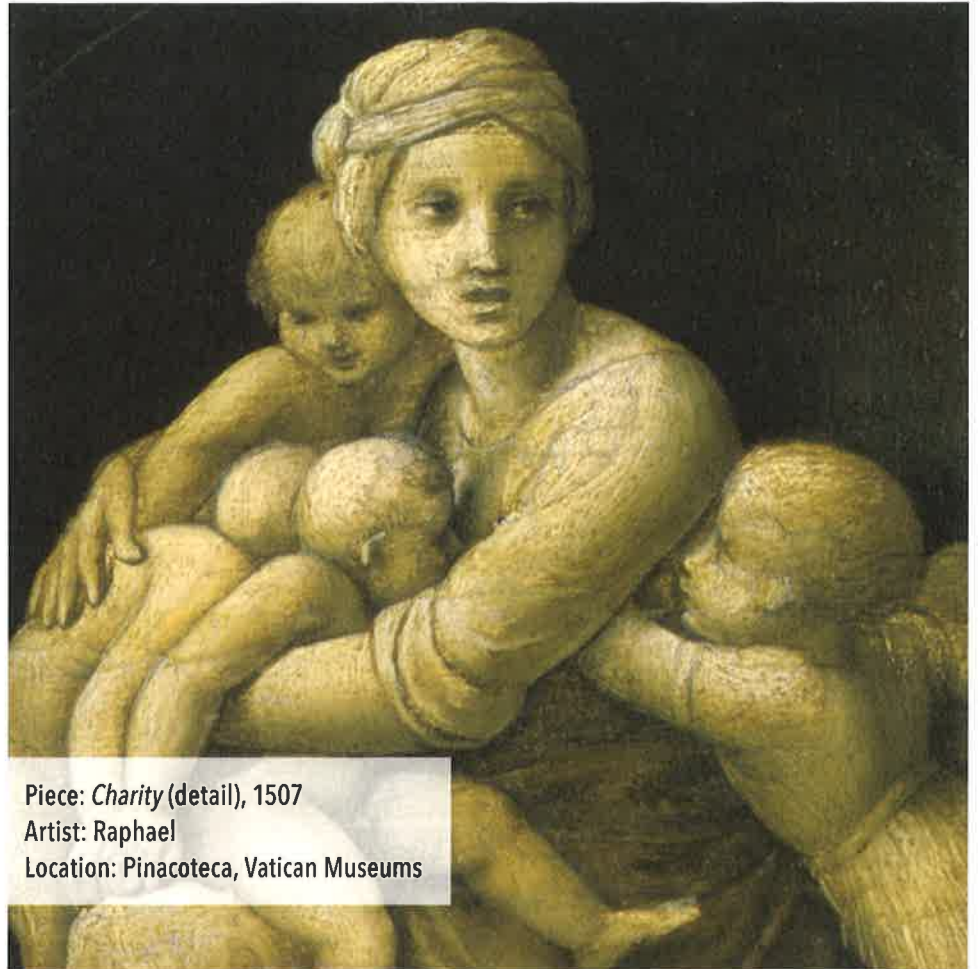


## What's Our ROI?

The Gospel today encourages good investments! Jesus heaps praise on the good servants who were faithful in small matters and rewarded with the joy of the master. The servant who gets called wicked and lazy is punished, not because he miscalculated a risk but because he feared his master and took no risk at all. He was frozen by the thought that he could lose everything, so he buries the talent and anxiously awaits the master's return. He is wicked not for investing poorly but for not investing at all.

God has given us all so many talents, and he does so for us to enjoy a grand return on investment (ROI). He wants us to use our talents, work them, develop them, and—at the end of our lives—enjoy showing him the way they have multiplied. Like a loving parent, he knows that much of our happiness is in developing and growing those talents with his grace. Those talents are a sign of his call and an invitation to step out in faith.

Parents, your job is to help your children develop their talents and dreams. A confident, enthusiastic, and risk-taking child is a sign of parents who know the balance of loving discipline, positive motivation, and a healthy distance. Children who feel secure in the love of their parents are willing to venture out and invest their talents, for they know someone will always be there to accompany them and catch them if they fall.



Piece: *Charity* (detail), 1507  
Artist: Raphael  
Location: Pinacoteca, Vatican Museums

Our loving God is the first to know this and so invites us with this parable to trust, invest, and enjoy the returns.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*What are the most important talents I have? Think of virtues, abilities, qualities, time.  
Which talent should I invest in more so I can enjoy the return God wants?*

*[Jesus said,] "It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them" (Matthew 25:14).*

# 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. Barđi,  
 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  
 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

## THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 19, 2017

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

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Elizabeth Russoniello	THURS	<u>9:00 AM</u>	Mary Kelly
SUN	7:30 AM	Parish Memorial Society	FRI		<b>No Mass</b>
	9:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society	SAT	5:15 PM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
	11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SUN	7:30 AM	Parish Memorial Society
MON	<u>9:00 AM</u>	ICA Mass - Elizabeth Loeper		9:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society
TUES	7:00 PM	Fr Bernard Lamond		11:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society
WED	7:30 AM	Jesse & Mary Jo Sanders			

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Mary Jo Simon	Kevin Creamer	Nicholas Donnelly, Dante LaScala, Luke Voelker
SUN	7:30AM	Dennis Piontek	Adelina Kieffer	Ande, Ethan and Lucien Kraycik
	9:00AM	Barbara Giordano	Mary Gray	Pierce and Will Gray, Mya Salaneck
	11:00AM	Mary Ann Cotter	Becky Shemanski	Carina Cress, Brianna Gonzalez, Faith Ouimet

### *Second Collection Next Week is the Fuel Collection*

On Thanksgiving Day,  
 November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Holy  
 Sacrifice of the Mass will be  
 offered at 9am. You are  
 cordially invited to attend  
 with your family so as to  
 begin Thanksgiving Day  
 with the greatest act of  
 Thanksgiving to God.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:  
 Marco Fiato, Margaret Kakas, Delores Woy, Alice  
 Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Morris Motta, Ann  
 Schlott, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil  
 Morici, Dan Casciano, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto,  
 Joan Cronin, Rose Osorio, Steve Mammarella, Joseph  
 Kolenda, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala,  
 Anthony Mattassa Sr, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman,  
 Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Rita  
 Dougherty, Lou Franco, Lucy Doney, Mary  
 Okuniewski, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Mark  
 Vignone, Justine Mattassa, Harry Wood, Tony  
 Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, John LeFosse, Robert  
 Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Anne Hiryak, Mark  
 McDonald, Frances Bambrick, Roseann Malcolm, Joe  
 Shevenock, Nancy Iezzi, Charles Reppert, Rosemarie  
 Strock, Anthony DiGuglielmo and Helen McDonald  
 Pray for the deceased: Tom Kirchner  
 Congratulate the newly baptized: Lucas Alexander Sein

**THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

**Sun 11/19 Women's Society Bake Sale**  
**Thanksgiving Basket Drop-Off**

**Mon 11/20 2pm Bereavement Support Group**  
**7:30pm RCIA**

**Tues 11/21 7:30pm Bell Choir**

**Sat 11/25 4-5pm Confessions**

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** - ICA 8<sup>th</sup> grade is sponsoring our annual **Breakfast with Santa** on December 2<sup>nd</sup>! Seating's are at 8am and 10am. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee/milk will be served. We will have face painting, cookie decorating, crafts and pictures with Santa! Tickets are \$8, age 2 and under free. Tickets sell out quickly so get yours today! Call 610-404-8645 for information!!!

✦ **WHAT'S HAPPENING** ✦

*Please note there will be **NO MASS** on Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.*

☪ ☪ ☪ ☪ ☪ ☪ ☪

Our parish office will be closed on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup> in observance of the holiday.

☪ ☪ ☪ ☪ ☪ ☪ ☪

On Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 9:00am with the children of Immaculate Conception Academy.

**Discover/Rediscover Catholicism** - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic will be "The Church: What is the organization and mission of the Catholic Church?" Presenter is Deacon Jim Bardi. Class begins at 7:30pm in the office building lower level meeting room. All are welcome. Contact the office with questions at 610-582-2411.

**2017 Dance-A-Thon for Catholic Education** – Donations are still being accepted. Please place it in an envelope marked "**ICA Dance-a-thon**" and drop it in any Sunday collection basket or mail it to ICA, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518. **All donations are greatly appreciated.**

**Bereavement Support Group** will meet on November 20, 2pm (*note time change to afternoon*) in the lower level of the church office. Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome! Call Pat (610-775-1892) or Toni (610-404-1389).

The **Women's Society Christmas Luncheon is December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1pm** at Esposito's Restaurant, 1540 Friedensburg Rd, Reading 19606. Choose Lobster Ravioli, Veal Scallopini or Chicken Marsala. Each entree is \$20 and includes garden salad, capellini pasta, garlic bread, beverage and desert. Please **RSVP with payment by November 25<sup>th</sup>**. Make checks payable to IC Women's Society. Please contact Edie at 610.582.2849 or Geri at 610.286.5538 with questions.

**Women's Society Christmas Cookie Sale** at Masses December 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>. If you love to bake cookies, we would love to include your favorites in our beautiful arrangements. We also accept cookies marked, packed, and sold by the dozen. Please consider baking an extra batch or two to share with us. Cookies for assortments must be dropped in the social hall on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 9-11am. We also accept donations before and after all Masses.

**Esto Vir Men's Group** – Faith filled meetings with prayer, readings and reflections are planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month at ICC. The next meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9am in the church office, lower level meeting room. Men 18 & over, please plan to join us!

Congratulations to the ICA 7<sup>th</sup> grade on their successful production of "Goldilocks on Trial".

Immaculate Conception Academy will be closed November 22<sup>nd</sup> through November 27<sup>th</sup>. The faculty, staff and students of **Immaculate Conception Academy would like to wish our parish family a Happy Thanksgiving!**

**SIMBANG GABI (9 Day Novena Masses) - December 8<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Holy Rosary Church, 3rd & Franklin Sts, Reading, 19602, 7pm**  
**Potluck nights: Dec. 8, 15 and 16**

**CHRISTMAS SEASON Mass, Party and Potluck: December 30, 2017, Sat at 7 pm.**

Mass intentions are accepted at **Holy Rosary Religious Residence at 237 Franklin St, Reading, 19602** or call **Sr. Marietta Castellano at 610-301-3051.**

**March for Life:** On January 19<sup>th</sup> our parish family of the Immaculate Conception will sponsor a bus to the March for Life being held in Washington DC. Watch the bulletin for more information as the date nears or contact Angela Peterson at 610-582-6993 or apeterson@windstream.net.

**Berks Catholic News- Christmas Vespers-** December 17<sup>th</sup>, 4pm in the Franco Post Auditorium. Admission is free.

**Saints Shoot Out and Cheerleading Clinic-** December 27<sup>th</sup> - For Boys and Girls Grades K-8. Offensive moves for guards and forwards, dribbling moves, shooting, shooting off the dribble, shooting off the pass, and shoot out contest. Please go to the Berks Catholic Website for a registration form. [www.berkscatholic.org](http://www.berkscatholic.org)

**Open House-** January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm- A terrific opportunity to meet faculty, administration and current students. Our clubs and activities are on display to give you a glimpse into what we are about. Open House is an exciting and unique experience seeing the Berks Catholic community come together.

**Daniel Boone Interact Club Annual Christmas Luncheon for Seniors** - Daniel Boone High School, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 12pm. Christmas Carols presented by Daniel Boone High School Choir. Luncheon immediately to follow in cafeteria. **RSVP by December 5<sup>th</sup>** to 610-582-6100, x2213.

**Daniel Boone Optimist 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Craft Show** – December 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>, 9am-3pm at the Daniel Boone Middle School – Over 120 crafters – see [www.danielbooneoptimist.com](http://www.danielbooneoptimist.com) for more information

The Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County is holding their 13<sup>th</sup> annual Polish Christmas Eve Wigilia Dinner on 12/17 at the Stirling Guest Hotel, 1120 Centre Avenue, Reading. Doors open at 4:15pm. Full open bar 4:30-5:30pm followed by the sharing of the Christmas wafer, dinner, singing of koledy, dessert, coffee and tea. Members \$50, Non-members \$60. For information and reservations, call Henry at 610-372-1279 after 7pm. Deadline December 11<sup>th</sup>

Santa Claus will be visiting the Polish American Cultural Center, Room 509, at the GoggleWorks, 201 Washington St. on 12/3, 1-3pm.

Holy Guardian Angels Church 24<sup>th</sup> annual Advent Concert with Vespers - 12/3, 4pm - 3121 Kutztown Road, Reading - A wonderful way to begin this season with spiritual enrichment and seasonal inspiration.



## Calendar

### Monday

November 20

Weekday

1 Mc 1:10–15, 41–43,  
54–57, 62–63  
Lk 18:35–43

### Tuesday

November 21

*Presentation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary*

2 Mc 6:18–31  
Lk 19:1–10

### Wednesday

November 22

*St. Cecilia,  
Virgin and Martyr*

2 Mc 7:1, 20–31  
Lk 19:11–28

### Thursday

November 23

Weekday

1 Mc 2:15–29  
Lk 19:41–44

### Friday

November 24

*St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc,  
Priest, and Companions,  
Martyrs*

1 Mc 4:36–37, 52–59  
Lk 19:45–48

### Saturday

November 25

Weekday

1 Mc 6:1–13  
Lk 20:27–40

### Sunday

November 26

*Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe*

Ez 34:11–12, 15–17  
1 Cor 15:20–26, 28  
Mt 25:31–46

# Dear Padre,

**Our daughter and son-in-law graduated from Catholic high schools, but they're not bringing up their children in the Catholic faith....I feel an obligation to the children, but I don't know what to do.**

I understand your concern and sadness, but we must always remember that parents have the primary responsibility for their children's religious education. People such as priests, teachers, grandparents, and godparents can help, but they cannot usurp the role of the parents.

If your daughter is truly alienated from the Church or has truly given up her faith in God, then anything you say or do will probably make her angry. In that case, your best approach is one of kindness to her and her family and regular prayer for her and for them.

Often, however, young parents aren't really alienated from God or the Church but have just drifted away. If they decide they should do something about their children's religious training, they often don't know who to contact. If this seems to be the case with your daughter and her husband, gently inform them that you will be glad to help get the children started. Contact your parish priest (or theirs) for the necessary information. This can be a big help to people who have been away from Catholic practice for a long time.



CNS PHOTO

Adapted from *Understanding Scrupulosity: Questions and Encouragement*,  
by Fr. Thomas Santa, CSsR, © 2017 Liguori Publications, Sundaybulletin@liguori.org



## A Word From Pope Francis

*I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security....More than by fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which give us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mark 6:37).*

—The Joy of the Gospel (*Evangeli Gaudium*), November 24, 2013



# CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD EVENT

NOVEMBER 19, 2017 TO DECEMBER 10, 2017



Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Credit (student's name) \_\_\_\_\_ Pick Up (*circle one*) Scrip Table or Church Office

Restaurants		Quantity	Total \$\$	Retail & Online Stores		Quantity	Total \$\$
Arby's	\$10						
Buca Di Beppo	\$25			Claire's	\$10		
Chili's, Macaroni Grill, On the Border, Maggiano's	\$25			CVS Pharmacy	\$25		
Cold Stone Creamery	\$10			Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25		
Cracker Barrel	\$25			Golf Galaxy	\$25		
Cheesecake Factory	\$25			Gymboree	\$25		
Chipotle Mexican Grill	\$10			Home Depot	\$25		
Chuck E. Cheese	\$10			Home Goods	\$25		
Domino's Pizza	\$10			ITunes	\$15		
Dunkin Donuts	\$10			JC Penney	\$25		
Outback	\$25			JJ Photography	\$25		
Panera Bread	\$10			Joseph A. Bank	\$25		
Papa John's Pizza	\$10			L.L. Bean	\$25		
PF Chang's	\$25			Lord & Taylor	\$25		
Pizza Hut	\$10			Lowe's	\$25		
Red Robin	\$25			Macy's	\$25		
Ruby Tuesday	\$25			Macy's	\$100		
Ruth's Chris Steak House	\$50			Marshall's/TJ Maxx	\$25		
Starbucks	\$10			Men's Wearhouse	\$25		
Taco Bell	\$10			Neiman Marcus	\$50		
Texas Roadhouse	\$25			Nike	\$25		
TGI Friday's	\$25			Nordstrom	\$25		
				Old Navy/GAP/Banana Rep	\$25		
				Payless Shoes	\$20		
<b>Retail &amp; Online Stores</b>		<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total \$\$</b>	Pet Smart	\$25		
Ace Hardware	\$25			Pier 1	\$25		
Amazon.com	\$25			Pottery Barn	\$25		
American Doll	\$25			Regis/Holiday Hair	\$25		
American Eagle	\$25			Ross	\$25		
Barnes & Noble	\$10			Sheetz	\$25		
Barnes & Noble	\$25			Shutterfly	\$25		
Bath & Body Works	\$25			Staples	\$25		
Bed Bath & Beyond	\$25			Talbots	\$25		
BonTon	\$25			Target	\$25		
Cabela's	\$25			Walmart	\$25		
Cabela's	\$100						
Children's Place	\$25						

Total Number of Gift Cards \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount (Must be prepaid) \$ \_\_\_\_\_




# Breakfast with Santa

Join us on Saturday, December 2, 2017

Immaculate Conception Social Hall

8:00 or 10:00 seatings

\*Face Painting \*Picture with Santa \*Hot Chocolate \*Cookie Decorating \*Christmas Craft

 Clip & Return

## Santa Breakfast Ticket Order Form

Please print name clearly on form. Form may be returned to ICA, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518, Attention: Santa Breakfast or put in the ICC Collection Basket. Make checks payable to ICA.

Indicate if you would like 8:00 AM seating or 10:00 AM seating please:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  Tickets will be picked up AT Door

Tickets should be sent home with ICA Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Tickets should be mailed to the above address

# Tickets (adults & those ages 3 and over) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total

# Children attending who are 2 and under (Free) \_\_\_\_\_

8:00 AM seating

10:00 AM seating