

Lent

First Sunday of Lent ♦ February 14, 2016

Dt 26:4-10 ♦ Rom 10:8-13 ♦ Lk 4:1-13

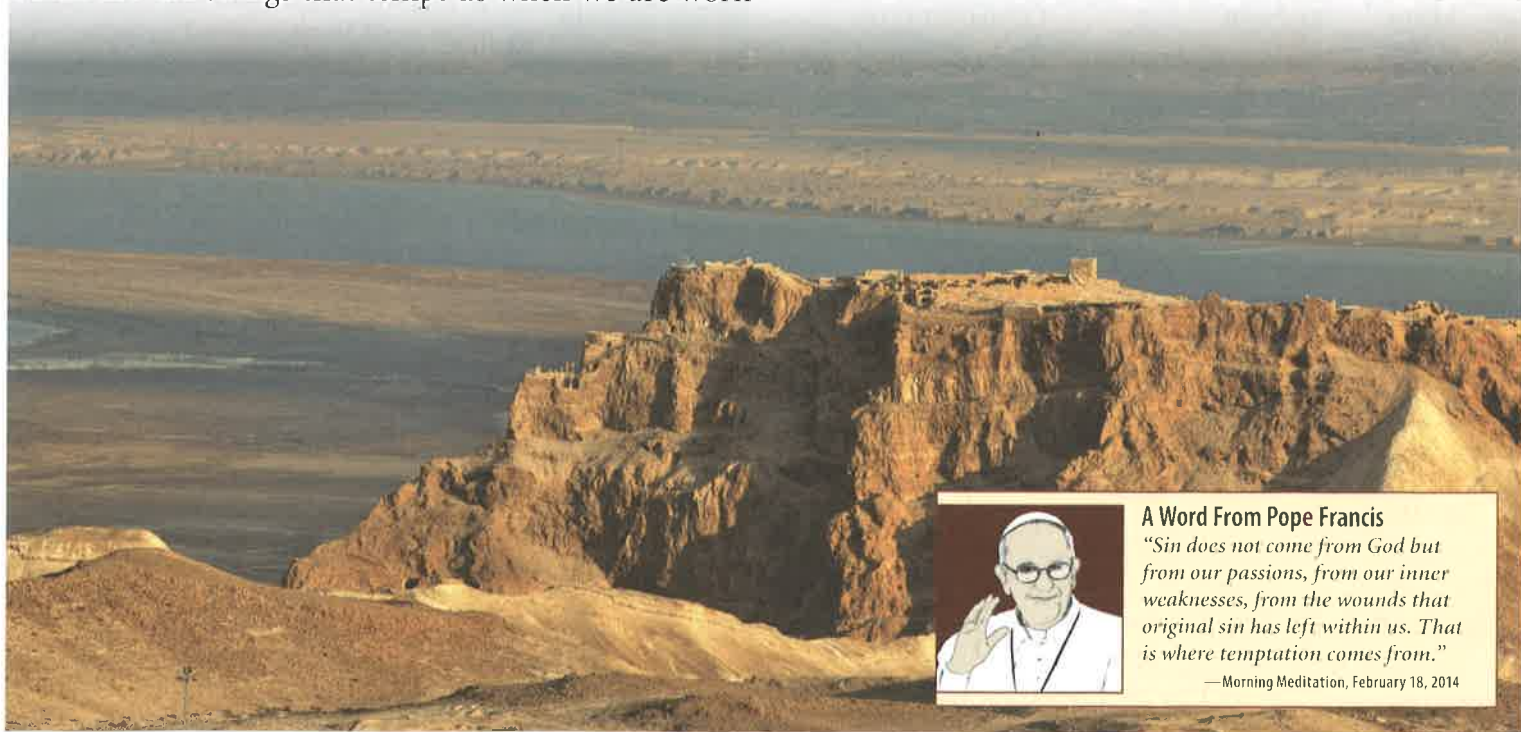
When I was on a pilgrimage to Israel, we visited Masada, the last stronghold of the Jews after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. The temperature hit 117 degrees the day we came. We wandered around and wondered what it must have been like to hold out for a long time. When we returned to our bus, we couldn't wait to get to the cold water that awaited us. The priest said, "The Jews were in the desert for forty years; Jesus was in the desert for forty days; you've been in the desert for forty minutes. Think about that."

I have no doubt that Jesus was tempted to give himself food and water when he was enduring the desert heat. I have no doubt that in his agony he might also have thought about seizing power for himself. These are the things that tempt us when we are worn

out, beaten down, or simply think we are not getting enough of what we believe we deserve.

Lent begins with the temptation of Jesus. Like us in all things but sin, he knew about being and feeling deprived and weak. And while his temptations came while he was in an actual desert, our harsh and barren places may be physical, psychological, or spiritual. We may feel lost, alone, helpless, and sometimes hopeless. In our times of weakness, evil can find a foothold and convince us that we must control our lives, that we can and should have whatever we want. In this account, we find in Jesus an example of how to resist temptation—patiently, humbly, with trust in God's promise of salvation.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"Sin does not come from God but from our passions, from our inner weaknesses, from the wounds that original sin has left within us. That is where temptation comes from."

—Morning Meditation, February 18, 2014

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
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Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645
 Academy Website.....www.icaberks.org
 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC
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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 14, 2016

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	THU	7:00 PM	ANNETTE BRENNAN
SUN	7:30 AM	PAUL VIGNONE	FRI	7:30 AM	CAROL WEILER
	9:00 AM	STELLA GILL	SAT	5:15 PM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
	11:00 AM	LOUISE BECK - 1 ST ANNIVERSARY	SUN	7:30 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE PRIBANICK FAMILY
MON		No Mass		9:00 AM	MARIO COCCI
TUE	7:00 PM	DR. NICHOLAS & MARGARET CHRIST		11:00 AM	ANNA MACCARONE
WED	7:30 AM	ELEANOR PAINTER			

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Joseph Rapposelli
 And A Special Intention*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Zubik 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	Barbara Giordano	Kevin Creamer	Michael DiScala, Will Gray, Chase Voelker
SUN	7:30am	Sean Werner	Dennis Piontek	Leonard Cline, Matthew Dugan, Tim Stewart
	9:00am	Barrie Pease	Josephine Hohl	Adam and Carlina Davis, Kathryn Krueger
	11:00am	Greg Shemanski	Barbara Romig	Alex and Madilyn Hocker, Jordan Yerger

Second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner
February 20th, 4:30-7:30pm
ICC Social Hall

Get your tickets today!

Includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Adults \$9 purchased in advance, \$10 at the door. Children 4-10, \$4. Take out is available.

Tickets will be sold after all Masses February 13/14 and at the door. Call Liz at 610-404-4425 for more information.

Proceeds benefit the Youth Group Trip to the Catholic Youth Conference and the Mission Trip to Kentucky.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, 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, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Frances Bambrick, James Smith, Mike Kovach, William Reardon, Maryanne Emory, Madge Butto, Rose Malcolm, Paul Milshaw, Dylan Spriggs, Rose Osorio, Linnford Bittner, Henry Wade, Jr., Bob Hocker, Nicole Susanne MaGee, Joan Cronin, Christina Hyde and Henri Carrier

Please pray for the recently deceased: Charles Longwell and James E. Undercuffler, Jr.

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:

Sun	02/14	Spaghetti Dinner Ticket Sales
Mon	02/15	7:30pm RCIA
Wed	02/17	7pm Women's Society Agape
Thurs	02/18	4:15pm Youth Choir
Fri	02/19	9am Making Meatballs for Dinner 1:45pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Stations of the Cross
Sat	02/20	4-5pm Confession SPAGHETTI DINNER

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, February 15th. Thank you for your kind understanding in the regard.

The Women's Society will meet in the social hall of the church at 7pm on February 17th. All women of the parish are welcome to join us at the meeting. You will be warmly welcomed. The Women's Society is a wonderful group of faith filled women, who support the church, parish community, and each other. This is a great way to get to better know some of the women you see in church each week. Please consider joining us.

Hot, Hearty, and Homemade! That would describe the wonderful selection of soup you will find February 27th and 28th at the Women's Society Annual Soup Sale. Choosing just one will be a challenge, so why not pick up a couple of your favorites or take the opportunity to try something new! If you would like to donate one of your family favorites, please pick up containers in the narthex of the church.

Please join members of the Women Society on February 19th at 9am in the social hall. We will be preparing the meatballs for the Youth Group's Spaghetti Dinner. We always have a great time working together in supporting the wonderful youth of our parish. The Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner is not only delicious, but it gives the parish community a wonderful opportunity to gather together. Don't miss it!

In this Year of Mercy, the Annual Lenten Food Drive is an opportunity to assist the poor in the Corporal Works of Mercy by feeding the poor at the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House, and Catholic Charities of Reading. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. The food drive runs through Palm Sunday. If you have any questions, contact Deacon Jim at 610-385-3666.

Due to the wintry weather, Prime Time will not meet in February. See you in March!

A Lenten Endeavor: Operation Rice Bowl – Fast and pray with your family and make a sacrificial offering to Operation Rice Bowl so as to help those who live with hunger and poverty both at home and abroad. The Rice Bowl is located in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

2015 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are now available. If you would like a 2015 Contribution Statement, please contact 610-582-2411.

ICCYO Spring Registrations for Boy's Baseball - Boys: 6th-8th- are available on our website www.ICCYO.com

Registration Open Now

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 Adele Reilly at adele.reilly@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 10/15/16 and 1st grade students aged 6 by 10/15/16.

ICA offers a full day Kindergarten.

For registration information, please contact Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/16 and 1st Grade students aged 6 by 10/15/16.

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 Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645 for more information.

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AS HE CARRIED THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION. STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AT 1:45PM WITH THE CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY AND AT 7:00PM

EASTER EGG HUNT - Join us for an egg hunt for our parish children age 12 and younger on March 26th at 11am in the social hall. We are collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and cash. A donation box will be in the narthex of the church. Thanks for your support!

BERKS CATHOLIC YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING will be holding registrations for the upcoming 2016 fall season on **March 10th and March 22nd, 6-8pm in the main lobby of Berks Catholic HS.** For more information, go to our website, www.leaguelineup.com/bcyfac or call Danielle Fowler at 610-374-1695. You can also get to our website by going to the high school website-- www.berkscatholic.org —Athletics — BC Youth Football and Cheerleading.

The National 40 Days for Life Campaign and Prayer Vigil continues through March 20th. A daily prayer vigil will be held in front of Reading Planned Parenthood, 4th and Franklin Sts, Reading, 7am-4pm, Mondays through Saturdays. Please join with others to pray to end abortion.

Discover key ingredients to healthy and happy relationships at Dynamic Catholic's event **Passion & Purpose for Marriage**, presented by Dr. Alan Hunt, author of *The 21 Undeniable Secrets of Marriage*, *Life's Greatest Lesson, Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody* and *Confessions of a Mega Church Pastor*. April 16th at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Orefield. Call 859-980-7900 or visit DynamicCatholic.com/Orefield for more information.

February 14, 2016

dear Padre

Medicating for pain



When is it OK to medicate for pain? If my relative is in hospice, should I permit the use of drugs that hasten his or her death?

When someone we love is dying, we do not want him or her to be in pain. It is only natural to want to ease or end all suffering. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers these guidelines: "The use of painkillers to alleviate the sufferings of the dying, even at the risk of shortening their days, can be morally in conformity with human dignity if death is not willed as either an end or a means, but only foreseen and tolerated as inevitable" (CCC 2279). In other words, it is permissible to medicate for pain, but you cannot use narcotics as an end or means to hasten someone's death—only to alleviate pain and to minimize a person's suffering. Drugs cannot be used to directly cause a person's death.

It is important to discuss the kinds of treatment a person would want when he or she is dying. An important question is, "Would you want to be medicated even if that would mean you would not be conscious?" It is also important to have a discussion with your priest. Many times one is forced to make terrible decisions about medical care, and it is always good to have someone we trust who can help us make the best choice.



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FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR
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Monday
FEBRUARY 15
Lenten Weekday
Lv 19:1–2, 11–18
Mt 25:31–46

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 16
Lenten Weekday
Is 55:10–11
Mt 6:7–15

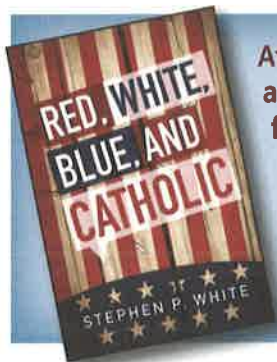
Wednesday
FEBRUARY 17
Lenten Weekday
Jon 3:1–10
Lk 11:29–32

Thursday
FEBRUARY 18
Lenten Weekday
Est C:12, 14–16, 23–25
Mt 7:7–12

Friday
FEBRUARY 19
Lenten Weekday
Ez 18:21–28
Mt 5:20–26

Saturday
FEBRUARY 20
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16–19
Mt 5:43–48

Sunday
FEBRUARY 21
Second Sunday of Lent
Gn 15:5–12, 17–18
Phil 3:17—4:1 or
3:20—4:1
Lk 9:28b–36



At the heart of good citizenship is love. Love for the people to which we are bound by birth and by choice. This is not a blind love, which ignores failings, but a love that wills and strives for the best for ourselves and our country. In this light, it becomes easier to see why the best thing we can do as Americans is to become the best and most faithful Catholics.

—From *Red, White, Blue, and Catholic* by Stephen P. White

To see sample pages from this book, call us at 800-325-9521, or visit Liguori.org and type the title or 826450 in the search bar.

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Lenten Pastoral Letter 2016

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Season of Lent 2016 and beyond, each one of us is called to be a missionary disciple of Christ's Mercy in the Sacrament of Penance.

We are called to make frequent use of the Sacrament of Penance. We are called to encourage others to open the Door of Christ's Mercy in the Sacrament of Penance.

The Sacrament of Penance is liberating and consoling. It strengthens us and gives us a new and fresh start. It leads us to be peacemakers and instruments of the Divine Mercy in our families, our Church, at work, in the neighborhood and in every circumstance.

It is a compassionate and merciful bridge for the wonderful inactive Catholics we meet every day to return to the transforming power of the Catholic Mass and the reception of Communion.

A good examination of conscience, a verbal confession of sins with full assurance of the seal of the confession, a priest's counsel and a penance for the reparation of sin and a heartfelt act of contrition lead to our hearing the words of peace and absolution that wash over and strengthen us: "I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

On every confessional in the Diocese of Allentown you will find a cross on the penitent's entrance door that reads: "Behold the Door of Mercy."

Every confessional in our Diocese and around the world is a "Door of Mercy," a door to conversion, a door to the transformation of our minds, hearts, lives, marriages and families, and a door to the purification and transformation of the Church and the world.

As your Bishop – and fellow penitent – I ask that each of us walk through that Door of Mercy frequently, not only during the Jubilee Year of Mercy but in every year of our lives.

Mercy and Mission always go together. I ask that we be missionary disciples of Christ's Mercy in the Sacrament of Penance who gently but boldly promote and encourage those around us to enter this unique Door of Mercy, Humility, Repentance and Conversion.

As we enter the Door of Mercy of the confessional, we bring with us our spouse, our children and every relationship in our past life, present life and future life.

As we leave the Door of Mercy of the confessional, we rise to a new and resurrected spirit of forgiveness, humility, charity and mercy that leads to deeper grace-filled patterns and conversions in all our relationships.

Since the Sacrament of Penance sensitizes us to the transcendent dignity of every human being and helps us to break through selfishness, blind consumerism and global indifference, we bring into the confessional with us every poor and suffering person in every war-torn and violent part of the world as we confess our sins, receive absolution and open ourselves more deeply to be global Good Samaritans.

Speaking to every family and the entire human family in Philadelphia, Pope Francis said: "Families transform the world and history."

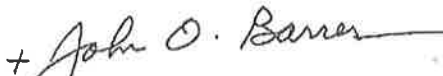
And the Door of Mercy of the confessional helps to transform every marriage and family precisely to transform the world and history.

Thank you for being a Light of Christ's Mercy to your family, your parish, our global Church and the world.

Saint John Vianney and Saint Pio, confessors and missionary disciples of Christ's Mercy in the Sacrament of Penance, intercede for us that a new generation and harvest of holy priests dedicated to the Divine Mercy expressed in the Sacrament of Penance may be raised up.

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. His Mercy endures forever!" God bless you all during Lent 2016 and the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Allentown