

Rags to Riches

The richly decorated portrait *The Vision of Saint Helena* by Paolo Veronese is immediately impressive. Helena, a woman of humble origins, became the wife of Constantius Chlorus (Rome's emperor from 293–306). An innkeeper's daughter in an outback town, her beauty caught the eye of the most powerful man on earth. She went from rags to riches.

Here she wears lush, Eastern fabrics with woven prints and royal colors. The gold and blue details of her dress and the valour of her crimson cape broached under her chin denote the wealth her position afforded. She rests on a high-back leather throne; an elegant textile wall covering provides a background from floor to ceiling.

The softly flowing fabrics and her serene posture exude calm and focus our attention on her tranquil face and spirit of contemplation. No matter the power, wealth, and beauty of the world surrounding her, Helena has forsaken all to pursue the true treasure she possesses as a Christian and values more than the rest. Helena traveled from Rome to Jerusalem to bring back the relics of Christ's passion. These reminders of Jesus' love for sinners became the most important treasures of Christendom.

Veronese wants to convince us that through prayer we come to understand our treasure is not found in wealth but in the glorious vestment of baptismal faith. As adopted sons and daughters of the king, we become like St. Helena: poor commoners raised to royalty! Thank God for his gift of life in Christ and allow your heart to follow the inspirations he shares with you.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *The Vision of Saint Helena*, 1580
Artist: Paolo Veronese
Location: Pinacoteca, Vatican Museums



For Reflection

Saint Helena left the comfort of her home to search for the cross of Christ. What are you searching for? What are you willing to give up for it? Are there riches or treasures that have a stronger hold on your heart than the kingdom of God?

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field” (Matthew 13:44).

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.....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. 2019
 Diocese of Allentown...www.allentowndiocese.org

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 30, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Mary & Paul Bringenberg and
 In Memory of Mary & Leonard Lavinia*

★★ MASS INTENTIONS ★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Catherine & Michael Truckley	THURS	7:00 PM	Fr. Francis P. Straka
SUN	7:30 AM	Josephine Bogus	FRI	7:30 AM	Angelo Bascelli
	9:00 AM	Anthony DiGuglielmo	SAT	5:15 PM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SUN	7:30 AM	Mike Kilareski
MON	No Mass			9:00 AM	Regina Kelley
TUES	7:00 PM	Joseph Sipe		11:00 AM	Donald Wheeler
WED	7:30 AM	Dec'd Members Volpiccini Family			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	LECTOR	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Shirley Wheeler	Jason Mariano	Adam and Carlina Davis, Luke Voelker
SUN	7:30AM	Toni Kaucher	Jim Kaucher	Mason and Morgan Cambria, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00AM	Josephine Hohl	Pam Amos	Eliana and Simon Crew, Vinny Ferrara
	11:00AM	Jim Keaveney	Rhonda Ouimet	John Dinnocenti, Will Gray, Aiden Reber

Second Collection Next Week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

Immaculate Conception Academy

How was your school year?

Is something missing from your child's education?

Immaculate Conception Academy is committed to providing students in preschool through grade 8 with an education that combines a strong foundation in the core subjects with 21st century learning. Our dedicated faculty strives to bring out the best in each student and challenges them to live our "Three L's":

Love. Learning. Leadership.

We invite you to come and see what a difference ICA makes.

To schedule a tour, please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Visit us at www.icaberks.org !

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Dan Casciano, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Mary Loeb, 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, Lou Franco, Lucille Schiel, John Fritz, Lucy Doney, Mary Okuniewski, Mark McDonald, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Mark Vignone, Justine Mattassa, Maria Houck, Barbara Reznick, TJ Doyle, Irene Wade, Harry Wood, Tony Williams, Fannie Hunter, Jacob Hafer, John LeFosse, Loretta Davidson, Jim Smith, Jeffrey Bartman and Anthony Cossa

Pray for the recently departed: Darlene Strock

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:

Tues 08/01 7:30pm Baptism Class

Sat 08/05 4-5pm Confession



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Summer Office Hours

Immaculate Conception Church

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

Immaculate Conception Academy

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

Please be advised there will be NO MASS on Monday, July 31st. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.



Immaculate Conception Academy Positions Available

Immaculate Conception Academy is accepting applications for Middle School teachers, a Music teacher and Substitute teachers for the 2017-18 school year. Teacher candidates must hold or be eligible for PA certification. Please send letter of interest, resume, copies of certification and transcripts, along with clearances and references to Mrs. Christine Foley, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, 19518.

Love. Learning. Leadership.

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.

Pope Francis reminds us that "by simple gestures, by simple prayerful actions which honor Christ in the least of his brothers and sisters, we can bring the power of his love into our world, and truly change it."

Across the Diocese of Allentown, thousands of individuals choose the Bishop's Annual Appeal as one of those simple gestures that can change the world. Through the Appeal, we feed and clothe the poor, we teach our children, we care for our senior citizens, and much more.

With your help, the faithful of the Diocese of Allentown hope to raise \$5 million this year for children, families, men, and women throughout Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill counties. Nearly 95 cents out of every dollar raised by the Bishop's Annual Appeal will go to health and human services, senior services, classroom education, local clergy, and parish-based activities. Your support will make a difference in your own community and across the Diocese because, quite simply, you bring the power of God's love into our world.

Thank you to all of our parishioners at Immaculate Conception who have made a donation to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Thank you also for your dedication to our Church's mission of mercy. May our Lord bless you and all those who will look to us for help.

RESORTS AC TRIP - August 25th - Leave church promptly at 9:30am - Package Deal...Pay \$32, get \$25 - Call Carol J if interested 610-775-4447

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!

Come and serve...at the Kennedy House, 532 Spruce Street, Reading, August 5th/6th, approximately 8:45am to 1pm. Between 300 and 450 meals will be prepared and served. Serving so many is no easy task, and we need lots of hands to get it done. No cooking involved. We need help buttering bread, plating desserts and fruit, pouring drinks, wrapping utensils, cleanup etc. Parents and children 10 and up are encouraged to experience the joy of serving others together. Please contact Marsha: mgazz615@icloud.com or 610-385-6319 to volunteer or for information. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the narthex at the SCRIP table. Please make sure you indicate which day/days you will be helping along with your phone number. **We will be getting together on August 2nd at 9am in the social hall of the church to prepare part of the meal for the weekend. If you are interested in helping out in that way, you will be most warmly welcomed.**

Saint Catharine of Siena School, Reading is accepting applications for a computer teacher/library media specialist. Please send letter of interest, resume, letters of recommendation and all clearances to Mrs. Marcella Kraycik, principal at Mkraycikscs@gmail.com or Saint Catharine of Siena School, 2330 Perkiomen Avenue, Reading PA 19606.

CCD Registration Forms are available in the Narthex, on icbvmsccd.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

Amity Township National Night Out - August 1st, 6-9pm - Amity Township Pool - Free Swimming - Free hot dogs and ice cream - 7pm Elvis Impersonator - Dunk-a-Cop - Free tee to first 100 people - www.amityac.org

St Benedict Church 61st Summer Festival and Chicken Barbecue - August 5th - Festival 11am-10pm. Dinners are served 12Noon to 7pm. Dinners are \$10 - 1/2 chicken, baked potato, corn on cob, applesauce, roll and beverage. Many activities for all ages: Flea Market Tent, crafters, games, auction, Music by "Missbehavin" at 6pm with FIREWORKS at dusk. St Benedict Picnic Grounds, 4541 Morgantown Rd., Mohnton (Plowville). For more information contact the parish office at 610-856-1006.

Calendar

Monday

July 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola,
Priest

Ex 32:15–24, 30–34
Mt 13:31–35

Tuesday

August 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

Ex 33:7–11; 34:5b–9, 28
Mt 13:36–43

Wednesday

August 2

Weekday

Ex 34:29–35
Mt 13:44–46

Thursday

August 3

Weekday

Ex 40:16–21, 34–38
Mt 13:47–53

Friday

August 4

St. John Vianney,
Priest

Lv 23:1, 4–11, 15–16,
27, 34b–37
Mt 13:54–58

Saturday

August 5

Weekday

Lv 25:1, 8–17
Mt 14:1–12

Sunday

August 6

Transfiguration
of the Lord
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14
2 Pt 1:16–19
Mt 17:1–9

Dear Padre,

Is it a sin to purchase goods and services from a business that financially supports morally objectionable behavior?

This question requires us to back up a bit and ask two more fundamental questions: “What is sin?” and “To what degree am I allowed to participate in an objective evil?” A moral action has three necessary components: the object, the intention, and the circumstances. These are the what, the why, and the context. For something to be sinful, all three of these components must be taken into account. I must know what I am doing is sinful, I must fully intend it, and there must not be any mitigating circumstances that lessen my degree of culpability. Sin, in other words, requires knowledge that the action is sinful, the will to perform it, and circumstances that do not unduly inhibit my knowledge and freedom to act. To purchase goods and services from a business that supports morally objectionable behavior is sinful if we are conscious that the business supports such behavior, if we intend to purchase the product as a way of showing our support of this morally objectionable behavior, and if there are no mitigating circumstances inhibiting our knowledge and freedom of action.

As a general rule, we should avoid purchasing goods and services from such businesses. We should not, for example, buy products from companies that fund grave objective moral evils such as embryonic stem research, contraception, abortion, assisted suicide, capital punishment, or euthanasia. Specific cases must also take into account the distinction between grave and less serious matters.

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word From Pope Francis

“The Apostle Thomas, at the conclusion of his impassioned quest, not only came to believe in the resurrection, but found in Jesus his life’s greatest treasure, his Lord. He says to Jesus: ‘My Lord and my God!’ [John 20:28]. We would do well, today, and every day, to pray these magnificent words, and to say to the Lord: You are my one treasure, the path I must follow, the core of my life, my all.”

—Mass with priests, men and women religious, consecrated people and Polish seminarians at St. John Paul II Shrine, Kraków, July 30, 2016