

Piece: *The Throne of Saint Peter*, 1647–53

Artist: Gian Lorenzo Bernini

Location: St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City



## Upon This Rock

Saint Peter's Basilica is built on the tomb of Peter, which literally serves as the rock on which the church is built. Peter states his faith, acknowledging Jesus as Messiah and Son of God, in the name of the other apostles. In reply, the Lord reveals his intended mission for Peter: to become the visible foundation of the Church.

This account also tells us that Peter's act of faith did not come through "flesh and blood," that is, through his human abilities, but through a particular revelation from God. By contrast, right afterward, as Jesus foretells his passion, death, and resurrection, Peter "began to rebuke him," denying that this would ever happen (Matthew 16:22). Jesus scolds him in return.

Peter shows his human weakness and what he is: a stone along the path on which men can stumble. In this scene, the drama of each soul and the history of the papacy and Church itself are anticipated. There is the joint presence of divine assistance by which the papacy constitutes the Church's foundation throughout history, and human weakness, which is also evident through the centuries and can be transformed only through abandonment to God's action.

In today's Gospel, Jesus clearly promises the forces of evil will not prevail. Prophets such as Jeremiah (1:18–19) were threatened only by human enemies, whereas Peter will have to be defended from a supernatural evil. Jeremiah receives a promise that affects him as a person and his prophetic ministry; Peter receives assurances concerning the future of the Church and the new community founded by Christ "upon this rock."

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

*For Reflection* Peter's mission is to confirm the faith of the other apostles. How willing are you to let the pope, Peter's successor, confirm your faith today? What are you doing to ensure your faith is built on a solid foundation?

*"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).*

# 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. Bardj,  
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano  
 Parish Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880  
 Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
 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  
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 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:  
 Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT  
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 Diocese of Allentown...www.allentowndiocese.org

## TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 27, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Catherine & Michael Truckley	THURS	<b>7:30 AM</b>	Tom Hafer – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary
SUN	7:30 AM	Edith & Joseph Banyas	FRI	7:30 AM	Suzanne Metzker
	9:00 AM	Jesse Painter – 52 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary	SAT	5:15 PM	Catherine Alderman
	11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SUN	7:30 AM	Dec'd Members of the Volpiccini Family
MON	7:30 AM	Rose Mary Rapak		9:00 AM	Frank & Sophie Kline
TUES	7:00 PM	Joseph A. Reznick		11:00 am	Living & Deceased Parishioners
WED	7:30 AM	Doris Bascelli			

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

*SCRIP: Sponsor: Zubik 5:15 Costanzo 7:30 Collura 9:00 Grieco 11:00 Hafer*

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Shirley Wheeler	Barbara Giordano	Parker Davis, John Dinnocenti, Zach Whalen
SUN	7:30AM	Jim Kaucher	Toni Kaucher	Aiden and Owen Reber, Luke Voelker
	9:00AM	Stephanie Myers	Victor González	Carina Cress, Brianna González, Mya Salaneck
	11:00AM	Leonard Cline	Becky Shemanski	Adam, Carlina, and Marielle Davis

### **Second Collection Next Week is Church Building & Parish Maintenance**

#### Ordination of Bishop-elect Alfred Schlert

*So as many people as possible can participate in the events surrounding the Ordination of Bishop-elect Alfred Schlert, the Diocese of Allentown has made provisions for the faithful of our Diocese to see this moment in our Diocesan history.*

#### Television

- **Vesper Service** (August 30<sup>th</sup>): Service Electric/Blue Ridge Cable: live coverage beginning 7pm
- **Ordination Mass** (August 31<sup>st</sup>):
- 1. Service Electric/Blue Ridge Cable: live coverage beginning 2pm
- 2. EWTN beginning 3pm (will have full coverage)
- 3. CatholicTV live coverage beginning 2pm

#### Facebook

• visit [facebook.com/dioceaseofallentown](http://facebook.com/dioceaseofallentown) to watch live streaming of the Ordination beginning 2pm

• 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 Manumarella, Joseph Kolenda, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, 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, Jennifer Quinter, Edward Woznicki, James Weikel, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch and Anthony Cossa

• Pray for the recently departed: Mary Elizabeth Loeb, Dot Chmewlski, David Bernet

• Congratulate the newly baptized: Rosemarie Catherine Keating

• Welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Shawn O'Malley

• 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



## Summer Office Hours

Immaculate Conception Church

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

*Please be advised that on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, daily Mass will be offered at 7:30am. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.*

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.icaberks.org)!

## Immaculate Conception Academy Positions Available

Immaculate Conception Academy is accepting applications for classroom aids 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.

**CCD Registration Ending Soon!** Register now! Contact Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-582-3880.

**CCD Teachers Needed** - CCD Volunteers are always welcome! Teaching positions are available on Thursdays from 4:15pm to 5:30pm. Please consider giving an hour of your time to bring the Good News of God's great love for us to the children of our parish. If interested, please contact Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-582-3880 or email at [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org).

**Sunday School** begins September 24<sup>th</sup>. Registration is now open for Children ages 3 to 5. Forms are available in the Narthex and parish office. If you would like to volunteer, please call Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-582-3880 or email at [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org).

*Our parish family of the Immaculate Conception proudly congratulates and thanks the young men and women of our church who have volunteered to serve at God's holy altar. Our new Altar Servers are: John Babiec, Caitlyn Bailey, Andrew Kurtas, Marielle Davis, Rachel Forkin, Pearce Gray, Delaney Hyer, Avery Kelly, Lucien Kracycik, Dante LaScala, Daniel Montowski, Bridget Ottinger, Owen Reber, Angela Serpico*

**Discover/Rediscover Catholicism** - Starting September 11<sup>th</sup>, 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!

*Save the date!!* The Sixth Annual Diocesan Men's Conference will be held on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at DeSales University. Watch the bulletin for additional information. Last year a large number of men from our parish of the Immaculate Conception attended the conference and found it most worthwhile.

Addiction has touched far too many families and taken far too many of our loved ones. Join us in a Mass for those suffering from addiction. September 9<sup>th</sup>, 11am at St. Ann RCC, 502 Main St. Phoenixville. Join us that we may draw strength from one another in the power of our faith.

**Fatima Evening of Prayer for Peace and the Protection of the World at Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist** Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm. This event includes Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Praying the Rosary, an Act of Consecration of Our Nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Eucharistic Benediction, and the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. To register for Fatima Evening contact: Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, 640 E. Main St., Birdsboro, or 610-582-3333.

**Swing Fore the Saints 7th Annual Golf Outing** - September 15<sup>th</sup> - Golden Oaks Golf Club - 8am & 1pm shotgun starts - 4-person scramble - \$125 per golfer includes greens fees, cart, prizes, scoring & buffet lunch or dinner - Sponsorships starting at \$100 - Join alumni, parents and friends of Berks Catholic for this fun event. Pre-registration is required. For info, to register or for a sponsorship packet, please contact Betsy at 610-374-8361, x231.

**Team Scramble Golf Outing - September 24<sup>th</sup> - Reading Country Club - Benefits Birdsboro-Union Fire Dept New Truck Fund** - \$125 per golfer includes lunch, golf, dinner and prizes. Details at [www.BUFD7.org](http://www.BUFD7.org) or 610-582-0058.

## Calendar

### Monday

August 28

*St. Augustine,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church*

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10

Mt 23:13-22

### Tuesday

August 29

*Passion of St. John  
the Baptist*

1 Thes 2:1-8

Mk 6:17-29

### Wednesday

August 30

*Weekday*

1 Thes 2:9-13

Mt 23:27-32

### Thursday

August 31

*Weekday*

1 Thes 3:7-13

Mt 24:42-51

### Friday

September 1

*Weekday*

1 Thes 4:1-8

Mt 25:1-13

### Saturday

September 2

*Weekday*

1 Thes 4:9-11

Mt 25:14-30

### Sunday

September 3

*Twenty-Second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

Jer 20:7-9

Rom 12:1-2

Mt 16:21-27

# Dear Padre,

**I am a huge fan of Pope Francis. However, I know some people feel his messages to be against Church teachings. How can the people criticize the pope when we believe our Lord has put Pope Francis in the chair of St. Peter?**

**S**poiler alert: I'm a big fan of Pope Francis, too! I believe he's doing much to bring people back to the Church. If you look closely at the pope's message, I think you'll find the difference is not one of content but of emphasis. Pope Francis has not changed any Church teaching, but he is shining the spotlight on some areas in particular.



GIULIO NAPOLITANO/SHUTTERSTOCK

Pope Francis has put a great deal of emphasis on mercy, simplicity, the poor, and immigrants. These things have always been part of the Catholic Church. Our pope has decided that today these things need to be brought to the forefront.

As Catholics, we are free to say things like, "I wish the pope would put more emphasis on doctrine,"

or, "I wish he would talk more about what we need to do to be saved." There's even nothing wrong in saying, "I liked Pope Benedict better." But, because Francis is in Peter's chair, we must always first ask ourselves, "What is Jesus saying to me through the messages of Pope Francis?"

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



## *A Word From Pope Francis*

*"Peter knocks at the door. Behold! There is joy, there is fear... 'Do we open, do we not?'...Fear paralyzes us, it always paralyzes us; it makes us close in on ourselves, closed to God's surprises. This detail speaks to us of a constant temptation for the Church, that of closing in on herself in the face of danger. But we also see the small openings through which God can work....Prayer enables grace to open a way out from closure to openness, from fear to courage, from sadness to joy...from division to unity."*

—Mass and blessing of the sacred pallium for new archbishops,  
Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul, June 29, 2016

# *Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church*

*A Roman Catholic Community • Serving the Birdsboro and Douglassville Areas*

## **Women's Society**



Help support Immaculate Conception Church by buying 25% off coupons for Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" fundraiser for \$5 each to be used on **Tuesday, October 17th, 2017**.

### **Here's how it works:**

See Carol Janiszewski in the Narthex before or after all Masses from September 2 through October 15 to purchase tickets. Cost is \$5 each.

On Tuesday, October 17th, use your coupon to shop at any Boscov's location.

It's as simple as that! You will enjoy awesome in-store discounts, free refreshments, and have the chance to win a \$500 shopping spree. **The best part is 100% of the proceeds will benefit our Church.** The Women's Society would like to thank you for your support to raising money for our Church.

**Immaculate Conception B.V.M. Church**  
905 Chestnut Street  
Douglassville, PA 19518