

# Advent

December 20, 2015 ♦ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4 ♦ Heb 10:5-10 ♦ Lk 1:39-45

**N**ot long ago, I had the great opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Israel with a group of people. We began our journey each day in prayer. We visited many holy sites; we walked where Jesus walked. Each day our chaplain celebrated liturgy in one of the many churches that mark the location of significant stories in the Bible: where Jesus was born, where he died, where he celebrated his first miracle, at Cana. The prayer was profound, and the members of the group quickly became friends. We still greet each other with gladness and affection.

One of the more moving experiences was a visit to the Church of the Visitation. Located at the top of a small hill, the church welcomes visitors with a wide plaza and a wrought-iron entryway. Immediately to the right of the courtyard is a tall bronze statue of Mary and Elizabeth greeting each other. The figures are slender and visibly pregnant. The artist captured their joy with a slight arch in their backs, their arms beginning to ascend, and their heads lifted up as though laughing in delight. The statue made us smile.

I think about that statue now and believe this is how we should always greet the Lord—with delight, joy, and an understanding that we are pregnant with his grace and presence. We are called to reveal that presence to the whole world. In these last few days before Christmas, reflect on the ways you will show your joy in the Lord's coming.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)



## A Word From Pope Francis

*"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven, and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."*

—*Evangelii Gaudium*, 114

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann ..... Pastor  
 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence  
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi,  
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano  
 Parish Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD .....610 582-3880  
 Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
 Parish Fax.....610 404-2609  
 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610404-8645  
 Academy Website.....www.icaberks.org  
 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:  
 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC  
Direct Telephone 800 791-9209  
 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:  
 Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT  
 Telephone 610 332-0442, Ext. 19  
 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndioocese.org

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - DECEMBER 20, 2015

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	JOSEPHINE, PETER & JOHN BOGUS	THU	4:00 PM	CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE INTENTIONS
SUN	7:30 AM	DAVID PALKO		7:00 PM	CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE INTENTIONS
	9:00 AM	HELEN & FRANK JANISZEWSKI		MIDNIGHT	CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE INTENTIONS
	11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	FRI	9:00 AM	CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE INTENTIONS
MON	7:30 AM	REV. CHARLES SPERLAK		11:00 AM	CHRISTMAS ENVELOPE INTENTIONS
TUE	7:00 PM	ANTHONY VOLPICCINI	SAT	5:15 PM	HERBERT FECERA - 4 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY
WED	7:30 AM	JOSIE & GUS FREDRIKSEN	SUN	7:30 AM	FLORENCE & ORLANDO LEBRESCO
	9:00 AM	ICA MASS		9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
				11:00 AM	MARY DALEY OWENS

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Honor of Operation 9 Reindeer Families  
 And In Memory of Herbert Fecera - 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SCRIP:** There will be no SCRIP sales on December 26/27. We acknowledge with gratitude all of our volunteers who assist with the sale of SCRIP. Thank you for your kindness.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Shirley Wheeler	Mike Austrevich	Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho
SUN	7:30am	Toni Kaucher	Jim Kaucher	MasonCambria, SamanthaReitnour, JordanYerger
	9:00am	Brian Hannon	Josephine Hohl	Taylor Moyer, Diego and Hannah Santos
	11:00am	Becky Shemanski	Rhonda Ouimet	Rachel Barnes, Faith Ouimet, Elly Smithson

### **The second collection next week is for Debt Reduction**

#### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2015

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

#### **PENANCE SERVICE**

Monday, December 21 - 7:00pm

#### CHRISTMAS MASSES

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

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

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Alice Smyk, Yolanda Marino, Marie Snyder, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Kathy Patrick, Doris Slater, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Linda Ritchie, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Walter & Marjorie Hansen, Betty Erjavec, Irene Wade, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Stephen Thomkins, Carolyn Creech, Frances Bambrick, James Smith, Mike Kovach, Ronald Schwendt, Jr., William Reardon, Maryanne Emory, Virginia Marks and Madge Butto

Pray for the recently departed: Rev. William R. Dermott, Martha Cozzone, J. Earl Jagers

## **THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>12/20</b>	<b>Operation Reindeer Candy Cane Sale</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>7pm Penance Service</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>12/22</b>	<b>7:30pm Bell Choir</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>12/26</b>	<b>4-5pm Confession</b>

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

### **PARISH OFFICE NOTICE**

**Our parish office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of Christmas and the New Year.**

### **NEW YEAR'S MASSES**

#### **NEW YEARS EVE**

Thursday, December 31 - 5:15pm

#### **NEW YEAR'S DAY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY**

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

### **MARCH FOR LIFE**

**On Friday, January 22, 2016 our parish family of the Immaculate Conception is sponsoring a bus to the March for Life to be held in Washington D.C. The bus will depart the ICC parking lot at 8:00 a.m. arriving in Washington D.C. for the noon rally and 1:00pm March for Life. It is anticipated that the bus will return at approximately 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$33 for adults and \$16 for youth. For additional information or to reserve a seat, please contact Mrs. Angela Peterson at 610-582-6993 or by e-mail at [arpeterson@windsteam.net](mailto:arpeterson@windsteam.net).**

### **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](mailto: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, charter or home 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.

**2016 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.

**OPEN REGISTRATION-** Berks Catholic is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Please contact Nicole Smith to find out all the great opportunities a Berks Catholic education offers. Call 610.374.8361 or email [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org).



*May this Christmas season be a time of real joy, of real peace, of real tenderness - a time in which you experience deeply and richly the intimate presence of Jesus in your life. A time for your family to come together; a time for you to be united with all those you love. A time of forgiveness, of reconciliation, of renewal. A time to celebrate lovingly, live joyfully, give generously and believe completely.*

*You and your family will be remembered at every Mass during this Christmas season with prayer and thanksgiving for all that you do for our parish and your brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*Monsignor John B. McCann*

*Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski*

*Deacon Paul Hiryak*

*Deacon James Bardi*

*Deacon Charles Giordano*

### ***Thinking about becoming a Catholic?***

#### ***Looking for a "Faith Refresher?"***

Join Msgr. McCann, Deacon Paul Hiryak and guest speakers on Monday evenings to learn more about our Catholic faith. RCIA isn't just for persons interested in Catholicism, it's for everyone who desires a deeper understanding of what we believe and practice as Catholics. Classes are 7:30-9pm. You are welcome to attend as many sessions as your schedule permits. Call 610.582.2411 for information.

**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS** - Any 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in Catholic, public or private school who is registered in a parish of the Diocese of Allentown is eligible to apply for a one-year partial scholarship of \$1,000 to be applied to tuition at Berks Catholic High School. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of participation in activities, service to school and community, special honors, leadership positions, academic achievement and the recommendation of the pastor. For an application please contact Immaculate Conception Academy Principal: Mrs. Patricia Tarquinio at 610-404-8645 or Mrs. Dawn O'Donnell, Director of Religious Education at 610-582-3880. **Application Deadline is Friday, January 22, 2016.**

*Advent Vespers is a service of Light, Word, and Song that features students of the Berks Catholic Chorus and Select Choir. Please come and enjoy the sights and sounds of the reason for the season. Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 4pm - Berks Catholic High School - Franco-Post Auditorium*

**Miracle, Mystery and Awe: An Epiphany Celebration of Music, Art, and Literature** Hosted by St. Benedict Church on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3pm. Please join us for this free event, as we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany with favorite carols, beautiful art work, and inspired readings! A free will donation will be taken for the Children's Home of Reading. St. Benedict Church is located at 2020 Chestnut Hill Road in Plowville (Mohnton)

**BULLETIN DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY AT NOON**





December 20, 2015

# dear Padre

## Monday

DECEMBER 21

Advent Weekday

Sg 2:8–14 or

Zep 3:14–18

Lk 1:39–45

## Tuesday

DECEMBER 22

Advent Weekday

1 Sm 1:24–28

Lk 1:46–56

## Wednesday

DECEMBER 23

Advent Weekday

Mal 3:1–4, 23–24

Lk 1:57–66

## Thursday

DECEMBER 24

Advent Weekday

2 Sm 7:1–5, 8–12, 14, 16

Lk 1:67–79

## Friday

DECEMBER 25

Nativity of the Lord

Is 52:7–10

Heb 1:1–6

Jn 1:1–18 or

1:1–5, 9–14

## Saturday

DECEMBER 26

St. Stephen,  
the First Martyr

Acts 6:8–10; 7:54–59

Mt 10:17–22

## Sunday

DECEMBER 27

Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary, and Joseph

Sir 3:2–6, 12–14 or

1 Sm 1:20–22, 24–28

Col 3:12–21 or

3:12–17 or

1 Jn 3:1–2, 21–24

Lk 2:41–52

[Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org)



## Wearing liturgical colors can be a reminder of the season



My pastor encourages us to wear liturgical colors to Mass: violet during Advent and Lent, red on Pentecost, and so forth. I notice some parishioners take this to heart, but I've never heard of such a thing. Is this something we're all supposed to do?

**The color of the priests' vestments** are dictated by the feasts and seasons of the Church's liturgical year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. The colors are listed in the calendar published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the colored squares in the calendar section of this bulletin indicate each day's color(s). Today, for example, is the fourth Sunday of Advent, so the liturgical color is violet.

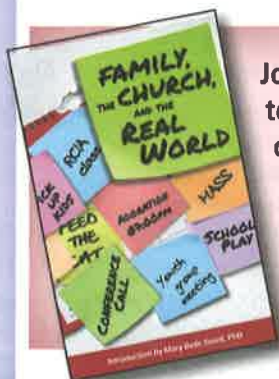
Paragraphs 345–347 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* explain when and why each color is worn. This document is available from the USCCB's website, [usccb.org](http://usccb.org), but easier still is asking a member of your parish staff about the meanings and symbolism of each liturgical season and color.

Dressing to match the color of the feast or season is certainly not required by the Church, but it's a common tradition in our culture—consider red Santa hats and green on St. Patrick's Day. Sometimes the seasons of the Church are lost in the daily hustle and bustle. Wearing something violet as you shop for or wrap Christmas gifts would be a lovely personal reminder of the true meaning of the season.



FR. JOHN M. HAMROGUE, CSSR

[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)



Join your children in adding regular prayer moments to your family's days together. Gather over breakfast or on the way to school for a brief morning offering. Bless your meals and end your busy days with quiet bedtime prayers that recall the day and seek God's protection through the night.

—From *Family, the Church, and the Real World*, a Redemptorist Pastoral Publication

Call us at 800-325-9521, or visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org). To see sample pages from this book, type the title or 826207 in the search bar, and click on the book.

# BERKS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

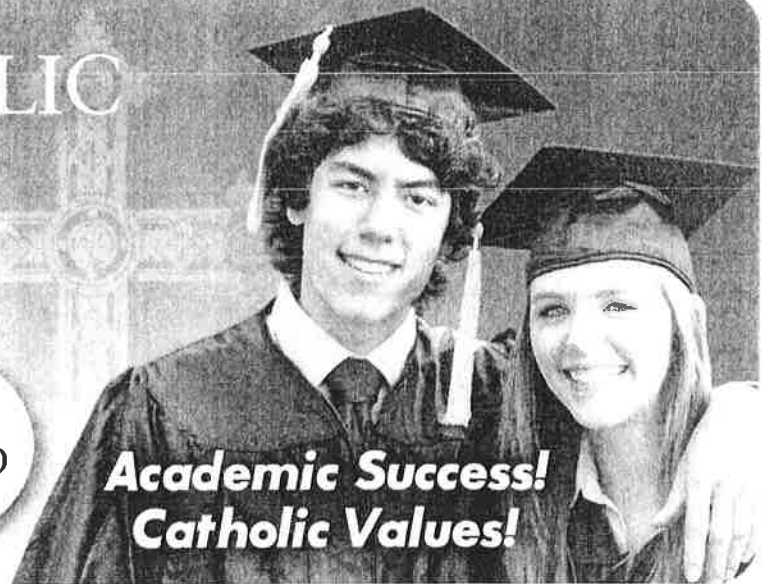
Tony Balistrere, *Principal*

Nicole Smith, *Admissions*  
[nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org)

610-374-8361

[www.berkscatholic.org](http://www.berkscatholic.org)

**REGISTER  
NOW!  
FINANCIAL AID  
AVAILABLE!**



**Academic Success!  
Catholic Values!**



**Berks Catholic's  
Approach to college  
advising is unique from  
other local schools**

## WE BELIEVE

- In the dignity, value, dreams, and aspirations of those whom we serve
- It's All About the Fit: In other words, every student deserves the opportunity to realize their potential by pursuing educational and career opportunities that best suit them

## WE ARE

- A team of college admission professionals solely dedicated to providing college and career guidance to the students and families of the Berks Catholic Community
- A team comprised of professionals who are former university admission directors with more than 50 years of combined expertise in college admissions advising
- Professionals who are highly connected to the college admissions community
- Leaders and educators at the state and national level

## WE SERVE

- 800 Students and Families at Berks Catholic HS who are diverse in terms of socio-economics, ethnicity, family backgrounds and faith traditions
- Hundreds of students and families at the Berks Catholic Partner Schools
- Alumni of Berks Catholic, Central Catholic, and Holy Name

## WE PROVIDE

- 4 Years of comprehensive college and career planning education via:
  - Professional experience, knowledge of best practices and current trends
  - Programming
  - Vast libraries of published and on-line resources
- Individualized, Strategic, Data-Driven Planning for every student
- Networking Opportunities with college admission and career professionals

## TRANSFER GRANTS UP TO \$3,000

Any public, private or charter school student who transfers into a participating Diocesan Catholic school is eligible to receive a Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant.

Elementary students in grades 1-7, receive \$1,500 in grants (\$1,000 in year 1 and \$500 in year 2). High school transfers in grades 10 and 11 will receive \$3,000 in grants (\$2,000 in year 1 and \$1,000 in year 2). Restrictions apply. For details, contact a Catholic school.

*\* Subject to PIAA rules & regulations, for information, visit [www.allentoundioocese.org](http://www.allentoundioocese.org)*



*For additional Transfer Grant information, scan this QR code with your smartphone.*

**Transfer Students  
Welcome!**

# HEROES

## PARENTS

Parents sacrifice to send their children to a Catholic school because they recognize how important academics and Catholic values are to their child's success in college and in life.



*"Trust that whatever happens, it will be ok. Your kid is strong, brave, resilient, prepared, faithful, and most of all, ready for the next chapter. No matter where they go, they will thrive and succeed. That's the beauty of the Berks Catholic education."*

-BC Parent

## FINANCIAL AID

- The Eastern Pennsylvania Scholarship Foundation has awarded over \$26 million in financial assistance.
- Most Catholic schools also award additional financial assistance to families, based on need and available resources.



## TEACHERS

Catholic school teachers are talented, caring and dedicated to the lifelong success of each student. The Diocese of Allentown requires teachers to be certified by the State of Pennsylvania and to continue their own education to improve their knowledge and skills.

# \$20,000

## IN COLLEGE GRANTS!!!

Diocese of Allentown Catholic high school graduates qualify for \$20,000 in extra college grants from DeSales and Alvernia Universities.

**THAT'S LIKE GETTING 70% OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TUITION FOR FREE!**

[www.desales.edu](http://www.desales.edu) • [www.alvernia.edu](http://www.alvernia.edu)

## PRIESTS/ RELIGIOUS

Priests and religious are present in our schools as administrators, chaplains and teachers in our classrooms. Their dedication to the Catholic faith is passed on to our students.



*Come be part of something great!  
Go Saints!*

### BERKS CATHOLIC'S MISSION

Berks Catholic High School is centered on the four pillars of God, Family, Academics, and Fun. As a vibrant Christ-centered community, the Administration, Faculty, and Staff are dedicated to providing a challenging academic environment for a diverse population of young men and women. Through Christian principles, rooted in the Catholic tradition, we strive to positively impact our students spiritually, intellectually, socially, physically, and emotionally, so they can live productive lives of service in this world and attain eternal life.

Transfers  
Welcome  
All Faiths  
Welcome  
Financial Aid  
Available



Diocese  
of  
Allentown

*Catholic education is critical to the New Evangelization. As Bishop, I am committed to strengthening the academic excellence and Catholic formation that is at the heart of Catholic education in the Diocese of Allentown.*

Bishop John O. Barres, D.D.,  
Bishop of Allentown

