



Piece: *Pietà*, circa 1890
Artist: Vincent van Gogh
Location: Vatican Collection
of Modern Religious Art

Struggle and Rest

Vincent van Gogh is one of the most famous painters in history. His dramatic style of eternally swirling motion and his palette of deep blue, green, and brown captivates us. His life was just as topsy-turvy as his style. He started off as an aspiring minister and missionary yet ended up committing himself to painting. He fought with mental illness most his life and, sadly, died poor and amidst mysterious circumstances.

His painting *Pietà* is one of his most spiritual and religious works. Carried out in the months before his untimely death, it shows the maturation of his style. Rather than approach the painting with a wide horizontal composition, he keeps it quite vertical, which suggests a connection between heaven and earth. Jesus is falling forward slightly and is not quite resting in Mary's arms. He seems to be somewhat on his own as Mary reacts in grief, offering more than an accepting embrace.

Suffering has both the moment of struggle and of rest. In Van Gogh's *Pietà*, as in life, the unrequited desire to rest prevails. The struggle to accept and embrace suffering was a big part of Van Gogh's life, as seen in his letters to his brother. Van Gogh, like us, sought serenity in a faith that claims "he has rescued the life of the poor" and that "all the hairs of your head are counted" and not a sparrow "falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge." We are precious to God, as was his Son. The power of God's love embraces our suffering and offers to bring it to resurrection.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

What am I struggling with and need to give over to Christ? How can I increase my trust in God this week?

"If by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God...overflow" (Romans 5:15).

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 Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645
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TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JUNE 25, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Helen Janiszewski 26th Anniversary
 And God's Blessings Upon Joan & Jim Smith 69th Wedding Anniversary*

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Betty Erjavec	THURS	7:00 PM	Mary Volpiccini
SUN	7:30 AM	Helen Janiszewski – 26 th Anniversary	FRI	7:30 AM	Helen & Frank Janiszewski
	9:00 AM	Barbara & Charles Becker– 50 th Wedding Ann	SAT	5:15 PM	Angelo Bascelli Family
	11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON	No Mass			9:00 AM	Eleanor Painter – 16 th Anniversary
TUES	7:00 PM	Joseph Gulla		11:00 AM	Joseph, Mary, Kathleen & Rosalie Ruby
WED	7:30 AM	Peter Bogus			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Lukes 5:15 Pisarek 7:30 Schwendt 9:00 Grieco 11:00 Hafer

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Jennifer Stuart	Joe Bailey	Joey Cizmarik, Will Gray, Josh Piccarreta
SUN	7:30AM	Sherry McCollum	Adelina Kieffer	Kathryn Krueger, Isabella and Mia Pizzo
	9:00AM	Pam Amos	Tim Stewart	Michael Beitz, Trey Bradfield, John Dinnocenti
	11:00AM	Karl Filachek	Barbara Romig	Alex and Jason Carvalho, Avery Lang

Second Collection Next Week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

2017 Vacation Bible School

"Mission Discovery"

July 17 through July 21, 6-8pm

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.

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, Steve Manmarella, 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, George Sohn, Justine Marie Mattassa, Paul Milshaw, Maria Houck, Barbara Reznick, Darlene Strock, Irene Wade, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, Jacob Hafer and TJ Doyle

Pray for the recently departed: Reverend Luke Chow, Thomas Bradley and Joseph McLaughlin

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



Immaculate Conception Church

Summer Office Hours

Tuesday through Friday, 9:30am to 4:30pm

Immaculate Conception Academy

Summer Office Hours

Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00am to 1:00pm

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****

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Starting September 11th, join us on Monday evenings at 7:30pm for a better understanding of our Catholic faith. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) isn't just for those wishing to become a Catholic. It's for anyone seeking a better understanding of the beliefs, teachings and traditions of Catholicism. If interested or curious, contact Deacon Paul Hiryak or Msgr. McCann by calling the parish office at 610-582-2411. We hope to see you!

2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal

There are many priorities and needs facing our Church that no one parish can address. Some require the strength and resolve of our entire Catholic community working together. While we cannot always be the one to comfort the grieving, feed the hungry, teach the young and minister to those in need, we can – through our generosity- ensure that our diocesan Church is strong, vibrant and able to meet the needs of so many regardless of their faith in the year ahead.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal provides a broad range of ministries and outreach programs throughout our Diocese. Your financial support has a positive influence in the lives of your brothers and sisters in need.

Pledge cards for the Bishop's Annual Appeal are available in the pews of the church or visit FaithHopeCharityGives.org.

CCHS Class of 1976 – Annual Mass for deceased graduates – July 1, 8am – St. Ignatius – Classmates and friends are invited.

Throughout the course of this weekend, I invite you to pray for the young people of our parish, members of our high school Youth Group, who travelled on Friday to the Franciscan University of Steubenville to participate in the Catholic Youth Conference. Together with high school youth from across the United States they will have an extraordinary opportunity to have their faith awakened and their hearts set on fire through a personal encounter with Jesus. Did you know that this summer over 50,000 teenagers and their leaders will be part of this movement of grace at one of the 25 conferences being sponsored by the Franciscan university of Steubenville nationwide? Pray for all the young men and women of our parish. They are the future hope of our Church and the world.

Monsignor John McCann

CCD Registration Forms are available in the Narthex, on 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, please call Mrs. O'Donnell at (610) 582-3880.

ICC Girls Volleyball – Grades 5-8 – Meetings at ICA on Mondays in June and July (except the 3rd). If interested in playing, contact Marianne at 610-334-5745 or gearycmc@ptd.net

ARE YOU WEARING YOUR SUNDAY BEST?

Dressing appropriately for Mass shows mindfulness toward God, as well as respect for the sanctity of the church and the worship experience of fellow parishioners. When getting dressed for Mass be mindful that you are preparing to present yourself to God. Think about it – the angels hide their face before His Majesty – and what have we just pulled off the hanger? If we're dressed for the beach, the gym or a back yard barbecue, we need to back up and try again! It'll only take a minute, and God will bless us for the effort.

Immaculate Conception Academy Positions Available

Immaculate Conception Academy is accepting applications for teacher and classroom aide openings, including a part time music teacher for the 2017-18 school year. Teacher candidates must hold or be eligible for PA certification. Teaching candidates, please send letter of interest, resume, copies of certification and transcripts, along with clearances and references. Classroom aide candidates, please send letter of interest and resume to Mrs. Patricia Tarquinio, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518.

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.

WATER IS ON IN THE CEMETERY

Calendar

Monday

June 26

Weekday

Gn 12:1–9, Mt 7:1–5

Tuesday

June 27

Weekday

Gn 13:2, 5–18

Mt 7:6, 12–14

Wednesday

June 28

St. Irenaeus,

Bishop and Martyr

Gn 15:1–12, 17–18

Mt 7:15–20

Thursday

June 29

Sts. Peter and Paul,

Apostles

Acts 12:1–11

2 Tm 4:6–8, 17–18

Mt 16:13–19

Friday

June 30

Weekday

Gn 17:1, 9–10, 15–22

Mt 8:1–4

Saturday

July 1

Weekday

Gn 18:1–15, Mt 8:5–17

Sunday

July 2

Thirteenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:8–11, 14–16a

Rom 6:3–4, 8–11

Mt 10:37–42

Dear Padre,

Did Adam and Eve repent of their sin, and if so, were they forgiven?

Genesis 1–3 is written primarily to convey truths about God: God is good, loving, and provident; humankind was ungrateful to God and introduced evil into the world. However, despite humanity's sinfulness, there is still hope because of God's goodness and mercy. The Garden of Eden story is focused more on the loss of original holiness and the consequences of original sin than on repentance.

So while the Bible doesn't state that Adam and Eve sought repentance, we can know with certainty that God offered them forgiveness, and we can imagine that they probably repented. God restores humanity after the Fall through Christ's redemptive act and offers all of us forgiveness (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 410).

Christians believe that "the world has been established and kept in being by the Creator's love; has fallen into slavery to sin but has been set free by Christ, crucified and risen to break the power of the evil one" (CCC 421). Creation, therefore, already involves a re-creation in Christ, the eternal Word of the Father. Christ, the "New Adam," who amends for the disobedience of Adam, becomes the point toward which creation's history is directed.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* asks: Why did God not

prevent the first man from sinning? "St. Leo the Great responds, 'Christ's inexpressible grace gave us blessings better than those the demon's envy had taken away.'...And the *Exsultet* sings, 'O happy fault, ...which gained for us so great a Redeemer!'" (CCC 412).



ELENA NICHIZHENOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"We have prayed under [Mary's] leadership that she guide us to be ever more united to her Son, Jesus. We have brought her our joys and our suffering, our hopes and our struggles; we have invoked her by the beautiful title of *Salus Populi Romani* imploring her for us all, for Rome, for the world that she grant us health. Yes, because Mary gives us health, she is our health. Jesus Christ—by his Passion, Death, and Resurrection—has brought us salvation, granting us the grace and the joy of being children of God, to truly call him by the name of Father. Mary is the mother, and a mother worries above all about the health of her children....What does this mean?...I think above all of three things: she helps us grow, to confront life, to be free."

—Recital of the Holy Rosary, May 4, 2013