

Lent

Second Sunday of Lent ♦ February 21, 2016

Gn 15:5–12, 17–18 ♦ Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1 ♦ Lk 9:28b–36

From the top of Mount Tabor in Israel, the supposed site of Jesus' transfiguration, visitors can see clearly across the valley to the distant Golan Heights some forty-five miles away. The view takes your breath away. When I was in the valley, I could only see the immediate area, but at the top I was mesmerized by both the distance and the beauty of the land.

Maybe that's why mountains have always been places of prayer, of divine unveiling, and why Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to the top of a mountain to experience this vision of his glory. He wanted them to see more than their daily life and work. He wanted them to see further than they ever thought they could. He wanted them to see the depths of who he was in a new and profound way. It was important that

they do this. The transfiguration happens in the midst of Jesus' predictions of his passion and death, before he begins his deliberate journey to Jerusalem. Without an image of the glorified Christ, the apostles might not have had the courage to continue following him.

Like the story of Jesus' temptation in the desert, we hear this transfiguration account every Lent. Jesus takes the Church, and each one of us, up the mountain and dares us to see further, better, more deeply than ever before. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, he dares us to leave what we know, listen to him, and follow in his footsteps. May we have the courage to accept the challenge.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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A Word From Pope Francis

"We all need to go apart, to ascend the mountain in a space of silence, to find ourselves and better perceive the voice of the Lord. This we do in prayer."

—Angelus, March 16, 2014



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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 21, 2016

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 SUN 7:30 AM DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE PRIBANICK FAMILY
 9:00 AM MARIO COCCI
 11:00 AM ANNA MACCARONE
 MON 7:30 AM BERNICE RISSMILLER
 TUE 7:00 PM STELLA GILLA
 WED 7:30 AM WILLIAM TULSA HERFLICKER

THU 7:00 PM JOSEPHINE BOGUS
 FRI 7:30 AM ANDREW LAKATOSH
 SAT 5:15 PM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 SUN 7:30 AM MAGGIE CARL
 9:00 AM JOSEPHINE IWANOWSKI
 11:00 AM LINDA D'ALLESANDRO

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Giaquinto 5:15pm Costanzo 7:30am Schwendt 9:00am Grieco 11:00am Hafer

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>MASS</u> | <u>LECTOR</u> | <u>COMMENTATOR</u> | <u>ALTAR SERVERS</u> |
|------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| SAT | 5:15pm | Ann Marie Arbo | Jennifer Stuart | Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho |
| SUN | 7:30am | Dan Sweeney | Adelina Kieffer | Meghan Grieco, Avery Lang, Sadie Mangan |
| | 9:00am | Brian Hannon | Pam Amos | Steven and Marissa Tepper, Olivia Ruff |
| | 11:00am | Becky Shemanski | Rhonda Ouimet | John and Nicholas Dinnocenti, Austin Lobaugh |

Second collection next week is for Debt Reduction

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.

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For registration information, please contact Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645 or [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org).

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

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 Snyk, 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, Henry Wade, Jr., Nicole Susanne MaGee, Joan Cronin, Christina Hyde and Erminio Cioppa

Pray for the newly baptized: Andrew John Paul Honyara  
 Congratulate the newly married: Marie P. Beideman & Mark E. Capper and Daryl Drahos & Cletus B. McLaughlin

Welcome our new parishioners: Melvin & Shannon Domigpe

Pray for the recently deceased: Michael Carpenter, Joseph Gulla and Michael Foraker

## **THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

**Mon 02/22 7:30pm RCIA**  
**Thurs 02/25 4:15pm Youth Choir**  
**Fri 02/26 1:45pm Stations of the Cross**  
**7pm Stations of the Cross**  
**Sat 02/27 4-5pm Confession**  
**WOMEN'S SOCIETY SOUP SALE**

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

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 26<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:45PM WITH THE CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY AND AT 7:00PM

### **LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 1pm and Palm Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**  
*Children from Immaculate Conception Academy will present the Living Stations of the Cross. Everyone is cordially invited to participate in the beautiful reenactment of the events of Calvary. Please come pray with us, celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.*

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.

**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.

### **WOMEN'S SOCIETY HOMEMADE EASTER CANDY ORDER SHEETS are in the narthex of the church.**

It's that wonderful time of the year again! February 27/28, the Women's Society will hold its **Annual Soup Sale**. Choosing from the wide variety of homemade favorites will be a challenge. We have always been blessed with an abundance of delicious soup donations. Stop by and pick up a couple of your favorites. If you would like to make a donation of your favorite recipe, we would be most grateful. Containers are available in the narthex of the church.

*The Women's Society* will be serving the meal at the **Community Table on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**. This very important community outreach program directly serves struggling families in our local community. About 160 are served a hot meal at the Senior Center. Food should be brought in hot and ready to go in the foil steam table pans. We need vegetable dishes, casseroles, meats, drinks, desserts, and paper products. If you are able to make a dish or need information, contact Geri at geribarth1@live.com or 610-286-5538.

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

**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.

### **ICA 5K and 1 Mile FUN Run**

Daniel Boone Homestead  
Saturday, May 21, 2016 Registration 7am  
8am 5K, 8:45am Fun Run, 9:30am Awards  
Pre-register for the event by visiting

<http://www.alphaandomegasports.com/race-calendar.html>  
Registration cost is \$20 for the 5K by April 26<sup>th</sup> and includes an event t-shirt. After that (including race day), the cost is \$25. Registration cost for the 1 mile Fun Run is \$5 by April 26<sup>th</sup> and an additional \$10 for a T-shirt if desired. After that (including race day), the cost is \$10.

### **SPONSORS ARE NEEDED** at various levels.

For more information or to sponsor the event please contact Sandy at [Jordan.sandra14@yahoo.com](mailto:Jordan.sandra14@yahoo.com)  
Proceeds benefit the students of ICA.

**ICCYO Spring Registrations for Boy's Baseball - Boys: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** - are available on our website [www.ICCYO.com](http://www.ICCYO.com)

**EASTER EGG HUNT** - Join us for an egg hunt for our parish children age 12 and younger on March 26<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Central Catholic/Holy Name 50<sup>th</sup> Class of 1966 Reunion** will be held together at the Fish Pond West on October 29, 2016. For information, contact Greg at 610-779-6304 or Candy at 610-401-6948.

**BERKS CATHOLIC YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING** will be holding registrations for the 2016 fall season on **March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8pm in the main lobby of Berks Catholic HS.** For information, [www.leaguelineup.com/bcyfac](http://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](http://www.berkscatholic.org) — Athletics — BC Youth Football and Cheerleading.

Mary's Shelter 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Bowl-A-Thon, March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Berks Lanes, Sinking Spring – 12:30-2:30 or 3:00-5:00 Session  
Registration and Pledge Forms at [www.MarysShelter.com](http://www.MarysShelter.com)  
\$125 lane sponsorships available. Call Laura at 610-603-8010.

**St. Benedict Parish is having their annual Lenten Taize Prayer Service on February 28th at 6pm. Contact Andrew Angstadt at 610-856-1006 with any questions.**

**St. Mary's Church Pierogi Sale** – Fridays 10am-3pm through March 18<sup>th</sup>. Pierogi \$8 a dozen. Halushki \$3 a cup. First Come / First Served. Call 610-376-6321 for info.  
**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church** is having Lenten Fish Fry Fridays through March 11, 4:30-7:30pm in the church hall. Call 610-376-0586.


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



February 21, 2016

# dear Padre

## Can anyone practice contemplative prayer?

 Is contemplative prayer just for monks and other religious people, or can anyone practice it?

**Saint Teresa of Ávila**, a great mystical saint and doctor of the Church, said, "Mental prayer is nothing else, in my opinion, but being on terms of friendship with God, frequently conversing in secret with Him who, we know, loves us" (*The Life of St. Teresa of Ávila*, chapter VIII). By no means is contemplative prayer reserved only for professional religious men and women. Rather, it's open to all people from all walks of life. While we each may have our own individual and/or family prayer habits and preferences, I can think of no better practice for this Lenten season.

Contemplative prayer differs from other forms of meditative prayer because of its intensity, but like all forms of

prayer and meditation, in it we seek the person and presence of Jesus. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, "Contemplative prayer is the simple expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, an attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love. It achieves real union with the prayer of Christ to the extent that it makes us share in his mystery" (CCC 2724).

If you need help getting started, approach your pastor, spiritual director, or another Catholic minister who is familiar with meditative prayer. He or she can guide you and/or direct you to the best resources available.

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**Monday**  
FEBRUARY 22  
*Chair of St. Peter the Apostle*  
1 Pt 5:1-4  
Mt 16:13-19

**Tuesday**  
FEBRUARY 23  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 1:10, 16-20  
Mt 23:1-12

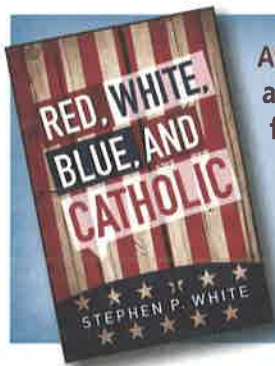
**Wednesday**  
FEBRUARY 24  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 18:18-20  
Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday**  
FEBRUARY 25  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 17:5-10  
Lk 16:19-31

**Friday**  
FEBRUARY 26  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a  
Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday**  
FEBRUARY 27  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Sunday**  
FEBRUARY 28  
*Third Sunday of Lent*  
Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15  
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12  
Lk 13:1-9



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

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