

## Correcting Lovingly

Today's readings are about fraternal correction. We are responsible for our brother's good, and God expects us to help him. This means being a good example and holding him or her to a gospel standard. If that means a hard dose of the truth, so be it, as long as that truth is given in love.

Ezekiel was a prophet who knew how to preach fire and brimstone, but he could also be tender and compassionate. He prophesied both about the destruction of Israel and how Yahweh would turn their hearts of stone into flesh. In Michelangelo's fresco on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the strength of this rugged prophet is evident. That Ezekiel is turned to listen to a cherub says a lot about his humility as well.

God told Ezekiel that if he didn't preach to the wicked, God would hold him responsible for their deaths. However, if he did preach and the wicked still didn't heed him, Ezekiel would be safe. The moral is, when God asks us to preach, take it seriously!

Jesus tells us if our brother sins against us, we should confront him in the presence of two witnesses. He even encourages us to bring the Church in as judge if a dispute between believers isn't resolved. However, this should always be done with love.

As humble Christians, we should accept corrections when they are done correctly. No one likes to be told he or she is wrong, but if we are we should rejoice in the truth, even if it hurts. And we should thank those who love us enough to correct us.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *The Prophet Ezekiel*, 1510  
Artist: Michelangelo  
Location: Sistine Chapel

### *For Reflection*

*Do I find the idea of charitable correction uncomfortable? Why or why not?*

*How willing am I to receive correction from my peers? My spouse? My child? My boss?*

*"The commandments...are summed up in this saying, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Romans 13:9).*

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence  
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## TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anna & Edward Maccarone and  
 In Memory of the Deceased Members of the Ruby & Kundrat Families*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Special Intention	THURS	7:00 PM	Agnes Bernet
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	FRI	7:30 AM	John Bradley
	9:00 AM	John & Theresa Husovsky	SAT	5:15 PM	Mary Butler
	11:00 AM	Edward & Anna Maccarone	SUN	7:30 AM	John "Buddy" Palko
MON	7:30 AM	Lawrence Genovese		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Joseph Lukes – 36 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary		11:00 am	Robert Ellison
WED	7:30 AM	Dec'd Members of the George L Smith Family			

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

*SCRIP: Sponsor: Dowling 5:15 Pisarek 7:30 Kasperowicz 9:00 McCauley 11:00 DeFalco*

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Mary Schwendt	Kevin Creamer	John Babiec, Dante LaScala, Sean Purretta
SUN	7:30AM	Amanda Marley	Michelle Marley	Beth Cote, Rachel and Sarah Forkin
	9:00AM	Brian Hannon	Pat Fessler	Austin Lobaugh, Taylor Moyer, Hannah Santos
	11:00AM	Rhonda Ouimet	Mary Gray	Pierce and Will Gray, Faith Ouimet

### *Second Collection Next Week is Debt Reduction*

## **Youth Group**

### **Welcome Back Picnic**

will be held on Friday,  
 September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6-8pm in  
 the social hall.

All youth of the parish in  
 grades 7-12 are invited and  
 welcome to bring a friend!

*Feel free to bring a  
 snack or dessert to share!*

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, 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, Edward  
 Woznicki, James Weikel, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Anne  
 Hiryak and Anthony Cossa

Pray for the recently departed: Raymond Gill, Josephine Buchanan,  
 Raymond E. Emery

Congratulate the newly baptized: Lexi Giavanna Berardi

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:**

**Sun 09/10 1pm Protecting God's Children**  
**Mon 09/11 7:30pm RCIA**  
**Sat 09/16 4-5pm Confessions**



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

### ***You're Invited to see what a difference ICA makes!***

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.***

To schedule a tour, please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or [adele.reilly@icaknights.org](mailto: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 Dawn 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 Dawn O'Donnell at 610-582-3880 or [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org).

**Sunday School** begins September 24<sup>th</sup>. Registration is open for children ages 3 to 5. Forms are available in the Narthex and parish office. If you would like to volunteer, please call Dawn O'Donnell at 610-582-3880.

**RESORTS AC TRIP** - September 22<sup>nd</sup> - leave ICC promptly at 9:30am - Package Deal: Pay \$32 get \$25 back - Call Carol J at 610-775-4447

**Craft Fair** - 9/22 - 5-9pm, 9/23-24 9am-6pm  
Birdsboro/Union Fire Company, 214 W. First St, Birdsboro  
All proceeds benefit the local food pantry in Birdsboro, Hopewell Love, and the needs of the community.

**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!

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP** will meet on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the church. Using the side door, it's the first room on the right. We welcome anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, even if not a recent loss. Call Toni 610-404-1389 or Pat 610-775-1892.

***Annual Covered Dish Social*** - All Women of the parish are invited to join us in the social hall September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Bring one of your favorite dishes to share with everyone. All members are asked to attend if possible, and invite a friend or two. If you have been wondering how you can get to know other women of the parish or serve the church in some way, The Women's Society is the perfect way to do both. It does not involve a huge commitment of time. We meet the third Wednesday of the month normally around 7pm in the social hall September through May (no meeting in December). Resolve to come and check us out.

**WHAT IS A FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS SHOPPING PASS AND HOW DOES IT WORK?** Everyone who purchases a \$5 Friends Helping Friends pass receives a 25% discount shopping pass\* for purchases made only on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 9am till 11pm at all Boscov's locations (not valid online.) In addition, you are eligible to win fabulous register-to-win prizes including shopping sprees and more! The church will receive 100% of the proceeds from the sale of shopping passes. Purchase yours today in the narthex.

**ICA HSO's Annual Christmas Bazaar - Immaculate Conception Church - November 4<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm. Vendor spaces are still available.** For more information on becoming a vendor please email [ICAXmas@gmail.com](mailto:ICAXmas@gmail.com) or stop in the parish office for an application.

**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

**Golf Outing to Benefit St. Gabriel RCC, Stowe - September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Blackwood Golf Course, 11am - \$85 per golfer includes lunch, golf, post-play banquet and prizes - guest \$20 for banquet.** Call Kathy at 610-326-5217 for info or to register.

**Ukrainian Festival - 9/23, 12-10pm - Nativity of BVM Hall, 211 Grace St, Reading - Food, Vendors, Raffles, Entertainment**  
**Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart Nun Run - September 16<sup>th</sup> - [www.mscreading.org](http://www.mscreading.org) - 610-929-2802**



## Calendar

### Monday

September 11

Weekday

Col 1:24–2:3

Lk 6:6–11

### Tuesday

September 12

Weekday

Col 2:6–15

Lk 6:12–19

### Wednesday

September 13

St. John Chrysostom,  
Bishop and  
Doctor of the Church

Col 3:1–11

Lk 6:20–26

### Thursday

September 14

The Exaltation  
of the Holy Cross

Nm 21:4b–9

Phil 2:6–11

Jn 3:13–17

### Friday

September 15

Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Tm 1:1–2, 12–14

Jn 19:25–27 or

Lk 2:33–35

### Saturday

September 16

Sts. Cornelius, Pope,  
and

Cyprian, Bishop,  
Martyrs

1 Tm 1:15–17

Lk 6:43–49

### Sunday

September 17

Twenty-Fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:30–28:7

Rom 14:7–9

Mt 18:21–35

# Dear Padre,

**I want my children to be merciful and forgiving like Jesus, but I don't want them to be permissive of sin because someone else thinks it's OK. How can I teach this balance?**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches, “Education in the faith by parents should begin in the child’s earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel” (CCC 2226). The balance of advocating the magnitude of God’s mercy without diminishing the severity of sin is best taught through witness.

You should hold your children accountable (and vice versa) and explain with loving candor how lax attitudes and actions have consequences. As we are taught in Proverbs 27:5, “Better is an open rebuke than a love that remains hidden.”

An intimate relationship with God also helps. It’s easier to instill greater compassion in ourselves and in others when we’ve experienced God’s infinite mercy firsthand. Jesus asked the woman caught in adultery, “Has no one condemned you?” She replied, “No one, sir.” Then Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, [and] from now on do not sin any more” (John 8:10–11).

Christ loves the sinner and despises the sin—but he doesn’t dwell on the sin. Instead, Jesus rejoices when sinners enter a newfound relationship with his merciful Father, knowing that the experience of God’s mercy is the catalyst for ultimate change and lasting conversion, where neither the sinner is condemned nor the sin condoned.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR | [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



PIXLES



## A Word From Pope Francis

*“If you are not capable of performing fraternal reproof with love, with charity, in truth and with humility, you will offend, damage that person’s heart: you will create an extra tale that wounds and you will become a blind hypocrite, as Jesus says...a sign which perhaps can help us: when one sees something wrong and feels that he should correct it but perceives a certain pleasure in doing so, then it is time*

*to pay attention, because that is not the Lord’s way. In the Lord there is always the cross, the difficulty of doing something good.”*

*—Morning meditation, “Mending holes in the fabric of the church,” September 12, 2014*