



Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 28, 2017

Seventh Sunday of Easter (A)/
Ascension of the Lord

Seventh Sunday: Acts 1:12-14,
1 Pt 4:13-16, Jn 17:1-11a

Ascension: Acts 1:1-11,
Eph 1:17-23, Mt 28:16-20

Piece: *Ascension*, circa 1492
Artist: Pinturicchio and assistants
Location: Borgia Apartments,
Hall of the Mysteries of the Faith,
Vatican Museums



Truth Revealed

Pinturicchio's *Ascension* wall painting is found in the apartments of Pope Alexander VI Borgia and was painted around the same time as one of Columbus' voyages to America: 1492. When the pope died in 1503, these rooms were shut and not opened again until 1889. How could such artistic treasures have been locked up and forgotten for 400 years?

The same thing can happen with the feast of the Ascension. We don't always give it much thought. Its powerful beauty is locked away, collecting dust.

The great truth revealed today is that Jesus is in heaven, in bodily form, seated at the right hand of the Father and watching over us all. From there he intercedes for us; from there he sends us on mission.

What are we to do with this truth? Treat it like a myth or ancient story? Just stare at the sky and wonder like the apostles? No, we are to get busy building God's kingdom. His kingdom will not automatically happen. He calls us to be his witnesses until the end of the earth. We cannot sit by and let our politics, our schools, our churches, and our arts evolve unguided by the gospel. We are called to roll up our sleeves and get involved. "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19). Remember the good administrator who was left some talents. His master went away only to eventually return asking for a rendering. Jesus has left only to return again. Until then, it's time to build his kingdom.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

How do I accept the responsibility of actively building up God's kingdom?

How can I showcase the truth of the ascension in my life?

*"And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body"
(Ephesians 1:22-23).*

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,
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 Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880
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SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 28, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Ken Barth

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Gloria Gill	THURS	7:00 PM	Alice Wheeler
SUN	7:30 AM	Esther Pribanick	FRI	7:30 AM	God's Blessings on Paul Hiryak, Jr.
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Michael Smith – 12 th Anniversary
	11:00 AM	John Iezzi	SUN	7:30 AM	Esther Pribanick
MON	9:00 AM	Gerald Iezzi		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Dr. Vincent DeSantis – 6 th Anniversary		11:00 AM	John Iezzi
WED	7:30 AM	Paul M. Hiryak, Sr.			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Dowling 5:15 Zubik 7:30 Collura 9:00 McCauley 11:00 DeFalco

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Mary Schwendt	Barbara Giordano	Alex and Jason Carvalho, Ryan Ferrante
SUN	7:30AM	Toni Kaucher	Jim Kaucher	Mason and Morgan Cambria, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00AM	Gretchen Markel	Mary Gray	Ally Santos, Marissa and Steven Tepper
	11:00AM	Ann Marie Arbo	Leonard Cline III	Ethan Cline, Chris and Lyndsay Surkosky

Second Collection Next Week for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

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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.

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

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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, Lucy Doney, Mary Okuniewski, Joe Weyand, Mark McDonald, Stephen Spitko, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Helen McDonald, Mark Vignone, Eileen Ridall, George Sohn and TJ Doyle

Congratulate the newly baptized: Carter Scott Rhoads and Molly Maris Rhoads

Pray for the recently departed: Marl K. Holl, Tadeuz Lucarz

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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

On Memorial Day, May 29th 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.

CCD Registration Forms are available in the Narthex, on 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 with questions.

All women of the parish are invited to join the Women's Society for our Year End Luncheon on June 4th 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 28th**. Call Ann Marie (610.689.9124) with questions.

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal We are grateful to all who pledged their support 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 or visit FaithHopeCharityGives.org. Pledge cards for the Bishop's Annual Appeal can be found in the pews of the church.

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 Lucía of Fatima

To mark the 100th 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.

Congratulations to the children of Immaculate Conception who were winners in the CYO Berks County Declamation Contest: Sydney Wolf, Jacob Kasperowicz and Anna Schlegel.

RESORTS AC TRIP – June 23rd - Leave church promptly at 9:30am – package deal: pay \$32, get \$25 back – Call Carol J at 610-775-4447

Mass for the Women's Society Members and the newly elected officers will be held June 4th at 11am. The Women's Society is celebrating 80 years of service to the church and parish community. We hope all members who are able will attend. Reserved pews for the Mass will be in the front, to the right of the center aisle as you enter.

A WOMEN'S DAY OF SPIRITUALITY - JUNE 10, 9-3, \$20
ST. THOMAS MORE FAMILY CENTER, 1040 FLEXER AVE, ALLENTOWN, 18103 - THEME: ST. ELIZABETH "BLESSED IS SHE" - MOTHER OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST - PRESENTER REVEREND RICHARD BRENSINGER
REGISTER AT www.allentowndiocese.org/CFW-spirituality
CALL JOANIE NORELLI 917-406-4879

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

Gethsemane Cemetery's Annual Memorial Day Mass - May 29th at 10AM. Everyone welcome. Mass is rain or shine.

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 19th at Saint Mary's parish hall in Hamburg, 5:30 to 8PM. Keynote speaker is Fr Robert Finlan. Dinner will be provided by Boscov's catering. Tickets are \$40. Contact Joe Zawaly at 610-944-7313 by June 11th.

Calendar

Monday

May 29

Easter Weekday

Acts 19:1-8

Jn 16:29-33

Tuesday

May 30

Easter Weekday

Acts 20:17-27

Jn 17:1-11a

Wednesday

May 31

The Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Zep 3:13-18a or

Rom 12:9-16

Lk 1:39-56

Thursday

June 1

St. Justin,

Martyr

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

Jn 17:20-26

Friday

June 2

Easter Weekday

Acts 25:13b-21

Jn 21:15-19

Saturday

June 3

St. Charles Lwanga
and Companions,
Martyrs

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31

Jn 21:20-25

Sunday

June 4

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-11

1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

Jn 20:19-23

Dear Padre,

What is “secularism,” and is it possible for a Christian to also be a secularist?

Secularism is a philosophical movement that has its roots in England in the 1850s. The movement began because some felt religion and the Bible were inadequate sources for explaining many aspects of modern life. Secularists believe you can find all motivation for living a moral life in what is readily observable. Thus, secularism sees the Christian religion, and in fact all religions, as worthless.

Some might argue that secularism is the same as the separation of Church and state, that public schools should give a secular education, that they shouldn't be teaching the Christian, or any, religion. At first glance, that may sound right, but it isn't.

A Catholic second-grade public school teacher should not teach Catholic doctrine to her class in the same way that a Baptist second-grade public school teacher should not teach Baptist doctrine to his class, but the faith of the Catholic or the Baptist should influence the way they teach their class.

They might not teach specific doctrine, but the way each approaches the class should be done as one who has faith in Jesus Christ. The same is true of a politician or someone who works at a fast-food restaurant. In implicit ways, our faith in Jesus should always influence what we say and do.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



ERIN LAEVI ALEXANDER SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word From Pope Francis

“Don't forget this! The Ascension of Jesus into heaven acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: In Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us.”

—General audience, April 17, 2013