

Welcome to our Church

LENT

A Season of Renewal



Immaculate Conception
Catholic Church

17 March 2024

Today's Readings Pg 86

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms 51:3-15

Hebrews 5:7-9

John 12:20-33

Learning How to Die

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

It has been pointed out that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, that is, to go where we would rather not go, to love when we know it will cost, to offer ourselves even when we know we will be used. If we die a bit every day, sometimes with struggle and sacrifice in those situations that may call for such, then at our final moment we will be able to stand before that specter face to face and not run, simply because we have met before and have been able to walk away the victor.

Dying well does not mean we do so without fear. Courage blossoms when we stand in a field of fear. Even the Lord Jesus "offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears" to God, as the Letter to the Hebrews notes. Dying well does not mean we do so cleanly. Dying is often messy, and it is always an uprooting that disrupts and scatters everything nearby.

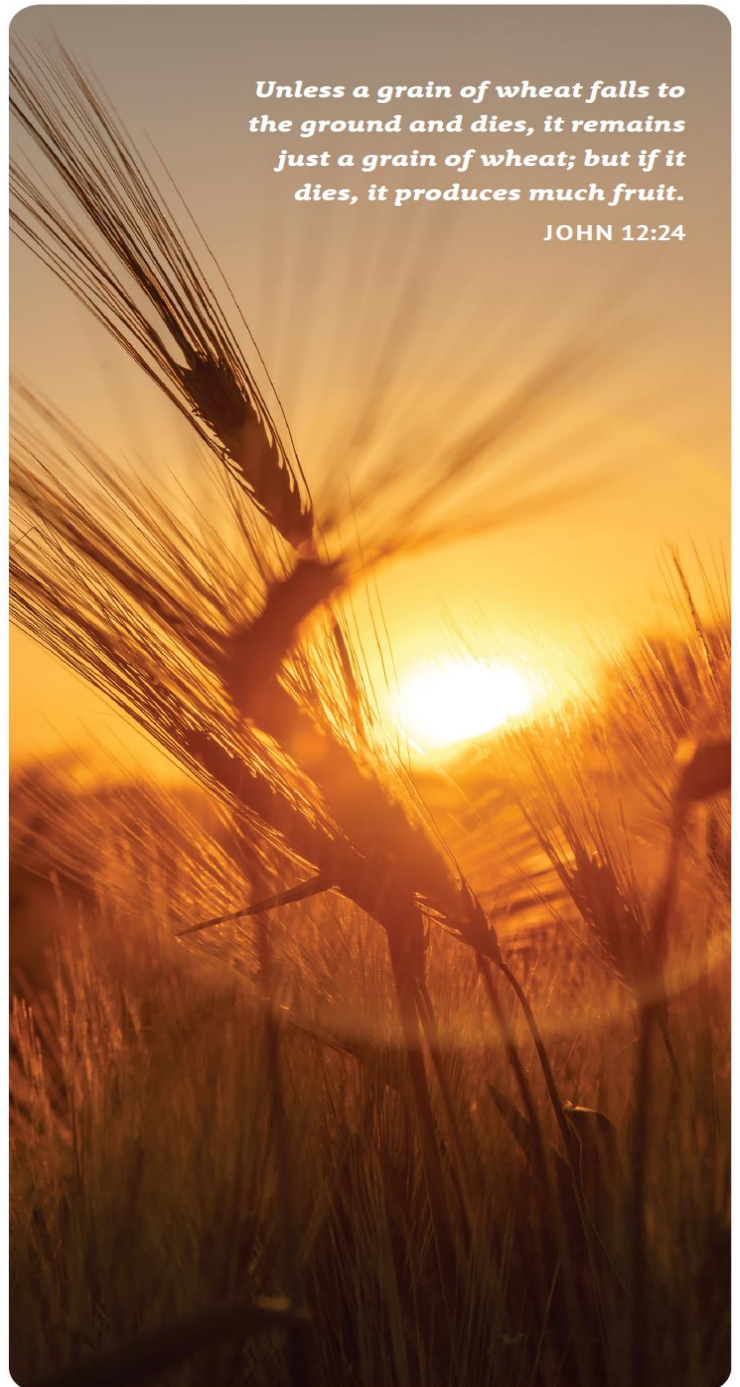
Nor does dying well mean we do so in control of the event. That is what is so devastating about death. It has complete and total control. At its best and at its worst the only way to die well is to say "yes" to it every time it demands our submission. And like the eye of stillness at the center of the hurricane, it is at the heart of death where we embrace resurrection and where the holy offers life. It is where we can have a deep encounter with the Lord Jesus. ●

Reflect

Can you accept the little deaths along the way as preparation for the final passing from this life?

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.

JOHN 12:24



Lord, We Lift Up to You in Prayer...

April Hicklin, Mary Lou Weepie, Elaine Ernst,
Lois Wickman, Carma Schmidtke, Charlie Corey,
Norm Pint, Pam Miller, Marci Willey, Diana Snyder,
Michael McDonough, Rose Kalb, Dave Chase,
Marisa Davidson, Mary Ellen Youngblut, Karyn Beenken,
Leona Kleitsch, Lindsey Ernst, Ron Babinat,
victims of hatred, racism, violence, natural disaster;
terrorism, and all in our parish, our community, and our hearts
who are suffering and in need of Christ's healing touch †
May they know His loving Presence in the eyes, hands and
hearts of those who give them care.

**May our prayers for help and
healing rise like incense
to our God of hope, love and mercy.**



► Communion To Our Sick Or Homebound Ministry:

contact Michelle Weepie 319-635-2428

► **I C Parish Prayer Chain Hotline:** Please contact
Vivian Rourke at 319-238-3225 (V) or 319-238-2083 (M)

► **Sacrament Of The Sick** ~ Anointing for the seriously ill
or dying, call the Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743,
or if having surgery speak with Father Atwood in the
Sacristy before or after Mas

► **Baptism Class For Parents:** All parents who wish to
have their child baptized at Immaculate Conception
parish are required to attend a baptism class prior to
scheduling the baptism. Please contact Deacon Jim
at 319-509-1210 for scheduling details.



► **I C Cemetery** – contact the parish office

► **Funeral Dinners: Group #1 Jan, Feb, Mar & April**
We provide desserts & serve a catered meal

I C STAFF

~ Fr. Ray Atwood, Pastor ~

IC Parish Office Wednesday Mornings after 8:30AM Mass

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Sacred Heart Rectory 319-283-9577

email: dbq151@dbqarch.org

~ Deacon Jim Patera ~

Office at Sacred Heart Parish Center 319-283-3743

Cell phone 319-509-1210

~Glenda Kleitsch IC Secretary/Bookkeeper~

I C Parish Office PH: 319-635-2211

located at 405 Fairbank St

I C Parish Office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8AM – 3PM Closed Friday

Mailing address: P O BOX 505 Fairbank IA 50629

email: icfairbank@gmail.com

[website: http://icfairbank.weebly.com/](http://icfairbank.weebly.com/)

[Archdiocesan website: www.dbqarch.org](http://www.dbqarch.org)

~Kim Weepie, DRE & Youth Ministry~

PH: 319-240-5912 kim.weepie@gmail.com

DRE Office PH :319-635-2211

located in the Parish Center at 405 Faribank St

Mailing address: P O Box 505, Fairbank IA 50629

Jean Sauerbrei, Facility Rental Coordinator

PH: cell 319-296-8459

or email jmsauerbrei@yahoo.com

Lent



March 17, 2024

“Lent and Saint Patrick”

Saint Patrick's Day is here, and it's time to bring out the green. Shamrocks, candy, shakes, and leprechaun hats will be on full display in many places. Who doesn't recognize the tune, “When Irish eyes are smiling”? Saint Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland, and an occasion to celebrate Irish heritage around the world.

I would be remiss if I didn't talk about Saint Patrick on this special Lenten Sunday. Sadly, there is no reference to St. Patrick in the Catechism. However, the Church's Liturgy of the Hours does contain a beautiful passage from St. Patrick's Confessions.

Saint Patrick was born in England around 385. As a young man, he was taken captive and sold as a slave in Ireland, where for six years he tended sheep. Having escaped from slavery, he chose to become a priest, and later, was named a bishop. He worked tirelessly for the Lord in that pagan land, teaching, driving out the snakes of paganism, and setting up dioceses. He died at Down in Northern Ireland in 461.

The Confessions are his autobiography. In it, he writes, “I give unceasing thanks to my God, who kept me faithful in the day of my testing [a reference to his six years of slavery]. Today, I can offer him sacrifice with confidence, giving myself as a living victim to Christ, my Lord, who kept me save through all my trials. I can say now: Who am I, Lord, and what is my calling, that you worked through me with such divine power? You did all this so that today among the Gentiles I might constantly rejoice and glorify your name, wherever I may be, both in prosperity and adversity. You did it so that, whatever happened to me, I might accept good and evil equally, always giving thanks to God [here he reminds us of Job, who said, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord” (1:21)]. God showed me how to have faith in him forever, as one who is never to be doubted. He answered my prayer in such a way that in the last days, ignorant though I am, I might be bold enough to take up so holy and so wonderful a task, and imitate in some degree those whom the Lord had so long ago foretold as heralds of his Gospel, bearing witness to all nations?”

He continues: “If I am worthy, *I am ready also to give up my life*, without hesitation and most willingly, for his name. I want to spend myself in that country [Ireland], even in death, if the Lord should grant me this favor.” What fervor! What devotion! What faith!

Saint Patrick took the Lord's words to his disciples, “*Go into the whole and proclaim the Gospel to all creatures*” seriously (Mk. 16:15). The six years in isolation and labor among sheep brought out reserves of strength Patrick didn't even know he had. They prepared him for the arduous task of sharing Christ. Like Christ, as recorded in the Letter to the Hebrews today, “*he learned obedience from what he suffered*” (5:8). Saint Patrick is a popular and beloved member of the Church. He was also a suffering servant, like his Master, Jesus. As we prepare to enter the holiest week of the Church year, may he inspire us to grow in faith, zeal, sacrifice, and obedience to every command of the Savior. Happy Saint Patrick's Day

God Bless You!! Father Ray Atwood

Parish Financial Support

Mar 10-14

Budget	\$2906.33
Offertry	\$302
Building Fund	\$50
Easter	\$75
Parish Center Debt	\$65

**Donut
Sunday
TODAY**



Thank You!
FOR YOUR DONATION

FISH FRY



sponsored by IC Church
Friday, March 22, 2024

4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Immaculate Conception
Parish Center, Fairbank

DINE IN & CARRY-OUT

Cod, baked potato, baked beans,
coleslaw, roll, dessert & drinks!!!

**Volunteers
Needed**

**ADULTS \$15 10-6 YRS \$7
5 & UNDER FREE**



March 2024

Wed Mar 20 ~ Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM
~ Faith Formation Mtg 7PM

Sat Mar 23 ~ Blaire Smith Baptism 11:00AM

Sat Mar 23 ~ **Easter Bunny & Easter Egg Hunt 10AM**
On the Island Age groups 1-4, 5+ yrs.



~ Women & Identity ~

By Adele Ahlberg Calhoun & Tracey Bianchi
\$10.00 ea. & can be picked up at the office.

Tuesdays, March 12th to April 30th
IC Parish Hall 9:00am or 6:30pm

Contact Info: Carma Schmidtke 319-240-2495

April 2024

Wed Apr 3 ~ Pastoral/Finance Mtg 5:30PM

Sat Apr 6 ~ First Saturday Mass 8:30AM Mass

Sat Apr 6 ~ Hall Rented Schmit Bridal Shower

Sun Apr 7 ~ Fairbank Fire & EMS Pancake Breakfast 8-11AM
Fairbank Fire station Free Will Donation

Thurs Apr 11 ~ KC Mtg 7PM

Sun Apr 14 ~ Donut Sunday 6th & 10th Grades

Wed Apr 17 ~ Monthly Community Potluck 11:30AM

Fri Apr 19 ~ Hall Rented for dress rehearsal.

Sat Apr 20 ~ Gremaud/Buzynski Wedding 2PM

Apr 21-26 ~ Father Atwood Vacation

Sat Apr 27 ~ Hall Rented Graduation Party

Sat Apr 27 ~ Faith & Four-Letter Words – Legion Hall

Sun Apr 28 ~ **Colleen Pasnik- speaking at 8:30AM Mass**
Mary's Inn Maternity Home

Donut Sunday After 8:30 AM Mass IC Parish Hall
Brief Presentation by Colleen Pasnik

5th Sunday in Lent

Sun Mar 17 8:30AM IC Pat Shannon †

EM: Anita Destival, Kelly Galleger

Servers: Wally Kaufman, Rachel Kaufman

Lector: Jean Bellis

Sun Mar 17 10:30AM SH For the People

Mon Mar 18 8:30AM SH Regina Martindale †

Wed Mar 20 8:30AM IC Jerry Galleger †

Wednesdays ~ March 20 thru April 17 IC Parish Hall

~ New Study Group for Moms

After 8:30AM Mass 9:15-10:15AM

Thurs Mar 21 8:30AM SH Don Coselman †

Friday Mar 22 Noon SH John Becker †

Friday Mar 22 5:30PM SH For the Sick

Sat Mar 23 4:30PM SH Logan Wallace Rundle †

Palm Sunday

Sun Mar 24 8:30AM IC For the People



M: Deacon Jim EM: Duane Schmidtke

Servers: Ella Weepie, Cameron Szurley

Lector: Kevin Bodensteiner

Sun Mar 24 10:30AM SH Alice Kauten †

Easter Sunday, Mar 31, 2024 8:30 AM Mass

M: Deacon Jim EM: Michelle Weepie

Altar Server: Marshall Weepie

Lector: Lori Beierschmitt



Easter Schedule

Sun Mar 24 ~ Communal Penance Service 3-5PM SH

Mon Mar 25 ~ Confessions SH 5:30-6:30PM

Wed Mar 27 ~ Confessions IC 5:30-6:30PM

Thurs ~ Mar 28 Holy Thursday IC Church 7:00 PM

~ Confessions after 7PM Mass IC

Fri ~ Mar 29 ~ Good Friday IC Church 12:00 Noon

Sacred Heart 5:30PM

~ Confessions after 5:30PM Good Friday Mass SH

Sat ~ Mar 30 Holy Saturday Sacred Heart 8:00PM

Sun ~ Mar 31 Easter Service IC Church 8:30 AM

Sacred Heart 10:30 AM

March Ushers and Greeters

Bob Bellis, Tom Kleitsch,

Joe & Dianne Rubino, Richard Rundle

March Money Counters

Glenda Kane & Lynn Plaster

If you wish to donate toward the **Easter flowers**
please complete the form below and put it in the
collection, mail, or bring to the office no later than
Wed. March 27.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Contact Name & Ph: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____



Gospel Reading John 12:20-33

Jesus teaches his disciples about the way in which he will be glorified by God, and a voice from heaven is heard to affirm this teaching.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. We are reading much further into John's Gospel than we have for the past two weeks. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, the Gospel of John does not record Jesus' anguished prayer in the garden of Gethsemane before his arrest. Although comparable words are found in today's reading, Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. In John's Gospel, Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world.

MONDAY

March 18
Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,
19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62
Jn 8:1-11

TUESDAY

March 19
*St. Joseph, Spouse
of the Blessed
Virgin Mary*
2 Sm 7:4-5a,
12-14a, 16
Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a
or Lk 2:41-51a

WEDNESDAY

March 20
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14-20,
91-92, 95
Jn 8:31-42

THURSDAY

March 21
Lenten Weekday
Gn 17:3-9
Jn 8:51-59

FRIDAY

March 22
Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10-13
Jn 10:31-42

SATURDAY

March 23
Lenten Weekday
Ez 37:21-28
Jn 11:45-56

SUNDAY

March 24
*Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord*
Mk 11:1-10 or
Jn 12:12-16
Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Mk 14:1-15:47
or 15:1-39

Love Packages



Have any religious books and/or literature to donate??
Collection boxes will be in the entry way of the church and hall.
Contact Info Michelle Weepie 319-215-0778
or Jean Bellis 319-240-4857

Mats for the Homeless – Parish Hall

March 27 Apr 10 Apr 24 after 8:30 AM Mass

NO more bags please, we need people who can crochet and workers to prep.

Question of the Week: Name one thing you can do or stop doing that will help you have a better friendship with Jesus.

Choose one of the following activities as a way to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- Plant flower seeds in small pots and decorate the pots with signs of new life. Water the seeds carefully. Watch the seeds grow with your family. Relate this mystery to the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection.
- Select one station of the cross to pray each day. During family prayer, talk about what happened at that station and relate it to the difficulties family members face today.
- Put a cross in a place of honor in your home. Share with your family the simple story of Jesus' death and resurrection. If you have any small children, review the sign of the cross with them.

God doesn't
call the qualified,
He qualifies
the called.