

Advent

December 14, 2014 ♦ Third Sunday of Advent

Today's Readings

Is 61:1–2a, 10–11

1 Thes 5:16–24

Jn 1:6–8, 19–28

Today is Gaudete (GOW de tay) Sunday. The name comes from the Latin word that begins the introit (opening antiphon) of the day's liturgy. It means, simply, "rejoice."

When I think about the many times I've rejoiced, I'm usually very moved. When I graduated college and graduate school, when my husband and I married, when our daughters were born and when they married—all of these were periods of great rejoicing marked by parties, congratulations, and the sweet feeling that something wonderful had taken place and that our lives were richer for it.

This third Sunday of Advent is our liturgical reminder that we have much to rejoice about. God didn't become incarnate just for the people who lived a long time ago. The Word became flesh in Jesus Christ for all of us living today and for all the generations to come. He came for sinners and saints and for those who haven't yet had an opportunity to know him.

Why do we rejoice? Because what Scripture said is true: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Something wonderful *has* taken place for everyone, and we join St. Paul, the prophet Isaiah, the psalmist, and John in proclaiming our joy.

It's a good day to look up from what we're doing and rejoice at the great gift of faith we've been given, even while we continue our own prayer and preparation.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." — John 3:16

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
 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.allentowndiocese.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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 14, 2014

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	JENNIE MERLINO	THU	7:00 PM	PATRICIA GOMBAR
SUN	7:30 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF EVANS FAMILY	FRI	7:30 AM	J. PATRICK HICKEY
	9:00 AM	ELI IEZZI	SAT	5:15 PM	ANTHONY VOLPICCINI
	11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SUN	7:30 AM	HELEN & FRANK JANISZEWSKI
MON	7:30 AM	ROSE WITKOWSKI		9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
TUE	7:00 PM	SEVERINE PROCK & ELIZABETH RUSSONIELLO		11:00 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE MACDOUGALL FAMILY
WED	7:30 AM	PAUL KAKALECIK			

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen
 And also In Memory of Adeline & Daniel Villano*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Dowling 5:15pm Pisarek 7:30am Collura 9:00am McCauley 11:00am Coleman

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Joe Bailey	Ann Marie Arbo	Lilia and Simon Crew, Danielle Walter
SUN	7:30am	Jim Kaucher	Toni Kaucher	Alyssa Boraten, Kelly Eichenberg, Elly Smithson
	9:00am	Stephanie Myers	Josephine Hohl	Morgan Davis, Marissa and Steven Tepper
	11:00am	Mary Jo Simon	Becky Shemanski	John and Nicholas Dinnocenti, Aiden Reber

The second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the Holy season of Advent in preparation for Christmas, I invite you to set time aside to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4:00 to 5:00pm.

Our Advent Parish Penance Service will be held on Monday, December 22nd at 7:00pm. On that occasion, visiting priests will be available to hear confessions and impart God's pardon and peace. As always, be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Monsignor John McCann

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe & Betty Cuccaro, Cecelia Potts, 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, Lannie Knapp, Mary Pender, Geri Barth, Jo Ann Hofer, Ron D'Augustine, Paul Milshaw, Roger Villano, John Glacken Sr., Jacob Lovera and Tom Hafer

Please pray for the recently departed: Julian James Kiper

Please congratulate the recently married: Rebecca Lynn Leech & Bryan Joseph Woods

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	12/14	Women's Society Cookie Sale
Mon	12/15	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	12/16	7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	12/18	12:30pm Prime Time 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
Sat	12/20	4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

On behalf of our parish family of the Immaculate Conception, I wish to thank Father Joseph Campion for his kind and gracious assistance with Masses and confessions over the course of the past several months. Father Campion retired as Pastor of Saint John the Baptist Church in Whitehall in June and came to Immaculate Conception with the hope and desire of exercising his priestly ministry among us during his retirement years.

Because of some recent health concerns Father Campion, acting upon the recommendation of his physicians, has moved to Holy Family Villa for Priests located in Bethlehem. Residing at the Villa will afford Father Campion more immediate access to his healthcare providers. Please pray for Father Campion that God will bless him with lasting good health. My fervent hope is that Father Campion will be able to assist us on occasion and if possible return to reside here at Immaculate Conception. His address is: Rev. Joseph Campion, Holy Family Villa, 1325 Prospect Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18018

Monsignor Loeper also resides at Holy Family Villa. We assure them both of our prayers and best wishes for a very Merry Christmas.

ICA HSO 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

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 are available in the church office, school office or by emailing ica.hso@gmail.com.

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.

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). Call Shannon at 610-404-8645.

Bereavement Support Group will meet on December 15th, 7pm in the Church (using side door first office on right). Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome. For information call Toni 610-404-1389 or Pat 610-775-1892.

Primetime will meet in ICC Social Hall, December 18th, noon for a Christmas celebration with a catered lunch, music presentation by ICA students and caroling. Call Kathleen before Monday 15th at 610.469.0594 for lunch reservations. Come join in Christmas merriment with your Primetime friends.

Just a reminder....The Women's Society Christmas Luncheon will be held at Stoppers on December 14th at 1pm.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2014

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, December 22 - 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday, December 24 - 4:00pm, 7:00pm, Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 25 - 9:00am, 11:00am

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

NEW YEARS EVE

Wednesday, December 31 - 5:15pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Thursday, January 1 - 9:00am, 11:00am

Berks Catholic's Annual Advent Vespers are December 14th, 4pm at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in West Reading. This annual Christmas time tradition allows us to celebrate as a family the real meaning of this special season, the birth of God's only Son. We hope you and your family are able to join us!

2015 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CALENDARS are now available in the narthex. We are most grateful to the Dengler Funeral Home for providing these beautiful religious art calendars to our parishioners.

World Meeting of Families-Philadelphia 2015 — **Registration Open!** Mark your family calendar for the 8th World Meeting of Families! Philadelphia is proud to welcome families from around the world to this event on September 22-27, 2015. Registration is now open. Families can look forward to speakers, celebrations, activities for kids, and prayer, all of which will bring renewal and transformation for you, your loved ones, and the world. Visit the official World Meeting of Families website at: WorldMeeting2015.org to learn more.

OPLAKTY, Blessed Christmas Wafers, are now available in the church narthex. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, be mindful of the many customs and traditions which remind us of the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior.

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. Schuykill Road
Douglassville, PA 19518-9101

Parish: _____

Name: _____

Phone#: _____ Amount: _____



December 14, 2014

Dear Padre

What is las posadas?

Monday

DECEMBER 15

Advent

Weekday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a

Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday

DECEMBER 16

Advent

Weekday

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13

Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday

DECEMBER 17

Advent

Weekday

Gn 49:2, 8-10

Mt 1:1-17

Thursday

DECEMBER 18

Advent

Weekday

Jer 23:5-8

Mt 1:18-25

Friday

DECEMBER 19

Advent

Weekday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a

Lk 1:5-25

Saturday

DECEMBER 20

Advent

Weekday

Is 7:10-14

Lk 1:26-38

Sunday

DECEMBER 21

Fourth Sunday

of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12,

14a, 16

Rom 16:25-27

Lk 1:26-38



I recently moved to a parish that includes a large Mexican community that's known for their annual *posadas* event. What is that?

Las posadas, a nine-day novena preparation for the celebration of Christmas, begins December 16 and ends Christmas Eve.

Posada is Spanish for "inn." The ceremony remembers Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem and their difficulty finding a place to stay.

Posadas are celebrated in many different ways, but the traditional celebration involves a group of people, the "pilgrims," going to several houses, knocking on the door, and asking for *posada*. The pilgrims sing the part of Joseph as he explains their situation and asks for a place to stay. The people inside sing back that they have no room and that the pilgrims should just move on.

On the last night, the people in the last house recognize that Mary is the Queen of Heaven and that the child she carries is the Savior of the World. They invite the pilgrims inside and hold a prayer service that may include a Scripture reading or the rosary. The celebration ends with food and singing.

This tradition is more than a folksy reenactment of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging—it's a solemn dramatization by women and men who believe God searches with them, a touching ceremony that can help Christians today see the real needs of those who live without the security of a home, health insurance, or a steady job.

FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR
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Experience the Holy Land from your kitchen!

Cook up a savory experience of food and faith with free recipes from *Around the Table With the Catholic Foodie: Middle Eastern Cuisine*. Visit Liguori.org/Catholicfoodie by February 28 to get your free recipes and a coupon for 30% off this full-color book of recipes and stories from the author's Holy Land pilgrimage. Enjoy!