



Holy Voices

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Instincts come in various shapes and sizes. They may simply be gut feelings, or dreams that seem to speak more than a nighttime fantasy trip. Sometimes they appear in the form of daydreaming that takes us to another place, or they can be the silent voice of God. Whatever they may be, there are those times when they demand our attention.

In *Saint Joan*, a play by George Bernard Shaw, Joan of Arc has a conversation with Robert about her conviction regarding what God is calling her to do. Joan says to him, “I hear voices. They come from God.” Robert disagrees, “They come from your imagination.” “Of course,” says Joan, “that is how messages of God come to us.”

Saint Joseph, the husband of Mary, placed a heavy credence on his dream, believing that the dream to keep pregnant Mary as his wife was the voice of God, and so Joseph does just that. Much later he again listens

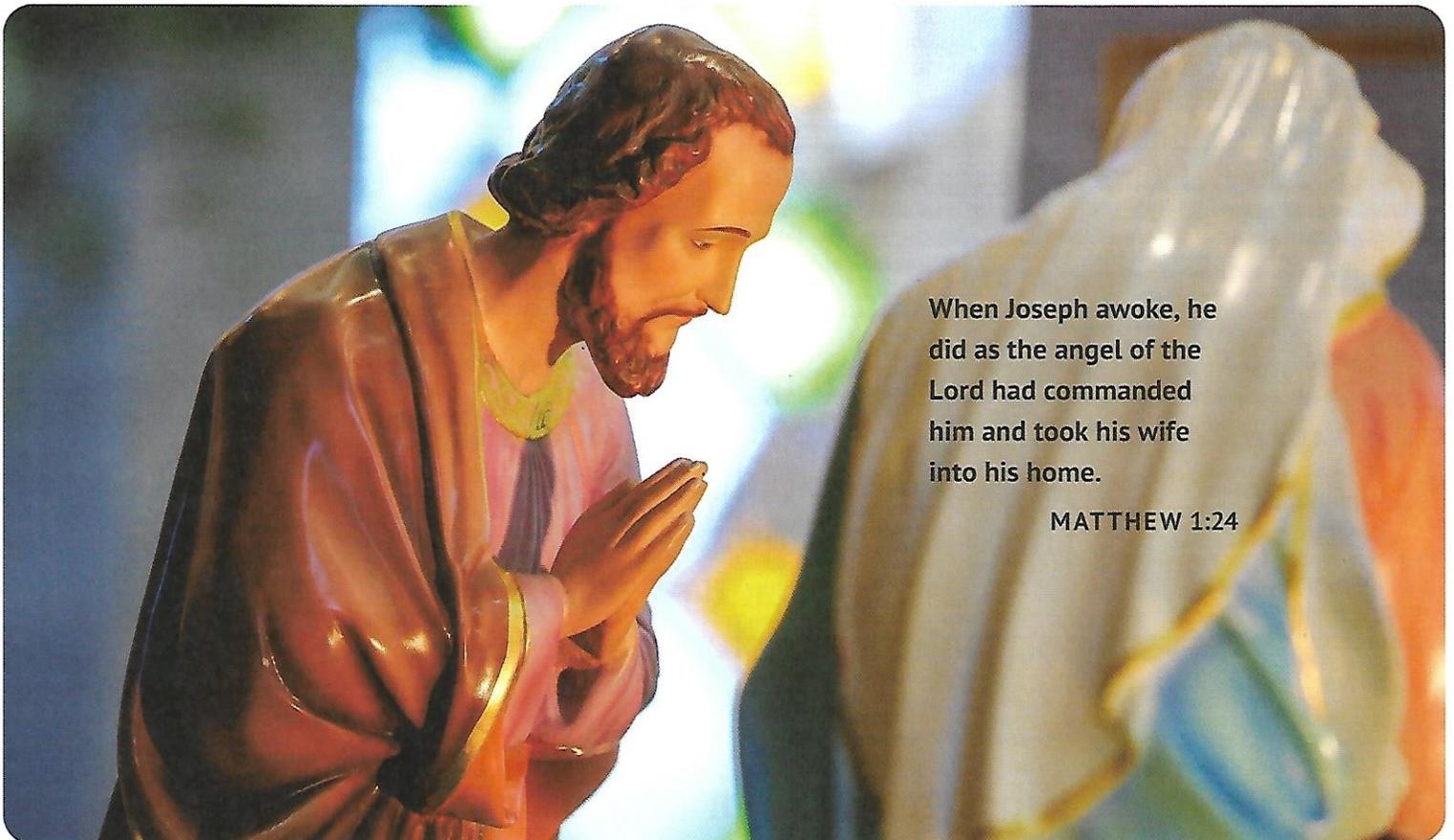
to a dream and takes his young family to the safety of Egypt and then back home to Nazareth. Those nighttime dreams could have easily become daytime nightmares. Yet for Joseph there was something that kept him from simply dismissing them.

Sometimes our inclinations and inner voices may not seem practical, and yet, even as we find ourselves second-guessing them, we think they need to be listened to. When the inclination is one toward goodness, that may very well be the voice of God. ●

Reflect

Have you ever followed an inner voice with which others disagreed? What came of it?

Is there someone you trust to tell you if your instinct about something is good?



When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

MATTHEW 1:24

Dear Padre,

My children, who go to Catholic school, refer to our Sunday celebration as the “Eucharist.” I grew up calling it the “Mass.” Why the difference?

Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eucharistein*. This word simply means “to give thanks.” In the Eucharist we Catholics celebrate, we give thanks to God for giving us Jesus. We also give thanks to Jesus, who shares his Body and Blood with us. “Eucharist” was used to describe the early Church’s gathering, where the people repeated the stories of the Lord and shared the bread and wine, as the Lord commanded them to do.

The word *mass* comes from the Latin word *missa*, which means “the sending.” This refers to the words of dismissal at the end of Mass. The priest or deacon invites us to “go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” In the Latin Mass, this phrase is “*ite missa est.*” No one quite knows why the Eucharist came to be known as the “missa” or “mass.” Some think it is because of the way monastic prayers were conducted in the early Middle Ages. When the monks gathered for prayers, they often concluded with a short eucharistic celebration. These celebrations sometimes lasted only ten minutes or so, and as they marked the end of the whole set of prayers, they signaled the end of the service. This, it is suggested, is why the Eucharist came to be known as the “dismissal,” or the “Mass.” ●



— *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
December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22	December 23	December 24	December 25
<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Advent Weekday</i>	<i>Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)</i>
Jgs 13:2–7, 24–25a Lk 1:5–25	Is 7:10–14 Lk 1:26–38	Sg 2:8–14 Lk 1:39–45	1 Sm 1:24–28 Lk 1:46–56	Mal 3:1–4, 23–24 Lk 1:57–66	2 Sm 7:1–5, 8b–12, 14a, 16 Lk 1:67–79	Is 52:7–10 Heb 1:1–6 Jn 1:1–18



CNS PHOTO/GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE, REUTERS

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love.

HOMILY, MASS FOR BEGINNING OF
PETRINE MINISTRY, MARCH 19, 2013



Immaculate Conception Parish Family

161st YEAR OF SERVICE

307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

Fr. Ernest Dike, Parochial Administrator, edike@diojeffc.org

Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office | imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcioparish.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

December 18, 2022 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions



July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Monday, December 19th **No Mass - Montgomery City**
 Tuesday, December 20th **No Mass - Montgomery City**
 Wednesday, December 21st 8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
 Thursday, December 22nd **8:00 AM Mass -Mont. City** +Punkey Boes
 Friday, December 23rd **8:00 AM Mass - Mont. City** +Jane Dorlac
 Saturday, December 24th **5:00 PM Mass - Mont. City** - Our Parish Family
 Sunday, December 25th 8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg
10:00 AM Mass - Mont. City +Tom & Mary Anna Cobb

Church & School Financial Report: **Income** **Expenses** **Difference**
November 2022 \$43,919.74 \$50,355.15 -\$6,435.41
Fiscal Year July-June 2022-23 \$314,068.07 \$297,340.30 \$16,727.77
Needed Weekly - \$ 13,232.95
 December 4th - \$7,181.62-Church; \$5,443.00-ICS/Daycare; \$12,624.62-Total
 December 11th - \$4,163.00-Church; \$4,469.00-ICS/Daycare; \$8,632.00-Total
 December 18th -
 December 25th -

Last Week's Envelopes: 69

(No Mass if there is a funeral at any of the two parishes)

Thank you!! With God all things are possible!

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.

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 December 24th & 25th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 10:00 AM
Lector	<p>If you can help with these ministries, please sign up on the sheets in the church vestibule. There are still quite a few empty slots, especially servers, hospitality ministers, and money counters.</p> <p>Thank you for your time & talent!</p>	
Children's Liturgy		
Communion Minister		
Ministers of Hospitality		
Servers		
Gift Bearers		
Money Counters		

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

During the holiday season, may our self-centeredness be replaced with generosity; our frustration with compassion; our anxieties with patience; and our intolerance with understanding. We pray to the Lord.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, December 19th	No MASS - Montgomery City
Tuesday, December 20th	No Mass - Montgomery City
Wednesday, December 21st	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, December 22nd	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, December 23rd	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Saturday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City (Music Starts @ 4:30 PM)
Sunday, December 25th (Christmas Day)	8:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 10:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City (Music Starts @ 9:30 AM)

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, December 19th	6:00 PM - ICS Advent/Christmas Program in Church 7:00 PM - St. Vincent dePaul Mtg.
Tuesday, December 20th	6:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Adoration
Wednesday, December 21st	6:00 PM - Penance Service @ JB 7:30 PM-Knights of Columbus Mtg
Thursday, December 22nd	
Friday, December 23rd	
Saturday, December 24th	
Sunday, December 25th	

Wedding Anniversary



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

Blake & Melissa Beabout - 16 years of marriage on Dec. 23rd

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvements/Maintenance	\$ 45.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 20.00
Seminary	\$ 100.00
Diocesan Private Donor	\$ 10,800.00

(This is NOT included in Page 1 totals)

Card Shower

Susie Ryan will be celebrating her 70th birthday on December 26th. A "card shower" is being held in her honor. Please mail cards to: 515 Picnic Street, New Florence, MO 63363.

Special Christmas Music

There will be special Christmas music starting a half hour before the Christmas Masses. Come, relax and enjoy!

Holiday Mass Schedule

Vigil Mass of Christmas

Saturday, December 24th - 5:00 PM @ Immaculate Conception

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25th - 8:00 AM @ St. Patrick's
- 10:00 AM @ Immaculate Conception



Eve/New Year's Day

December 31st - 5:00 PM @ Immaculate Conception
January 1st - 8:00 AM @ St. Patrick's
- 10:00 AM @ Immaculate Conception

Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are now only a week away from the day when we celebrate the Lord's coming in the Incarnation. In Jesus—Emmanuel—God is with us, as we are reminded in today's readings. For thousands of years, a waiting world yearned for this momentous event. Now we know that God's actual, physical presence in the world has been realized. Amid all the hustle and bustle of the final days before Christmas, let us not overlook the greatest gift of all.

Question of the Week

Through all the excitement and stress of this coming week, can I be attentive to how Jesus remains with me and discern how God is calling me?

Liturgical Ministers for Holiday Masses

We will not be assigning Liturgical Ministers for the Christmas and New Year's Masses. We DO have a sign-up sheets in the church vestibule. If you are able to assist with any of these to Masses, please sign up on these sheets. Thank you!

Penance Service

If you were unable to make it to last week's Penance Service at Immaculate Conception, there will be another one at St. Patrick's Church in Jonesburg on December 21st at 6:00 PM



Teen Prayer Group

There will be a teens small group session for Grateful Living The Joy of Stewardship starting in February. The sessions will be held at the home of Courtney Cothren.

Tuesday Mass Schedule

Tuesday evening Masses will resume on January 10th instead of December 27th as originally planned. At 5:00 PM Adoration will close with Devotion to the Divine Mercy and Benediction. Mass will start at 5:30 PM.

Immaculate Conception School News



December 19th - School in Session (PE & Art Day)
December 19th - Advent/Christmas Program @ 1:30pm & 6:00 pm at ICC
December 22nd - Classroom Christmas Parties, Noon Dismissal
December 23rd - Jan. 3rd - Christmas Break

We want to thank the Knights of Columbus for their Christmas Gift Bags for the students and staff at IC. They were enjoyed by all!!!

Housing Needed for Self Study

ICS will be going through the Self Study process during this school year. We will be hosting the visiting team on April 26-28, 2023. We are needing accommodations for 4 adults. We would love to hear recommendations on how to make their stay more economically friendly, comfortable and enjoyable. Please call the school office if you have any suggestions. Thank you!

IC Scrip Cards Make Great Christmas Gifts!



Order Gift Cards in Time for Christmas! There are order forms and lists in the vestibule of church or you can pick some up from school. ICS families also have order forms and can take your order. Have your order in to Gina Smith or Judy Cobb at school by December 9 to have by Christmas. Whenever you purchase a gift card from the IC Scrip Program, we receive 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. You may purchase physical cards that we have on hand from school or other arrangements made with Gina. **You may also go online to www.RaiseRight.com to create an account (you will need the enrollment code) to purchase e-cards, reload select cards, or place a large order for physical cards. If you have any questions or need the code, call or text Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.**

Seminary & Infirm Priest Collection

There will be a special collection taken up on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, for the Seminarian Formation and Infirm Priest fund. This money is used to form and educate diocesan seminarians (candidates for priesthood) and to provide for the needs of infirmed diocesan priests who offered their lives in priestly ministry and service. Our assessment is \$2,42400. Please support this wonderful cause!!

Share Your Christmas Crèche on Social Media

The Diocese of Jefferson City is inviting parishes, families and individuals to share their Christmas crèche photos with us. We will be posting these photos on social media as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our savior. Please share your crèche photo with us at: diojeffcity.org/christmas-creche-photo-submission/.

Young Adult Mass



You're invited to a Young Adult Mass on the third Sunday of each month at 5 pm at Immaculate Conception Church, 1206 E. McCarty St., Jefferson City, MO 65101. Faithful of all ages are welcome, but the Mass will have an intentional focus on young adults and youth. IC's Young Adult Ensemble will provide the music, and young people will be serving in the liturgical ministries.

(As this monthly celebration gains momentum, we may organize food and fellowship activities for young people following Mass.)

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

There are no events to publish this weekend.

Head Count for December

December 3rd - 63	December 4th - 97
December 8th (Immaculate Conception) - 105	
December 10th - 71	December 11th - 102
December 17th -	December 18th
December 24th -	December 25h -
December 31st -	

Grand Total for December -

2022-23 Catholic Stewardship Appeal

\$12,485.00 - Parish Goal

<u>Committed</u>	<u>\$ Received</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>	<u>Over(Under)</u>
\$3,480.00	\$3,280.00	26%	(\$9,205.00)



Stewardship Town Hall Meeting

We want to thank the parishioners who were able to attend the Town Hall Meeting on December 6th. For those who were unable to attend but would like to see the information presented, please let the parish office know. As soon as we receive the link from Fr. Jones, we will send it on to you.

Thank You

The NRG Backpack Committee wants to thank the parishioners from Immaculate Conception Parish for their donation of baked goods for their Bake Sale last Saturday at the Craft Show!

Save the Date

On January 8, 2023, we are "resurrecting" the Epiphany Party! More information to come in future bulletins!

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), Kim Dryden, Christine Welter (niece of Kathy Holtz), Matt Brumagin, Don Zerr, and Peggy Readey.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Steve (Hip) Hill, Noah Richard, Dylan Willis, and Daniel Lohmann.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



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“Finally,
 brothers
 and sisters,
 rejoice!
 Strive
 for full
 restoration,
 encourage
 one
 another, be
 of one mind,
 live in
 peace. And
 the God of
 love and
 peace will
 be with
 you.”

2 Corinthians 11

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