

The Beautiful Beatitudes

To follow Christ is to seek lowliness, humility, mercy, and righteousness. The Ten Commandments summarize God's teaching to his people. Jesus gives us a new law that builds on the old. Before it was "You shall not..."; now it is, "Blessed are you when..." He calls us to greater happiness, greater blessing, but it comes with a challenge. Saint Augustine says that Jesus went up the mountain to preach the Beatitudes because he was preaching a higher moral doctrine: "greater precepts of righteousness."

The new law contradicts what our wounded human nature tends to think and feel. We are challenged to believe blessings can come from tears, meekness, and poverty; that living meekly leads

to strength and security. Appreciating these truths requires transforming our minds and hearts. Faith is required. Deeply desiring and living in the right does bring satisfaction. There is consolation in mourning the things that sadden Christ's heart.

If we live by the beatitudes, many will treat us more generously. We know people who are merciful, and we are quick to show them mercy. When our hearts are clean, we can see God more clearly. Those who seek and create peace are considered by all to be children of God. They are not without trials and suffering, but they are blessed and happy.

Christ calls us to store up treasures in heaven, spiritual blessings that cannot be taken away. Even if we experience difficulty, we will still receive the highest and greatest gift: the kingdom of heaven.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Am I renewing my heart and mind in Christ? How do I live out the beatitudes?

Piece: *The Sermon on the Mount*, circa 1482
Artist: Cosimo Rosselli
Location: Sistine Chapel



*"Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness"
(Matthew 5:10).*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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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:
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 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndioocese.org

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 29, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns with God's Blessings Upon Grandmom Serpico

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Bob Muldowney – 2 nd Anniversary	THURS	7:00 PM	Sandra Weber
SUN	7:30 AM	Edith & Joseph Banyas	FRI	7:30 AM	Eleanor Painter
	9:00 AM	Mario Cocci		10:00 AM	ICA Mass – Elizabeth Kneis
	11:00 AM	William Pender	SAT	5:15 PM	Barbara Pease
MON	No MASS		SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Henry Mammarella		9:00 AM	Tom Hafer
WED	7:30 AM	Helen Schwendt – 10 th Anniversary		11:00 AM	God's Blessings on Linda & Stephen Sutton

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Lukes **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	5:15 PM	Mary Schwendt	Shirley Wheeler	Austin Lobaugh, Josh Piccarreta, Aiden Reber
SUN	7:30 AM	Sean Werner	Dennis Piontek	Parker Davis, Sean Purretta, Luke Voelker
	9:00 AM	Brian Hannon	Gretchen Markel	Beth Cote, Meghan Duffy, Danielle Passifione
	11:00 AM	Rhonda Ouimet	Victor Gonzalez	Brianna Gonzalez, Jordan and Lauren Yerger

Second collection next week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

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.

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, Maria Houck, Rita Burnas, Rita Dougherty and Helen McDonald

Pray for the recently departed: Mary Ehrgood

Congratulate the newly baptized: Peyton Elizabeth Snyder

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Sun	01/29	1-3pm ICA Open House 1-3pm Family STEM Activities 3-5pm Candy Bar BINGO
Mon	01/30	1:30pm Wax Museum 7:30pm RCIA
Tues	01/31	6:30pm Brain Show Mania
Sat	02/04	Women's Society Bake Sale 9am Women's Society Candy Making 4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, January 30th. 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

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

**YOUTH GROUP NEWS:** The Junior High School Youth Group will meet on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7-9pm. All students in our parish in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. You are welcome to bring a friend!

**Super Bowl Bake Sale** – The Women's Society will be offering a wide variety of delicious baked goods on Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are hosting a party, let us do the dessert for you. Not a football fan? That's OK! Still pick up dessert for your Sunday dinner. We have something for everyone. Stop by the table and pick your favorite

**Everyone welcome –WE NEED YOU!** – We need lots of hands to roll our 6,500 candy centers for dipping. We will gather in the social hall Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 9am. If you have never made candy, no worries as it is very easy, light work that can be done sitting down. Please consider joining in the fun. A light lunch will be served. We are tentatively scheduled to meet in the social hall Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Volunteers Needed at John Paul II Learning Center** to share time and talents for a few hours a week or month (9:30am-noon) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays during the school year with the secondary students in their new commercial teaching kitchen. If interested, contact Mary Adams at 610-777-0605 or [madams@johnpauliicenter.org](mailto:madams@johnpauliicenter.org).

**FALL 2017 CRUISE** – A nine night New England and Canada cruise is planned for September 28-October 7 to support the building of St Francis Home for the terminally ill being built in Shillington. We will be sailing on Anthem of the Seas, a Royal Caribbean ship. The cruise will depart from Bayonne NJ and make stops at New England and Canadian ports. An information night is January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7pm at St Ignatius School, conference room A&B. For more information please call Nancy Schwartz at 610-670-1050.

**Event Supporting Retired Nuns** – The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in Reading invite you to Bernardine Bonanza, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-9:30pm at the McGlenn Conference Center. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Sr. Maria at 484-334-6815

**Bulletin Deadline – Wednesday at Noon**  
**[bulletin@icbvm.org](mailto:bulletin@icbvm.org)**

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## Calendar

### Monday

January 30

Weekday

Heb 11:32–40

Mk 5:1–20

### Tuesday

January 31

St. John Bosco,

Priest

Heb 12:1–4

Mk 5:21–43

### Wednesday

February 1

Weekday

Heb 12:4–7, 11–15

Mk 6:1–6

### Thursday

February 2

The Presentation of  
the Lord

Mal 3:1–4

Heb 2:14–18

Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32

### Friday

February 3

Weekday

Heb 13:1–8

Mk 6:14–29

### Saturday

February 4

Weekday

Heb 13:15–17, 20–21

Mk 6:30–34

### Sunday

February 5

Fifth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Is 58:7–10

1 Cor 2:1–5

Mt 5:13–16

# Dear Padre,

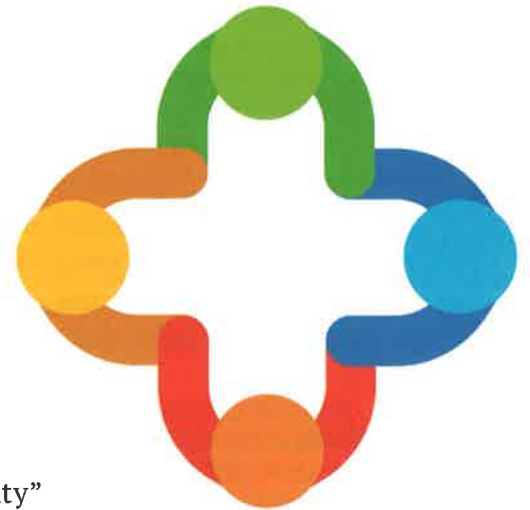
**I am struggling with our new pastor. He has been in our parish for less than six months, and nothing seems to please him. Everything has to change, and the parishioners have no input. I thought the days of “pray, pay, and obey” were over.**

The Code of Canon Law identifies the pastor as the shepherd of the parish. His duties require him to teach, sanctify, and govern the people entrusted to his care. However, canon law also envisions that he engage in pastoral care “with the assistance of lay members of the Christian faithful” (519). It would be fair to assert that the intention of the law is to encourage the building up of a community using the “knowledge, prudence, and integrity” of every member (228).

Many issues, feelings, and even theologies make up the personalities of a parish. The one constant that needs to be present is the presumption of good will (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2478). If that is missing, then conflict, hard feelings, and many misunderstandings will result.

Without taking sides, I suggest that everyone takes a deep breath. Then each of you—the pastor included—ask yourself, “Have I attempted to interpret this person or situation favorably? Have I made any rash judgments?” If honest and prayerful reflection reveal less-than-good intentions, now is the time to change your attitude and acknowledge that a new start is needed.

Fr. Tom Santa, CSSR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



AMERICAS365/SHUTTERSTOCK



## A Word From Pope Francis

*“[Jesus] shows us the way to life, the way that he himself has taken. Jesus himself is the way, and he proposes this way as the path to true happiness.”*

—Twenty-ninth World Youth Day message, January 21, 2014