

Easter

Second Sunday of Easter / Divine Mercy Sunday ♦ April 3, 2016

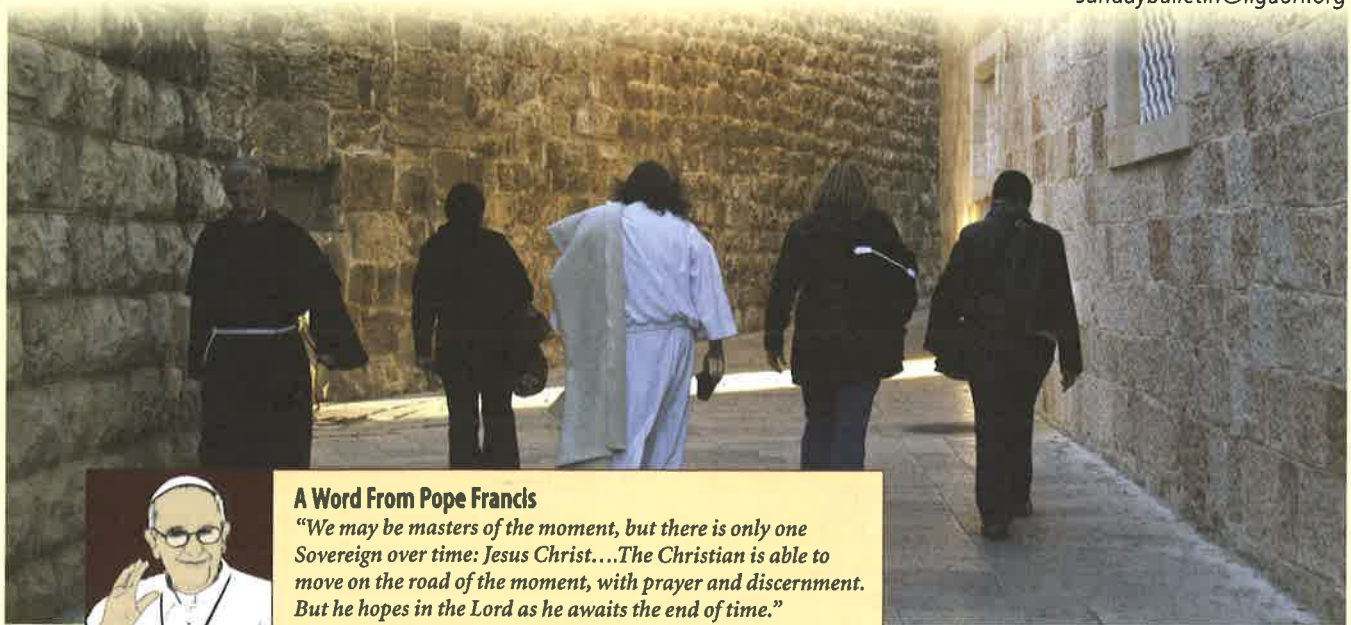
Acts 5:12-16 ♦ Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 ♦ Jn 20:19-31

In our time, seven days have passed since we celebrated Christ's rising. But in the Church's reckoning, it is still Easter. We may have gotten on with our earthly lives, but our spiritual calendar (and reality) remains steeped in awe, wonder, and gratitude that God incarnate walked among us and gave his life for us. The readings of the Easter Octave offer a taste of what it is like to live in God's time—in his presence and kingdom—as he calms our fears, strengthens our faith, and fills us with the Spirit. Much happens after Mary Magdalene visits and leaves the tomb. Other women who come to anoint Jesus meet him, embrace him, and obey his command to spread the Good News. Mary herself obeyed and ran to tell the apostles—though she mistook the Lord for a

gardener until he spoke her name. Two disciples on the road out of town listen to Jesus' teaching and finally know him in the breaking of bread. Jesus eats with others and assures them of the Father's promise. There is another miraculous catch of fish and a breakfast with the disciples on the Sea of Galilee.

Within the scriptural context of this weeklong feast, we realize that the risen Christ is everywhere, with all of us, and existing throughout and beyond time. He appears when we least expect him; he is our teacher and our master; he feeds us with heavenly food; and he is there when we break bread together. May this knowledge strengthen our faith that Christ lives and will in time carry us home.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"We may be masters of the moment, but there is only one Sovereign over time: Jesus Christ. ...The Christian is able to move on the road of the moment, with prayer and discernment. But he hopes in the Lord as he awaits the end of time."

—Morning meditation, November 26, 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 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.....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.allentowndioocese.org

SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER – APRIL 3, 2016

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	8:00 PM	VOLPICCINI FAMILY	THU	7:00 PM	PATRICIA GOMBAR
SUN	7:30 AM	MICHAEL KILARESKI	FRI	7:30 AM	THOMAS GRACE, SR.
	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	DOLLY & FRANK MARIANI
	11:00 AM	MICHAEL DEWEY	SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
MON		No MASS		9:00 AM	TOM HAFER
TUE	7:00 PM	RON & MARY SCHWENDT – 8 TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY		11:00 AM	DEACON LARRY FESSLER – 19 TH ANNIVERSARY
WED	7:30 AM	JESSIE BROWN			

Please call the office to reserve the Sanctuary Lamp

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Lukes 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	Mike Austrevich	Mary Schwendt	Beth and Gracie Cote, Danielle Passifione
SUN	7:30am	Sean Werner	Adelina Kieffer	Veronica McClelland, Isabella and Mia Pizzo
	9:00am	Barrie Pease	Jo Hohl	Sadie Mangan, Marissa and Steven Tepper
	11:00am	Mary Ann Cotter	John Peterson	Alyssa Boraten, Christopher&Lyndsay Surkosky

Second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

Immaculate Conception Academy Spring Open House

Sunday, April 10, 2016 10am-1pm.

Please join us for preschool story times, STEM Lab family projects, teacher meet and greets and school tours!

Immaculate Conception Academy offers a 21st century education for students in preschool through grade 8, including a full day Kindergarten program.

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

Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant is available for any public, private or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy grades 1-7. The grant is **\$1,500 over two years** (\$1,000 for the first year; \$500 for the second).

Find out what an ICA education can do for your student!

Can't join us? Please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-4645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org to arrange a tour.

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, Marjorie & Walter Hansen, Marie Snyder, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, James Smith, William Reardon, Maryanne Emory, Madge Butto, Roseann Malcolm, Dylan Spriggs, Doris Slater, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Vicki Barletta, Sara Norris, Ryan Curley, Brendan Carr, Paul Geiger, Helen McDonald, Mark McDonald, Angeline Erjavec, Barbara Wright, Giuseppe Lubrano, Patricia Schotz, Cindy Barnes and Barbara Wright

Pray for the recently departed: Ciara Whitney, Sophie Brossman, Mother Angelica

Welcome parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wylly

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	04/03	SOCIAL SUNDAY HSO Social Tickets on Sale
Tues	04/05	7:30pm Baptism Class
Thurs	04/07	4pm Youth Choir
Fri	04/08	7pm Senior High Youth Group
Sat	04/02	4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised there will be NO MASS on Monday, April 4th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS The Senior High School Youth Group will meet on April 8th, 7-9pm. All teenagers in our parish in high school are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. You are welcome to bring a friend!

The **YOUTH GROUP** wishes to thank everyone who supplied meals and helped serve at the Birdsboro Community Table on March 22nd. Your kindness helped us to feed approximately 120 people a warm and nutritious supper which they were very grateful!

ICA HSO Invites You to The Roaring Twenties 2016 Adult Social Fundraiser - April 23rd, 6pm \$40 per person includes

6pm Wine/Beer with Cold Hors d'Oeuvres, Silent Auction, Raffle & Wine Pull Begin
7pm Carving Station, Hot Hors d'Oeuvres & Popcorn Bar
8:30pm Dessert & Coffee Bar
RSVP by April 8th

Dress: Ladies, as festive as you wish...Gentlemen, jackets please.

Proceeds benefit Immaculate Conception Academy's Technology and Art Departments.

Tickets can be purchased online by visiting https://sites.google.com/site/ica_hso/Adult-Social or send check made payable to 'ICA HSO' to the Academy 903 Chestnut St, Douglassville 19518.

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 26th 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 26th 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

STAND WITH US FOR LIFE! Mark your calendars for the Berks March for Life on April 24th, 2pm at Berks Catholic High School. At 3pm we will walk from Berks Catholic to Holy Rosary Church at 3rd & Franklin Sts. where buses will transport us back to BC. For additional information, contact Marygrace Ewart 610-929-5260.

Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist Invite You To:

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 11am-2pm - Principal Celebrant for Holy Mass and Homilist: The Most Reverend Barres, Bishop of Allentown - Conference Presenter: Sister Joan Noreen. Divine Mercy Sunday will include Conference, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Devotions, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To register, contact Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, 640 E. Main St., Birdsboro 610-582-3333 ★ www.olme.org

The **Relay for Life of Daniel Boone** is an organized 18 hour overnight community fundraising event for The American Cancer Society. Many in the Amity and Birdsboro communities are already signed up for Relay, but if you are not yet involved, here is what you can do...

- become a sponsor. Sponsorship levels start as low as \$250 (but appreciate any amount). \$500 sponsors can have their names on the back of our participants' shirts.

- make a donation. Visit www.relayforlife.org/padanielboone and support a participant, team, or just make a donation to our event. Donations can also be mailed to the American Cancer Society, 498 Bellevue Ave, Reading, PA. 19605.

- sponsor a luminaria in "honor of" or "memory of" someone affected by cancer. Luminarias are \$10. A ceremony with all the luminarias on display and lit will take place at 9pm.

- form a team and participate in Relay. Again, visit our website or you can contact one of our Adult Event Leads for more information: Melissa Spalding (610-310-4904) or Darlene Canning (610-781-7293).

- if you, or someone you know, is a survivor and would like to participate in our Survivor/Caregiver Ceremony, please register on the website. Survivors receive a purple t-shirt and goodie bag. The ceremony will take place at 6pm, followed by a survivor/caregiver lap and dinner.

- become an ACS CAN member. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network is the nation's leading cancer advocacy organization that is working everyday to make cancer issues a priority. It is only \$10 to be a member.

Even if you are unable to donate, please come to Relay!! We have all been affected by cancer! No matter who you are, there's a place for you at Relay. Together we can make a difference in the fight against cancer. Together we can create a world with less cancer and more birthdays!!!!

Relay for Life of Daniel Boone starts at noon on Saturday, May 21st at the Daniel Boone High School Stadium. It is open to the public until 10pm. Events and activities run all day long. Great music, great food, for a great cause. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

Amity Township Crime Watch-Community Recycling Event - April 16th, 9am-12pm - Douglassville Redner's Parking Lot (Rain or Shine) - Open to residents and small businesses in Douglassville and surrounding areas. Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding truck. Call Susan at 610-385-3740.

Designer Purse BINGO - April 17, 1pm - doors open 11am ICC social hall - \$25/20 games, \$30 at the door if available Raffles, special games, food. Bring Purina One dog/cat puppy/kitten chow for 3 free raffle tickets Benefits Catworks - Call Sandy for tickets 610-207-7065.



April 3, 2016

dear Padre

Monday

APRIL 4

Annunciation
of the Lord

Is 7:10–14; 8:10

Heb 10:4–10

Lk 1:26–38

Tuesday

APRIL 5

Easter

Weekday

Acts 4:32–37

Jn 3:7b–15

Wednesday

APRIL 6

Easter

Weekday

Acts 5:17–26

Jn 3:16–21

Thursday

APRIL 7

St. John Baptist
de la Salle, Priest

Acts 5:27–33

Jn 3:31–36

Friday

APRIL 8

Easter

Weekday

Acts 5:34–42

Jn 6:1–15

Saturday

APRIL 9

Easter

Weekday

Acts 6:1–7

Jn 6:16–21

Sunday

APRIL 10

Third Sunday
of Easter

Acts 5:27–32, 40b–41

Rv 5:11–14

Jn 21:1–19

or 21:1–14

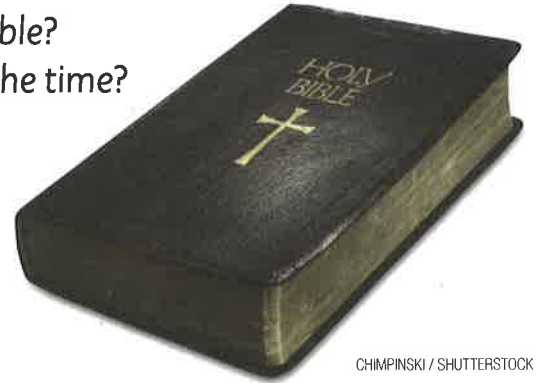
Liguori.org



Why Blessings Are Given



Why won't my priest bless my Bible?
Don't Catholics bless objects all the time?



CHIMPINSKI / SHUTTERSTOCK

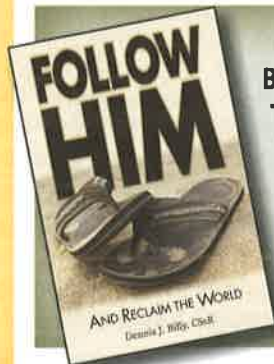
"Through all the words of sacred Scripture, God speaks only one single Word, his one Utterance in whom he expresses himself completely...For this reason, the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord's Body" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 102–103).

The Bible as the inspired word of God is living and holy. Technically, it does not need a ritual blessing; it is inherently a "sacramental" and set aside for God's purposes. Perhaps it is this unique, sacred nature of the Bible that caused your priest to deny your request. Moreover, some view the Bible as the source of all blessings, since blessings derive meaning and effectiveness from the word of God.

That said, "every baptized person is called to be a 'blessing,' and to bless... Among sacramentals blessings (of persons,

meals, objects, and places) come first. Every blessing praises God and prays for his gifts" (CCC 1669, 1671). To that end, ordained ministers who wish to give praise and bestow benefit to adults and children preparing for the sacraments—their catechists, or liturgical ministers, for example—may choose to bless such persons, giving thanks for the gift of God's word and its work in their lives. Blessings, after all, "are invoked always with a view to the people who use the objects to be blessed" (*Book of Blessings*, General Introduction, 12).

FR. BYRON MILLER, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



FOLLOW HIM

By loving others as Jesus loved us, we become a source of hope for them. Through us, they get a glimpse of God's love for them and receive an insight into the true purpose and meaning of life. Through our actions, hope becomes something concrete and tangible for them.

—From *Follow Him and Reclaim the World* by Dennis J. Billy, CSsR (826504)

To see sample pages from this book, visit Liguori.org and type the title or 826504 in the search bar, or call us at 800-325-9521.

ICA HOME & SCHOOL ORGANIZATION
INVITES YOU TO

THE ROARING TWENTIES

Adult Social

SATURDAY EVENING

April 23, 2016

6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH SOCIAL HALL
905 CHESTNUT STREET DOUGLASSVILLE, PA

6:00 PM WINE/BEER WITH COLD HORS D'OEUVRES
SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLE & WINE PULL BEGIN

7:00 PM CARVING STATION, HOT HORS D'OEUVRES
& POPCORN BAR

8:30 PM DESSERT & COFFEE BAR

Dress

*Ladies as festive as you wish
Gentlemen jackets please*

Kindly Respond by April 8th

NAME(S) _____

THE BOOTLEGGERS

ATTENDING AT \$40 PER PERSON

• • • • •

THE SPEAKEASY

ATTENDING AT \$80 PER PERSON

***PRICE INCLUDES \$40 TICKET AND \$40 DONATION**

• • • • •

THE COTTON CLUB

ATTENDING AT \$100 PER PERSON

***PRICE INCLUDES \$40 TICKET AND \$60 DONATION**

• • • • •

I/WE CANNOT ATTEND, HOWEVER,
PLEASE ACCEPT A DONATION OF \$ _____

• • • • •

**PURCHASE TICKETS WITH A CREDIT CARD ONLINE AT
[HTTPS://SITES.GOOGLE.COM/SITE/ICAHSO/ADULT-SOCIAL/PURCHASE-TICKETS](https://sites.google.com/site/icaHSO/adult-social/purchase-tickets)**

**OR PRINT AND RETURN THIS RESPONSE CARD AND
YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO ICA HSO**

**ALL TICKET LEVELS AND DONATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN OUR PROGRAM AS
A THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Mailing Address
POST OFFICE BOX F
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA
18105-1538

4029 WEST TILGHMAN STREET
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 18104
(610) 437-0755
Fax (610) 433-7822

March 30, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The month of April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. In recent years, we have all learned more about the prevalence of the sin and crime of child abuse in every sector of society.

Tragic reports about children harmed by adults who are charged with their care are far too common in our society. Whether it is a family member, teacher, coach, counselor, or clergy, these stories repulse us and understandably can shake our confidence in the very people and organizations we are supposed to trust.

Our Diocese was not untouched by this tragedy, and we have responded to the survivors and their families who have come forward with compassion and support to help them heal. No matter who in the Church committed the crime against them, or when the crime occurred, we make counseling and medical treatment available.

Just as important, we work every day to create church and school environments that protect our young people and keep them from harm. The Diocese of Allentown has a long-standing zero tolerance policy for clergy, lay employees and volunteers who engage in misconduct with children, and we take immediate action when an accusation is made.

In 2002, the Diocese invited the District Attorneys of the five counties that comprise the Diocese to review the files of clergy members who had been accused of abuse. Any allegation of abuse is reported immediately to law enforcement, and any credible or substantiated allegation against a member of the clergy results in immediate removal from ministry.

We are also committed to educating all those who work with children, as well as the children in our schools and religious education programs, about how to recognize improper conduct and how to report a problem. Among other things:

- There are 123 designated Safe Environment Coordinators working in our parishes, schools and youth-serving ministries to ensure compliance with laws and policies.
- Over 33,000 adults have received training to recognize, respond, and report child abuse since 2003.
- It is estimated that more than 5,000 adults have received mandated reporter training so far.
- Over 298,000 children have received age-appropriate abuse prevention education since 2003.
- The Diocese has invested more than 831,000 hours in education and training since 2003.

We encourage anyone who has been abused to report the abuse and seek help immediately by calling the toll-free Pennsylvania ChildLine number at 800-932-0313 or local law enforcement. Our Victim Assistance Coordinator, Ms. Wendy Krisak, at 800-791-9209 can provide more information about how the Diocese can help.

We support legislation that protects children, but some proposals would have detrimental consequences that would hurt our vital ministries. Right now, the State Legislature is being asked to consider a bill that would eliminate the statute of limitations in civil cases of child sex abuse. The statute of limitations is a legal principle that requires cases to be filed within a specific time frame after a crime is said to occur. The statute of limitations is a matter of sound and proven legal practice since, over time, evidence and witnesses become unavailable and memories fade. It can become impossible for people and institutions to defend themselves in such cases because the information necessary to do so has long since disappeared.

Eliminating the statute of limitations retroactively, as proposed for civil litigation, would open private institutions, like the Diocese of Allentown, to lawsuits about events that are from thirty, forty, or fifty years ago, and the potential for crippling damage awards. Such civil lawsuits would not prosecute a single child abuser from the past. Its only meaningful effect would be to encourage lawsuits against private institutions.

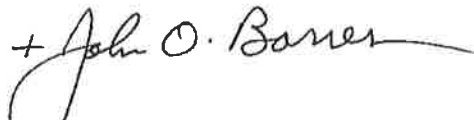
Diocesan and parish resources that now support our school programs that educate and ministries that feed the hungry and serve those in need would instead be diverted to satisfy costly civil judgments. The very existence of some ministries would be threatened, and parishes and schools might be forced to defend themselves against claims that are many decades old.

We would therefore ask you to consider contacting your State Representative and State Senator about the detrimental effects of this proposed legislation.

We remain committed to helping all survivors of abuse perpetrated by someone in the Church. Please also join me in prayer for those who have experienced the pain of abuse, that they may find their individual paths to healing. May you, as a parishioner of our Diocese and as parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles of our children, also find peace in this promise to protect our children and pledge to heal survivors, their families and our Church.

Asking God to bless you and your families during this Easter Season, I am

Sincerely in Christ,


+ John O. Barres
Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Allentown