Daycare; \$13,901.07-Total			
February 11th - \$7,201.42-Church; \$4,572.00-ICS/Daycare; \$11,773.42-Total			
February 18th - \$4,082.00-Church; \$6,238.00-ICS/Daycare; \$10,320.00-Total			
February 25th - \$4,470.58-Church; \$4,915.00-ICS/Daycare; \$ 9,385.58-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/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 9th & 10th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector	Landon Pottebaum	Janet Stumbaugh
Children's Liturgy	Not During Saturday Evening Mass	Bonnie Walker
Communion Minister	Mary Pottebaum	Eileen Lotton
Ministers of Hospitality	Daryl & Nancy Cobb Bob Dryden	Jeff & Amanda Arens Melissa & Justin Beabout
Servers	Reed Pottebaum Jacob Roesner	Leyla Beabout Natalie Beabout
Gift Bearers	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
Money Counters	Dottie Brueggen Debbie Heidelberger	Pam Schwartz Cathy McCormack

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

Monday, March 4th	NO Mass - Montgomery City
Tuesday, March 5th	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, March 6th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 7th	NO Mass - Montgomery City (Priests' Day of Recollection)
Friday, March 8th	NO Mass - Montgomery City (Diocesan Finance Council Policy Workshop in Jeff City)
Saturday, March 9th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM)
Sunday, March 10th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 AM)

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, March 4th	
Tuesday, March 5th	6:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Adoration 5:00 PM - Benediction & Devotion to Divine Mercy
Wednesday, March 6th	6:00 PM - Home & School 6:30 PM - Coalition Mtg. in JB 7:00 PM - Knights of Columbus 7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
Thursday, March 7th	Priests' Day of Recollection
Friday, March 8th	11:00 AM-1:00 PM & 4:30-6:30PM - Fish Fry @ KC Hall 2:45 PM - Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 9th	
Sunday, March 10th	4:15 - 6:15 PM - 1-7th Gr. PSR Class



Wedding Anniversary

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

Alan & Marie Rock - 37 years of marriage on March 6th

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements/Maintenance	\$ 45.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 140.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 40.00

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 13th - 6:00 PM -Jonesburg
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

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



Third Sunday of Lent

Today we hear God deliver the ten commandments to Moses and the Chosen People. The commandments provide a way for them to live up to their part of the covenant. We face the same challenge today. Lent is a wonderful opportunity to examine our consciences and recall time when we have failed to follow one of God's commands and determine which commandments we find difficult to obey consistently. Particularly during this penitential season, let us repent of our sins, reconcile with God and those we've wronged, and pray for the grace to do better.



Question of the Week

Who can I invite to reconcile with? How can I view my relationships based more on love than on reciprocation? How does that affect how I act?

Rosary Rally

A Rosary Rally in honor of Our Lady of Fatima for the intention of Christian marriages between a man and a woman will be held at 12:00 noon on Saturday, March 16th, at Immaculate Conception Church. Weather permitting, the rosary will be said outside, so bring your lawn chair!



**Please Note! Prayer Partner Mass will be on
March 14th at 8:00 AM**

Pick-A Prize Tickets

Just a reminder that Pick-A-Prize tickets will be sold after weekend Masses and at the Lenten Fish Fries! You may also purchase them in the parish office.

**Parish office hours March 4th thru 7th will be from
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.**

Immaculate Conception School News



March 4th - School IN Session
 March 6th - Home & School Meeting 6pm
 ICS Science Night following Meeting- ALL are welcome!
 March 8th - NO School



2024 Women's Ministry Spring Pilgrimage

Join us for a day of prayer and reflection on the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary with Catholic speaker Jill Simons

Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Mary Parish — Shelbina, MO



Register online at
diojeffcity.org/springpilgrimage



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community & faith



Camp Lolek
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Co-ed: June 9-13
 Boys: June 16-20
 Girls: July 7-11

Adventure

Sisterhood | Brotherhood
Leadership



Camp Maccabee
FOR YOUNG MEN

July 14-19



Camp Siena
FOR YOUNG WOMEN

July 21-26

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 15



DIOJEFFCITY.ORG/YOUTH-CAMPS

**The law of the Lord is perfect,
 refreshing the soul;
 The decree of the Lord is
 trustworthy, giving wisdom
 to the simple.**

Psalm 19:8

**God's commandments provide
 us with the road map to live
 our lives as obedient disciples,
 seeking his mercy to purify our
 hearts to be a temple
 of the Holy Spirit.**



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

March 10th - 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM "All You Can Eat Breakfast at Valentine Hall at Starkenburg
 March 10th - 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM "All You Can Eat Breakfast at Martinsburg KC Hall
 March 10th - 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sausage Dinner at St. Alphonsus Parish in Millwood



HOPE begins with you.

Blood Drive Montgomery County R-II High School

In the Gym
 394 N. Hwy 19
 Montgomery City, MO 63361

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: MontgomeryCoHS to schedule an appointment.

Head Count for February

February 3rd - 68	February 4th - 178
February 10th - 74	February 11th - 109
February 17th - 75	February 18th - 133
February 24th - 49	February 25th - 135

Grand Total for February - 821

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, and Mary Pettig.

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: 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, and Margaret Van Beek.



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



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Good Food! Good People! Good Times!

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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Immaculate Conception School

Dinner Dance

6 PM: DOORS OPEN
6:30 PM: DINNER
7:30-11:30 PM:
DANCE/LIVE AUCTION

SATURDAY
APRIL 27, 2024

Meal:

SMOKED PORK
GREEN BEANS
LOADED MASHED POTATOES
MAC 'N' CHEESE
DESSERT

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL
MONTGOMERY CITY

BAND:

**RANDOM
PANTHER**

\$280 PER TABLE OF 8 OR \$40 PER PERSON

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO ATTEND ~ BYOB

Drop off or mail payment to Immaculate Conception School. Venmo: @IChomeandschool
Questions? Email immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org or call 573-564-2679