

*And this is the verdict,
that the light came into the world,
but people preferred darkness to light,
because their works were evil.*

JOHN 3:19

The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

A long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans.

A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus.

Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so. ●

Reflect

*How have you been saved and
how do you need saving now?*

Dear Padre,

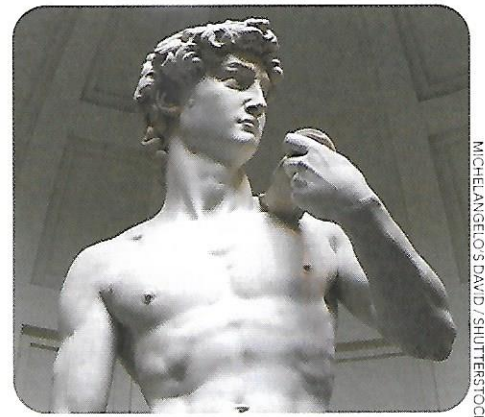
In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?

The “respectability” of the location or publisher doesn’t matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo’s intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn’t arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at usccb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: “Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity....The sin of pornography needs the Lord’s forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord’s mercy and his power to free and heal you.” ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

If God is the God of life...

then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.

If God is the God of peace...

then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.

If God is the God of love...

then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



MONDAY

March 11
Lenten Weekday
Is 65:17–21
Jn 4:43–54

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

March 13
Lenten Weekday
Is 49:8–15
Jn 5:17–30

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

March 15
Lenten Weekday
Wis 2:1a, 12–22
Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

SATURDAY

March 16
Lenten Weekday
Jer 11:18–20
Jn 7:40–53

SUNDAY

March 17
Fifth Sunday of Lent
Jer 31:31–34
Heb 5:7–9
Jn 12:20–33

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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

MARCH 10, 2024 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Mass Intentions



Your Gifts to God!

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Monday, March 11th **NO Mass - Montgomery City**
Tuesday, March 12th **5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City** +Vincent & Delores Schimweg
Wednesday, March 13th **8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg**
Thursday, March 14th **8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City** +Darlene Sachs
Friday, March 15th **8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Deceased of Schipper & Purler Family
Saturday, March 16th **5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City** - Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 17th **8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg**
10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City - Michael Smith 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 3rd - See next week's bulletin for this information.
March 10th -
March 17th -
March 24th -

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 16th & 17th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector	Jacob Roesner	Pat Stumbaugh
Children's Liturgy	Not During Saturday Evening Mass	Anna Harrell
Communion Minister	Gary Hoette	Tudie Simpson
Ministers of Hospitality	Cothren Family	Hans Family
Servers	Beth Roesner Malorie Schulte	Kendra Rakers Keagan Rakers
Gift Bearers	Hospitality Ministers	Hospitality Ministers
Money Counters	Bill & Liz Huston Daryl Rhoads	Gayle Adams Megan Hans

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 11th	NO Mass - Montgomery City
Tuesday, March 12th	5:30 PM Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, March 13th	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, March 14th	8:00 AM Prayer Partner Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, March 15th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Saturday, March 16th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 4:30 PM)
Sunday, March 17th	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Rosary at 9:30 AM)

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, March 11th	6:30 PM - Society St. Vincent DePaul
Tuesday, March 12th	6:00 AM to 5:00 PM - Adoration 1:00 PM - K of C Auxiliary Mtg. 5:00 PM - Benediction & Devotion to Divine Mercy
Wednesday, March 13th	6:00 PM - Penance Service-Jonesburg 7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross
Thursday, March 14th	10:00 AM - Ministerial Alliance
Friday, March 15th	11:00 AM-1:00 PM & 4:30-6:30PM - Fish Fry @ KC Hall 2:45 PM - Stations of the Cross
Saturday, March 16th	
Sunday, March 17th	St. Patrick's Day

Wedding Anniversary



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

*Terry & Vicki Parker - 52 years of marriage on March 11th.
Joseph & Lisa Gotsch - 11 years of marriage on March 15th*

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements/Maintenance	\$	45.00
Retirement for Religious	\$	0.00
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

Fourth Sunday of Lent



From the first days of creation, humans took advantage of their free will and sinned against God. But God so love the world that God sent the Son to be born into the world, to suffer and die to atone once and for all for our sins, and to be raised up so that all may have eternal life. The Holy Spirit draws us here each week to allow us to express our love for God in the way that we worship God and the way that we treat each other. On this *Laetare* ("Rejoice!") Sunday, we are reminded of God's unparalleled love and mercy and ultimate purpose for us all.

Question of the Week

Am I willing to live out my faith in the light of day, even when it makes me uncomfortable because I am ridiculed or rejected by much of society?

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.

Special Thank you

It takes many hands to keep our parish a place where all feel welcomed. We are often times so busy with our personal lives, work, social engagements and everyday lives that we forget to say "Thank you" to all those who give of their time and talent no matter how big or small. That even includes those people who are Prayer Warriors who hold us up in prayer. At this time a special "Thank you" is being extended to all who keep our Parish a place of love, hope, and faith. God Bless all of you!!

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.

Immaculate Conception School News



March 14th - 8:00 am - Prayer Partner Mass

March 15th - 2:45 pm - Stations of the Cross

The students are studying and learning the importance of God's love for them. God's love and sacrifice of his son Jesus is powerful and is a lesson in how they can be a better person.



Please join us for refreshments after Mass!



RSVP online at:

diojeffcity.org/Chrism-Mass-RSVP

or scan the QR code



SAVE THE DATE

THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC
PILGRIMAGE WILL BE TRAVELLING
THROUGH OUR DIOCESE THIS SUMMER

JULY
1-5 2024



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Pilgrimage



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of infinite love from God. We each have been given free will to do what we choose with these gifts of love. How are you sharing your gifts to build up the Church to show gratitude for the gift of his Son for the promise of eternity with God?



Stewardship
GROWING OUR FAITH



DIOCESE OF
Jefferson City

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

Diocese Launches Whistleblower Hotline

The Diocese of Jefferson City has updated their website to include a new whistleblower hotline that anyone can use to report financial misconduct, human resources concerns or any other issues. **The hotline number is: 573-635-0386.**

Information about the hotline is available at the top of the diojeffcity.org webpage via the "Report Abuse or Misconduct" link. This webpage also includes instructions for existing methods of reporting abuse.

Callers are prompted to leave a message with their concerns. The message will immediately be sent by email to three people — one Chancery employee and two lay people who are not employees of the diocese. The three will confer and ensure the issue is properly investigated.

The diocese is beginning to raise awareness about the new hotline, including [a story in The Catholic Missourian](#).

Head Count for March

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

Grand Total for March -

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: 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, 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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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

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Montgomery City, MO 63361

www.icschool-mc.org 573.564.2679

March 7, 2024

Message from Ms. Schroeder

Enrollment forms have been sent out to all ICS families, please send them back ASAP so that we can start planning and purchasing materials for the 2024-25 school year. Please do not wait until the last minute to register your child for Immaculate Conception School.

The Spring Special is on April 19 at 6pm at the KC Hall. Ms. Dottie is in need of gallon size or larger ice cream containers for several students to use during the concert. Please send in any containers that you are willing to donate to music class. Ms. Dottie will be sending out more information when the date gets closer.

ICS is hosting a Dinner Dance on April 27 to raise funds to help our parish and school rebound from rising costs. Please plan on joining us to show your support for Immaculate Conception School. We will be having several raffles throughout the evening, including a "Booze Wagon." We are asking that all families send in an adult beverage to the school office or \$10 so that the committee can shop for you. Also, if you have any items lying around at home for the Trash or Treasure grab bag game, please send them to the school office.

Important Dates:

Mar. 14- Prayer Partner Mass @ 8am

Mar. 15- Stations of the Cross @ 2:45pm-ICC

Mar. 21- ICS Spelling Bee

Mar. 22- Stations of the Cross @ 2:45pm-ICC

Mar. 25- School IN Session (Music Day)

Mar. 27- Living Stations of the Cross @ 2pm-ICC

Mar. 28-Apr. 2- Easter Break

Apr. 3- Home & School Meeting @ 6pm

Apr. 4- Prayer Partner Mass

Apr. 11- Dioscean Spelling Bee

Apr. 19- Spring Special @ 6pm-KC Hall

Apr. 24- 7/8 Grade Sketch Day @ Jefferson City

Apr. 27- ICS Dinner Dance

May 1- Home & School Meeting @ 6pm



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



SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

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

MUST BE 21 OR OLDER TO ATTEND ~ BYOB