

The Cost of Discipleship

In 1937, *The Cost of Discipleship* by a German Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was published. The book reflected on the Sermon on the Mount, and the demands it outlined led to Bonhoeffer's arrest and eventual death at the hands of the Nazis. It can be very dangerous to be faithful to Jesus' way of life. This shouldn't surprise us. Jesus' teaching cost Jesus his life.

Though the Gospel reading does not provide us with a program of action, it repeats Jesus' charge to take up our cross and follow him. This cross is different for each of us; it makes very personal demands. We are called to lose our life for his sake. This was true at the time of Jesus; it is true today.

This was true at the time of the prophet Jeremiah as well. He was called to proclaim God's word to his own people. They would not listen. Instead, "I am an object

of laughter; / everyone mocks me" (Jeremiah 20:7). The prophet wants relief from his prophetic responsibility. Who wouldn't? What follows is quite moving. He makes up his mind that he will stop talking about God—but he can't. "It [the word of God] is as if fire is burning in my heart... / I grow weary holding back" (Jeremiah 20:9). That is the cost Jeremiah had to pay. The cross was the cost Jesus paid. And what of us?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ What is the cost of discipleship for you?
- ★ What in your life might be the cross you are being asked to bear?

*Jesus said to his disciples,
"Whoever wishes to come after
me must deny himself, take up his
cross, and follow me."*

MATTHEW 16:24



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 secretary@icbvm.org ccd@icbvm.org bulletin@icbvm.org

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann Pastor
 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi,
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano
 Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ...610 582-3880
 Parish Preschool610 404-8645
 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....www.icaberks.org
 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC, 800-791-9209
 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator: Pamela Russo, MSW, MS, 610-871-5200, Ext 2204
 Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop,
 please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org
 or by calling 800-276-1562

Diocese of Allentown...www.allentowndiocese.org

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 30, 2020

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Josephine Buchanan – 3rd Anniversary

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	THURS	7:00 PM	Betty Bascelli
SUN	7:30 AM	Dec'd Members of the Ott Family	FRI	7:30 AM	Louise Nevader
	9:00 AM	Doris Bascelli	SAT	5:15 PM	Catherine Alderman
	11:00 AM	Tom Hafer	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON	7:30 AM	Ollie Pribanick		9:00 AM	TJ Doyle
TUES	7:00 PM	Colleen Filachek		11:00 AM	Dec'd of Ruby, Kundrat & Hill Family
WED	7:30 AM	Dec'd of the Harbach Family			

Second Collection Next Week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

Parish Giving

++ SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING ++

Through Parish Giving, you are able to make your Sunday Offering, along with special diocesan and other contributions online!

To date, 171 families have signed up! The number of families contributing online has increased by 62% since the onset of the pandemic. Thank you for your commitment to our parish family and its Mission to proclaim the good news of the Gospel!

Won't you join us? It's easy, safe and secure. And YOU have control over your online account. How?

- + You determine when the money is withdrawn; weekly or monthly
- + Use your Credit/Debit card or your own checking account
- + At any time, you can see your year-to-date contributions
- + Best of all, you don't have to worry about missing a Sunday Collection even if you are away for whatever reason!

Go to www.icbvm.org and click on the Parish Giving link on the lower left-hand side of the home page.

Your continued generosity to Immaculate Conception is greatly appreciated!

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Alice Arantowicz, Madge Butto, Deb Petras, Bob Hocker, Rita Dougherty, Ken Rumler, Tony Williams, Fannie Hunter, Keith Kienle, Pat Fessler, Rita Ferry, Rosemarie Francis, Curt Miller, Loretta Hitchens, Mark McDonald, Craig Mammarella, Linda Domergue, Joe Manegold, Brenda Jennion, Roseann Malcolm, Ravina Breden, Dante Stetina, Bob Thomas, Kathy Patrick, Arlene Shirley, Joseph & George Ruby, Marjorie & Walter Hansen, William Hill, Alice Smyk, Mark Vignone, Daniel Uivary, Robin Stavenski, Yvonne Runfola, Jason Leman, Ann Washko, Marian Presgrave, Stephen Gombar, John Geisewite, Christian Abeonizio, Kenneth Sutton, Jim Williams, John Strock, Geraldine Christ, Ted Reznick, Steve Mammarella, Rowena Smith, Eileen Ravert, Anthony Merlino, Geri Barth, Marcia Marks, John Fritz, Linda Bardi, Anthony Scaglione, Patricia Haas, Nichole Magee and all those suffering from the coronavirus.

Pray for the deceased: Brenda & Brian Jennion, Francis P, McMahan

Hospital Visitations: If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

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Our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception is open each day from

8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for private prayer and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Coronavirus protocols: If you plan to attend Mass or visit the church, you must wear a mask at all times and maintain social distancing.

Our parish office is open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11am-3pm. Anyone coming into the parish office must wear a mask and is kindly asked to maintain social distancing. If you call the parish office and no one is immediately available to answer your call, please leave a detailed message and your phone call will be returned in a timely fashion. Our number is 610-582-2411. Thank you for your kind consideration in this regard.

Take a Virtual Tour of Immaculate Conception Academy. Our mission is to provide a faith-filled, family-centered learning environment. Academic excellence, responsible leadership, and charitable service are modeled and encouraged by our teachers and staff. Award-winning STEM classes and clubs, art, drama, CYO sports, Spanish language classes, Resource and Speech assistance is available. Transfer Grants are available to students who qualify.

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1317169462591356931>

Immaculate Conception Academy is seeking substitute teachers. Protecting God's Children and Clearances required. If interested please contact Mrs. Lisa Forkin at lisa.forkin@icaknights.org or 610-404-8645

Bereavement Support Group – Meets September 1, 7pm – Lower level meeting room. Questions? Contact Toni at 610-404-1389

Our **Religious Education Program (CCD)** will open on September 16 and 17 for in-person instruction. We have developed a comprehensive safety plan to address the challenges of in-person learning. Our safety plan, which spells out our regimen of procedures and protocols, is explained in the Welcome Back letter addressed to parents which can be found at www.icbvmmccd.org. We have changed our venue from the academy to the social hall to assure the safety of our students and staff. We have also modified our schedule to ensure proper sanitizing procedures are followed.

Learning Options:

* **In-person instruction** will be held in our **social hall** with modifications that adhere to the current recommended social distancing and wellness guidelines.

* Our **homeschool option** is available and encouraged for those who do not wish to attend in-person instruction.

Our Director of Religious Education, Mrs. Dawn O'Donnell is available to address any questions or concerns you may have. You may contact her at dawn.odonnell@icaknights.org or at ccd@icbvm.org. You can also call the Immaculate Conception Office of Religious Education at 610-582-3880. Please visit our website at www.icbvmmccd.org for updates, scheduled events, forms, and more.



Immaculate Conception Academy's Home and School Organization will be having a **Fall Flower Sale** outside of church! There will be gorgeous mums, asters, and planters available! Our prices can't be beat! **September 11- 3-5pm, September 12- 9am-6:30pm, September 13- 8:00-1:00**

Parishioners who had previously purchased tickets with cash for the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry which was cancelled due to the pandemic and who desire a refund are asked to please put your tickets with your name and address in an envelope in the box provided in the narthex of the church and a refund check will be mailed to you. We apologize for the delay and we appreciate your support.

Please note that each Sunday, the 11:00am Mass in our parish church is live-streamed on our Facebook Page for those who are unable to attend Mass at this time due to the pandemic. You may access the live-streaming Mass from our parish website at www.icbvm.org

Amity Township Crime Watch's Community Shredding Event - September 19th, 9am-12pm – Douglassville Redner's - Open to residents and small businesses in Douglassville and surrounding areas. Shredding is done by ProShred Security of Paoli. Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding trucks. For more information or questions contact Susan at 484-269-8181.

WIN \$10,000 CASH!! Berks Catholic High School Extravaganza Cash Raffle tickets are now available. Drawing is November 14th. Donation \$100. To buy raffle tickets, please send your check with return address and phone number to: Berks Catholic Extravaganza, 955 E. Wyomissing Blvd., Reading, PA 19611. Questions? Contact Extravaganza@BerksCatholic.org or 610-374-1695

We invite you to pray for the children of our parish who will receive their First Holy Communion on September 12, 2020. As they receive Jesus, the Bread of Life, may they experience the extraordinary love of God. We thank too all of our catechists, teachers and parents who strive to keep the flame of faith alive in the hearts of our children.

Confirmation 2020 - Bishop Alfred Schlert will visit our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the children of our parish on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. We invite you to pray for the children of our parish who are preparing to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in this sacrament of God's love.

13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to benefit St. Gabriel Church - September 25, 11am at Blackwood Golf Course, Douglassville - Rain or Shine - \$85 per golfer (includes lunch, post-play banquet, refreshments throughout the day and prizes.) Contact Kathy at 610-326-5127 for information or to register.

Dear Padre,

I feel guilty about putting my mother in a nursing home. Have I abandoned her?

Caring for aging, fragile parents is a responsibility that is increasing as people live longer due to advances in medical technology. Accompanying longer lives, however, is often poorer health. Frequently family members conclude that they don't have the wherewithal to care responsibly for their parents. So, they seek a nursing facility where parents may be properly cared for in terms of their physical, psychological, and even spiritual health. Nursing homes with staff that understand the needs of the elderly are a great assistance. They have experience with many elderly residents, while our experience may be limited to our own loved one.

The situation becomes more complicated when parents ask their children to "never put me into a nursing home." As difficult as it is to refuse this request, neither you nor your parent knows how much care will be needed, so a guarantee isn't fair to the family. The best response would be: "We'll look after you as long as we possibly can, and we would only consider a nursing home if your needs become more than we could handle, or if it were the only place where you could be safely cared for."

Sometimes guilt arises when we haven't had the best relationship with a parent, and regret things from our past. The best response then is to learn from the past and move forward. Commit to being more attentive, even though our parents no longer live with us. The worst abandonment would be depriving them of our love and affection.

—From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices*, © 2011 Liguori Publications
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE/GREGORY A. SHERITZ



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Homes for the elderly...should be the "sanctuaries" of humanity where one who is old and weak is cared for and protected....It is so good to go visit an elderly person! Look at our children: sometimes we see them listless and sad; they go visit an elderly person and become joyful!

—MEETING WITH THE ELDERLY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2014

Calendar

Monday

AUGUST 31

Weekday

1 Cor 2:1–5

Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 1

Weekday

1 Cor 2:10b–16

Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 2

Weekday

1 Cor 3:1–9

Lk 4:38–44

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 3

*St. Gregory the Great,
Pope and Doctor
of the Church*

1 Cor 3:18–23

Lk 5:1–11

Friday

SEPTEMBER 4

Weekday

1 Cor 4:1–5

Lk 5:33–39

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 5

Weekday

1 Cor 4:6b–15

Lk 6:1–5

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 6

*Twenty-third Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

Ez 33:7–9

Rom 13:8–10

Mt 18:15–20