

History's Greatest Event

Today we celebrate the most important mystery of our faith, the greatest event in the Bible and all of history. Nothing before the events of Easter morning contains their full meaning, and nothing after makes sense without them.

Jesus' conquering of death validated all of his preaching, teaching, and miracles. Now his doctrine of love, forgiveness, faith, and baptism is confirmed,

as is God's definitive revelation for man's salvation. In short, the resurrection proves that Jesus wasn't simply a good man, a wise teacher, or a revolutionary. He was all those things and more—he was the Son of God.

Without Jesus' rising from the dead, you cannot explain his appearing to the women, apostles, disciples, and crowds before his ascension. You cannot explain the transformation of the timid and baffled apostles into powerful preachers or the conversion of St. Paul from a murdering Pharisee

to a persecuted Christian. Without the truth of the resurrection, you cannot explain the courage of any of the martyrs. Indeed, the Romans and Jews took these martyrs seriously. And if either group could have produced a body of evidence or a convincing explanation to debunk the story, they would have.

So today, set aside your Lenten focus on the mocked, beaten, and buried Jesus. Celebrate the resurrection. Christ the Lord—and Christianity—is a reality and a force. Rejoice! Reflect on the truth and power of this day, and allow God's Son to open the tombs of your heart and life.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *The Resurrection*, circa 1492
Artist: Bernardino di Betto (Pinturicchio)
Location: Room of the Mysteries of Faith,
Borgia Apartments, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City



For Reflection

The resurrection changes everything. How does it change my life? If you recorded your whole day, would there be enough evidence that you believe in the resurrection?

“This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible... to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead” (Acts 10:40-41).

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 Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880
 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:
 Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
 Telephone 610 332-0442, Ext. 19
 Diocese of Allentown...www.allentowndiocese.org

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 16, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anna & Joseph Rapposelli
 And In Memory of Joseph Lewis Marks*

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	8:00 PM	Easter Vigil – Our Parishioners	THURS	7:00 PM	Anthony Volpiccini
SUN	7:30 AM	Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes	FRI	7:30 AM	Paul Kakalecik
	9:00 AM	Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes	SAT	5:15 PM	Dolly & Frank Mariani
	11:00 AM	Easter Flower Memorial Envelopes	SUN	7:30 AM	Florence & Orlando LeBresco
MON	No Mass			9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Dylan J. Spriggs – 1 st Anniversary		11:00 AM	Ron Walp
WED	7:30 AM	Helen & Frank Janiszewski			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Lukes 5:15 McNamara 7:30 Collura 9:00 McCauley 11:00 DeFalco

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Shirley Wheeler	Mary Schwendt	Vinny Ferrara, Aiden Reber, Luke Voelker
SUN	7:30AM	Sean Werner	Dennis Piontek	Mason & Morgan Cambria, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00AM	Pat Fessler	Isabelita Santos	Ally and Jacob Santos, Meghan Grieco
	11:00AM	Karl Filachek	John Peterson	Adam and Carlina Davis, Veronica McClelland

Second Collection Next Week is for Debt Reduction

To all of our parishioners,
 friends and families,
 may you experience the
 joys and blessings of the
 Easter Season.

Have a Blessed and
 Joyous Easter.

-Monsignor John B. McCann

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, Robert Thomas, 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, Mark McDonald and TJ
 Doyle

Pray for the recently departed: Jose Alby Fabiani,
 Ramon Fazzolari and Monsignor Francis X. Barrett

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	04/16	Easter Sunday
Mon	04/17	7:30pm RCIA
Wed	04/19	7pm Women's Society Meeting
Thurs	04/20	4pm Youth Choir Practice
Sat	04/22	4-5pm Confession 8pm Easter Vigil

WHAT'S HAPPENING

In observance of Holy Week, our Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday, April 17th.



There will be no Mass on Monday, April 17th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

The students of Immaculate Conception Academy extend a warm-hearted thank you to all who came to pray with us as we celebrated The Presentation of the Living Stations. We hope you enjoyed our Lenten offering to you. May you have a blessed and peaceful Easter with family and friends.

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 to RSVP. Students interested in shadowing **please RSVP by Friday, April 21st** 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!

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.

The Women's Society will meet in the social hall April 19th at 6:30pm. We will celebrate our annual Agape Service that was cancelled due to inclement weather last month. All women of the parish are welcome to join us at this wonderful celebration of love. The Women's Society is a wonderful group of faith filled women, who support the church, parish community, and each other. This is a great way to get to know some of the women you see in church each week. Please consider joining us.

MARCH FOR LIFE - April 30th 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.

Taste of Birdsboro - April 22, 11am-2pm - Birdsboro Community Center - Come and get a taste of all the great businesses Birdsboro has to offer! Featuring 25+ businesses! Free admission!

Immaculate Conception Academy

Enrolling for 2017-2018

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! Please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-4645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org to arrange a tour.

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.

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

Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist - Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, 11am-2pm - Principal Celebrant for Holy Mass and Homilist: Father Mark Cavara was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 2016, and is the Parochial Vicar at St. Anselm Parish in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. To register call 610-582-3333. Your generous donation is appreciated.

Women's Day of Spirituality June 10, 9am-3pm - Cost \$20 St. Thomas More Family Center - Theme: "Blessed Is She" Reflections on Elizabeth, Mother of St. John the Baptist. Presenter: Reverend Richard Brensinger. To register, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/CFW-spirituality. Call Joanie at 917-406-4879 with questions.

Community Shredding Event at Redner's Douglassville on April 22nd, 9am-Noon. Open to residents and small businesses in Douglassville and surrounding areas. Shredding is done by ProShred Security of Paoli. Donations accepted to help defray the cost of the shredding truck. Contact Susan at 610-385-3740.

Bridging the Gap Between Islam and Christianity - April 23, 2pm - St. John Baptist de La Salle Church. Open invitation to meet and understand people who represent true Islam, to hear from them and ask questions. All are welcome.

Grand Market Saturday- St. Peter's Church, 326 S. 5th St, Reading - 4/22, 8am-2pm; 4/23, 9am-2pm. Antiques - (watches- lamps- home decor- dishes- dolls- clothes- shoes- etc.) toys, books, furniture, and much more...!!! Delicious ethnic cultural food both days at Saint Peter Restaurant.

Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage! - Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. April 21 at the Family Life Center in Malvern. For more information, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

Calendar

Monday

April 17

Octave of Easter

Acts 2:14, 22-33

Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday

April 18

Octave of Easter

Acts 2:36-41

Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday

April 19

Octave of Easter

Acts 3:1-10

Lk 24:13-35

Thursday

April 20

Octave of Easter

Acts 3:11-26

Lk 24:35-48

Friday

April 21

Octave of Easter

Acts 4:1-12

Jn 21:1-14

Saturday

April 22

Octave of Easter

Acts 4:13-21

Mk 16:9-15

Sunday

April 23

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 2:42-47

1 Pt 1:3-9

Jn 20:19-31

Dear Padre,

Why do Catholics teach Christ rose on the third day? Given a Friday crucifixion and Sunday's resurrection, I barely count two days.

There are a couple of issues to consider here. To begin with, Jesus' resurrection from the dead was an event that happened both *in* and *out* of time. Theologians say it was a transcendental event with historical consequences. Because Jesus' resurrection is not like anything we have ever seen before and bears little or no resemblance to any other historical event, our concepts of time falter when trying to express exactly what happened.

To put it another way, the length of time that Jesus spent in the tomb is much less important than what he did there. What really matters is that he conquered death, vacated the tomb, and entered into his risen and glorified state.

We must also remember that the Jews of Jesus' day were not as precise in their measurement of time as we are today. We tend to measure time in terms of hours, minutes, and seconds. They thought in terms of sunrises and sunsets. When seen in this light, the typical explanation given to the three-day time frame of Jesus' death and resurrection is that it took place in the course of three separate days: Good Friday (when Jesus was condemned to death and crucified),

Holy Saturday (when Jesus lay in the tomb),
and Easter (Sunday, when Jesus rose from the dead).



RENATA SEDIMAKOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Dennis J. Billy, CSsR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"I would like it to enter every heart, for it is there that God wants to sow this Good News: Jesus is risen, there is hope for you, you are no longer in the power of sin, of evil! Love has triumphed, mercy has been victorious! The mercy of God always triumphs!"

—Urbi et Orbi, March 31, 2013

*Immaculate Conception Academy and
Early Learning Center is now enrolling students in
preschool through grade 8 for the 2017-18 school year!*



ICA Offers:

- **NEW* 5 Full Day Pre-Kindergarten program option as well as a Full day Kindergarten program*
- *A traditional Tuesday - Thursday preschool program for 3 year olds*
- *A challenging academic curriculum, which includes S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), as well as art, music and physical education*
- *Before and after school care options*
- *Transfer grants of \$1500 over two years for students entering grades 1-7*
- *Financial Aid for those who qualify*



*ICA invites interested students entering grades 2-7 to be a
“Knight for a Day” April 25, 26, 27 9am -1pm.*

*Students will have to opportunity to spend time with their future
classmates including lunch and recess to see what a day at ICA is like!*

Walk-in tours will be available for families interested in all grades!

To register for a shadow visit, call Adele Reilly, Advancement Director

610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org by April 21!

Visit us at www.icaberks.org!