

Ascension of the Lord

✦ May 17, 2015 ✦

Part of my ministry involves sitting with families as they plan a funeral service for a loved one. There are often long pauses as thoughts flood their minds and memories fill their hearts. They share stories and grief. We pick readings and songs and talk about prayers.

Inevitably, we talk about what will happen after the funeral. I tell them grief is a process, that everyone does it differently, and that it would be good to be gentle with each other. In my experience, it takes about six weeks just for the reality to begin setting in and to begin adjusting to this new situation. Things don't get better; they get different, and we go on.

I can only imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus, whom they loved, was crucified in front of them. They had only just begun their grieving. I can only imagine the joy they felt when he appeared after his resurrection, eating with and teaching them again, giving them everything they needed for what was to come.

I can't help but wonder how they felt when he left them again, ascending into heaven—not dead, but so very clearly not with them in the same way.

We celebrate Jesus' ascension just past the six-week mark from Easter. I like to think the reality of the death and resurrection has just started to sink in and that we're learning to move on in this new situation.

It's no accident that Jesus' last command to us is to live that new reality and tell the world about him.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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Today's Readings

Acts 1:1–11
Eph 1:17–23 or
Eph 4:1–13 or
4:1–7, 11–13
Mk 16:15–20
or
Acts 1:15–17,
20a, 20c–26
1 Jn 4:11–16
Jn 17:11b–191

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 17, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	MARIE & EDWARD SCHLEIFENHEIMER	THU	7:00 PM	GLORIA GILL – 1 ST ANNIVERSARY
SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	FRI	7:30 AM	FR. CHRISTOPHER GIBNEY
	9:00 AM	MARGARET & DR. NICHOLAS CHRIST		9:00 AM	ICA MASS – BETTY CUCCARO
	11:00 AM	CAROL ANN MCDEVITT	SAT	5:15 PM	JANET MARLEY
MON	No Mass		SUN	7:30 AM	ESTHER PRIBANICK
TUE	7:00 PM	MARIE HUDY		9:00 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF JESSE PAINTER FAMILY
WED	7:30 AM	DUANE MADRZYKOWSKI		11:00 AM	RON WALP

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of George White

In Memory of Gloria Gill and

In Memory of Nicholas Volpiccini – 3rd Anniversary

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Gulla 5:15 Pisarek 7:30 Collura 9:00 McCauley 11:00 Citrano

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Ann Marie Arbo	Mike Austrevich	Nick Donnelly, Ryan Ferrante, Aiden Reber
SUN	7:30am	Dennis Piontek	Pam Amos	Amanda and Lauren Marley
	9:00am	Barrie Pease	Val Romasanta	Ally, Diego and Jacob Santos
	11:00am	Susan DiGuglielmo	Rhonda Ouimet	Chris and Lyndsay Surkosky, Cole Werley

The second collection next week is for Air Conditioning

Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education 2015-2016 Registrations

We welcome everyone to join us if you have a student entering preschool (age 3) through 8th grade. Academy Tours are available by contacting Shannon Villa at shannon.villa@icaknights.org or 610-404-8645. Please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, social security card and immunization record to registration.

Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/15 and 1st Grade students aged 6 by 10/15/15.

ICA offers a full day Kindergarten

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.

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 Snyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Patricia Winkel, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Mary Pender, Jo Ann Hofer, Roger Villano, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Kathy Patrick, Doris Slater, Alan Mammarella, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Anna DiMarcello, Mary and Phil Morici, Curt Miller, Bob Hocker, Ronald Readinger, Joe Lukac and Tom Hafer

Please pray for the recently deceased: Stella Powaski and Linda D'Allessandro

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 05/17 10am-12pm Book Fair
Mon 05/18 Book Fair
Tues 05/19 Book Fair
Wed 05/20 7pm Women's Society Meeting
Sat 05/23 4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

There will be NO MASS on May 18th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Scholastic Buy One/Get One (BOGO) Book Fair at ICA in the lower level meeting room of the church office. We are open May 17 after 9am and 11am Masses and May 18/19 during school hours. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the book fair!

Register Now for CCD 2015-2016!

Forms are available on www.icbvccd.org under forms and at the Office of Religious Education.

Classes are filling up so register now!

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.

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

Bereavement Support Group will meet on May 18th, 7-8:30 pm in the Church (side door, first office on right). We welcome anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. For information call Toni at 610-404-1389 or Pat 610-775-1892.

Attention Prim Time Members -Meeting date changed to May 28th, social hall, noon. Students from Immaculate Conception Academy will present a vocal and instrumental program. Lunch will be served. A gift card will be awarded.

ICA HSO Dairy Queen Spirit Night - Please join us for a night of food, fun and of course ice cream! Monday, June 1st, 5-8pm at the Exeter Dairy Queen at 5710 Perkiomen Ave. There will be music, games and a dunk tank. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Immaculate Conception Academy's Home and School Organization.

Confirmation Date Announced: Bishop Barres will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the children of our parish family of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 4:30pm.

Berks Catholic Summer Camps

Basketball, Cheerleading, and Dance Camps - 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.

Water is on in the cemetery.

10th Annual Praise and Worship Sunday – May 17th

Please join us at the Tenth Annual Healing Mass preceded by Praise and Worship music and followed by Benediction and Healing Service. The Mass will be celebrated on May 17th by Father Patrick Lamb at St. Catharine of Siena Church, Boyertown Pike. Music begins at 6:30pm with Mass at 7pm.

Bishops Annual Appeal

We are grateful to all who pledged their support this weekend to the 2015 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL. Your gift will allow our diocese to meet the many and varied needs of the people of this diocese. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. If you did not take the opportunity to make your gift, you may do so at any time over the next few weeks by placing your pledge form in the collection basket or visiting the Appeal online at www.2015baa.org. Thank you for your support.

The next **Baptism Class** will be **Wednesday, June 3rd at 7pm** in the lower level of the church office. Call Rita at 610-582-2411 for more information.

Gethsemane Cemetery's Annual Memorial Day Mass will be held on Monday, May 25th at 10am – Everyone is welcome and Mass will be held rain or shine.

Let your marriage bloom like the spring flowers! A Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend can rekindle the joy in your marriage and improve your communication! It is a weekend for married couples to focus on each other and their relationship. The next weekend is scheduled for June 26-28 at St. Mary of Providence. Call 610-449-1859 or apply online at www.wvme-philly.org.

Building a Culture of Vocations

DID YOU KNOW... that just because a young man goes to the Seminary doesn't automatically mean he will become a priest?

Those young men are discerning whether they are indeed called into that particular kind of service to our LORD. They would appreciate your prayers for them!

Eastern European Food Festival – May 30th, 12-6pm

Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, 411 Crestmont St., Reading
A smorgasbord of tastings, food, beer, wines and other delights! Relish in the tastes of traditional Slovak, Ukrainian and Polish foods. Treat your sweet tooth to homemade pastries and baked goods. Enjoy a variety of ethnic beer in our beer garden. Eat in/take out (bring your own container).

If a Prenatal Diagnosis is Poor...You are not alone. There is help. The Diocese of Allentown has a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnosis. For support, please contact: Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, jjohnson@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900 x 245.

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



May 17, 2015

Dear Padre

Monday

May 18

Easter Weekday

Acts 19:1-8

Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday

May 19

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:17-27

Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday

May 20

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:28-38

Jn 17:11b-19

Thursday

May 21

Easter Weekday

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Jn 17:20-26

Friday

May 22

Easter Weekday

Acts 25:13b-21

Jn 21:15-19

Saturday

May 23

Easter Weekday

Acts 28:16-20,

30-31

Jn 21:20-25

Sunday

May 24

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11

Cor 12:3b-7,

12-13 or

Gal 5:16-25

Jn 20:19-23 or

Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Why does God give grace to those who don't deserve it?



Our priest says we can't earn God's grace, that God just gives it to us. That is so unfair. I've put in many hard, deliberate hours being generous, considerate, and understanding. The undeserving and unworthy are just that, yet God continues to give to them. Why?

Grace is a theological word that describes God's giving us a share in his own divine life. It's a gift of his abundant love. Or, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "Grace is a participation in the life of God....It depends entirely on God's gratuitous initiative....It surpasses the power of human intellect and will" (1997-1998).

If you've already put in many hours of hard work being good, you're already living the effects of grace operating in you.

As for those you consider "undeserving" or "unworthy," the Lord is generous and loving to all. He excludes no one. Even calling a sinner to repentance is God's grace, but the sinner needs to accept the grace being offered.

St. Augustine knew that even the *preparation* of a person to receive God's grace is God's grace. Quoted in the *Catechism*, he said, "Indeed we also work, but we are only collaborating with God who works, for his mercy has gone before us....[W]ithout him we can do nothing" (2001).

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Liguori.org



FREE GIFT



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.