



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (A)

Is 50:4–7

Phil 2:6–11

Mt 26:14–27:66

## Noble, Yet Humble

**P**alm (or Passion) Sunday prepares us to leave behind Jesus' public ministry and to enter into his suffering and death. From miracles, crowds, and praise we move to pain, silence, and humility. Only the strong and true lovers of Jesus will make it to the foot of the cross.

This small panel painting is dedicated to Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Jesus sits nobly in the center. The prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 makes up the background: "Exult greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! Behold: your king is coming to you, a just savior is he, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." By riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus embraces the path

of the Messiah that God had mapped out through the prophets. He comes as a king, yet in peace and obedience. Jesus wins with meekness and love.

Returning to the painting, we see little children laying down their coats before Jesus. These simple souls recognize his divine humility and honor him with their gestures while the crowd acclaims his kingship. The reign of Jesus incites praise, fidelity, and allegiance. They wave olive branches and throw them on the ground before him.

Counting the followers in the painting, eleven process with golden halos around their heads. These symbols of holiness highlight the fact that to love Jesus is to follow him to the end. One follower, however, is surrounded in shadow. Unlike the others, he looks away. His heart is set on another plan.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *The Triumphant Entry Into Jerusalem, 1400s*  
Artist: Pseudo Domenico di Michelino  
Location: Pinacoteca, Vatican Museums

**For Reflection** How do I respond to Jesus' invitation to join him in his passion? How do my actions indicate where my heart really is? Would I be shrouded in shadow or surrounded by Jesus' glory?

*"They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks over them, and he sat upon them. The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road" (Matthew 21:7–8).*

# 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 Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880  
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Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645  
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 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:  
 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC  
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## PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 9, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Tom Hafer	WED	7:30 AM	Josephine, Peter & John Bogus
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	THURS	7:00 PM	Fr Barnes, Msgr Birch, Fr Campion & Fr Straka
	9:00 AM	Maryanna Niemczyk	FRI	<b>3:00 PM</b>	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion
	11:00 AM	Iezzi Family	SAT	<b>8:00 PM</b>	Easter Vigil – Our Parishioners
MON	7:30 AM	Paul Bringenberg	SUN	7:30 AM	Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes
TUES	<b>9:00 AM</b>	ICA Mass – John Tobin		9:00 AM	Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes
	7:00 PM	Josie & Gus Fredriksen		11:00 AM	Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

*SCRIP: There will be no SCRIP sales on Easter Sunday.*

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	8:00PM	Mary Schwendt	Mary Jo Simon	Mickey Gray, Ian Haynes, Jonathan McCollum, Leonard Cline, Tim Stewart, Ryan Ferrante
SUN	7:30AM	Pam Amos	Adelina Kieffer	Danni Passifione, Jordan and Lauren Yerger
	9:00AM	Victor González	Gretchen Markel	Brianna González, Chris and Lyndsay Surkosky
	11:00AM	Steve Lukes	Rhonda Ouimet	Kathryn Krueger, Avery Lang, Faith Ouimet

***Second Collection Next Week is the Easter Collection***

### Lenten Penance Service

will be held on Monday,  
 April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. At that  
 time, several priests will be  
 available for the Sacrament  
 of Reconciliation. Plan to  
 attend and encounter our  
 Merciful Savior Jesus Christ.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:  
 Marco 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, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose  
 Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Steve Mammarella, Joseph  
 Kolenda, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala,  
 Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna  
 Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Arlene Shirley, Robert  
 Thomas, Madison Rhoads, Rita Dougherty, Norma Nanni,  
 Lou Franco, Lucille Schiel, Helen McDonald, John Fritz,  
 Maria Houck, Lucy Doney, Evelyn Segneri, Mary  
 Okuniewski, Katie Davis, Joe Weyand, Craig Mammarella,  
 John T. LeFosse, Diane Edwards, Mark McDonald and TJ  
 Doyle

Pray for the recently departed: Joseph Marks

## **THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>04/09</b>	<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>4pm Living Stations</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>04/10</b>	<b>7pm Lenten Penance Service</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>04/12</b>	<b>7-9pm Eucharistic Adoration</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>04/14</b>	<b>3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>04/15</b>	<b>11am Parish Easter Egg Hunt</b> <b>8pm Easter Vigil</b>

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

### ***LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS***

***Palm Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm***

*Children from Immaculate Conception Academy will present the Living Stations of the Cross. Everyone is cordially invited to participate in the beautiful reenactment of the events of Calvary. Please come to celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.*

*In observance of Holy Week, our Parish Office will be closed on Holy Thursday (April 13<sup>th</sup>), Good Friday (April 14<sup>th</sup>) and Easter Monday (April 17<sup>th</sup>).*

### **Be a "Knight for a Day" at ICA**

**April 25, 26, 27, 2017 - 9am- 1pm**

Students interested in grades 2-7 are invited to spend the morning shadowing a current ICA student and enjoy lunch and recess with their future classmates.

School tours for families interested in Preschool-Grade 8 will be available!

*Please contact Mrs. Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org) to RSVP. Students interested in shadowing please RSVP by Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> to assist our staff in planning your student's day, as drop in shadow visits will be difficult to accommodate.*

### **Join us to see what an ICA education can do for your student!**

**Eucharistic Adoration:** During Holy Week our church will be open on Wednesday, 7-9pm for Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the monstrance on the altar. When you come, bring to the Lord your hopes and desires, your dreams and aspirations, your fears and anxieties and entrust all them all to God.

**A Lenten Endeavor: Operation Rice Bowl** – Fast and pray with your family and make a sacrificial offering to Operation Rice Bowl located in the church near the baptismal font.

Immaculate Conception is participating with local churches in meeting the needs of the Food Pantry, called "Community Table" at the Birdsboro-Union Fire Department. We are collecting **Cleaning Products**. The Collection Bin is in the Narthex.

**Annual Lenten Food Drive** local charities. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the basket and cash canister in the narthex. Collecting through Palm Sunday. Questions contact Deacon Jim at 610-385-3666.

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

### ***Palm Sunday***

Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am, 9am and 11am  
Blessing of Palms at all Masses  
Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession at 11am  
Living Stations of the Cross at 4pm

### ***Penance Service***

Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

### ***Holy Thursday***

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm  
Family Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
After evening Mass until 10pm  
(Come, "Watch One Hour" with Jesus)

### ***Good Friday***

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm  
Confessions following until 5:30pm  
Day of Fast and Abstinence

### ***Holy Saturday***

Blessing of Food at Noon  
Confessions from 12:30pm to 2pm  
Easter Vigil Mass, 8pm  
Reception of RCIA Candidates

### ***Easter Sunday***

Masses at 7:30am, 9am and 11am  
Blessing of the Children's Easter Baskets at 9am, 11am

Please be advised that there will be no SCRIP sales on Easter Sunday. We thank all of the volunteers who coordinate the SCRIP program and our parishioners who purchase the gift cards to benefit our parish and assist our children enrolled in our Religious Education Programs and Immaculate Conception Academy.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** for our parish children age 12 and younger on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the social hall. We are collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and cash. A donation box is in the narthex of the church. Thanks!

**The Women's Society** will celebrate our annual AGAPE service on April 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the social hall at 6:30pm for a short business meeting before the service. All women of the parish are welcome to come celebrate our Lord's love for us, and our love for each other. The Women's Society is a wonderful group of faith filled women, who support the church, parish community, and each other.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the Easter Candy Sale a resounding success. We hope we made Easter even sweeter for you and your families.

***Our thanks and appreciation to the members of our Youth Group who cleaned our parish cemetery in preparation for the celebration of Easter. We are most grateful to the young people of our parish for their generous service to our faith community.***

**MARCH FOR LIFE** - April 30<sup>th</sup> at Berks Catholic - Rally at 2pm followed by the March at 3pm to Holy Rosary Church. Buses will transport all participants back to Berks Catholic. Donations of baby items requested or Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Contact Helen 610-582-1075.

**RESORTS AC - 4/21 - Leave 9:30am - Pay \$32 get \$25 - Call Carol J. at 610-775-4447**

## Calendar

### Monday

April 10

Holy Week

Is 42:1-7

Jn 12:1-11

### Tuesday

April 11

Holy Week

Is 49:1-6

Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

### Wednesday

April 12

Holy Week

Is 50:4-9a

Mt 26:14-25

### April 13

Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14

1 Cor 11:23-26

Jn 13:1-15

### April 14

Good Friday

Is 52:13-53:12

Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Jn 18:1-19:42

### April 15

Holy Saturday

Gn 1:1-2:2

Gn 22:1-18

Ex 14:15-15:1

Is 54:5-14

Is 55:1-11

Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4

Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28

Rom 6:3-11

Mt 28:1-10

### Sunday

April 16

Easter

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8

Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

# Dear Padre,

## Why don't Catholics study and prepare for the end times or rapture?

Quite simply, we don't prepare for the rapture because as Catholics we don't believe in the rapture.

We do believe that there is a time when the world will end, but we have no idea when that day will come. Fundamentalist Christians believe that the world will end with a rapture where the good will be taken and the evil left. It is based on a misreading of Revelation 20 that speaks of an angel in the pit who will ravage the earth for 1,000 years. This is called amillennialism, and the Church has condemned this belief (CCC 676).

The whole "left behind" series comes from this misreading.

Rather than being afraid of the end of the world, the Catholic Church teaches that the best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is by living the sacramental life of the Church: being baptized, celebrating the

Eucharist and reconciliation consistently, being married or professing holy orders in the Church, and partaking in the anointing of the sick.

By doing these things we are participating in the fullness of the Church and life with Christ. This is the best way to prepare for Christ's return. While we as Catholics do believe there will be a day when we will be gathered to Christ, we look forward to this day with anticipation and joy, not fear and anguish.

Patrick Keyes, CSsR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



ANGELO GIAMPICCOLI/SHUTTERSTOCK



### A Word From Pope Francis

*"Jesus has awakened great hopes, especially in the hearts of the simple, the humble, the poor, the forgotten, those who do not matter [to] the world. He understands human sufferings, and he has bent down to heal body and soul."*

—Homily, St. Peter's Square, March 24, 2013