

Walk in Faith

Lanfranco's *Christ Saves Peter From Sinking in the Water* is placed in a rather hidden place in the Vatican—on purpose. When a newly elected pope walks out of the Sistine Chapel, he processes across the Sala Regia (royal hall) and into the Loggia della Benedizione (blessing hall) to step out onto the façade of St. Peter's and greet the world for the first time. Along the way he passes this painting of Peter sinking in the water. It speaks to that sinking feeling he probably experiences at that time!

This Gospel passage holds a great lesson for us all, even the pope. When Jesus comes walking on the water, he scares the disciples; they think he is a ghost. Sometimes Jesus scares us by what he asks, by how he wants to bless and shape us if we say "yes." Jesus tells us not to be afraid, but Peter says, "Lord if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." That the ghostly figure responds doesn't prove it is Jesus; it just proves whoever it is has heard Peter and answered.

To really know if it is Jesus, Peter has to get out of the boat. He has to walk in faith and take a risk. Only once he steps out on the water, can he do the impossible? Even then, his faith falters and he notices the waves. Such is our experience. Even when we trust, step out, and Jesus does great things, we are still weak! But no need

to worry: Jesus loves our effort and will always reach out and grab us. In the end, that is what we want, isn't it? To touch Jesus, to know it is him.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *Christ Saves Peter From Sinking in the Water*, 1626–28

Artist: Giovanni Lanfranco

Location: Pinacoteca, Vatican Museums



For Reflection

When have you felt Jesus' presence most strongly in your life?

Did it coincide with a difficult task or time of trouble?

Which winds distract you from Jesus?

"At once [Jesus] spoke to them, 'Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.' Peter said to him in reply, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water'" (Matthew 14:27–28).

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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Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....www.icaberks.org
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NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 13, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Agnes Bascelli and
 In Memory of Joseph Lewis Marks*

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Eileen Achenbach	THURS	7:00 PM	Teri & Don Lynch – 57 th Wedding Anniversary
SUN	7:30 AM	Nicolena Kennedy	FRI	7:30 AM	Tessie Fecera
	9:00 AM	Julia & Carmen Bascelli	SAT	5:15 PM	John Butler
	11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SUN	7:30 AM	Florence & Orlando LeBresco
MON	7:00 PM	God's Blessings on Brian Domergue		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners		11:00 am	Leon Doney
	7:00 PM	Agnes Bascelli			
WED	7:30 AM	Andrew J. Lakatosh			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Gulla 5:15 Costanzo 7:30 Schwendt 9:00 Carvalho 11:00 Citrano

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Jennifer Stuart	Mary Schwendt	Isabella and Mia Pizzo, Elly Smithson
SUN	7:30AM	Adelina Kieffer	Sean Werner	Amanda Marley, Danni Passifione, Sidney Wolf
	9:00AM	Barbara Giordano	Isabelita Santos	Ally Santos, Jordan and Lauren Yerger
	11:00AM	Mary Jo Simon	Greg Shemanski	Trey Bradfield, Ethan Cline, Will Gray

Second Collection Next Week is Debt Reduction

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven
 Tuesday, August 15th is the Solemnity of the Assumption, a Holy Day of Obligation. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered on Monday evening, August 14th at 7pm and on August 15th at 7:30am and 7pm.

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, Steve Mammarella, Mary Loeb, 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, TJ Doyle, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, Jacob Hafer, John LeFosse, Anna Harner, Jim & Joan Smith, Jennifer Quinter, Edward Woznicki, James Weikel and Anthony Cossa
 Pray for the recently departed: James Gallagher, Jeffrey Ney, Jr., Rev. Randy L. Wolfgang, Enma Real, Patricia H. Lerch
 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:

Fri 08/18 9:30am Altar Server Clinic

Sat 08/19 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

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.

Please 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



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 Aftercare is looking for someone willing to work several hours per week from 3pm to 6pm. Must have completed "Protecting God's Children" and obtain required background checks and clearances. Call Laura DeFalco at 610-463-8157.

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!

The Blessings of Backpacks and School Bags

On the weekend of August 27th, our parish family of the Immaculate Conception will have the "Blessings of Backpacks and School Bags" for all those returning to school. The "Blessings of Backpacks and School Bags" will occur at the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. All of the children of our parish are invited to bring their backpacks and school bags to Mass that Sunday for a special blessing as they prepare to begin a new school year.

Bereavement Support Group will meet on August 21st, 7pm in the church office meeting room, lower level. Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome and encouraged to attend. For info, call Pat 610-775-1892 or Toni 610-404-1389.

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.

Confirmation Date Announced: Our newly ordained Bishop Alfred A. Schlert will Administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, October 24th at 4:30pm. Please pray for the young men and women of our parish who will receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit on that occasion.

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

Girls Volleyball - girls in grades 4th thru 8th that are interested in playing volleyball should contact Coach Geary at 610-334-5745. **Starting on August 14th**, practices will be Monday thru Thursday, 6:15pm to 8:00pm.

ICCYO Fall Registration Information for Girls' volleyball (4th-8th) and Cross-Country (Boys and Girls: Kindergarten-8th) is available on our website: www.ICCYO.com

CCD Registration Forms are available in the Narthex, icbvccd.org, parish office, and 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 Altar Server Clinic

Friday, August 18th, 9:30am-12pm in the church

Any parish child in grades 6 through 12 can become an altar server. To enroll, please complete the form below and return to Msgr. McCann by August 17th.

Child's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Home Phone: _____

Parent's Phone: _____

Grade for 2017/2018 School Year: _____

Calendar

Monday

August 14

St. Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr

Dt 10:12–22

Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday

August 15

Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a, 10ab

1 Cor 15:20–27

Lk 1:39–56

Wednesday

August 16

Weekday

Dt 34:1–12

Mt 18:15–20

Thursday

August 17

Weekday

Jos 3:7–10a, 11, 13–17

Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday

August 18

Weekday

Jos 24:1–13

Mt 19:3–12

Saturday

August 19

Weekday

Jos 24:14–29

Mt 19:13–15

Sunday

August 20

Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6–7

Rom 11:13–15, 29–32

Mt 15:21–28

Dear Padre,

I look at what's going on in our world today and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn't a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what's happening in our world today. Judges' twenty-one chapters are so filled with vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity's need for salvation. "Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history....In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God" (Oscar Lukefahr, *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, Liguori Publications, 1998).



LOVE THE WIND/SHUTTERSTOCK

It's easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote: "Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that He can save man. To save means to embrace

and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin" (*Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, 58, Knopf, 1994). Don't lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God's kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven (1 John 5:18–20).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"We all know that when water stands still it stagnates. There's a saying in Spanish that says: 'Standing water is the first to go bad.' Do not stand still. We all have to walk, to take a step every day, with the Lord's help. God is Father, he is mercy, he always loves us....He welcomes us and forgives us....He never tires of forgiving....He makes us rise and fully restores our dignity. God has a memory, He is not forgetful. God does not forget us, He always remembers."

—Address to detainees in a penitentiary in Isernia, Italy, July 5, 2014