

Easter

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) ♦ May 3, 2015

Many enduring images of Church come

to us from the New Testament. One is Paul's image: "The Body of Christ."

Another comes from our gospel today: "The Vine and the Branches."

Both are metaphors of living organisms. For both, Christ is the most important element. Christ is the head of the Body and the symbol of authority and purpose. Christ is the vine that brings life and nutrients to the branches that produce fruit. Anyone who has visited a winery knows the significance of the vine. If it's cut, the branches wither and the crop fails.

Why is it important to have both images?

John's image reminds us that the Church can't survive if it's separated from Christ. We can live only if we remain in Christ so that the power of grace can continue to infuse us with everything we need to bear the fruit of love, compassion, and mercy.



Paul's metaphor keeps us humble. Regardless of how this Body is structured, Christ is the true head; we are to submit ourselves to obedience to him regardless of how important we are in this world. We also

know we belong as a community to Christ and in communion with one another.

There are many parts to the Body and many clusters of fruit on the vine. To leave either is to separate ourselves from Christ.

That's why praying together each week is so important. It reminds us who we are and whom we belong to.

Let us offer praise for this vine and for this Body into which our baptism has called us.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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Today's Readings

Acts 9:26–31

1 Jn 3:18–24

Jn 15:1–8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 3, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM WARREN READINGER – 10TH ANNIVERSARY
 SUN 7:30 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 9:00 AM FRED DEL GRASSO & ELVIRA MESSNER
 11:00 AM THOMAS HAIGHT, SR.
 MON **NO MASS**
 TUE 7:00 PM MARY BUTLER
 WED 7:30 AM MICHAEL FASTI

THU 7:00 PM PATRICIA COLL
 FRI 7:30 AM ANNA & STANLEY WISNIEWSKI
 SAT 5:15 PM GEORGE WHITE
 SUN 7:30 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 9:00 AM LIVING & DECEASED MOTHERS OF THE PARISH
 11:00 AM LIVING & DECEASED MOTHERS OF THE PARISH

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of John Stianche

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Lukes 5:15 Costanzo 7:30 Kasperowicz 9:00 Carvalho 11:00 Hafer

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Mary Schwendt	Jennifer Stuart	Beth and Gracie Cote, Kathryn Krueger
SUN	7:30am	Dan Sweeney	Dennis Piontek	Mason Cambria, D. Passifione, Sam Reitnour
	9:00am	Josephine Hohl	Stephanie Myers	Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho
	11:00am	Becky Shemanski	Steve Lukes	Brent DeMarco, Mickey and Will Gray

The second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception rejoices in the announcement that the Most Reverend John O. Barres, Bishop of Allentown has assigned two of the newly ordained permanent deacons of the Diocese of Allentown to our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception.

Deacon James A. Bardi and Deacon Charles A. Giordano will minister to our parishioners through works of charity. For the past six years, they have participated in an extensive program of formation so as to be able to serve the Church as deacons. Deacons share in Christ's mission and grace in a special way. The Sacrament of Holy Orders marks them with an imprint which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the 'deacon' or servant of all. Among other tasks, it is the task of deacons to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the celebration of Holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating themselves to the various ministries of charity.

I invite you to pray for Deacon Bardi and his wife Linda and Deacon Giordano and his wife Barbara as they initiate their diaconal service to our parish family. In welcoming Deacon Bardi and Deacon Giordano, I also wish to acknowledge with gratitude the ministry of Deacon Paul Hiryak who since his ordination to the Diaconate in 2006 has served our parishioners with great fidelity. Deacon Paul and I look forward to welcoming our newly ordained deacons and introducing them to our parish family. Introduce yourself to Deacon Bardi and Deacon Giordano and pray for them.

Monsignor John McCann

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 Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Mary Pender, Jo Ann Hofer, Roger Villano, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Kathy Patrick, Doris Slater, Alan Mammarella, Stella Powaski, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Bartholomew Magliocchetti, Mary and Phil Morici, Curt Miller, Bob Hocker, Ronald Readinger, Dan Casciano and Tom Hafer

Please pray for the recently wed: Marley Ann Kasper & Walter Edward Boone, II

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Tues 05/05 7pm Baptism Class
Fri 05/08 Youth Group Picnic
Sat 05/09 9am 1st Holy Communion – Wed CCD
12pm 1st Holy Communion – Thurs CCD
4-5pm Confessions
Women's Society Bake Sale/Hoagie Sale

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, May 4, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

CCD Registrations for 2015-2016 are being accepted through May. Forms are available on www.icbvmccd.org under forms and at the Office of Religious Education. Register now to insure your preference of day and time as classes fill-up quickly. Volunteers are always welcome! If you would like to volunteer an hour of your time once a week to bring the Good News of Christ to the children of our parish by educating or by example of service, contact Mrs. O'Donnell at (610) 582-3880.

YOUTH GROUP PICNIC! Both our junior and senior high school youth groups will join together for a picnic on Friday, May 8th, 7-9pm. All of the teenagers of our parish in grades 7th through 12th are welcome to attend and bring a friend!

The Women's Society is visiting Villa Maria House of Studies on May 6th. We leave from the social hall at 10:30am. We will hold a BINGO for the Sisters residing at Camilla Hall. Monetary gifts are most welcome, along with stamps, note cards and stationery as prizes for our BINGO games. We are also accepting goodies for the Sisters. Lunch will be served for a cost of \$7. Please call Betty at 610-326-7017 ASAP if you will be attending or need any further information. We need to give advance notice of how many will be attending so make sure you register by Sunday, May 3rd.

The Women's Society will sponsor a Hoagie & Bake Sale before and after all Masses May 9/10. Choose from a wide assortment of goodies for Mom or for your Sunday dinner. The hoagie tickets are \$5 each and may be used to purchase either a small Italian or a small ham & cheese sandwich at Italian Delite Restaurant and Pizzeria. The best part is you can use the tickets whenever you like! All proceeds benefit the church. We will gratefully accept donations of baked goods before all Masses.

AC RESORTS TRIP – May 18 –Leave church at 9:30am. Pay \$31/Get \$25. Call Carol J 610-775-4447 if interested.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE - Your generous offerings included 1410 lbs. food and \$173.15. Immaculate Conception Academy collected 10 gallons of laundry soap, dish soap and cleanser, 2 dozen rolls of paper towels, 5 dozen rolls bath tissue and 50 lbs. of food (included in the total above). The recipients at St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen, Catholic Charities and Kennedy House greatly appreciate your contributions.

Mark your calendar! Thursday, May 14th is the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven, a holy day of obligation. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Wednesday evening, May 13 at 7pm and on Ascension Thursday at 7:30am, 9:00am with the children of Immaculate Conception Academy and 7:00pm.

Bishops Annual Appeal

We are grateful to our parishioners who have already made a pledge to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Making a six-month pledge to the Appeal allows you to maximize the amount that you may give by making monthly payments. For example, a \$300 gift to the Appeal may be setup with six \$50 installments. Your sacrifice and generosity to those who are less fortunate will allow the ministries of our diocese to offer services to those who need our assistance. You can make your gift online at www.2015baa.org or pickup a pledge form at the back of the church.

ICA 5K and 1 Mile FUN Run/Walk

(Behind Tim's Ugly Mug) Birdsboro, PA

Saturday, May 16, 2015 Registration 8:30AM

10am 5K, 10:45am Fun Run/Walk, 11:15am Awards

All ages are welcome!

For more information or to sponsor the event please visit

<https://sites.google.com/site/ica/ica-5k>

Proceeds benefit the students of ICA.

Berks Catholic Summer Camps

Basketball, Cheerleading, and Dance Camp

Berks Catholic will be hosting Saints Boys' Basketball, Cheerleading, and Dance Camps for grades 1-8, June 15-19. For more information contact Tony Balistrere at 610-374-8361, ext 224 or tbalistrere@berkscatholic.org

Football Camp

August 3,4,5 Contact bhess@berkscatholic.org

For camp information and registration forms go to www.berkscatholic.org

Redner's Save-A-Tape – In order for ICC to receive the 1% credit 1) you must use your Pump Perks card 2) please submit the entire receipt and 3) do not use a highlighter on the totals as this erases the number.

Trout Rodeo-May 9th, 8am-1pm K – 5th grades. This free, fun event with prizes and food is sponsored by the Daniel Boone Optimist Club at the South Birdsboro Rod and Gun Club.

Contact Maryann Uivary 610-385-4953 with any questions.

The Clothing Closet at the Church of the Nazarene, 715 East Third Street, Birdsboro is looking for gently used clean spring/summer clothing, shoes, jackets, etc. of all sizes. Also small kitchen items (toasters, pots, pans, etc.) NO furniture, NO Tupperware (or like product), NO junk. Collection days are Mondays, 9-11:30am and the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month 10am-noon. For more information or to arrange a different drop off time contact Sherri at 484-999-0034.

Building a Culture of Vocations

A VOCATION must be nurtured for a lifetime, not just until ordination or the taking of vows. You can help nurture the vocations of priests, sisters and brothers by praying, listening and expressing appreciation. A life of service needs support from those served.

Water is on in the cemetery.

MOVING OUT OF THE AREA? Please call 610-582-2411 so we can say goodbye and update our records.



May 3, 2015

Dear Padre

Is it a sin to be mad at God?



My husband and I are divorcing. We have four children. Yesterday my eight-year-old said she's "mad at God for letting this happen." I told her it's a sin to be mad at God, but she says she doesn't care. What should I do?

First of all, your eight-year-old's world is being shaken to its core by your divorce. She's frightened, confused, and worried about what will happen. She's expressing her feelings and frustrations.

Don't tell her it's a sin to have angry thoughts and feelings about God. We're emotional human beings with strong passions and moods, and the Lord understands when we're distressed and troubled. Even Jesus had moments of anger—for example, when he drove the moneychangers out of the temple (Matthew 21:12).

Tell her God loves us and gives us freedom to choose. God isn't responsible for your divorce. Reassure your daughter that you love her no matter what, even when she's mad at God. Life after the divorce will be different, but not necessarily unhappy.

This is also an opportunity for her to learn that life isn't always the way we wish it would be.

God doesn't make bad things happen. Human beings aren't perfect, and God helps us survive and grow through difficult moments.

FR. DON KIRCHNER, CSSR
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Monday
May 4
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:5–18
Jn 14:21–26

Tuesday
May 5
Easter Weekday
Acts 14:19–28
Jn 14:27–31a

Wednesday
May 6
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:1–6
Jn 15:1–8

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

Friday
May 8
Easter Weekday
Acts 15:22–31
Jn 15:12–17

Saturday
May 9
Easter Weekday
Acts 16:1–10
Jn 15:18–21

Sunday
May 10
Sixth Sunday
of Easter
Acts 10:25–26,
34–35, 44–48
1 Jn 4:7–10
Jn 15:9–17

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FREE E-BOOK!

Give a new grad—or yourself—the confidence to start a new chapter of life with inspiration from the saints. In the ebook *Letting Go, Letting God: 21 Centuries of Faith* (868269), Sr. Kathleen Atkinson reflects on saints and holy people who took risks and stepped forward in response to God's call. Visit Liguori.org and use special-offer code **15562** when you check out. This free offer ends June 30, 2015.