

Lent

March 15, 2015 ♦ Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

My husband likes to photograph the beauty of creation. He has gotten very good at it, sometimes zooming in to focus on the details of individual flowers or butterflies, other times zooming out to capture the glory of a waterfall, a mountain lake, or the fiery clouds billowing from one of Hawaii's volcanoes into a night sky full of stars.

Several of his photos decorate my office walls. He's justifiably proud of each. They're the work of his artist's eye and hand, so he signs them and takes care to frame them just right.

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul calls us God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus—not because we were so amazing (we were, in fact, sinners), but because he loved us.

John's gospel echoes the sentiment: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." If a human being like my husband can take pleasure

in and be justifiably proud of the work of his own hands, then how much more can God love his own handiwork? The answer, of course, is immeasurably more. God loved us enough to give us himself in Christ Jesus, who lay down his life for us though we had done nothing to deserve it.

The photos my husband creates can't thank him or give anything back to him, but it *is* in our power to thank our Creator, who filled us with life and redeemed us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

Today, try to love someone else a little more out of sheer gratitude that God so loves *you*.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Today's Readings

2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23

Eph 2:4–10

Jn 3:14–21

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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, 610-332-0442, 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - MARCH 15, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	CYNTHIA SCHICKRAM	THU	7:00 PM	GOD'S BLESSINGS ON JOHN EFFINGER
SUN	7:30 AM	JOHN BRADLEY	FRI	7:30 AM	JOHN & ALICE HOFFMASTER
	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	JOAN M. LEFOSSE
	11:00 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE MURPHY FAMILY	SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
MON		<u>No MASS</u>		9:00 AM	GLORIA GILL
TUE	7:00 PM	THOMAS GRACE, SR.		11:00 AM	ANTONIO BARLETTA
WED	7:30 AM	KEN UMSTEAD			

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Paul Powaski and
 Also In Memory of Ray & Minnie O'Grattis*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Zubik 5:15pm Costanzo 7:30am Kasperowicz 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	Mike Austrevich	Jennifer Stuart	Adam and Carlina Davis, Danielle Passifione
SUN	7:30am	Pam Amos	Sean Werner	Mason Cambria, Ethan Kraycik, Sam. Reitnour
	9:00am	Pat Fessler	Brian Hannon	John and Matt Dugan, Cole Werley
	11:00am	Susan DiGuglielmo	Mike Bobb	Michael and Robert Beitz, Tucker Di Piazza

Second collection next week is for Church Building and Parish Maintenance

Our annual Lenten Penance Service will be held on Monday of Holy Week, March 30th at 7pm. At that time, several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Plan to attend and encounter our Merciful Savior Jesus Christ.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe Cuccaro, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Dan Casciano, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Mary Pender, Jo Ann Hofer, Roger Villano, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Kathy Patrick, William Strock, Sr., Helen McDonald, Lana Wentzel, Steve Mammarella, Stella Powaski, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Robert Thomas, Joe Lintz and Tom Hafer

Please welcome our new parishioner: Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Kopeneck

Please congratulate the newly baptized: Ella Dupre Tuskey and her family

Please pray for the recently departed: Cecelia Potts, Mary Clancey and James Komorosky

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon	03/16	7pm Parent First Communion Meeting 7pm Bereavement Support Group 7:30pm RCIA
Wed	03/18	6:30pm Women's Society Agape
Thurs	03/19	12pm Prime Time
Fri	03/20	1:45pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Stations of the Cross
Sat	03/21	4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, March 16, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Women's Society News...

The Women's Society will meet in the social hall of the church on March 27th at 9am to finish dipping, boxing, and sorting the Easter Candy orders. You do not need to have experience and your helping hands would certainly be appreciated. If you are interested helping out, you will be most welcome. A light lunch will be served on Friday. If we are not able to finish on Friday, we will meet again 9am Saturday morning to finish up. Thanks in advance for your help. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Easter Candy orders will be ready for pick up before and after all Masses on March 28th/29th. We will also be selling any extra candy that we may have at that time.

Community Table – Many thanks to everyone who donated casseroles/desserts/drinks/paper products and helped to serve the meal. We are very blessed to have so many kind and caring individuals willing to serve and share with those less fortunate. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by all of the hungry folks who enjoyed a hot and healthy meal.

Agape - The Women's Society will gather in the social hall at 6:30pm on March 18th for our "Agape" service. All women of the parish are invited to join in this special evening as we share bread and wine together celebrating the limitless love of God, and our love for each other.

Building a Culture of Vocations

Family Life can build values integral to a strong vocation – whether to priesthood, religious life or marriage. Teaching your children to value commitment, service and prayer will help them make strong vocation decisions as adults and live out those vocations with success and fulfillment.

The **Youth Group** will be cleaning up the cemetery on March 22nd. All Christmas decorations will be removed and discarded.

Attention **Prime Time members and friends**, our rescheduled program featuring the Berks Animal Rescue League will be on March 19th at noon. ARL is in need of kitten food, dry Purina Kitten Chow and Fancy Feast for Kittens both dry and wet is best for kittens. Any donations greatly appreciated. Bring materials for animal blankets project.

Bereavement Support Group will meet on March 16th, 7 to 8:30 pm in the church (use side door, first office on right). For info, call Toni 610-404-1389 or Pat 610-775-1892.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29th, 7:30am, 9am and 11am
Blessing of Palms at all Masses
Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession at 11am
Living Stations of the Cross at 4pm

Penance Service

Monday, March 30th, 7pm
Several Priests will be available for confessions

Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm
Family Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
After evening Mass until 10pm
(Come, "Watch One Hour" with Jesus)

Good Friday

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm
Confessions following until 5:30pm
Day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Saturday

Blessing of Food at Noon
Confessions from 12:30pm to 2pm
The Easter Vigil Mass at 8pm
Reception of RCIA Candidates

Easter Sunday

Masses at 7:30am, 9am and 11am
Blessing of the Children's Easter Baskets at 9am, 11am

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 27th 1pm and Palm Sunday, March 29th 4pm
Children from Immaculate Conception Academy will present the Living Stations of the Cross. Everyone is cordially invited to participate in the beautiful reenactment of the events of Calvary. Please come pray with us, celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.

The Annual Lenten Food Drive for the benefit of the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House and Catholic Charities of Reading has begun. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. The food drive runs through Palm Sunday. Contact Jim at 610-385-3666.

A Recommendation to Enhance Your Lenten Journey of Conversion and Renewal

Attend the Lenten Stations of the Cross with your children and grandchildren. Stations of the Cross is held every Friday evening during Lent at 7pm. The children of Immaculate Conception Academy also welcome you to their Stations of the Cross on Friday afternoon's at 1:45pm

EASTER EGG HUNT: Join us for our egg hunt for our parish children under 12 on April 4th at 11am. We are collecting bags of individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs. Donation box will be in the narthex.

La Salle Academy will host the 8th Annual Egg & Art Show on March 28/29, 11am - 4pm. Come and enjoy homemade Polish foods, arts & crafts, raffles, children's activities, pysanky classes and more. Visit Learn more at EggandArtShow.com



March 15, 2015

dear Padre

Monday

MARCH 16

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17-21

Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday

MARCH 17

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1-9, 12

Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday

MARCH 18

Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8-15

Jn 5:17-30

Thursday

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

Friday

MARCH 20

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12-22

Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday

MARCH 21

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18-20

Jn 7:40-53

Sunday

MARCH 22

Fifth Sunday

of Lent

Jer 31:31-34

Heb 5:7-9

Jn 12:20-33

Is faith different from religion?



A friend and I were having a disagreement about the Catholic

church. He ended the

conversation by saying, "Spread the faith, not the religion." Is there a difference between faith and religion?

The glossary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church defines *faith* as "both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God and freely assents to the whole truth that God has revealed." *Religion* is defined as "a set of beliefs and practices followed by those committed to the service and worship of God."

Therefore, we express our faith and put it into action through our religion. So our faith has both a personal and a communal dimension.

The danger lies in making our faith something so personal and individual that it loses this communal context. We do



what we do and believe what we believe as members of a *community* of faith. So while my faith requires a personal decision on my part, it's not something so individualized and personal that I can speak of it apart from the Christian community in which I express it.

As baptized Christians, we are members of the living Body of Christ. Since all members of a body are important to the proper function of the body as a whole, it's important that we function as members of a community of believers who hold a common faith.

FR. SCOTT KATZENBERGER, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

Liguori.org



FREE GIFT



Catholic Update helps you keep up with news and issues that are important to Catholics. To introduce you to this wonderful newsletter, we'd like to send you several free issues on topics such as sharing the faith with your family, forgiving yourself and others, and reasons to go to Mass. To claim your free, no-obligation package, visit Liguori.org/Catholic-Update and click on "Free Catholic Update Offer" before April 30, 2015. God bless you!