

# Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

December 27, 2015

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

**A**n old joke portrays an Irish couple with several children listening to the priest extolling the obedience of Jesus and the patience of Mary and Joseph and exhorting his congregation to be just like them. When the Mass was ended, the couple turned to each other and one muttered to the other, “Sure to heaven, they were patient—they and their one.” The joke highlights one struggle for many parents: keeping patience while children learn the lessons of life. It’s a job that may seem easier with one than with many.

Today, though, the Holy Family offers an example that applies to all families, whether large or small.

Since Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph knew that one day he was going to have to follow his own path. They couldn’t choose it for him; they could only prepare him as best they could. After they found him in the Temple and he told them, “I must be in my Father’s house” (which can also be translated as “I must be about my Father’s work”), they knew he was growing into adulthood and that his time was coming. However, Jesus returned with them because it was not yet time for him to leave, and he remains obedient to them as he always is to his heavenly Father.

All of us who are parents know that we cannot dictate what our children can or should be. We can only help them discern what God has called them to be. In the meantime, we give them the best foundation we can give by praying with them, talking to them, and modeling our own response to God’s call.



## A Word From Pope Francis

*“We need simplicity to pray as a family: simplicity is necessary! ... Christian families are missionary families...in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith!”*

—Homily for the Family Day, October 27, 2013

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence  
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## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 27, 2015

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	HERBERT FECERA – 4 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY	THU	5:15 PM	JOSEPHINE ROBERTI
SUN	7:30 AM	FLORENCE & ORLANDO LEBRESCO	FRI	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS		11:00 AM	ROBERT MULDOWNEY
	11:00 AM	MARY DALEY OWENS	SAT	5:15 PM	STELLA GILL
MON	<b>No MASS</b>		SUN	7:30 AM	BETTY & JOE CUCCARO
TUE	7:00 PM	ANNETTE BRENNAN		9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
WED	7:30 AM	MICHAEL BASCELLI		11:00 AM	JOANN HOFER

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Annette Brennan  
 And In Memory of Warren Imes*

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SCRIP: Gulla 5:15pm Pisarek 7:30am Kasperowicz 9:00am Carvalho 11:00am Citrano**

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Ann Marie Arbo	Mary Schwendt	Anna and Matthew Lambert, Danielle Walter
SUN	7:30am	Sean Werner	Dennis Piontek	Sarah Forkin, Andela and Ethan Kraycik
	9:00am	Isabelita Santos	Pat Fessler	Joey Cizmarik, Aiden Reber, Nicholas Donnelly
	11:00am	Mary Jo Simon	Jim Keaveney	Alyssa Boraten, Lilia and Simon Crew

**The second collection next week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance**

## 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

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, 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, Marianne Whalen, Virginia Marks and Madge Butto

Pray for the recently departed: Betty Erjavec and Ruth Austrevich

Congratulate the newly baptized: Dylan James Luft

**THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

Sat 01/02 4-5pm Confession

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

*Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, December 28, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in the regard.*

**PARISH OFFICE NOTICE**

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

**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.**

**Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education 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 and 1st Grade students aged 6 by 10/15.  
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 Villa 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.**

***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.

Traveling this holiday season? Visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) for Mass schedules from all over the world.

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@berksatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berksatholic.org).

**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.

Have you been throwing your dimes in the trash?? You did if you have not been saving the **Box Tops for Education** coupons which are found on participating products you use every day. Think of these Box Tops as "dimes" we collect to raise money for Immaculate Conception Academy. You can find Box Tops on hundreds of products from cereal and granola to tissues and cleaning products. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents – some Bonus Box Tops can be worth even more!! Just cut the Box Top from the participating product and place the Box Top in the designated box in the Narthex of church. Every Box Top adds up! Think about what that "FREE" money could do for our school and our students!! Contact Jessica at [jmbailey727@yahoo.com](mailto:jmbailey727@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**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).

Creighton Model Fertility Care (NFP) introductory sessions can now be scheduled at your convenience in Berks County. The CrM Method is 97-99% effective to avoid pregnancy and when combined with NaPro Technology can be 1.5-3 times more effective than IVF at helping resolve infertility. To learn more, contact Elisabeth Laskowski, CFCP at 484-332-9084.

**If a Prenatal Diagnosis is Poor, you are not alone.** 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, contact Sr. Janice Marie Johnson at 610-289-8900 x 245.

**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.

**MOVING OUT OF THE AREA?**

**Please call 610-582-2411 so we can say goodbye and update our records.**

**Bulletin Deadline – Wednesday at Noon**  
[bulletin@icbvm.org](mailto:bulletin@icbvm.org)

December 27, 2015

# Dear Padre



## Did Mary experience labor pains or not?



I was taught that Mary didn't have labor pains when she gave birth to Jesus because she didn't have original sin. My son's theology teacher says that's not true. Which is it?

**The Church hasn't made** a dogmatic statement on this question, so there's lots of debate around it. Although the Church teaches that Christ's birth was a virgin birth, the details of the delivery are open to speculation.

Early Church teachings suggest that Mary did not experience labor pains. In the mid-thirteenth century, St. Thomas Aquinas said Mary had no pain when she gave birth (*Summa Theologica*, part III, 35.6). In the sixteenth century, the Council of Trent said the same thing (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*, Article III).

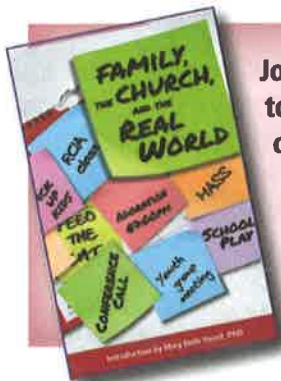
Much of this discussion is rooted in Genesis, when God says to Eve, "in pain you shall bring forth children" (3:16). If labor pains are punishment for

original sin and Mary was born without it, she should have been spared. In fact, regardless of her state, God could have granted her this special privilege.

However, some theologians dispute this logic. First, if baptism "erases original sin" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 405), shouldn't all baptized women be free from labor pains? Secondly, equating labor pains with sinfulness implies that women with difficult labors are more sinful than those with easier ones. This clearly does not agree with Catholic teaching.

Painful or not, Mary accepted her role in bringing Christ to us. This we know.

FR. PAUL BOROWSKI, CSSR  
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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

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### Monday

DECEMBER 28

*The Holy Innocents, Martyrs*

1 Jn 1:5—2:2

Mt 2:13—18

### Tuesday

DECEMBER 29

*Octave of Christmas*

1 Jn 2:3—11

Lk 2:22—35

### Wednesday

DECEMBER 30

*Octave of Christmas*

1 Jn 2:12—17

Lk 2:36—40

### Thursday

DECEMBER 31

*Octave of Christmas*

1 Jn 2:18—21

Jn 1:1—18

### Friday

JANUARY 1

*Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

Nm 6:22—27

Gal 4:4—7

Lk 2:16—21

### Saturday

JANUARY 2

*Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church*

1 Jn 2:22—28

Jn 1:19—28

### Sunday

JANUARY 3

*Epiphany of the Lord*

Is 60:1—6

Eph 3:2—3, 5—6

Mt 2:1—12

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