

# Ordinary Time

September 25, 2016 ♦ Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Am 6:1a, 4-7 ♦ 1 Tm 6:11-16 ♦ Lk 16:19-31

**H**ow do we best love God and one another? A student, wanting to become more like Christ in welcoming all people, decided that he would greet every one of his fraternity brothers every week and ask how they were and that he would say hello to the man who sat in front of the drugstore in town begging for change and invite him to lunch. In May, when it came time to see how he did, the student had indeed talked to his fraternity brothers every week and greeted the beggar, but he never did invite him to lunch. "I just couldn't do it," he said. "I was a little afraid of what it would mean. Would I be responsible to help him again?" We talked about it a little, and I invited him to put that question to God in prayer.

I'm not sure any of us have an easy answer to what it means to look someone in the face and invite him to share a meal. And I daresay not many of us would do what that student set out to do. But

St. Paul urges us to "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11). That's a lifetime's work and possible only with the grace of God. Surely, as we grow in those virtues, we will come to see all people as worthy of our time and care without worrying about what might happen in the future. It may not be practical and it certainly won't be easy. But the demands of God's love compel us to try. And if we do so, we might not share the fate of the rich man in Luke's Gospel who learned too late how best to love.

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

*"[W]e would do well to ask ourselves: Where do I place my trust? Have I placed it in the Lord or am I a pagan who trusts in things, in idols that I have fashioned?"*

—"The nameless man,"  
Morning Meditation, March 20, 2014

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence  
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi,  
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano  
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 Parish Religious Education/CCD .....610 582-3880  
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 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645  
 Academy Website.....www.icaberks.org  
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## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

### *The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anna & Joseph Lukes*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	SOPHIE & DOMINIC PAOLUCCI	THU	7:00 PM	CHARLES LONGWELL
SUN	7:30 AM	JOHN BRADLEY	FRI	7:30 AM	MARY VARNEY
	9:00 AM	ANTHONY DIGUGLIELMO		9:00 AM	ICA MASS – PATRICIA BASTIK
	11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	FATHER JOSEPH BARNES
MON	<b>No Mass</b>		SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
TUE	7:00 PM	DR. NICHOLAS & MARGARET CHRIST		9:00 AM	MICHAEL GIRTON
WED	7:30 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE KUSZNIR FAMILY		11:00 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE MAC DOUGAL FAMILY

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SCRIP: Zubik 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	Barbara Giordano	Shirley Wheeler	Lilia and Simon Crew, Meghan Duffy
SUN	7:30am	Adelina Kieffer	Dennis Piontek	Sean and Stephen Hannon, Tim Stewart
	9:00am	Pat Fessler	Josephine Hohl	Anna and Matthew Lambert, Elly Smithson
	11:00am	Victor González	Lenny Cline III	Brianna González, Meghan Grieco, V. Smith

### ***Second collection next week is for Church Building and Parish Maintenance***

***Immaculate Conception Academy is still enrolling for the 2016-17 school year!***

If you have a student in Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we welcome you to visit and see what an Immaculate Conception Academy education can do for your child!

**ICA offers a full day Kindergarten Program.**

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

**Bishop's 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 and \$500 for the second).

**Aftercare is available.**

**Please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org) for more information or to schedule 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, Ann Schlott, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, William Janda, James Smith, Madge Butto, Roseann Malcom, Doris Slater, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Mark McDonald, Rose Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Joan Smith, Dolores McCullough, Steve Mammarella, Phil Kubovcsak, Gloria Richards, Jennifer Pinti, Jane Falcone, Fannie Hunter, Barbara Wright, Mavricks Laxton, Anthony Pucci, Virginia Marks, Andrew Martin, Father Donald Birch, The Ravert Family, Harry Wood, Mary Okuniewski, Maria Houck, Paul Bringenberg, Joseph Kolenda, Kenneth Barth, Dominic Strock, Bobbi Sweeney and Ronald Kryman
- Congratulate the newly married: Sarah Elizabeth Scholes and Clayton John Horbach
- Congratulate the recently baptized: Jameson Matthew Hine, Nolan Michael Langheim and Amaris Clementine Piccarreta
- Pray for the recently deceased: Michael Kovach

## **THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>09/25</b>	<b>Women's Society Bake Sale CYO Cross Country Run</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>09/26</b>	<b>7:30pm RCIA</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>09/27</b>	<b>7:30pm Bell Choir</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>09/29</b>	<b>7:30pm Adult Choir</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>10/01</b>	<b>4-5pm Confession</b>

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

### ***Immaculate Conception Early Education Expanded Preschool Program***

Parents have the opportunity to choose from **THREE** programs:

**Tuesday/Thursday Morning: 8:45am- 11:15am**

**Tuesday/Thursday Extended Day: 8:45am-1:15pm**

**Tuesday/Thursday Full Day: 8:45-2:30pm**

Children in the Extended and Full Day programs bring a packed lunch. The Full Day program includes rest time as well as the addition of a special class once a week (i.e. Art, Music, Library or Computer). Because this is a pilot program, special tuition rates are being offered for the 2016-17 school year.

**The Early Education Program is open 8am to 3pm; with classes starting at 8:45am. Aftercare is available.**

**Enrollment is ongoing in our Morning and Full Day Pre-Kindergarten Programs as well!** For information and tuition rates, please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org) or 610-404-8645.

### ***Immaculate Conception Academy Positions***

**Classroom Aide** position for 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Call Patricia Tarquinio at 610-404-8645. **Aftercare** is looking for someone willing to work several hours per week from 3pm-6pm. Call Laura DeFalco at 610-463-8157. All positions require completion of "Protecting God's Children" and obtain required background checks and clearances.

**Thinking about becoming a Catholic? Are you looking to for a "Faith Refresher?"** Join Msgr. McCann, Deacon Paul Hiryak and guest speakers to learn more about our Catholic faith. RCIA isn't just for persons interested in Catholicism. It's for everyone who desires a deeper understanding of what we believe and practice as Catholics. Sessions are Mondays, 7:30-9pm. You are welcome to attend as many as your schedule permits. For info or to register, call the office at 610.582.2411.

Immaculate Conception sponsors Youth Groups for both our Junior and Senior High School students. Activities include monthly meetings, service projects, a mission trip, retreat opportunities and other activities. We are currently seeking adults who would be willing to assist in leadership roles with our Youth Groups. We are looking for individuals willing to witness to their faith and to help organize, plan and supervise activities. If you are willing to assist or would like more information, please contact Monsignor McCann at 610-582-2411. All volunteers must attend a Protecting God's Children Workshop and complete the background checks required by our Safe Environment protocols.

### **Immaculate Conception Christmas Bazaar November 5, 9am-3pm**

**Please join us for a day of shopping, crafts, raffles, baked goods, soups, good food and good fun. This is a wonderful opportunity to support our school, and local businesses. Get a sneak peek at our vendors and delicious breakfast and lunch menu on our Facebook page - Immaculate Conception Christmas Bazaar. Questions [ica.hso@gmail](mailto:ica.hso@gmail.com)**

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** will meet Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm in the lower level meeting room of the Parish Center. All of the teenagers in our parish in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food, games, prayer & praise. Bring a friend!

**Sunday School** begins September 25<sup>th</sup>. Registration now open for children ages 3 to 5. Forms are available in the narthex and parish office. Anyone interested in volunteering must meet all diocesan requirements and have all state mandated clearances. To volunteer, call 610-582-3880.

### **Blessing of Animals – October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12:30pm**

**Please bring your pets leashed or caged for their safety**

**BAPTISM CLASS – OCTOBER 4<sup>th</sup> AT 7:30PM – LOWER LEVEL, CHURCH OFFICE – CLASS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE BAPTISM OF YOUR FIRST CHILD. CALL RITA AT 610-582-2411 TO REGISTER.**

**25% OFF AND EXTENDED SHOPPING HOURS** for the Boscov's "one day only" **Friends Helping Friends** - Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am-11pm. Finish up your school clothes shopping, do some early Christmas shopping, or spruce up your home for the holiday season while saving 25% throughout the store (exceptions listed on passes). Buy your shopping pass in the narthex for \$5 (100% of the proceeds go to the parish). Enjoy free refreshments while you shop, entertainment, and chances to win fabulous door prizes including a \$500 shopping spree.

The Women's Society will be preparing and baking Apple Dumplings on October 14/15 in the social, 9am - till? Come one or both days. We usually finish up around 1pm after a lite lunch. Easy, stress free, fun work with a great bunch of people. We also need some helpers to press and roll the dough on October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9am. See the separate order sheet in the narthex and bulletin to order yours today. Orders should be placed and prepaid by October 1<sup>st</sup>. We may have extras to sell but if you are sure you would like one or two, we encourage you to pre-order as extras go really fast! **Pick up your order in the social hall after Masses on October 15/16<sup>th</sup>.**

**"Encounter Mercy and Truth"** The Annual Diocesan Men's Conference will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am-5pm at De Sales University. The day will include keynote addresses, exhibits and a vigil Mass with Bishop Barres. Continental breakfast and lunch is included. Registration fee is \$35 and \$10 for high school/college students. For more information and to register online please visit [www.cmfd.org](http://www.cmfd.org) or call 610-289-8900.

**Knights of Columbus** will be requesting contributions for a "Rose for Life" after all Masses on October 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>. The money collected from your generosity will be used to support Birthright, A Baby's Breath, Southeastern PA Pro-Life Coalition and to shelters that house and feed those in need. **Please help us save the life of an unborn child.**

**40 Days for Life Campaign and Prayer Vigil:** September 28<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>. Daily prayer vigil in front of Reading Planned Parenthood, 4<sup>th</sup> and Franklin Streets, 7am-4pm, Monday to Saturday. Please come out to pray to help end abortion. Pro Life Berks 610-375-3395.

**John Paul II Center** has positions open for teacher and teacher's assistant to work as a team to educate students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Special Education certification required for teacher and background clearances required for both. Send resume to [madams@johnpauliicenter.org](mailto:madams@johnpauliicenter.org).





September 25, 2016

# Dear Padre

## Monday

SEPTEMBER 26

Weekday

Jb 1:6–22

Lk 9:46–50

## Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 27

St. Vincent

de Paul, Priest

Jb 3:1–3,

11–17, 20–23

Lk 9:51–56

## Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 28

Weekday

Jb 9:1–12, 14–16

Lk 9:57–62

## Thursday

SEPTEMBER 29

Sts. Michael, Gabriel,  
and Raphael,  
Archangels

Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or

Rv 12:7–12a

Jn 1:47–51

## Friday

SEPTEMBER 30

St. Jerome,

Priest and Doctor  
of the Church

Jb 38:1, 12–21; 40:3–5

Lk 10:13–16

## Saturday

OCTOBER 1

St. Thérèse of the  
Child Jesus,  
Virgin and Doctor

of the Church

Jb 42:1–3, 5–6, 12–17

Lk 10:17–24

## Sunday

OCTOBER 2

Twenty-seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Hb 1:2–3; 2:2–4

2 Tm 1:6–8, 13–14

Lk 17:5–10

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## Do we have to tithe?

JAMES STEIDL / SHUTTERSTOCK

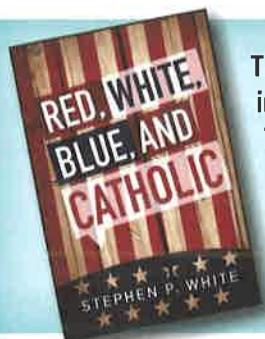


Do Catholics believe in tithing? Aren't we supposed to be charitable and support the Church?

The word "tithing" is not used very much in Catholic communities. We usually prefer to talk about stewardship or charitable donations. In Old Testament Law, God asked for ten percent of crops, livestock, or other earnings to be offered to God before we use the other ninety percent on ourselves. That portion was usually offered to the Temple priests or later in the synagogues. God wanted the people to support the religious workers and to show that their first priority is God. Some churches still preach that a literal ten percent is expected from Christians today.

In looking at Jesus, it appears that he expects even more. He tells the rich man to sell all that he has and to give it to the poor (Matthew 19:16–22). He also praises the widow who put "her whole livelihood" into the collection (Mark 12:44; Luke 21:4). The early Church held all of their belongings in common (Acts 4:32–35). The Christian standard is that we belong to Christ, and so does everything we own. Jesus does not ask everyone to embrace poverty, but he commands all of us to share our gifts freely and to love people more than money. We are called to be generous to the Church, to our families and communities, and especially to the needy. Generosity doesn't count percentages.

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



The proper use of material goods by individuals or the state has implications for what the Church calls the preferential option for the poor. The poor are those least able to care for themselves materially and should be shown special preference *as a matter of justice*.

—From *Red, White, Blue, and Catholic*  
by Stephen P. White (826450)

To learn more, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.