

# Ascension of the Lord

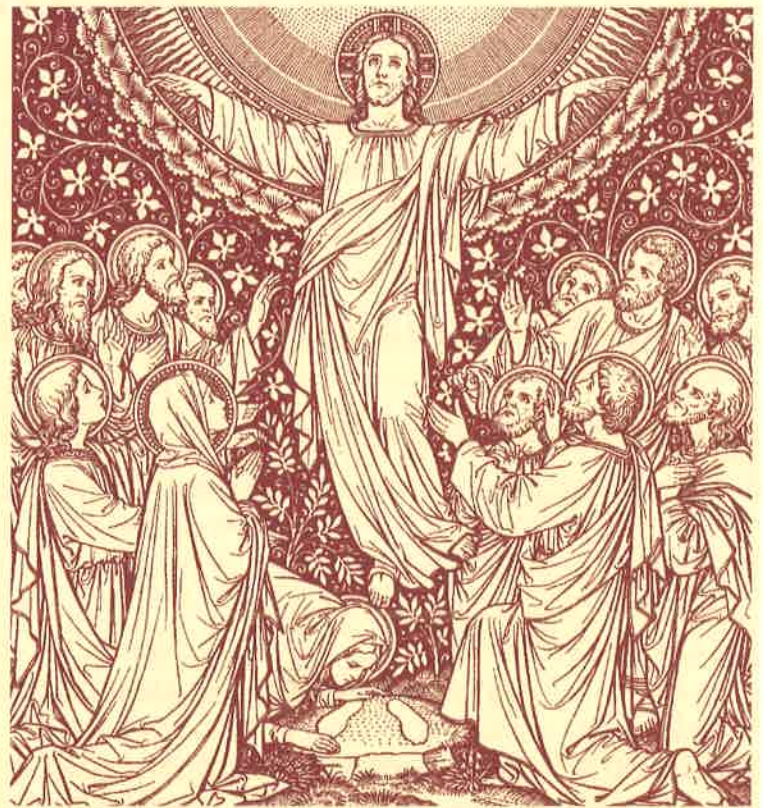
◆ May 8, 2016 ◆

Acts 1:1–11 ◆ Eph 1:17–23 ◆ Lk 24:46–53

In Luke's ascension account from Acts, Jesus admonishes his apostles to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Spirit because they are witnesses of his mission and message. When the time for his ascension comes, Jesus blesses them, then "was lifted up" (1:9). We don't hear the great commission to go out to, preach to, and baptize all nations as we do in Matthew's Gospel (28:19–20). Instead, Luke's account leaves us with an image of the apostles joyfully returning to Jerusalem: "They were continually in the temple praising God" (24:53).

Returning to Acts, I love that the early disciples' first order of business—even prior to Pentecost—was to gather to pray (1:14). Paul often admonished the early Christians to pray constantly. He knew that prayer grounds us in the Lord and strengthens us to lay down our lives and carry our crosses. Prayer focuses our attention on God's call and our response to it. The apostles' prayer opened them to receive the promised gift of the Spirit and strengthened them for their mission—to let the world know that Jesus is Lord, that the Kingdom of God has come, and that we have been restored through the death and resurrection of Christ.

Thus should our week begin: in praise and worship before God, in gathered prayer. Like the disciples in Jerusalem, the Lord will open our minds "to understand the scriptures" (Luke



24:45). We, too, will be filled with the Spirit and be sent out as joyful witnesses to God's presence and saving work.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY  
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## A Word From Pope Francis

*"Do I speak with Jesus, or am I frightened of silence? Do I allow the Holy Spirit to speak in my heart? Do I ask Jesus: what do you want me to do, what do you want from my life?... Speak continually with Jesus, in the good times and in the bad, when you do right, and when you do wrong. Do not fear him! This is prayer."*

—Prayer Vigil with young people at the 28th World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, July 27, 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  
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 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndiocese.org

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN EASTER – MOTHER’S DAY – MAY 8, 2016

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	8:00 PM	MARY BUTLER	THU	7:30 AM	DEACON PAUL & CINDY HIRYAK – 37 <sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
SUN	7:30 AM	OUR PARISHIONERS	FRI	7:30 AM	DAVID KINNER
	9:00 AM	MOTHERS OF THE PARISH	SAT	5:15 PM	DUANE MADRZYKOWSKI
	11:00 AM	MOTHERS OF THE PARISH	SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
MON	7:30 AM	FR. JOSEPH REILLY		9:00 AM	CAROL McDEVITT
TUE	7:00 PM	STELLA POWASKI – 1 <sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY		11:00 AM	ANNA MACCARONE
WED	7:30 AM	FRANK JANISZEWSKI – 36 <sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY			

### *The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Frank Janiszewski*

#### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SCRIP:** Zubik 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	Kevin Creamer	Josh Piccarreta, Christopher & Lyndsay Surkosky
SUN	7:30am	Sean Werner	Dennis Piontek	Amanda and Lauren Marley, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00am	Jo Hohl	Pam Amos	Alyssa Boraten, Marissa and Steven Tepper
	11:00am	Steve Lukes	Becky Shemanski	Michael DiScala, Will Gray, Chase Voelker

### **Second collection next week is for Debt Reduction**

#### ***Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education Program is currently enrolling for the 2016-17 School Year!***

We welcome everyone to join us if you have a student entering preschool (age 3) through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. **ICA offers a full day Kindergarten Program.**

Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/16 and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students aged 6 by 10/15/16. **Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grants** are available for any public, private or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy grades 1-7. These grants are **\$1,500 over two years** (\$1,000 for the first year; \$500 for the second).

Please contact **Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645 or [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org)** for more information or to schedule a tour!

**\*\*\*Now offering Sunday tours after 9am and 11am Masses by appointment\*\*\***

- 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, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Linda Rathman, William Janda, James Smith, Maryanne Emory, Madge Butto, Roseann Malcolm, Dylan Spriggs, Doris Slater, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Ryan Curley, Paul Geiger, Helen McDonald, Mark McDonald, Nancy Merlino, Rose Osorio, Raymond Davidheiser, Anthony Mattassa, Sr., Jim & Nancy Guilliams, Tony Guilliams, Dolores McCullough, Ed Woznicki, Steve Mammarella, Evelyn Segnere, Shawn Staneruck, Fanny Hunter, Phil Kubovcsak, Bobbie Sweeney, Dominic Strock and Barbara Wright
- Pray for the recently departed: Nancy Merlino, Maryanna Niemczyk
- Congratulate the recently baptized: Declan Robery Wyly

## **THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>05/09</b>	<b>1pm May Procession</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>05/10</b>	<b>1pm May Procession (Rain Date)</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>05/13</b>	<b>7pm Senior &amp; Junior Youth Group Picnic</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>05/14</b>	<b>10am First Holy Communion 4-5pm Confession</b>

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

### **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

*Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> will be our end of the year picnic for both Junior and Senior High Youth Groups. We will meet at the social hall from 7 to 9 pm for hamburgers and hot dogs, games and praise.*

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 8-12:30 - 4th Annual Car Wash**

We will be in front of ICA and washing cars before and after all Masses. The cost for a wash will be a free will offering. *Proceeds from the car wash will benefit the Youth Group Mission Trip to Kentucky and the trip to the Catholic Youth Conference to be held at the Franciscan University of Steubenville.*

**Scholastic Buy One/Get One (BOGO) Book Fair at ICA** in Academy library. We are open Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> after 9am and 11am Masses and May 23 through 27 during school hours. Also, please consider making a donation to "All for Books". These donations help our teachers build their classroom libraries. In addition, Scholastic Book Fairs will match monetary donations with a donation of up to one million books to national, non-profit organizations. Checks can be made out to ICA HSO in an envelope marked "All for Books" and placed in the church collection basket. Donations are being accepted through May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for your support and we hope to see you at the book fair!

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

Daniel Boone Homestead

Saturday, May 21, 2016 Registration 7am  
8am 5K, 8:45am 1K Fun Run, 9:30am Awards

Pre-register for the event by visiting

<http://www.alphaandomegasports.com/race-calendar.html>  
Registration is \$25 for the 5K. Registration is \$10 for the 1K.

**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)

Register now for 2016-2017 CCD! Forms are available on [www.icbvmccd.org](http://www.icbvmccd.org) under forms and at the Office of Religious Education. Classes are filling up so register now! Volunteers are always welcome! If you would like to volunteer an hour of your time once a week to bring the Good News of Christ to the children of our parish by educating or by example of service, contact Mrs. O'Donnell at (610) 582-3880.

**BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL** – On this Mother's Day weekend please remember those Mothers who give tirelessly of themselves but have fallen upon hard times and have come to our Diocese and the Bishop's Annual Appeal for assistance. Next weekend is Commitment Sunday. If you have not done so already, please bring your pledge form to Mass next weekend. We need the support of all of our parish families to reach our parish BAA goal. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. If you have any questions, please call the parish office or visit the BAA website at [FaithHopeCharityGives.org](http://FaithHopeCharityGives.org).

2016 Vacation Bible School - "Jesse Tree Journey" VBS will be held the week of June 20 through June 24 from 9:00am to noon. VBS is open to all ICC parishioners ages 5 to 11. The cost is \$35 per child. Adult and teen volunteers are always welcome. Come along for the journey! Registration forms are available in the narthex, parish office and the Academy Contact Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-582-3880 or [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org) with questions.

**Resorts AC Trip – May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Leave ICC promptly at 9:30am - Package Deal Pay \$32/Get \$25 – Call Carol J. at 610-775-4447**

*On Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm there will be a Mass of Healing for those individuals who have experienced trauma. All are invited to join in prayer at this Mass with Bishop John O. Barres as Celebrant and Msgr. Walter Scheaffer as homilist at the St. Columbkil Parish, 200 Indian Spring Road, Boyertown. Following Mass there will be a Holy Hour of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for confession. The evening will conclude with Benediction at 8:30pm.*

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Commission for Women will host a retreat day for women at the McGlenn Conference Center in Reading, 9am-5pm. Cost is \$25 and includes a Continental Breakfast and Lunch. Come spend the day with our Mother and women of the diocese while reflecting on her mantle of mercy. Directing our retreat will be Rev. Ronald Bowman. For more details and to register, visit [www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality](http://www.allentowndiocese.org/cfw-spirituality). For questions, contact [cfw@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:cfw@allentowndiocese.org) or call 917-406-4879.

*Berks Catholic is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 school year. Berks Catholic High School is centered on the four pillars of God, Family, Academics and Fun. As a vibrant Christ centered community, the administration, faculty and staff are dedicated to providing a challenging academic environment for a diverse population of young men and women. For information about how to join our 21<sup>st</sup> century learning community, contact Nicky 610.374.8361 x244.*

Berks Catholic Boys' Basketball, Cheerleading, and Dance Camps for grades 1-8, June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>. For info contact Tony Balistrere at 610-374-8361,x224  
Girls' Basketball Camp – June 27-30, 9-12:30, grades 2-9  
Football Camp – August 2,3,4, Grades K-8.  
For registration forms go to [www.berkscatholic.org](http://www.berkscatholic.org)  
Berks Catholic Youth Football and Cheerleading is still accepting registrations for the upcoming 2016 fall season. For more information, see [www.leaguelineup.com/bcyfac](http://www.leaguelineup.com/bcyfac) or call Danielle Fowler 610-374-1695.

*2016 Mother's Day Event featuring various vendors is being hosted by the American Legion Post #626, 445 East Main St., Birdsboro May 7<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm*

**Trout Rodeo** – May 14<sup>th</sup>, 8am-1pm, K – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. This free, fun event with prizes and food is sponsored by the Daniel Boone Optimist Club at South Birdsboro Archery Rod and Gun Club on Geigertown Rd. Call Maryann at 610-385-4953.

May 8, 2016

# Dear Padre

## Pay heed at Mass



Should I read the bulletin at Mass? And should the priest make announcements during his homily?



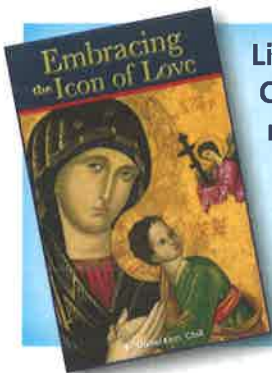
SCOTT SMITH / CNS

**The Mass is** the high point of Christ's work to sanctify us and of the worship that we offer to the Father through his Son (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 1). Therefore, it is of greatest importance that the celebration "be so arranged that the ministers and the faithful who take their own proper part in it may more fully receive its good effects"; this is best accomplished when the Mass "brings about in the faithful a participation in body and spirit that is conscious, active, full, and motivated by faith, hope, and charity" (*GIRM* 2, 3).

**Reading the bulletin—or** even praying the rosary or breviary—during Mass would prevent this highest participation that the Church desires, the nature of

the celebration demands, and the duty for the Christian people dictates. Brief commentaries on the Scripture readings that assist the faithful are better read *before* Mass. The homily also assists the faithful in their full participation. In explaining the Word of God, the homily "must always lead the community of the faithful to celebrate the Eucharist actively, 'so that they may hold fast in their lives to what they have grasped by their faith'" (*Lectionary* 2.24). Thus, "any necessary announcements are to be kept completely separate from the homily; they must take place following the prayer after Communion" (*Lectionary* 2.27).

FR. BYRON MILLER, CSSR  
[sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletin@liguori.org)



Like Mary and Joseph, we are on a journey, a pilgrimage searching for Christ. We come before this icon [of *Our Mother of Perpetual Help*], read it, and pray it to connect to the mystery of Christ in a deeper way. Mary invites and teaches us to embrace this Infant and take into ourselves the incarnate-crucified mystery of Redemption.

—From *Embracing the Icon of Love* by Br. Daniel Korn

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 825651 in the search bar.



### Monday

MAY 9

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 19:1–8

Jn 16:29–33

### Tuesday

MAY 10

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 20:17–27

Jn 17:1–11a

### Wednesday

MAY 11

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 20:28–38

Jn 17:11b–19

### Thursday

MAY 12

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 22:30; 23:6–11

Jn 17:20–26

### Friday

MAY 13

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 25:13b–21

Jn 21:15–19

### Saturday

MAY 14

*St. Matthias,*

*Apostle*

Acts 1:15–17, 20–26

Jn 15:9–17

### Sunday

MAY 15

*Pentecost*

Acts 2:1–11

1 Cor 12:3b–7, 12–13 or

Rom 8:8–17

Jn 20:19–23 or

Jn 14:15–16, 23b–26

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## EDUCATION

It is within our Catholic schools that our greatest treasures – our children – are molded for a life of Christian leadership and service. A Catholic Education provides ongoing formation of the Christian person by developing spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural, emotional and physical gifts. The elementary schools, high schools and special learning centers of the Diocese of Allentown continue a tradition of academic excellence and faith-formation in safe, caring, faith-filled communities that enable children to reach their God given potential.



The Bishop's Annual Appeal is a Catholic, community-wide effort to meet the social service and ministerial needs of all people in Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties. The distribution of funds raised through the appeal is overseen by a committee of volunteer parishioners from around the Diocese. This year, 23% of funds raised through the Appeal will be directed to Education which includes:

- Need-based Academic Scholarships for Catholic High School Students
- Bishop's Scholar Society Scholarships
- Carbon/Schuylkill Grants to Catholic Elementary Schools
- Mercy Center for Special Learning
- John Paul II Center for Special Learning
- St. Joseph Center for Special Learning
- Aquinas Programs
- DeSales University
- Alvernia University



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL OFFICE

# CAR WASH

**May 15**

**8:00 to 12:30**

**ICA Parking Lot**

**DONATIONS GRATEFULLY  
ACCEPTED**

To benefit the ICC Youth Group  
Mission Trip and Steubenville  
Youth Conference

