

# Lent

Third Sunday of Lent ♦ February 28, 2016

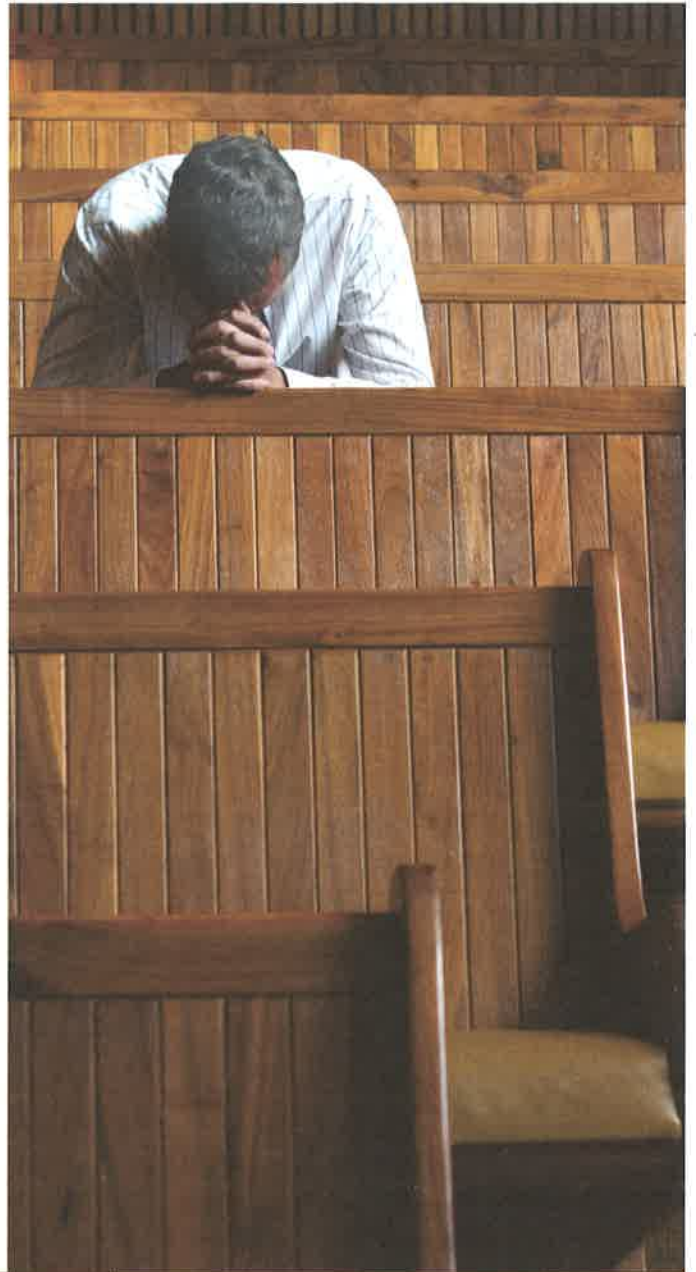
Ex 3:1–8a, 13–15 ♦ 1 Cor 10:1–6, 10–12 ♦ Lk 13:1–9

Now that I am older, I can look back on my life and clearly remember times when I took great pride in my accomplishments, the breadth of my knowledge, and my insight into human dynamics. The problem was that my pride bordered on, and occasionally slipped into, a sense of superiority and hubris. At such times I was not fun to be around. The advantage of maturity is that we become more aware of our shortcomings and, hopefully, develop a humility that appreciates the gifts that everyone brings to the table, recognizes that we always have more to learn, and grows grateful, rather than prideful, at the gifts we have been given.

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges the sense of pride that the Israelites feel from God's choosing them and the sense that they are, therefore, better than the people of the surrounding nations. He also questions their habit of judging those on whom misfortune fell as more sinful than they were. In a way, he was asking them to grow up and find the humility that comes from age, holding them to the same standard with which they held others. He challenged them to spend less time judging others and more time recognizing their sins and need for repentance.

That's a hard lesson for us all, but a necessary one. If we are to accompany one another on this journey through Lent and life, we need to know we are all the same in God's eyes and all in need of God's grace to make it through.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY  
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#### A Word From Pope Francis

*“Old age is—as I like to say—the seat of life’s wisdom. The old have acquired the wisdom that comes from having journeyed through life....And that wisdom enabled them to recognize Jesus. Let us pass on this wisdom to the young.”*

—Audience with the College of Cardinals, March 15, 2013

# 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.....610 404-8645  
 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.allentowndiocese.org

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 28, 2016

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS  
 SUN 7:30 AM MAGGIE CARL  
 9:00 AM JOSEPHINE IWANOWSKI  
 11:00 AM LINDA D'ALLESANDRO  
 MON 7:30 AM JOHN BRADLEY  
 TUE 7:00 PM THERESA CACHUELA  
 WED 7:30 AM BARBARA PEASE

THU 7:00 PM ERNA RUSHMORE  
 FRI 7:30 AM ANTHONY VOLPICCINI  
 SAT 5:15 PM JEROME SETLOCK  
 SUN 7:30 AM WARREN IMES  
 9:00 AM THE ANTHONY LUBAS FAMILY  
 11:00 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anthony Volpiccini  
 And also In Memory of Maggie Carl*

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SCRIP:** Dowling 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	Joe Bailey	Shirley Wheeler	Isabella and Mia Pizzo, Sidney Wolf
SUN	7:30am	Jim Kaucher	Toni Kaucher	Alyssa Boraten, Beth and Gracie Cotes
	9:00am	Pat Fessler	Barrie Pease	Veronica McClelland, Chris & Lyndsay Surkosky
	11:00am	Bob Newman	Jim Keaveney	Ethan and Leonard Cline, Aaron Gulla

### Second collection next week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

### **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 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Academy tours are available by contacting Adele Reilly at [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto: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 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, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Frances Bambrick, James Smith, Mike Kovach, William Reardon, Maryanne Emory, Madge Butto, Rose Malcolm, Dylan Spriggs, Rose Osorio, Henry Wade, Jr., Nicole Susanne MaGee, Joan Cronin, Christina Hyde, Rita Conrad, Vicki Barletta, Ryan Curley, Brendan Carr, Paul Geiger and Helen McDonald

Welcome our new parishioners: Kimberly Fires

Pray for the recently deceased: Erminio Cioppa, George Dyson and Margaret Zuber

## **THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

|              |              |                                                                        |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sun</b>   | <b>02/28</b> | <b>WOMEN'S SOCIETY SOUP SALE</b>                                       |
| <b>Mon</b>   | <b>02/29</b> | <b>7:30pm RCIA</b>                                                     |
| <b>Tues</b>  | <b>03/01</b> | <b>7:30pm Baptism Class</b>                                            |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>03/03</b> | <b>4pm Youth Choir</b>                                                 |
| <b>Fri</b>   | <b>03/04</b> | <b>7pm Stations of the Cross</b><br><b>7pm JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP</b> |
| <b>Sat</b>   | <b>03/05</b> | <b>4-5pm Confession</b>                                                |

## **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, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00PM. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO AFTERNOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH THE CHILDREN DUE TO AN EARLY DISMISSAL.

### **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.

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS** The Junior High School Youth Group will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm. All teenagers in our parish in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. You are welcome to bring a friend!

The Women's Society is holding our **Annual Soup Sale** this weekend. Choose from a wide variety of homemade favorites. We have always been blessed with an abundance of delicious soup donations. Stop by and pick up a couple of your favorites.

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.

The members of our **PARISH YOUTH GROUP** wish to thank all of our parishioners who generously patronized the Spaghetti Dinner held last Saturday. Your kindness allowed us to raise funds for our Summer Mission Trip which has been scheduled for the week of July 31-August 6 at the Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center in Louisa, Kentucky. Your kindness will also enable us to go to the Franciscan University of Steubenville for the 2016 Catholic Youth Conference. We are most grateful to the members of the Women's Society who made the 600 plus homemade meatballs for the dinner and to everyone who helped us with the cooking of the spaghetti and sauce. Our next fundraising endeavor will be a **car wash on Sunday morning May 1<sup>st</sup> after all the Masses**. Keep us in your prayers as we strive to put our faith into action!

**RESORTS AC TRIP** – March 14<sup>th</sup> - LEAVE the Church promptly at 9:00am - 6 hours in AC Package Deal: Pay \$31 get \$25 Back. Call Carol J. at 610-775-4447

**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)

82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Communion Breakfast sponsored by the Berks Regional Holy Name Societies will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Tony Balistrere, Principal of Berks Catholic will be the speaker. Mass will be celebrated at 8:15am by Father Jack Barron, SJ followed by breakfast. Tickets are \$15 made payable to the Holy Name Society, c/o David Krick, 536 Walnut Tree Dr, Blandon, 19510.

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*, April 16<sup>th</sup> at St. Joseph the Worker Church in Orefield. Call 859-980-7900 or visit [DynamicCatholic.com/Orefield](http://DynamicCatholic.com/Orefield) for information.

**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!

**Daniel Boone Optimist Club Easter Egg Hunt** – March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2pm – Ages 0-12 – Amity Community Park, 2004 Weavertown Road, Douglassville

If a Prenatal Diagnosis indicates a baby with a disability...You are not alone. There is help. 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 x245 or [jjohnson@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:jjohnson@allentowndiocese.org).

February 28, 2016

# Dear Padre



## Can we donate our bodies or have them cremated?



Can I donate my body to science after death?  
What about cremation?

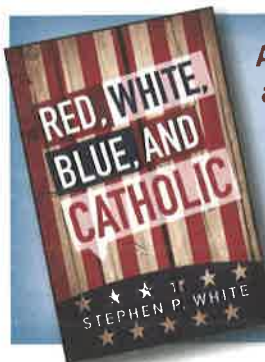
**Some find Catholic** funerals odd. We sprinkle the deceased with holy water and bless the body with incense. We pray over burial sites and put a white cloth over the caskets. If a person is dead, why do we care about the “empty shell?”

Many Christians think God is only concerned with our souls, but Scripture has a surprising amount of teaching on the sacredness of the body. Saint Paul writes, “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?....Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?” (1 Corinthians 6:15, 19). What we do with and to our bodies is important. God loves us as bodily creatures—he made us that way!

Christ’s body was raised with him, and so will ours (1 Corinthians 15). We honor God when we revere our bodies as destined for glory. So as long as we treat them with “respect and charity,” the Church permits us to use our bodies to help others after death:

“The burial of the dead is a corporal work of mercy....Autopsies can be morally permitted for legal inquests or scientific research. The free gift of organs after death is legitimate and can be meritorious. The Church permits cremation, provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body” (CCC 2300–01).

FR. MATTHEW BONK, CSSR  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)



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](http://Liguori.org) and type the title or 826450 in the search bar.



**Monday**  
FEBRUARY 29  
*Lenten Weekday*  
2 Kgs 5:1–15ab  
Lk 4:24–30

**Tuesday**  
MARCH 1  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Dn 3:25, 34–43  
Mt 18:21–35

**Wednesday**  
MARCH 2  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Dt 4:1, 5–9  
Mt 5:17–19

**Thursday**  
MARCH 3  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 7:23–28  
Lk 11:14–23

**Friday**  
MARCH 4  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Hos 14:2–10  
Mk 12:28–34

**Saturday**  
MARCH 5  
*Lenten Weekday*  
Hos 6:1–6  
Lk 18:9–14

**Sunday**  
MARCH 6  
*Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
Jos 5:9a, 10–12  
2 Cor 5:17–21  
Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

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