

## St. Maximilian's Choices

Saint Maximilian Kolbe died in 1945 taking the place of another prisoner in Auschwitz, but his martyrdom started many years before. As a young boy, he was quite a handful—so much so that at one point his mother cried out, “What will become of you?” Shaken by his mother’s grief, Maximilian went to the town church to ask our Lady what would become of him. He wrote that the Virgin Mother appeared to him holding two crowns: one white and one red. The white crown meant he would remain pure, and the red meant he would be a martyr. Our Lady asked Maximilian which one he would like. He chose them both.

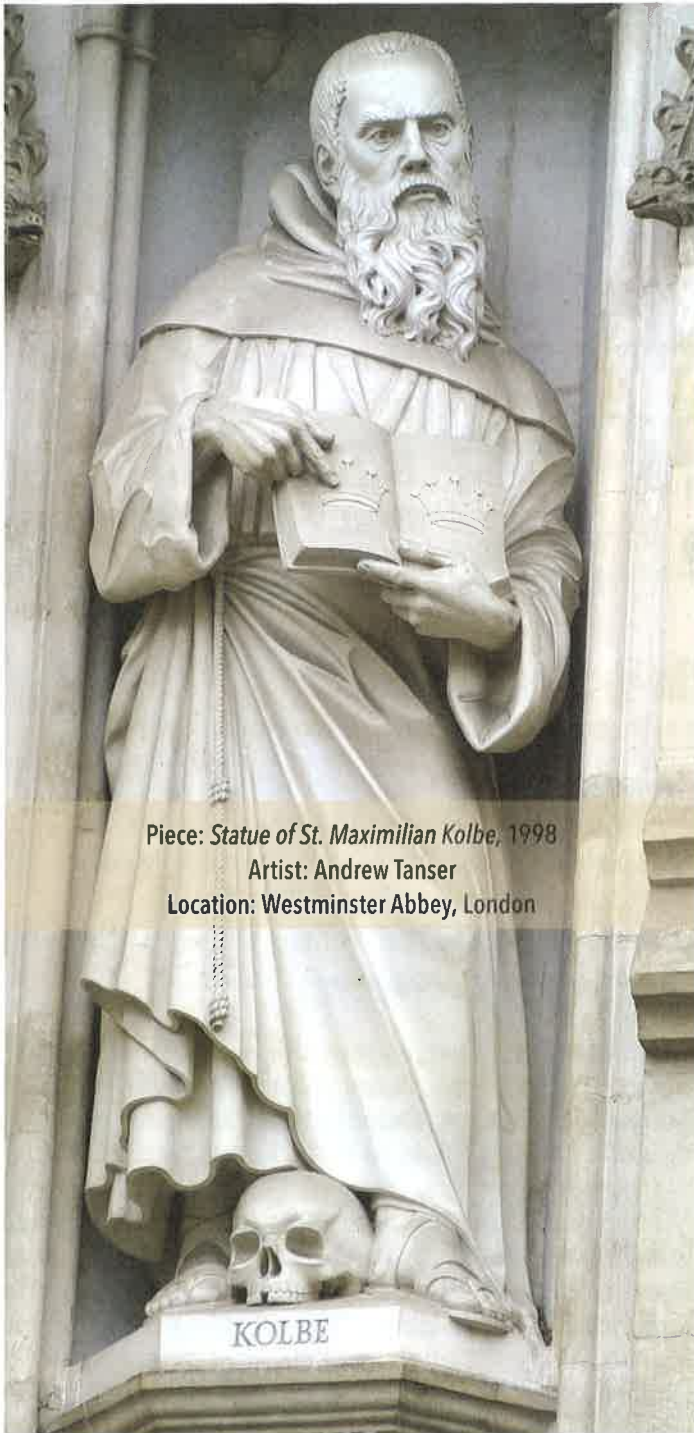
We are offered choices as well. Sirach says that whatever we choose will be given to us, but what Jesus offers is challenging. Jesus offers each of us a new heart, a new spirit, a new love, and a new trust. Jesus defines what it means to be his follower, and it is a challenging task. This standard is not lowered for Christians, nor is it defined by what is legal in a country or popular in a social group. In fact, we are not only asked to live this life but we are called to teach it to others.

The rewards, however, are equal to the challenge. What Christ promises to those who love and teach his gospel is a glory and reward greater than any we have ever seen, heard, or imagined. Maximilian Kolbe knew this, and he fought earnestly for the truth in Nazi Germany, even though it led to his arrest and death.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*What choices did Jesus place before me this week?  
How have I been an example of Christ to others this week?*



Piece: *Statue of St. Maximilian Kolbe*, 1998  
Artist: Andrew Tanser  
Location: Westminster Abbey, London

*“Set before you are fire and water; to whatever you choose, stretch out your hand. Before everyone are life and death, whichever they choose will be given them” (Sirach 15:16–17).*

# 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  
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 Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT  
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 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndiocese.org

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 12, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Father Francis P. Straka*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM Anthony Volpiccini – 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 SUN 7:30 AM Paul Vignone – 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 11:00 AM Stanley Okuniewski  
 MON **No MASS**  
 TUES 7:00 PM Tom & Ora Ruano  
 WED 7:30 AM James Delcollo

THURS 7:00 PM Henry Wade  
 FRI 7:30 AM Philip Kubovcsak  
 SAT 5:15 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 SUN 7:30 AM Dec'd Members of the Pribanick Family  
 9:00 AM Michael Foraker  
 11:00 AM Margaret & Dr. Nicholas Christ

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SCRIP:** Gulla 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	Brian Hannon	Taylor Moyer, Diego and Hannah Santos
SUN	7:30 AM	Jim Kaucher	Toni Kaucher	Meghan Grieco, Avery Lang, Amanda Marley
	9:00 AM	Barbara Giordano	Tim Stewart	Adam and Carlina Davis, Vinny Ferrara
	11:00 AM	Jim Keaveney	Greg Shemanski	Veronica McClelland, Anna and Daniel Schlegel

***Second collection next week is the Monthly Collection***

### **Immaculate Conception Academy Enrolling for 2017-2018**

Immaculate Conception Academy provides a 21<sup>st</sup> 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!

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, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto, 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, Sonny Motta, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Arlene Shirley, Mark McDonald, Robert Thomas, Madison Rhoads, James Smith, Maria Houck, Rita Bernas, Rita Dougherty, Norma Nanni, Michael Welsh and Helen McDonald

Welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Ed Deren

## ***THIS WEEK AT ICC:***

<b>Mon</b>	<b>02/13</b>	<b>7:30pm RCIA</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>02/14</b>	<b>7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>02/15</b>	<b>7pm Women's Society Meeting</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>02/16</b>	<b>7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>02/17</b>	<b>9am Meatball Making in Social Hall</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>02/18</b>	<b>4-5pm Confession</b>
<b>4:30-7:30pm YOUTH GROUP Spaghetti Dinner</b>		

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

*Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.*

### **Youth Group's Annual Spaghetti Dinner** Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-7:00pm.

Includes Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage. Adults \$9 in advance/\$10 at the door - Children 4-10 years are \$4. Tickets on sale before and after all Masses this weekend. Call Liz at 610-404-4425 for more information. Proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner will 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 this summer.

*The Student Council of Immaculate Conception Academy is looking for enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to help set up, serve, and tear down at the Kennedy House Soup Kitchen both Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting meals at the Kennedy House from 9:30 until 2:30 each day. You can volunteer on both days or one day only. The Kennedy House is located at 530 Spruce Street, Reading. This is a great opportunity for middle schools students needing service hours for Confirmation and high school graduation requirements. For more information, please contact Marcella Kracyk at [Mrskracyk@icaknights.org](mailto:Mrskracyk@icaknights.org) or 610-404-8645.*

### **Immaculate Conception Academy 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.

***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.

### **Berks Catholic News**

Registration for the 2017-18 school year is open. Please contact Nicky Smith for more information. All inquiries are confidential. [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org)

**Berks Catholic Presents Xanadu - March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** Visit [www.berkscatholic.org](http://www.berkscatholic.org) for ticket information.

***Ash Wednesday - March 1<sup>st</sup>***  
***Mark your calendar!***

On that day the Church throughout the world will embark on a penitential journey of 40 days marked by prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

## **Prayer for a New Bishop**

Lord God, from age to age you appoint Shepherds to lead your Church. Grant to our Diocese a Shepherd after your own heart: courageous, faithful, and a humble servant. May his witness to true holiness inspire us to conform our lives to the Gospel, to seek our nourishment in the power of the Sacraments, and to become ever more your Holy Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Women's Society* will meet in the social hall on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All women of the parish are welcome to attend the meeting. If you have been thinking about joining us, make this the year you get involved. You will be warmly welcomed. You do not have to be a member to join in our projects. The Women's Society is a vital, fun group of faith filled women, who support the church, parish community, and each other. This is a great way to get to better know the women you see in church each week.

**Everyone welcome for MEATBALL MADNESS** - Lots of meatballs, lots of fun. Please join members of the Women's Society on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9am to help us prepare the meatballs for the Youth Group's delicious Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Lots of hands make for light work for everyone.

*A note of thanks* from the Women's Society to all the cooks, bakers, and buyers who made our Soup and Super Bowl Bake Sales a wonderful success. 100% of the proceeds go directly to the needs of the church. Thanks to your support, our projects raise a substantial amount of money!

Attention High School Seniors of Italian Descent: Victor Emmanuel II Beneficial Society offers a \$12,000 scholarship available to Berks County High School seniors living in Berks County and who are of Italian descent. Applications must be picked up at your local high school guidance counselor's office and returned to VE II by March 15, 2015. Any questions, please contact Fred Ranalli Jr. 610 678 2512.

On April 23, 2017, the Polish-American Board of Education of Berks County will be awarding ten college scholarships totaling \$25,000 to Berks County high school seniors of Polish-American descent. Applicants for the scholarships can obtain application forms and guidelines in the office of the guidance counselor in all Berks County high schools, in the Polish-American Cultural Center in the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, and they can be downloaded from the PABEBC website at [www.pabeberks.org](http://www.pabeberks.org). Application forms are due no later than March 18<sup>th</sup> to the Scholarship Secretary, Ronald Savijski, 159 Texter Mountain Road, Wernersville, PA 19565-9442. As part of this awards program, the Polish-American Heritage Association of Berks County will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a child or grandchild of a current member of the organization. To obtain more information and the criteria required to apply for this scholarship contact Sandy Lubas Hummel at [sahummel@ptd.net](mailto:sahummel@ptd.net) or 610.582.8717.

**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).

**2016 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** have been mailed. If you didn't receive it or would like a 2016 Contribution Statement, please contact the church office at 610-582-2411.

# SPAGHETTI DINNER

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

SOCIAL HALL

905 CHESTNUT STREET

DOUGLASSVILLE

Saturday, February 18, 2017

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



Ticket Includes: Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage

Cost: **Adults \$9.00 in advance/ \$10 at the door**  
\$4.00 – Children (4 to 10 years of age)

Take Out Is Available

**Tickets will be on sale during Social Sunday and after all Masses on Feb. 11/12**

Call Liz at 610-404-4425 for more information

**Proceeds Benefit ICC Youth Group's Summer Retreat and Mission Trip**



## Calendar

### Monday

February 13

Weekday

Gn 4:1–15, 25

Mk 8:11–13

### Tuesday

February 14

*Sts. Cyril, Monk, and  
Methodius, Bishop*

Gn 6:5–8; 7:1–5, 10

Mk 8:14–21

### Wednesday

February 15

Weekday

Gn 8:6–13, 20–22

Mk 8:22–26

### Thursday

February 16

Weekday

Gn 9:1–13

Mk 8:27–33

### Friday

February 17

Weekday

Gn 11:1–9

Mk 8:34–9:1

### Saturday

February 18

Weekday

Heb 11:1–7

Mk 9:2–13

### Sunday

February 19

*Seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

Lv 19:1–2, 17–18

1 Cor 3:16–23

Mt 5:38–48

# Dear Padre,

**Does suffering please God? I've heard we should "offer it up," but to me, God is never pleased with pain.**

Some think God sends suffering into our lives as retribution. In fact, God asks certain things—difficult things—of us so we can avoid suffering in our own lives, in the lives of others, and after death.

When a mother says, "Don't touch that! It's hot," and her child touches it anyway, the mother didn't cause the burn. She knows the consequences of that action and warns her children not to do it. If they disregard her, she doesn't stop loving them. In the same way, God tells us how to live so we can avoid being hurt, and God never stops loving us.

Some suffering is unavoidable no matter how well we love and obey God. This suffering is the hardest to accept. Some is the result of our humanity.

Many seek to assign blame; others want to know why things happen. The truth is, sometimes there is no why, no clear purpose. When there is, we don't feel it any less. We can only trust that God will turn it into something good.

God's power turned a "meaningless" crucifixion into the means of our salvation. This is what "offer it up" means: By turning toward and imitating Christ, we find new depths of faith and hope.

Fr. Joe Nolen, CSSR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK



## *A Word From Pope Francis*

*"The word of God constantly shows us how God challenges those who believe in him.... Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the 'peripheries' in need of the light of the Gospel."*

—The Joy of the Gospel (*Evangelii Gaudium*), I, 20