



May 21, 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

1 Pt 3:15-18

Jn 14:15-21

## Shepherd, Advocate, Savior

Jesus promised he wouldn't leave us orphans. As a good shepherd, he was concerned that he would eventually have to leave his sheep. How would he care for them while he was away preparing a place for them? He promises to pray to the Father for an advocate who would be with us always. We are entrusted to an advocate who cares for us until Christ returns.

That advocate is Jesus' very Spirit, the Advocate, the Spirit of truth. The apostles understood this. That's why their first order of business after baptizing a new believer was to place hands on him or her and pray for the Holy Spirit to come down and confirm the new believer with his gifts. They knew this was essential since it was Jesus' way of staying close to his believers.

This Spirit, which we received at baptism and whose gifts we more actively embraced at confirmation,

is a friendship we absolutely need to cultivate. Its inspirations are constantly present, and listening to them is key to maturing as disciples. Who wouldn't want to have direct access to the heart and power of Jesus? Who wouldn't want to have the zeal of the first apostles? Who wouldn't want to have the same spiritual gifts: wisdom, understanding, counsel, courage, knowledge, piety, and awe?

We can. We do. We have the Holy Spirit! If you don't notice his action in your soul the way you'd like to, simply ask the Spirit to help you hear and respond better. Then just stand back and watch him work.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### For Reflection

What helps increase my awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence in me? Which one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit do I most need?



Piece: *Disputation of the Holy Sacrament (La Disputa)*, 1508-1511  
Artist: Raphael Sanzio  
Location: Raphael Rooms, Vatican Museums

*"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth...[Y]ou know it, because it remains with you"*  
(John 14:16-17).

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 21, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Gloria Gill  
 And In Memory of George White*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	THURS	7:30 AM	Delores McCullough
SUN	7:30 AM	Fr. Christopher Gibney – 42 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary		9:00 AM	ICA Mass – Our Parishioners
	9:00 AM	Duane Madrzykowski		7:00 PM	Donald Lakatosh
	11:00 AM	Cristina Maccarone	FRI	7:30 AM	Bruce Ketterer
MON	<b>No Mass</b>		SAT	5:15 PM	Gloria Gill
TUES	7:00 PM	Jim Cote	SUN	7:30 AM	Esther Pribanick
WED	7:30 AM	Frances DiFranzo		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
	7:00 PM	George White		11:00 AM	John Iezzi

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

*SCRIP: Sponsor: Lukes 5:15 Costanzo 7:30 Kasperowicz 9:00 Carvalho 11:00 Citrano*

DAY	MASS	LECTOR	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Jennifer Stuart	Shirley Wheeler	Michael Beitz, Jordan and Lauren Yerger
SUN	7:30AM	Dennis Piontek	Sean Werner	Avery Lang, Chris and Lyndsay Surkosky
	9:00AM	Isabelita Santos	Pam Amos	Matthew Lambert, Ally and Jacob Santos
	11:00AM	Mary Jo Simon	Steve Lukes	Trey Bradfield, Kathryn Krueger, Faith Ouimet

### *Second Collection Next Week is Air Conditioning*

**Immaculate Conception Academy has openings in its Full Day Kindergarten program for the 2017-18 school year!**

In addition to providing a strong foundation in mathematics and language arts, our program features S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education as well as art, music, and physical education. Before and after school care options are available.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org).

**\*\*Openings are still available in Preschool, Pre-K and grades 1-8 as well! Contact us today!!! Space is limited in some classes\*\***

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, 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, John Fritz, Maria Houck, Lucy Doney, Mary Okuniewski, Joe Weyand, Mark McDonald, Stephen Spitko, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Tara Lukes, Mark Vignone, Eileen Ridall and TJ Doyle

**Pray for the recently departed:** Florence Hartline  
**HOSPITAL VISITATIONS:** Monsignor McCann, Deacon Hiryak, Deacon Bardi and Deacon Giordano visit our parishioners who are hospitalized, in nursing homes or homebound regularly. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

**THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

**Sat 05/27 4-5pm Confession**

**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.



Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Heaven, a holy day of obligation. The Holy sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and on Ascension Thursday at 7:30am, 9:00am with the children of Immaculate Conception Academy and 7:00pm.



On Memorial Day, May 29<sup>th</sup> the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 9am. Everyone is invited to join us in praying for our nation and the men and women who have served our country in the Armed Forces. The Blessing of Graves will occur (weather permitting) in our parish cemetery immediately after Mass.

**Immaculate Conception Early Education Program**

is now enrolling for its new Pre-Kindergarten Program, which now features an option to attend five full days or five half days or a combination as needed from 8:30am – 2:45pm or 8:30am to Noon.

This program will prepare students to enter our full day Kindergarten both academically and socially. The curriculum will include weekly art, music and library visits, as well as age appropriate physical education experiences. Before care options are available for all students and after care options for full day students.

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

**LENTEN FOOD DRIVE** - Your generous offerings included 750 lbs. food and \$357.12. The recipients at St. Joseph's Food Pantry, Catholic Charities of Reading and Kennedy House greatly appreciate your contributions and assistance to the needy.

**CCD Registration Forms** are available in the Narthex, on [www.icbvmccd.org](http://www.icbvmccd.org), at the parish office, and at the Office of Religious Education. Classes are filling up so register now! Volunteers are always welcome! If you would like to volunteer an hour of your time once a week to bring the Good News of Christ to the children of our parish by educating, or by example of service, please contact Mrs. O'Donnell at (610) 582-3880.

**2017 Vacation Bible School - "Mission Discovery"**

VBS will be held July 17 through July 21, 6pm to 8pm. VBS is open to children ages 5 to 11. Adult and teen volunteers are always welcome. Join the mission to discover what God is calling you to do with your life! Contact Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-582-3880 or [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org) with questions.

All women of the parish are invited to join the Women's Society for our Year End Luncheon on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at Stopper's Restaurant. Choose chicken parmesan (\$17), broiled center-cut pork chops (\$17), crab cakes (\$23) or Delmonico steak (\$23). Entrees include garden salad, baked potato, vegetable, bread, non-alcoholic beverage, and dessert. Please place your payment in an envelope marked Women's Society in the collection basket by **May 28<sup>th</sup>**. Call Ann Marie (610.689.9124) with questions.

**2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal** We are grateful to all who pledged their support this weekend to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Your gift will allow our diocese to meet the many and varied needs of the people of this diocese. Remember, every gift counts, no matter how small. If you did not take the opportunity to make your gift, you may do so at any time over the next few weeks by placing your pledge form in collection basket, visit [FaithHopeCharityGives.org](http://FaithHopeCharityGives.org), or call the Appeal office at 800-831-4443.

**2017: Centennial Celebration of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima.**

Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception joyfully thanks God for the great gift of Our Lady's apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. The closeness of Our Lady to us and her call to return to the Gospel through prayer, sacrifice and conversion are as important for us today as they were in 1917.

*"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...of the life of peoples and nations that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."*

- Sister Maria Lucia of Fatima

To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, our parish family of the Immaculate Conception will host an Evening of Prayer on Tuesday, June 13, 2017. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar for a Holy Hour beginning at 6:00 pm. During the Holy Hour, at 6:30 pm the Rosary and Fatima Litany will be prayed. The Holy Hour will conclude at 7:00 pm with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament followed by Mass. Confessions will be heard throughout the Holy Hour. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The Serra Clubs of the Allentown Diocese invite all the faithful to join in celebrating our newly ordained Priest, Father John Rother, with a reception and dinner on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Saint Mary's parish hall in Hamburg, 5:30 to 8PM. Our keynote speaker for the evening is Father Robert Finlan, Pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker in Frackville and dinner will be provided by Boscov's catering. Tickets are \$40. Contact Joe Zawaly at 610-944-7313 by June 11<sup>th</sup>.

Birthright of Pottstown is in need of caring individuals to help pregnant mothers 2 ½ hours a week. We will provide training. Please visit at 327 King St, Pottstown or call 610-327-2626.

## Calendar

### Monday

May 22

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 16:11–15

Jn 15:26–16:4a

### Tuesday

May 23

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 16:22–34

Jn 16:5–11

### Wednesday

May 24

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 17:15, 22–18:1

Jn 16:12–15

### Thursday

May 25

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 18:1–8

Jn 16:16–20

### Friday

May 26

*St. Philip Neri, Priest*

Acts 18:9–18

Jn 16:20–23

### Saturday

May 27

*Easter Weekday*

Acts 18:23–28

Jn 16:23b–28

### Sunday

May 28

*Seventh Sunday of Easter*

*Ascension of the Lord*

SEVENTH SUNDAY

READINGS:

Acts 1:12–14,

1 Pt 4:13–16

Jn 17:1–11a

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

READINGS:

Acts 1:1–11,

Eph 1:17–23,

Mt 28:16–20

# Dear Padre,

## We are often encouraged to invite non-Catholic friends to Mass, but is it also OK to visit their churches on Sunday?

It is good to invite friends to our Church and share our faith with others. We don't even have to invite or share as a way to convert. We can simply teach others about our Catholic faith. It is especially appropriate at a special celebration, a first Communion, a wedding, or a funeral. You can visit your friends' churches on Sundays or for special occasions in the same vein. It's good to learn about other religions and support our friends in their faith life.

However, as Catholics we also have an obligation to attend Mass every Sunday. Going to another church for a Sunday service is not the same as participating in the Mass, so it would not fulfill that Sunday obligation. Additionally, you won't be able to receive Communion in most other churches, just as your friends can't receive Communion in the Catholic Church.

So if you go to another service on a Sunday, make sure you also attend Mass. Many churches may have the same readings or similar rituals, but as Catholics we need to be nourished weekly through the celebration of the Eucharist.

A few churches believe what we believe about the Eucharist, and they will be listed in most missalettes. If you were to attend one of these churches, it would fulfill your Sunday obligation. For more information from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, do an Internet search for *Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms of Ecumenism*, and see paragraph 123. It's on the website [Vatican.va](http://Vatican.va).



BRYAN POLLARD/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR  
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### *A Word From Pope Francis*

*"The Holy Spirit teaches us....He guides us along the right path, through life's challenges....In the early times of the Church, Christianity was called 'the way' (see Acts 9:2), and Jesus himself is the Way. The Holy Spirit teaches us to follow him, to walk in his footprints."*

—Homily, Pentecost, June 8, 2014