

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

✦ November 23, 2014 (A) ✦

A little over a year ago, many people were eager to hear about the birth of the newest heir to the British throne, Prince George.

What makes people so interested? Does the whole idea of royalty capture our imagination and give us a “fairy tale” moment—a chance to live in a simpler time (at least to our childhood selves)?

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This story is emphatically not a fairy tale, and not like any king we’ve experienced or read about here on earth.

This King comes as one who was obedient to his Father, even to death on a cross.

This King comes, raised from the dead, to destroy death and put all things under his reign.

This King also comes as a shepherd to gather his scattered sheep, bind their wounds, and give them pasture.

And this King gathers the nations before him to judge not by how powerful they were, but how they cared for the least among them.

On the last Sunday of the Church year, before we turn our faces again toward incarnation and birth, we remind ourselves that we are still on a journey with the King of kings and that he will come again. It’s part of the Eucharistic Prayer in the Acclamation of Faith at every liturgy: “We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection *until you come again*” [emphasis added].

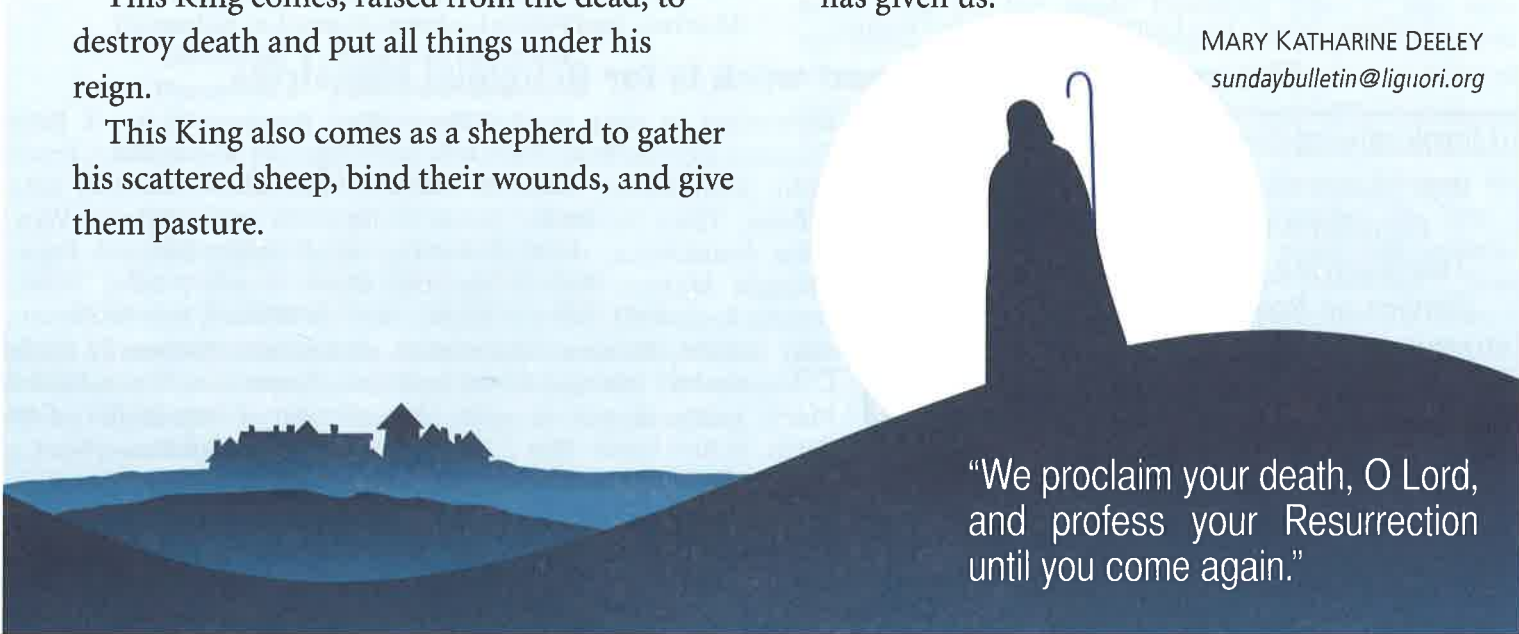
Let us strive to be even more eager, more joyful, and more prepared for this King to come than we were for Prince George.

Let us begin now to live into the new life he has given us.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Today's Readings

Ez 34:11–12, 15–17
1 Cor 15:20–26, 28
Mt 25:31–46



“We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.”



Liguori
PUBLICATIONS
Liguori, MO 63057

© 2014 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in U.S.A. Imprimatur: “In accordance with c. 827, permission to publish has been granted on May 15, 2014, by the Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission.” No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible*, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Design by Lorena Jimenez. Images: Shutterstock.
To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, call 800-325-9521.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann Pastor
 Rev. Joseph J. Campion..... In Residence
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak
 Victim Assistance: Wendy S. Krisak, 1-800-791-9209
 Safe Environment: Sister Meg Cole, 610-866-0581, ext 19
 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndioocese.org

Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
 Parish Preschool610 404-8645
 Parish Fax.....610 404-2609
 Parish Website..... www.icbvm.org
 Immaculate Conception Academy..... 610 404-8645

CHRIST THE KING – NOVEMBER 23, 2014

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM MARY KELLY
 SUN 7:30 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 9:00 AM PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY
 11:00 AM PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY
 MON 7:30 AM ELIZABETH "EB" BRADLEY BARTH
 9:00 AM ICA MASS – AIDAN DUNION
 TUE 7:00 PM ROSE WITKOWSKI

WED 7:30 AM PAUL KAKALECIK
 7:00 PM THANKSGIVING EVE ECUMENICAL SERVICE
 THU 9:00 AM EDWARD MACCARONE
 FRI **NO MASS**
 SAT 5:15 PM HELEN JANISZEWSKI
 SUN 7:30 AM PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY
 9:00 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 11:00 AM PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen
 And also In Memory of Herbert Fecera – 3rd Anniversary*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Zubik 5:15pm Pisarek 7:30am Hartneady 9:00am Carvalho 11:00am Hafer

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Ann Marie Arbo	Joe Bailey	Alex Hocker, Austin Mora, Cole Werley
SUN	7:30am	Pam Amos	Sean Werner	Amanda and Lauren Marley, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00am	Josephine Hohl	Brian Hannon	Beth and Gracie Cote, Jessica Kritschil
	11:00am	Mary Ann Cotter	Rhonda Ouimet	Matthew and Anna Lambert, Avery Lang

The second collection next week is for Religious Ministries

Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Worship

Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception will host the annual Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Prayer Service on **November 26th at 7pm**. In shared worship, let us witness to God who is at the center of all of our thanks giving. Designed as a worship to celebrate our common thanks in God, you are cordially invited and encouraged to join with your brothers and sisters in Christ from throughout our community. The Rev. Robert Kramer, Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Birdsboro will be preaching, and delicious refreshments will follow in the Social hall. All are welcome! Invite a friend to accompany you!

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe & Betty Cuccaro, Cecelia Potts, Arthur & Betty Erjavec, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, William Kuehler, Maryanne Prentice, John LeFosse, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Loretta Kozlowski, Patricia Reigel, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Ann Schlott, Patricia McDermott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Michael Kovach, Bernie Rissmiller, Sister Daniel Marie Liddy, Lannie Knapp, Mary Pender, Mary Heller, Geri Barth, Jo Ann Hofer, Ron D'Augustine and Tom Hafer

Please congratulate the newly baptized: Roman George Wunder, Kenley Harper Rhoades and their families

Please welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hartman and Ms. Alexia Rozmus

Please pray for the recently departed: Jackie Lynn Kryman

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS: Monsignor McCann and Deacon Paul Hiryak visit our hospitalized parishioners regularly. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	11/23	Santa Breakfast Ticket Sales
Mon	11/24	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	11/25	7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Wed	11/26	7pm <i>THANKSGIVING EVE ECUMENICAL SERVICE</i>
Thurs	11/27	Happy Thanksgiving!
Fri	11/28	NO MASS
Sat	11/29	4-5pm Confessions Santa Breakfast Ticket Sales

WHAT'S HAPPENING

On Thanksgiving Day, November 27th, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 9am. You are cordially invited to attend with your family so as to begin Thanksgiving Day with the greatest act of Thanksgiving to God.

*Please note there will be **NO MASS** on Friday, November 28th.*

☞☞☞ ☞☞☞ ☞☞☞ ☞☞☞

Our parish office will be closed on November 27th and November 28th in observance of the holiday.

2014 Walk-A-Thon for Catholic Education – Donations are being gratefully accepted. Please place it in an envelope marked "**ICA Walk-a-thon**" and drop it in any Sunday collection basket or mail it to Immaculate Conception Academy, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

ICA HSO 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

December 2 - \$50 Wawa Gift Card

December 3 - \$75 Visa Gift Card

December 4 - \$100 Red Lobster Gift Card

December 5 - \$125 Visa Gift Card

December 8 - \$150 Giant Gift Card

December 9 - \$175 Visa Gift Card

December 10 - \$200 Toys-R-Us Gift Card

December 11 - \$225 Visa Gift Card

December 12 - \$250 Target Gift Card

December 15 - \$275 Visa Gift Card

December 16 - \$300 Amazon Gift Card

December 17 - Grand Prize - \$500 Visa Gift card

Tickets \$5 each or \$20 for five. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on November 29/30 and December 6/7. Tickets will be available in the church office or by emailing ica.hso@gmail.com.

TRANSFER GRANTS: Any public, private, or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy, grades 1 through 7, will receive a Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant of \$1,500 over two school years (\$1,000 for the first year; \$500 for the second).

Thanksgiving Baskets for Those in Need
should be dropped at the church office, lower level on November 23rd before 1pm.

A man's ring was found in the church. Please call the parish office at 610-582-2411 to check the lost and found.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - ICA 8th grade is sponsoring our annual **Breakfast with Santa** on December 6th! There are seating's at 8am and 10am. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee/milk will be served. We will have face painting, cookie and ornament decorating, pictures with Santa and a Christmas Petting Zoo! Tickets are \$8, age 2 and under free. Tickets sell out quickly so get yours today!
Call 610-404-8645 for more information!!!

We have been advised by the Berks County Office of Catholic Charities that the **Christmas Wish Program** which our parish of the Immaculate Conception has traditionally participated in has been discontinued. We wish to acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation all of our parishioners who participated in this program in years past. A special note of thanks is extended to our parishioners who organized the program, tracked the many gifts as they came in and transported them to the drop-off site. We are deeply appreciative of your generosity and for the time and effort you invested in this endeavor.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend! The Annual March for Life will be held January 22, 2015 in Washington, DC. Our parish will be sponsoring a bus to the March for Life. Watch the bulletin for additional details.

The Women's Society Christmas Cookie Sale - Our beautiful assortments make perfect hostess or thank you gifts for your mail carrier, mechanic, etc. Cookie donations are very much appreciated and should be dropped off Saturday, December 13th at 9am in the social hall for inclusion in the assortments. Donations will also be gratefully accepted before all weekend Masses December 13th and 14th. If you would like to stay and help put the assortments together, we would welcome your help. Please label and bag by the dozen if you are not bringing the cookies for the assortments.

The Women's Society would like to thank everyone who participated the the Apple Dumpling Sale! It was very successful. 800 Apple Dumplings were prepared and sold along with about 40 Apple Crisps. We hope you enjoyed eating them as much as we enjoyed baking them for you!

The Filipino Catholic Community of Berks County will celebrate **Simbang Gabi** (Christmas Novena Masses) at: **Holy Rosary Church, Reading** - November 28, 7pm - November 29, 11am - November 30, noon with potluck - December 5, 7pm - December 6, 11am - December 7, 1pm with potluck - December 12, 7pm - December 13, 11am - December 14, 1pm with potluck - **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Life Ad Donation Coupon

Benefits Mary's Shelter and Mary's Home

Be counted when we publish the Anti-Abortion/Pro-Life ad in the Reading Eagle on January 22, 2015.

Deadline for donation is December 30th.

\$6/person, \$12/couple or family

Place this coupon with donation (check made payable to "Life Ad") into your Sunday Mass collection or mail to:

Mrs. Elizabeth Effinger

1848 W. Schuylkill Road

Douglassville, PA 19518-9101

Parish: _____

Name: _____

Phone#: _____ Amount: _____



November 23, 2014

dear Padre

Monday
NOVEMBER 24
Saint Andrew
Dung-Lac,
Priest, and
Companions,
Martyrs
Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5
Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday
NOVEMBER 25
Weekday
Rv 14:14-19
Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday
NOVEMBER 26
Weekday
Rv 15:1-4
Lk 21:12-19

Thursday
NOVEMBER 27
Weekday
Rv 18:1-2, 21-23;
19:1-3, 9a
Lk 21:20-28

Friday
NOVEMBER 28
Weekday
Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2
Lk 21:29-33

Saturday
NOVEMBER 29
Weekday
Rv 22:1-7
Lk 21:34-36

Sunday
NOVEMBER 30
First Sunday
of Advent
Is 63:16b-17,
19b; 64:2-7
1 Cor 1:3-9
Mk 13:33-37

Did Jesus exist before his earthly birth?



I want to know whether Jesus existed before his earthly birth. I realize nothing is impossible with God, but this certainly adds to the mystery.



Jesus explains his relationship with God the Father in John 14:10-11 when he asks Philip, "Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me."

But how did Jesus exist before he was born of the Virgin Mary? Origen, one of the early Church Fathers said,

That there was never a time when he did not exist is to be taken with a certain allowance. For these very words 'when' and 'never' are terms of temporal significance, while whatever is said of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, is to be understood as transcending all time, all ages, and all eternity" (*The Fundamental Doctrines*, 4:4:1).

Jesus was physically born into this world and Jesus is fully human, but he is also fully divine. We cannot equate Jesus' birth with our birth. Jesus transcends the limits of time and space.

So how did Jesus exist before his birth? We cannot know. Is that part of the mystery? It most certainly is.

FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



Liguori wants to give you a free eBook!

Advent Meditations With Fulton J. Sheen (863899)

Let Blessed Fulton J. Sheen, the unforgettable preacher who used television to touch millions of lives, lead you through Advent with eloquent reflections and beautiful Scriptures. Simply visit Liguori.org/Sheen and use **special discount-code 15555** when you check out. Offer expires Dec. 5, 2014. Thank you for letting us walk with you on your spiritual journey.