

Epiphany of the Lord

January 3, 2016

Is 60:1-6 ♦ Eph 3:2-3, 5-6 ♦ Mt 2:1-12

Several years ago, our family's longtime neighbor died. She had no children. My mom had helped her in her later years, so we weren't surprised when she received some money from the estate. What was shocking was that a check arrived at *my* house as well. I hadn't done anything to deserve this money; I had always been polite and kind to our neighbor and had visited her sometimes, but I was amazed at her generosity. Without knowing it, I had become an heir to this lovely woman.

On this Solemnity of the Epiphany, we celebrate our own unexpected inheritance—the quite undeserved gift of Jesus. Saint Paul writes that the Gentiles are “co-heirs” to this great gift, but what have *we* done to deserve such grace? Our culture tells us how much we “deserve” (clothes and so on).

But in the simplest of places—the tiniest of towns, this little hamlet of Bethlehem—comes a gift we could never do enough to deserve. The Magi recognized this—they prostrated themselves in homage and were changed by their encounter with Jesus. They “went home a different way”—not just physically but spiritually.

As the Christmas season winds down and the long-awaited gifts are unwrapped and put away, maybe we can look at the gift of Jesus with Epiphany eyes. May we welcome Jesus today like an unexpected inheritance check—with delighted hearts, humble spirits, and grateful souls.

JANEL ESKER

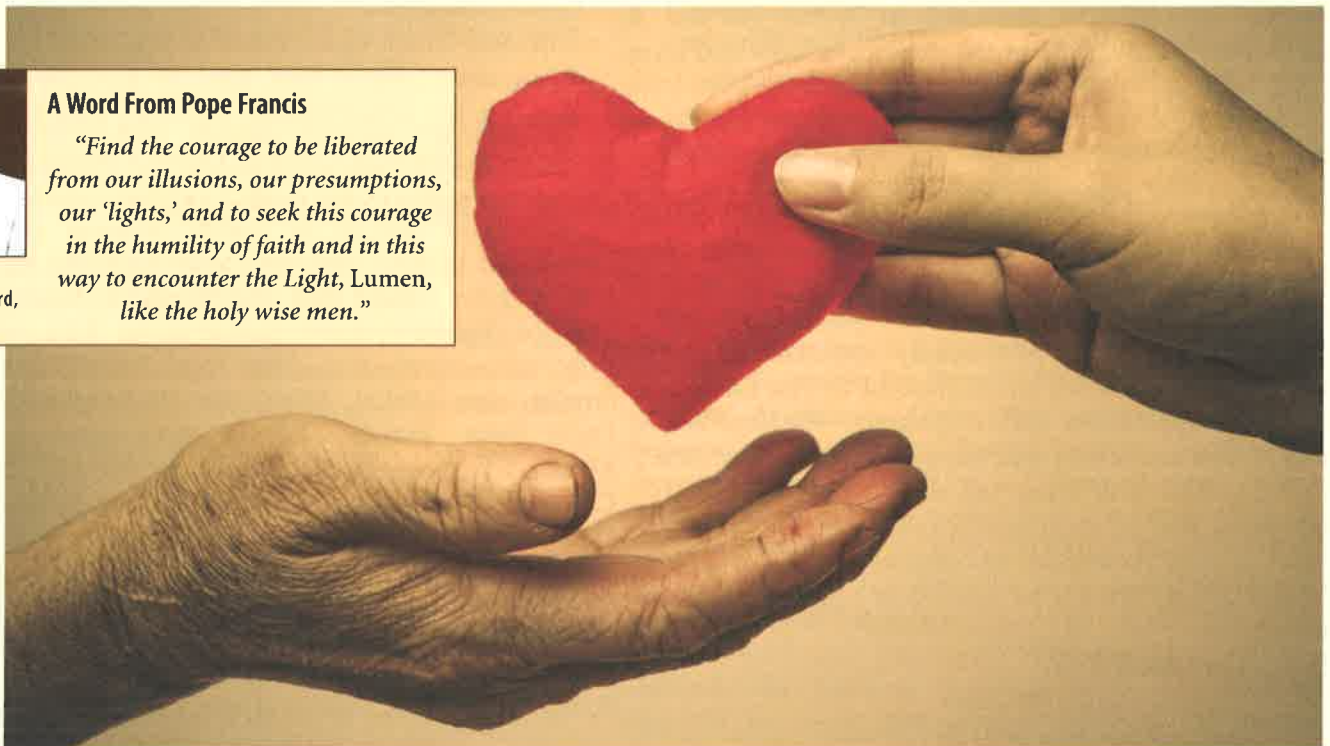
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



Homily on
Epiphany of the Lord,
January 6, 2015

A Word From Pope Francis

“Find the courage to be liberated from our illusions, our presumptions, our ‘lights,’ and to seek this courage in the humility of faith and in this way to encounter the Light, Lumen, like the holy wise men.”



Liguori
PUBLICATIONS
Liguori, MO 63057

© 2016 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in U.S.A. Imprimatur: “In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish has been granted on July 2, 2015, by the Most Reverend Edward M. Rice, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication; nor is any liability assumed by this permission.” No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the *New American Bible*, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Design: John Krus. Images: Shutterstock.
To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, call 800-325-9521.

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 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.....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

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 3, 2016

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	STELLA GILL	THU	7:00 PM	FLOYD KRAMER
SUN	7:30 AM	BETTY & JOE CUCCARO	FRI	7:30 AM	BARBARA J. TADDEI
	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	FRANK JANISZEWSKI
	11:00 AM	JOANN HOFER	SUN	7:30 AM	JOHN BRADLEY
MON	No MASS			9:00 AM	DUANE MADRZYKOWSKI – 1 ST ANNIVERSARY
TUE	7:00 PM	JOSEPHINE FREDRIKSEN		11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
WED	7:30 AM	LOUISE SICA – 24 TH ANNIVERSARY			

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josephine Fredriksen

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Porambo 5:15pm McNamara 7:30am Collura 9:00am McCauley 11:00am DeFalco

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Joe Bailey	Shirley Wheeler	Beth and Gracie Cote, Danielle Walter
SUN	7:30am	Dan Sweeney	Adelina Kieffer	Adam and Carlina Davis, Kathryn Krueger
	9:00am	Brian Hannon	Stephanie Myers	Amanda & Lauren Marley, Veronica McClelland
	11:00am	Susan DiGuglielmo	Mary Ann Cotter	Matthew Dugan, Chris and Lyndsay Surkosky

The second collection next week is for Debt Reduction

Dear Parishioners,
 Thank you very much for your Christmas greetings and gifts. We deeply appreciated your thoughtfulness and are most grateful to you for your prayerful support and encouragement. We hope that each of you had a holy and happy Christmas and that the New Year will bring you and your family much happiness, lasting good health and peace.
 Please continue to remember us in your prayers and as always be assured of our prayers and best wishes.
 God Bless You,
 Msgr. John B. McCann
 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski
 Deacon James A. Bardi
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano
 Deacon Paul Hiryak
 Staff of Immaculate Conception Church

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, Madge Butto, Irvin Bensinger, Paul Milshaw and Joan Cronin
HOSPITAL VISITATIONS: Monsignor McCann, Deacon Hiryak, Deacon Bardi and Deacon Giordano visit our parishioners who are hospitalized, in nursing homes or homebound regularly. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon	01/04	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	01/05	7:30pm Baptism Class
Fri	01/08	7pm Junior High YOUTH GROUP
Sat	01/09	4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, January 4, 2016. Thank you for your kind understanding in the regard.

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 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.

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.

Youth Group News

The Junior High School Youth Group will meet Friday, January 8th at 7pm. All of the 7th and 8th grade students are invited attend and bring a friend for an evening of fun, food, game and prayer.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS – Any 8th 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.

SCRIP FACTS - Do you realize that you can reduce your child's tuition at Immaculate Conception Academy, Berks Catholic High School or CCD just by buying **SCRIP** to use at stores and restaurants that you go to anyway?

It's as easy as...

1. Bring a check/cash to any weekend Mass or parish office during business hours to buy **SCRIP**.

2. Choose the **SCRIP** you need; basically you are buying a gift certificate. You have just credited yourself 2.5% of the **SCRIP** purchase price toward school tuition or CCD tuition and made a donation to ICC. And it didn't cost you a penny more than what you would have spent anyway! You'll be surprised at how quickly this will add up! You could literally save hundreds of dollars off your tuition!

3. Use the **SCRIP** at the store or restaurant for your purchase. Pay your Kohl's bill or Boscov's bill (at the East store only) with **SCRIP**. **SCRIP** also makes a great gift at holidays, birthdays or anytime!!

4. Meanwhile, ICC keeps a tab on how much credit you have earned. The credit year for school tuition is June 1 through May 31 and is deducted from tuition for the following school year. For CCD, the credit year is March 1 through the end of February for the following year.

5. Feel free to choose any family to receive your credit! If no family is chosen, the church receives the credit.

SCRIP is available for Boyer's Family Market, Boscov's, Redner's, Applebee's, Giant, Red Lobster/Olive Garden/Bahama Breeze/Smokey Bones/LongHorn Steak House/Seasons 52, Kohl's and Flynn & O'Hara in many different denominations. **SCRIP** is available at the parish office or at each weekend Mass. For info, call Rita at 610-582-2411.

Miracle, Mystery and Awe: An Epiphany Celebration of Music, Art, and Literature Hosted by St. Benedict Church on January 3rd, 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
bulletin@icbvm.org

January 3, 2016

dear Padre



Atheism vs. agnosticism

Q What is the difference between atheism and agnosticism?

The **Catechism** of the Catholic Church defines **atheism** as the rejection or denial of the existence of God and warns against numerous phenomena that can be categorized as atheistic, such as materialism and humanism and some movements that champion economic or social liberation (CCC 2123–2125).

Agnosticism, somewhat conversely, makes no judgment about God's existence—instead, it says it's impossible to prove or deny. The *Catechism* identifies this viewpoint as expressing "indifferentism...and a sluggish moral conscience" (CCC 2128). Both viewpoints are sins against the First Commandment.

Some people believe that religious thought and practice no longer meets the needs of contemporary humanity. On the other side stand faith communities

who fear modern culture and life will erode or eradicate the basics of faith and morality. Both stances are extreme and inaccurate, and striving for mutual respect and reverence seems more valid.

Vatican II's *Gaudium et Spes* (19) says, "those who willfully shut out God from their hearts and try to dodge religious questions are not following the dictates of their consciences, and hence are not free of blame; yet believers themselves frequently bear some responsibility... To the extent that they neglect their own training in the faith, or teach erroneous doctrine, or are deficient in their religious, moral or social life, they must be said to conceal rather than reveal the authentic face of God and religion."

FR. TOM SANTA, CSSR
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. To see sample pages from this book, type the title or 826207 in the search bar, and click on the book.

Liguori PUBLICATIONS © 2016 • Liguori, MO 63057-9999



Monday
JANUARY 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious
1 Jn 3:22—4:6
Mt 4:12–17, 23–25

Tuesday
JANUARY 5

St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 4:7–10
Mk 6:34–44

Wednesday

JANUARY 6

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 4:11–18
Mk 6:45–52

Thursday

JANUARY 7

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 4:19—5:4
Lk 4:14–22

Friday

JANUARY 8

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 5:5–13
Lk 5:12–16

Saturday

JANUARY 9

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 5:14–21
Jn 3:22–30

Sunday

JANUARY 10

Baptism of the Lord

Is 42:1–4, 6–7

or Is 40:1–5, 9–11

Acts 10:34–38

or Ti 2:11–14; 3:4–7

Lk 3:15–16, 21–22

Liguori.org

