



Owr Parish COMMUNITY

November 27, 2016

First Sunday of Advent (A)

Is 2:1–5

Rom 13:11–14

Mt 24:37–44

Piece: *Sleeping Servant*
Artist unknown; 1st century AD
Location: Vatican, Santa Rosa



Welcome!

My name is Fr. Mark Haydu, LC, and I am happy to accompany you at Mass over the next three liturgical years. I grew up in Akron, Ohio, and was ordained in 2007 as a priest of the Legionaries of Christ.

As head of the Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums in Rome, I travel frequently to the United States to promote the collection. Sacred art has always been an essential element of prayer and liturgy, so it is a fitting enhancement to our Sunday celebrations.

Staying awake is a frequent and important Advent theme. Jesus mentions being awake in today's Gospel and again in Matthew 25:13 and 26:38. We are to ready ourselves to encounter him at our personal judgment and again in the Final Judgment. Like a watchman who stands over the city or a guard who protects the entry gate, we are to be vigilant, "For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."

In ancient times, it was common to have a servant posted at the door to

protect you through the night and to watch over the house in your absence. Today's sculpture, which is part of an ancient tombstone, depicts such a servant—albeit one who dozed off.

For Reflection

What can I do to prepare myself and my family for Christ's coming on Christmas, in the Eucharist, and at any other time in our lives?

Begin your Advent preparations by receiving Christ in the Eucharist, "For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). Jesus is not far away but very near. He enters our hearts in the form of bread and wine. Are you ready, or will he catch you by surprise?

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

"And do this because you know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11).

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann Pastor
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 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – NOVEMBER 27, 2016

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Helen Janiszewski

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	THU	7:00 PM	MARYANNA NIEMCZYK
SUN	7:30 AM	PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY	FRI	7:30 AM	EDWARD MACCARONE
	9:00 AM	PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY	SAT	5:15 PM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
	11:00 AM	PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY	SUN	7:30 AM	SR. JANINE TURZECKA
MON	<u>NO MASS</u>			9:00 AM	MARIE & EDWARD SCHLEIFENHEIMER
TUE	7:00 PM	JAMES ROGOSKY		11:00 AM	RITA KLANG
WED	7:30 AM	HELEN JANISZEWSKI			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Porambo 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	Jennifer Stuart	Shirley Wheeler	John Dinnocenti, Ryan Ferrante, Zach Whalen
SUN	7:30am	Sean Werner	Dennis Piontek	Kathryn Krueger, Amanda Marley, Mya Salanek
	9:00am	Pat Fessler	Gretchen Markel	Parker Davis, Anna and Daniel Schlegel
	11:00am	Leonard Cline Jr.	Leonard Cline III	Avery Lang, Sadie Mangan, Faith Ouimet

Second collection next week is the Church Building & Parish Maintenance

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

If you have a student in Kindergarten through 8th 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 have been 5 by 10/15/16 and 1st 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 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, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, William Janda, Madge Butto, Roseann Malcom, Doris Slater, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Dolores McCullough, Steve Mammarella, Gloria Richards, Jennifer Pinti, Jane Falcone, Fannie Hunter, Mavrick Laxton, Andrew Martin, The Ravert Family, Harry Wood, Mary Okuniewski, Paul Bringenberg, Joseph Kolenda, Kenneth Barth, Dominic Strock, Frank Bentz, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Keith Kienle, Tom Kirchner, Helen McDonald, Norma Nanni, Ralph Gullo, Sharon Egolf, Morris Motta, Joseph Shevenock, Jr. and Ronald Kryman

Congratulate the recently baptized: Casimir Robert Atkinson, Noah Christopher Krasley and their families

Pray for the recently deceased: Joseph Farrow, Sophia I. Ferenz

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	11/27	Santa Breakfast Ticket Sales
Mon	11/28	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	11/29	7:30pm Bell Choir
Thurs	12/01	7:30pm Adult Choir
Fri	12/02	7pm JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP
Sat	12/03	8&10am Santa Breakfast 4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please note the parish office will be **closed on November 28th** due to a scheduled power outage effecting our campus due to work planned in the area by Met-Ed.

Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

*All women of the parish are invited to join the members of the Women's Society for our Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 4th, 1pm at Stopper's. Entree choices are chicken parmesan (\$17), broiled center-cut pork chops (\$17), crab cakes (\$23) or Delmonico steak (\$23). Entrees include garden salad, baked potato, vegetable, bread, non-alcoholic beverage, and dessert. Please place your entrée choice along with payment (checks payable to Women's Society) in the collection basket in envelope marked Women's Society by **November 28th**. Questions, call Ann Marie (610.689.9124) or Lynda (610.689.4076). We hope to see you there!*

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet Friday, December 2nd, 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!

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - ICA 8th grade is sponsoring our annual **Breakfast with Santa** on December 3rd! Seatings are 8am and 10am. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee/milk will be served. We will have face painting, cookie and ornament decorating, crafts and pictures with Santa! Tickets are \$8; age 2 and under free. Tickets sell out quickly so get yours today! Call 610-404-8645 for info.

Women's Society Annual Christmas Cookie Sale is before and after all Masses December 10th/11th. If you enjoy baking cookies, we would love to include your favorites in our beautiful arrangements. We also accept cookies marked, packed and sold by the dozen. Please consider baking an extra batch or two to share with us. Cookies for assortments must be dropped in the social hall 9-11am on December 10th. We also accept donations before and after all Masses.

Berks CYO is requesting that all CYO spectators and athletes are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to all games scheduled throughout Berks County on December 3 and 4. No entrance fee will be charged for all those that bring a food item. The collected food will go to St. Joseph's Food Pantry. May God bless our winter CYO sports season.

Simbang Gabi Christmas Novena Masses:

Holy Rosary Church, 3rd & Franklin Sts., Reading - December 7-15 at 7pm - Bring your favorite dish to share for our party on the last night. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Holy Guardian Angels Church, 3121 Kutztown Road, Reading will conduct its 22nd annual Advent Concert with Vespers on December 4th at 4pm in the church.

Dear Friends,

I trust you had a very Happy Thanksgiving and I pray that God will continue to bless you and your family as we begin to prepare now for the celebration of Christmas Day. I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to our parishioners who donated Thanksgiving Baskets full of food for families in need whose children are enrolled at Daniel Boone High School. We had a tremendous response to our request for help. Because of your goodness, many families in our community had a happier Thanksgiving Day. As we begin now the holy season of Advent in preparation for Christmas, I invite you to set time aside to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4pm to 5pm. Our Advent Parish Penance Service will be held on December 19th at 7pm. On that occasion visiting priests will be available to hear confessions and impart God's pardon and peace. As always, be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Monsignor John McCann

OPLAKTY, Blessed Christmas Wafers, are now available in the church narthex. This custom is many centuries old and finds its origins in the countries of Eastern Europe, particularly Slovakia, Poland and Lithuania. The breaking and sharing of the Christmas wafer at the holy supper on Christmas Eve was a sign of friendship, love and forgiveness among family members and friends. At the holy supper an extra place setting was placed on the table symbolizing that Jesus Christ was the unseen Guest in the home. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, be mindful of the many customs and traditions which remind us of the true meaning of Christmas - the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior.

Mark your calendars now! ICC will sponsor a bus to the March for Life scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2017. Watch the bulletin for upcoming details. Plan to attend and witness to the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death.

Chosen, Blessed, Shared - Thank you to those who gave so generously to the "Chosen, Blessed, Shared" annual fund which is used to directly support retired priests in good standing including the future costs of their healthcare, insurance and housing. Please return your gift using the envelope you received in the mail or from the brochures in the narthex. Return in the mail or in the collection basket at Mass. Your generosity supports retired priests from all five counties of our Diocese.

Struggling with Same-Sex Attraction? In order to help individuals gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the Catholic Church's teachings, especially in the area of chastity, COURAGE invites such persons to find the peace and grace to grow in Christian maturity. Group meetings are held monthly in the Allentown Diocese. For more information call 610-334-9147 or www.couragerc.org.

Daniel Boone Interact Club Cordially Invites You to the Annual Christmas Luncheon for Seniors Daniel Boone High School, December 6th at 12pm with Christmas Carols presented by Daniel Boone High School Choir. **RSVP by December 1st** to 610-582-6100, x2213.

Daniel Boone Optimist 35th Annual Craft Show - December 3rd/4th, 9am-3pm at the Daniel Boone Middle School - Over 120 crafters - www.danielbooneoptimist.com

Calendar

Monday

November 28
Advent Weekday
Is 4:2-6
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday

November 29
Advent Weekday
Is 11:1-10
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday

November 30
St. Andrew,
Apostle
Rom 10:9-18
Mt 4:18-22

Thursday

December 1
Advent Weekday
Is 26:1-6
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday

December 2
Advent Weekday
Is 29:17-24
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday

December 3
St. Francis Xavier,
Priest
Is 30:19-21, 23-26
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday

December 4
Second Sunday
of Advent
Is 11:1-10
Rom 15:4-9
Mt 3:1-12

Dear Padre,

I want my son to be confirmed this year, but he won't go to confirmation classes or select a sponsor. What should I do?

When your son was baptized, you promised to raise him in the faith. Going to Mass and making faith part of your home life has been part of his upbringing, but forcing him to be confirmed can result in resentment and drive him further from you and his Catholic faith. Try these three things:

First, have a heartfelt and personal discussion (or several) with him, sharing what your Catholic faith means to you.

Second, speak with the confirmation teacher or DRE. He or she has dealt with this before and can work with you both to understand his refusal.

Third, engage him in discovering God at work in his life through the people and movements he's attracted to. Young people are often idealistic and can become disenchanted with the Church and other authority figures. The sooner they know you're willing to let them examine and understand what being Catholic means, the less inclined they will be to reject the Church.

What he needs is the steady, meaningful message that he is loved and important to you, God, and the Church. Trust that God's will comes to fruition. Confirmation should occur when a person manifests a true desire and has undergone necessary preparation. These suggestions aren't easy but reflect the faith you want to pass on.

From *Liguorian*, July-August 2011
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"We always need to begin again, to get up again, to rediscover the meaning of the goal of our lives."

—Angelus, December 1, 2013