Fifth Sunday of Easter (C)



Acts 14:21-27 / Revelation 21:1-5a / John 13:31-33a, 34-35

The Other Side of Love

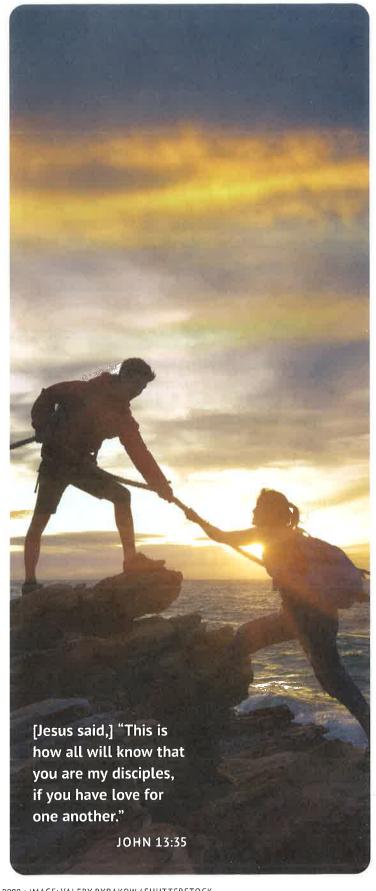
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

e have an instinct to love; this is something woven into the foundation of human life. It's also a godly instinct, for anything embedded into the human spirit with such intensity must surely be of God. In fact, it is how God is creating a new heaven and a new earth, thereby making all things new as is written in the Book of Revelation. So intense is that inclination to love, we read in the first letter of John that God is love.

While our culture tends to romanticize love, the reality is that, all too often, if we are seriously committed to loving someone, it can also be a lonely effort. Love is not always romantic or satisfying. At times, it can be demanding and even harsh. One day, when I was meeting with an engaged couple in preparation for their marriage, I asked them, as I often do, for their definition of love. Usually, couples are tongue-tied when I ask that guestion. They know they're in love, and, to them, that seems to be enough. This time, however, the young groom-to-be did not hesitate. He said that love is caring for someone even when they are unlovable—an insightful definition, for it is precisely during such times that we need someone's love. It is the weakest moments of life that are in need of rebuilding, the loneliest moments of life that are in need of someone reaching out a hand, and the darkest moments of life that are in need of light. When that happens, creation is made new.

-Reflect-

What is my definition of love? How do I live it?



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 www.icbvm.org secretary@icbvm.org ccd@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
Diocese of Allentown website......www.allentowndiocese.org

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, pleas contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service at www.ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 18, 2025

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Esther & Ollie Pribanich

SAT 5:15 PM Our Parishioners
SUN 7:30 AM Jake Maccarone
9:00 AM Frances Bambrick
11:00 AM Mary Stumhofer
MON 7:30AM No Mass

TUES 7:00PM All Organ Donors

WED 7:30AM Rose Wolf

THUR 7:00PM Rev. Christopher Gibney
FRI 7:30AM Thomas L. Murray, Jr.
SAT 5:15PM Mary & Frank Straka
SUN 7:30AM Bruce Ketterer
9:00AM Jocely Hadzik

11:00AM Our Parishioners

The Second Collection Next Week is the Air Conditioning Collection

WE LOVE HAVING YOU AS

a part of our Flock!



Keep in touch with us via email and text!



TEXT *ICBVM* TO 84576



or connect with us online at immaculateconceptionbymc.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/txt.

Remember in your prayers the sick: Msgr. Nevin J. Klinger, Msgr. Edward Domin, Madge Butto, Curt Miller, Loretta Hitchens, Dante Stetina, Barbara Ruby, Kara Morrison, Arlene Shirley, Harriet Yeager, Marjorie Hansen, Jason Leman, Ann Washko, Anthony Scaglione, Maryanne Emery, Pam Amos, Marianne Sutton, John Mingione, Lois Muldowney, Arlene Schaeffer, Shelly Weiler, Steven Blanyar, Jennifer Gazda Gruber, Catherine Mueller, Regina Marie Brown, Ralph Rapposelli, Joe Dantas, Debbie Simcock, Wanda Palmieri, Barbara Wright, Beppy McGee, Jerry Miscovich, John Kusznir, Joseph Ondo, Karl Husbands, Magdalene Babiarz, Clara Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Alex Lopacki, Angelina Swisher, Rachel DiFrancesco, Millie Mattassa, Bill Pribanich, Rosemary Williamson, Nancy Guilliams, Tony Guilliams, Bob Warunek, Sharon Painter, Cletus McLaughlin, Carole Zawora, Rose Kubovcsak, Lyn Weidenhammer, Caraline Herb, Henry Wade, Jr., Joe Bailey, Daniel McLaughlin, Ann Hay, Geri Barth, Kathleen Grady, Jeff Stetina, Larry Palmer, Chris Owens, Donna Casper, Jeffrey Painter, Shirley Giordano, Eileen Filachek, Irene Hughes, Hugh Chow Lin & Aileen Galazin.

Please congratulate the newly Baptized: Logan John Wilson

Our parish church is open each day of the week from 8am to 3pm for private prayer and visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Each Sunday, the 11am Mass is live-streamed on our Facebook page for those who are sick and homebound. Access the live-streaming Mass from our parish website at www.icbvm.org

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

Our parish office is open Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday, 11 am-3pm. If you call
the parish office and no one is available to
answer your call, please leave a detailed
message and your call will be returned in a
timely fashion. 610-582-2411

Daily Mass Schedule: Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, May 19th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Famous Image of Jesus Sacred Heart Coming to Immaculate Conception parish. Mary. Queen of Peace Council # 17145 and our parish will be hosting an Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on Tuesday, May 20th with a special prayer service to follow Mass at 7:30 PM that evening. The icon depicts the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome. This reproduction of the original painting, blessed by the Pope, is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world as part of the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program. Our prayer service will help all present to grow in their love of God and devotion to his Most Sacred Heart. Everyone is welcome, including families.

Adult Confirmation at the Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday

Bishop Schlert will celebrate the 11:30 A.M. Mass on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2025 at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, Allentown, wherein he will confirm adults of our Diocese. Those to be confirmed are those adults who were baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, received their First Holy Communion, are catechized, but never confirmed. Please contact Msgr. McCann to discuss the details at 610-582-2411.

Spring Raffle - \$1500 in cash prizes sponsored by the Women's Society
Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20
The drawing will be held on Sunday, May 25th.
Tickets are available in the narthex

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, 2025 the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered in our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us in praying for our nation and the men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces; especially those who sacrificed their lives in defense of our freedom. The Blessing of Graves will occur (weather permitting) in our parish cemeteries immediately after the Memorial Day Mass



SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC GIVING

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

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 a monthly or weekly withdrawal
- + Use your Credit/Debit card or your checking account
 - + See your year-to-date contributions at any time
- + Best of all, you don't have to worry about missing a Sunday Collection even if you are away for any reason!
 Go to www.icbvm.org and click the Parish Giving link on the lower left-hand side of the home page.

Your generosity to Immaculate Conception is greatly appreciated!

Our Parish Family of the Immaculate Conception joyfully celebrates the First Holy Communion of: Andie Flood, Kiera Karst-Bardi, Brooke Boyle, James Burns, Victoria Burza, Harper Care, Savannah Carpenter, Greyson Czekner, Victoria Delia, Lily Dougherty, Paul Filopanti, Samuel Gonzalez, Lily E. Grasso, Melanie Grauber, Lily Grubb, Colin Hansen, Agnes Kieffer, Maya MacIntyre, Caleb Michio, Michael Mitton, Michael Morris, Meera Patel, Aviana Perez, James Pullus, Samuel Shuman, Peyton Snyder, Santino Taormina, Taylor Thierolf, Mia Rose Tucker, James Walker, Joshua Wentzel, Karishma Wright.

The Women's Society's year end luncheon will be held on June 1st at 12:30pm in the Social Hall. Catering will be done by Moyer's Caterers. Flyers with more information are included in this Bulletin.

BERKS CATHOLIC YOUTH FOOTBALL AND

CHEERLEADING- 2025 Season Registration is now open- This year you can register online by going to - https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/475623 This program is open to girls and boys enrolled in Berks County Parochial Schools. Some age and grade restrictions do apply .FOR MORE INFO AND COST: WWW.LEAGUELINEUP.COM/BCYFAC

We also invite you to join us at our MEET & GREET on JUNE 5TH @ BCHS from 6-7:30PM. You can also follow us on Facebook by going to: Berks Catholic Youth Football and Cheer-2020 and Beyond. For info call Danielle Fowler 610-374-1695 or email DFOWLER@BERKSCATHOLIC.ORG

Dear Padre,

I have gay/homosexual friends and coworkers. How do I respond appropriately when they announce they got married or are engaged, as we Catholics do not believe in same-sex marriage?

Context and perspective are always useful and necessary. It is also important to remember that your beliefs can often conflict with another person's belief system. It does not change the truth of what you believe, but it can be sobering. When you offer someone congratulations, it does not



mean you are giving your approval or acceptance. It just means you are engaging in respectful social protocol. Let's assume that most people are mature enough to understand the difference between acceptance and protocol. Confusion arises when some people insist that you cannot be "both/and," as they reduce everything to "either/or." With this kind of perspective, life is a battle to be fought rather than an opportunity to live a life of graciousness and thanksgiving that invites us to celebrate. Be respectful. Be gentle. Be loving. Be compassionate. Each of those virtues speak much louder than judgment, rigidity, and a posture that proclaims, "I am better than you."

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / Dear Padre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about Dear Padre.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We have heard what Jesus told his disciples before leaving this world.... He told us what it means to be a Christian: "Even as I have loved you, so you must love one another" (Jn 13:34). This is the legacy that Christ bequeathed to us, the ultimate criterion for discerning whether or not we are truly his disciples.

HOMILY, ROME, MAY 15, 2022

Monday

May 19
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:5–18
Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday

May 20 Easter Weekday Acts 14:19–28 Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday

May 21
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:1-6
Jn 15:1-8

Thursday

May 22
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:7–21
Jn 15:9–11

Friday

May 23
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:22-31
Jn 15:12-17

Saturday

May 24
Easter Weekday
Acts 16:1–10
Jn 15:18–21

Sunday

May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 15:1–2, 22–29 Rv 21:10–14, 22–23 Jn 14:23–29



Women's Society Year End Luncheon

| Date: June 1, 2025 |
|--|
| Time: 12:30PM |
| Place: Social Hall of ICC |
| The Women's Society of ICC will be holding their annual year end luncheon on |
| June 1, 2025 at 12:30 PM. This year's lunch will include an entrée, potato filling & gravy vegetable, coleslaw, roll & butter, plus dessert. Cost per person is \$20. Please record your choice of entrée below no later than May 24 th . |
| Place the form, along with payment, in an envelope marked "Women's Society". Please make your check out to "ICC Women's Society". Place the envelope in the collection basket at church. |
| Anyone interested in learning more about the ICC Women's Society are invited to attend. Questions can be directed to Gina Maicher at 610-223-5088 |
| cut along here |
| |
| Name: |
| Phone: |
| Choose one of the following: |
| Roast Turkey Roast BeefStuffed Flounder |