

Piece: *The Calling of the First Apostles*, circa 1481–83

Artist: Domenico Ghirlandaio

Location: Sistine Chapel



His First Followers

We began the Church year with the foundations of our Christian life. We focused on our baptismal call to preach the word of God. Now we focus on the call of the first apostles.

Today's painting is again from the Sistine Chapel, where Ghirlandaio based this scene on today's Gospel. The Sea of Galilee spreads out behind Jesus, who is once again front and center. Several towns line the shore and remind us of Capernaum, where Jesus lived and near where he called his first followers.

Two apostles kneel in front of Jesus; another pair stand behind him. Their gestures and postures reveal their interior attitudes. One apostle crosses his arms in acceptance while another prayerfully looks up at

Jesus. The third apostle, behind Jesus, has his hand at his chest as if to say, "Are you sure you want me?" The fourth seems to look away. Many others surround Jesus, but not all of them are called to be apostles.

The call of Jesus is real. He may not ask us to leave behind our business or family, but he does ask for the same totality of trust and following. The result of fully saying "yes" to this call is what the first reading proclaims: "You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing; They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest..." (Isaiah 9:2). The "joy of the

gospel" that Pope Francis proclaimed in his 2013 apostolic exhortation is exactly this: that joy that comes from a sincere and generous "yes" to Jesus' call to be a disciple.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Jesus asks us to leave all and put him first.

How can I do that better this week?

"At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:20).

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
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 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
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 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:
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 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndiocese.org

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - JANUARY 22, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns in Memory of Bob Muldowney

☆☆ MASS INTENTIONS ☆☆

SAT	5:15 PM	Rowena & Clyde Smith – 59 nd Wedding Anniversary	THURS	<u>No MASS</u>
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	FRI	7:30 AM Jesse Painter
	9:00 AM	Bob Muldowney – 2 nd Anniversary	SAT	5:15 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners
	11:00 AM	John Steigerwald	SUN	7:30 AM Edith & Joseph Banyas
MON		<u>No MASS</u>		9:00 AM Mario Cocci
TUES		<u>No MASS</u>		11:00 AM William Pender
WED		<u>No MASS</u>		

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	5:15 PM	Kevin Creamer	Ann Marie Arbo	Michael Beitz, Sean and Stephen Hannon
SUN	7:30 AM	Michelle Marley	Amanda Marley	Mason and Morgan Cambria, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00 AM	CATHOLIC	SCHOOLS	WEEK
	11:00 AM	Steve Lukes	Mary Ann Cotter	Trey Bradfield, Michael DiScala, Carson Endy

Second collection next week is for Catholic Relief Services

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Immaculate Conception Academy Open House
Sunday, January 29, 1pm-3pm
Please join us for STEM Lab family projects,
teacher meet and greets and school tours!

Immaculate Conception Academy provides a 21st century education for students in preschool through grade 8, including a full day Kindergarten program as well as Art, Music and STEM education.

ICA also offers CYO and Berks Catholic Youth sponsored athletics, an instrumental music program, and other activities including Drama Club, Science Explorers and an active Student Council!

Before and after school care options are available!
 Ask us about transfer grants of up to \$1500 for students entering grades 1-7!
 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.

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Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, William Janda, Madge Butto, Roseann Malcom, Doris Slater, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Steve Mammarella, Gloria Richards, Jane Falcone, Fannie Hunter, Andrew Martin, Mary Okuniewski, Paul Bringenberg, Joseph Kolenda, Kenneth Barth, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Ralph Gullo, Nancy Iezzi, Sonny Motta, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Paul Milshaw, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Arlene Shirley, Mark McDonald, John Shirk, Jr., Robert Thomas, Madison Rhoads, James Smith, Marie Houck, Rita Dougherty and Helen McDonald

Pray for the recently departed: Chester Maccarone, Joseph A. Reznick

Welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Don Gaudi and Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Astick

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THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon 01/23 7:30pm RCIA

Sat 01/28 4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, January 23rd through Thursday, January 26th. Thank you for your kind understanding in the regard.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK STARTS JANUARY 29TH

Love. Learning. Leadership.

Catholic Schools – Faith, Academics, Service

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 29

ICC Parish Family welcome to all of today's activities

9am Opening Mass

Science Fair Set-Up after all Masses

1-3pm ICA Open House

1-3pm Family STEM Activities (student must be with parent)

3-5pm Candy Bar BINGO (Bring candy bar for admission-ICC Social Hall)

Monday, January 30

9am Science Fair viewing and judging

1:30pm 4th Grade Wax Museum (***ICC Parish Family Welcome***)

Tuesday, January 31

Brain Show Mania (12:45 grades 5-8/1:45 grades K-4)

6pm - Science Fair Awards

6:30pm Brain Show Mania, Family Edition (***ICC Parish Family Welcome***)

Wednesday, February 1

Make your own Sundaes at Lunch

Step-Up Day – Grades Pre-K through 7

Thursday, February 2

Spirit dress down day

Teacher Luncheon (11:30-12:45 Homeroom Moms cover lunch)

Afternoon at the Movies

Friday, February 3

ICC Parish Family welcome to all of today's activities

8:30-10am Coffee for our Special People, ICA Café

Please join us for light refreshments prior to Mass

School Tours will be available

10am Mass

12pm – Early Dismissal

Please mark your calendars for all of the fun events we have scheduled for the week. We hope you can join us!

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For registration information, please contact Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/17 and 1st Grade students aged 6 by 10/15/17.

TRANSFER GRANTS: Any public, private, or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy, grades 1 through 7, will receive a Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant of \$1,500 over two school years (\$1,000 the first year; \$500 the second). Call Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645.

Berks Catholic Open House, January 29, 2017 2-4pm

A terrific opportunity to meet faculty, administration and current students. Our clubs and activities are on display to give you a glimpse into what we are about. Open House is an exciting experience seeing our community together.

MARCH FOR LIFE - On Friday, January 27, 2017 our parish family of the Immaculate Conception is sponsoring a bus to the March for Life to be held in Washington D.C. The bus will depart the ICC parking lot at 8am arriving in Washington D.C. for the noon rally and 1pm March for Life. It is anticipated that the bus will return at approximately 9pm. The cost is \$30 per person. For additional information or to reserve a seat, please contact Angela Peterson at 610-582-6993 or by e-mail at arpeterson@windsteam.net.

The Women's Society will be hosting a bake sale the weekend of February 4th and 5th before and after all Masses. Choose from a delicious assortment of homemade desserts for your Super Bowl Party or family dinner. Baked goods donations are gratefully accepted before all Masses. As always, 100% of the proceeds earned benefit the church.

HELP WANTED! – The Women's Society will gather in the social hall on Saturday, February 4th at 9am to make Easter Candy. We will be rolling the centers to prepare them for dipping. We are making about 6,500 eggs and could really use your help. Very light, fun, easy work that can be done sitting down. No experience necessary. A light lunch will be served for our valued volunteers. We are tentatively scheduled to meet in the social hall Tuesday, February 7th and Wednesday, February 8th at 6pm if we do not finish up on Saturday. Call Marsha at 610-385-6319 if you want to find out if you are needed on those evenings.

Immaculate Conception Academy Aftercare

is looking for someone willing to work several hours per week from 3pm to 6pm. Must have completed "Protecting God's Children" and obtain required background checks and clearances. Call Laura DeFalco at 610-463-8157.

Youth Group's Annual Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Watch the bulletin for additional details. Proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner help defray the costs of the Youth Group Trip to the Catholic Youth Conference at the Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Mission Trip to Kentucky both scheduled for the summer of 2017.

Thanks to all parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church who participated in the "Every Campus a Refuge" book drive. The drive was very successful with over 2,000 donated books. These books will greatly benefit an underprivileged community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The Knights of Columbus cordially invite you to an Oldies Dance on January 21st, 6:30-11pm at the Knights Council Hall, 675 Constitution Ave, Pottstown. Tickets will be sold at the door and are \$15 per person. Tickets include a home cooked meal. Cash bar available. Our DJ is sure to get you up and moving so you'll forget all about the cold weather outside. Proceeds directly benefit the KoC charitable works in this and our other member parishes.

St. Benedict's Prime Timers invites all to join us April 27-30 for a trip to the Azalea Festival in Virginia. Trip includes: Lodging, Transportation, 3 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners including the Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise, Naval Base, MacArthur Memorial, Chrysler Museum, NATO Festival and reserved seats for 64th Annual Parade of Nations. Taxes and Gratuities included. Cost is \$529 per person (\$719 singles). Call Marie Blimline for more information 484-332-3241.

Calendar

Monday

January 23

Day of Prayer for
the Legal Protection
of Unborn Children

Heb 9:15, 24–28

Mk 3:22–30

Tuesday

January 24

St. Francis de Sales,
Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

Heb 10:1–10, Mk 3:31–35

Wednesday

January 25

The Conversion of
St. Paul the Apostle

Acts 22:3–16

or Acts 9:1–22

Mk 16:15–18

Thursday

January 26

Sts. Timothy and
Titus, Bishops

2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5

Mk 4:21–25

Friday

January 27

Weekday

Heb 10:32–39

Mk 4:26–34

Saturday

January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas,
Priest and

Doctor of the Church

Heb 11:1–2, 8–19

Mk 4:35–41

Sunday

January 29

Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Zep 2:3; 3:12–13

1 Cor 1:26–31

Mt 5:1–12a

Dear Padre,

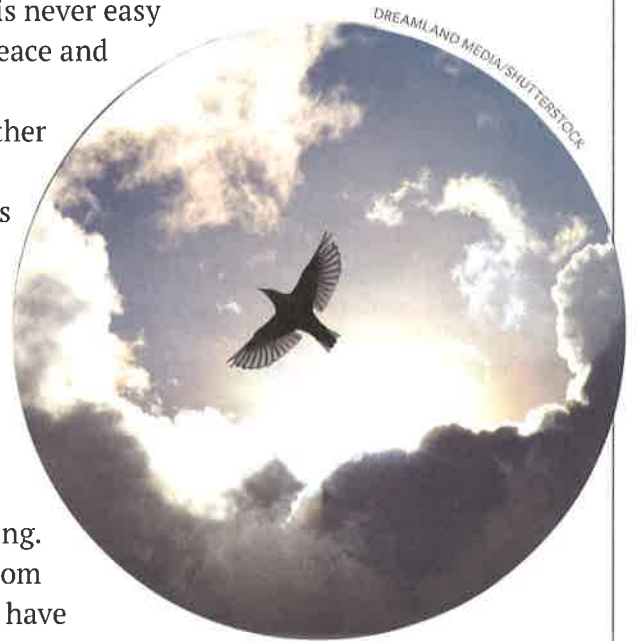
1 Corinthians 10:13 states, “God...will not let you be tried beyond your strength; but with the trial he will also provide a way out....” My brother committed suicide, and I wonder why he wasn’t “able to bear it.” Please help me to understand.

The death of a family member is never easy to deal with. I pray for your peace and your brother’s eternal rest.

We can’t be sure what your brother was thinking when he ended his life, but we can be certain God was with him. God remains faithful to his covenant and will never disappoint the hope and trust of his children. Does this mean your brother failed to trust in God? We don’t know that. Only God and your brother know the extent of his condition and suffering.

When we recall Jesus’ lament from the cross—“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:2)—we see that in his darkest moment, his Father was with him. In the same way, God was present in the worst of your brother’s trials. Why he was nevertheless unable to bear them is a question we may never have the answer to on this side of heaven. It’s important to remember that the Church has great compassion for those who commit suicide. To leave your brother in God’s merciful hands is to act with the conviction of our faith.

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

“To evangelize...it is necessary to open ourselves once again to the horizon of God’s Spirit, without being afraid of what he asks us or of where he leads us.”

—General audience, May 22, 2013

● COACH ● BAG BINGO

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY
IC SOCIAL HALL
903 CHESTNUT STREET DOUGLASSVILLE

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2017

PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF 16 REGULAR BINGO GAMES, 4 SPECIAL GAMES, BASKET RAFFLES, 50/50, WINE PULL AND AN AMAZING GRAND PRIZE.

Refreshments will be available for purchase at our event.

BYOS - BYOB

DOORS OPEN AT 5PM ~ EVENT BEGINS AT 6PM

ADDITIONAL GAMES & RAFFLES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT OUR EVENT.

SPONSOR OUR EVENT

\$100 ~ \$150 ~ \$200 ~ \$250

Please circle your donation amount. return this portion of the form and your cash or check made payable to ICA HSO. Orders and payment can be dropped in the offering baskets at each mass. Please note on your envelope HSO Coach BINGO, Or you can mail or drop off your ticket orders and payment at the school.

PLEASE CONTACT KIRA VOELKER AT 610-301-8942 OR ICABINGO@GMAIL.COM FOR OUR TAX ENTITY ID AND LIST OF SPONSOR PERKS.

TICKET ORDER FORM

\$25 PER PERSON or \$200 PER TABLE OF 8

~FULL TABLE INCLUDES 1 EXTRA DOOR PRIZE CHANCE

NAME:

PHONE:

QUANTITY OF TICKETS: _____ X \$25=

ONLINE PAYMENTS & DONATIONS CAN BE MADE THROUGH PAY PAL
WWW.ICAHSO.ORG

THIS IS AN ADULT (21 AND OVER) ONLY EVENT.