

Waiting Expectantly

Most of us are not good at waiting. We want things right away and would rather arrive just on time than stand around uselessly. Few things are as annoying as waiting in a doctor's office, a government office, or being stuck in traffic.

Yet waiting can also be an exciting and busy time, like a bride and groom preparing for their wedding. There is no time to waste, since the date is approaching and there is so much to do in order for everything to be prepared perfectly. Advent waiting should be more like this expectant waiting.

John the Baptist was sent to point toward Christ and invite the people to their wedding with God. The divine spouse was coming back to his beloved and sent the groom ahead to let everyone know he was coming.

Thus John preached preparation, conversion, and setting aside everything that would distract people from getting the heart ready for Jesus. Loving, active planning was as necessary for those who listened to John the Baptist as it is for us.

This means going up the mountain and into the desert. Set aside normal distractions and dedicate more time to think about Christ, preparing our hearts and minds for the big day of his arrival.

Advent isn't a nervous time of sitting around and hoping the line goes quickly. It is an active, engaged, and hopeful anticipation of one we eagerly await.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *Virgin and Child Enthroned Between Sts. John the Baptist and St. Jerome*, 1510

Artist: Marco Palmezzano

Location: Vatican Museums

For Reflection

What distractions am I setting aside to make this Advent time like my little wedding preparation? The Church invites me to a special time of repentance, fasting, and almsgiving. How is it going?

The Lord...is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3:9)

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
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 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880
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 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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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 10, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anna Rapposelli

In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen

★★★**MASS INTENTIONS**★★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	THURS	7:00 PM	Marie Snyder
SUN	7:30 AM	David Palko	FRI	7:30 AM	Thomas Grace, Sr.
	9:00 AM	Joseph Gulla	SAT	5:15 PM	Elizabeth Russoniello
	11:00 AM	Charles Wagner	SUN	7:30 AM	Marie & Edward Schleifenheimer
MON		No Mass		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Mary Dolan		11:00 AM	Father Francis Straka
WED	7:30 AM	Evelyn McMonigle Haight			

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	Sherry McCollum	Pam Amos	Aiden and Owen Reber, Zach Whalen
SUN	7:30AM	Michelle Marley	Amanda Marley	Trey Bradfield, Alex and Jason Carvalho
	9:00AM	Mary Gray	Mary Ann Cotter	Pearce Gray, Jordan and Lauren Yerger
	11:00AM	Rhonda Ouimet	John Peterson	Faith Ouimet, Elly Smithson, Lyndsay Surkosky

Second Collection Next Week is the Monthly Collection

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the Holy season of Advent in preparation for Christmas, I invite you to set time aside to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4:00 to 5:00pm.

Our Advent Parish Penance Service will be held on Monday, December 18th at 7:00pm. On that occasion, visiting priests will be available to hear confessions and impart God's pardon and peace. As always, be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Monsignor John McCann

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Margaret Kakas, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Dan Casciano, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto, Joan Cronin, Rose Osorio, Steve Mammarella, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Anthony Mattassa Sr, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Rita Dougherty, Lou Franco, Lucy Doney, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Mark Vignone, Justine Mattassa, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, John LeFosse, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Mark McDonald, Dante Stetina, Roseann Malcolm, Nancy Iezzi, Charles Reppert, Helen McDonald, Josephine Phillips, Curt Miller, Marion Hoster

Pray for the departed: Rose Marie Drummy, Mary E. Kaucher
 Welcome our new parishioners: Mr. Nick DeAngeles, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Nissley, Mrs. Margaret Clay

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	12/10	Women's Society Cookie Sale
Mon	12/11	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	12/12	7:30pm Bell Choir
Thurs	12/14	7:30pm Adult Choir
Sat	12/16	4-5pm Confessions



WHAT'S HAPPENING



*Please note there will be **NO MASS** on Monday, December 11th.*

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic will "Prayer" with Sr. Joan Noreen as presenter. 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.

You May Be Wondering...

Question: This year, the 4th Sunday of Advent (December 23/24) comes right before Christmas. Do we have to come to Mass twice?

Answer: Yes. This is on Jesus' gift list this year.

Question: How can we fulfill our Holy Day obligations?

Answer: We have four options. Come to Mass: (1) Saturday PM & Sunday PM (Christmas Eve) (2) Saturday PM & Monday AM (Christmas Day) (3) Sunday AM & Sunday PM (4) Sunday AM & Monday AM

Question: Will the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God also be a Holy Day of Obligation?

Answer: No. New Year's Day is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

TOYS FOR TOTS – The mission of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in our community.

Immaculate Conception Academy is a drop off location and will be collecting toys through December 20th. Items can be dropped off at ICA, Monday through Friday, 8am-3:30pm. There is also a box in the narthex for Sunday donations. Organized by ICA Mission Representatives. Call 610-404-8645 with questions.

ICA is partnering with Burlington Coat Factory's **WARM HEARTS & WARM COATS**. We are collecting gently used coats through January 5th which will be distributed locally to families in need. Coats can be dropped off at ICA, Monday through Friday, 8am-3:30pm.

OPLAKTY, Blessed Christmas Wafers, are available in the church narthex. This custom is many centuries old and finds its origins in the countries of Eastern Europe, particularly Slovakia, Poland and Lithuania. The breaking and sharing of the Christmas wafer at the holy supper on Christmas Eve was a sign of friendship, love and forgiveness among family members and friends. At the holy supper an extra place setting was placed on the table symbolizing that Jesus Christ was the unseen Guest in the home. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, be mindful of the many customs and traditions which remind us of the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2017

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

PENANCE SERVICE

Monday, December 18 - 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24 - 4:00pm, 7:00pm, Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25 - 9:00am, 11:00am

NEW YEAR'S MASSES

NEW YEAR'S DAY - SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Monday, January 1 - 9:00am

Bereavement Support Group will meet on December 18th at 2pm (note afternoon time change) in the lower level (rear) of the parish office. We welcome anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. For information call Pat at 610-775-1892.

2018 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CALENDARS are now available in the narthex. We are most grateful to the Dengler Funeral Home for providing these beautiful religious art calendars to our parishioners.

Did you know that you can re-direct your state taxes to fund a need-based scholarship for a student in any of our Diocesan Schools instead of sending your money to Harrisburg? Anyone who pays PA state income tax and qualifies as an Accredited Investor is eligible. This is defined as having individual income of \$200,000 or \$300,000 of joint income in each of the two most recent years, or a net worth of \$1,000,000 excluding your primary residence. For more information call the Office of Education at 610-866-0581, ext. 2328.

St. Benedict Advent Vespers - Festival of Carols and Lessons December 17th, 6pm - 2020 Chestnut Hill Rd, Plowville. Please join our Parish Choir as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus Christ. Join us for scripture and music that will fill your spirits! Our Parish Choir will be joined with a professional String Quartet and our Women's Club will be providing refreshments for all who attend. O Come All Ye Faithful!

SIMBANG GABI – Dec. 8th-16th, 7pm - **Holy Rosary Church, 3rd & Franklin Sts, Reading, 19602, Potluck nights: Dec. 15 and 16 - Christmas Season Mass, Party and Potluck: Dec. 30th, 7pm - Mass intentions are accepted at Holy Rosary Religious Residence at 237 Franklin St, Reading, 19602**

Women's Heart Attack and Heart Disease Support Group - meets the 2nd Thursday of every month starting January 11th. St. Ignatius, 2810 St. Alban's Dr, Reading - 7pm - 9pm. For info contact Chrissy at 484-955-4372.

Amity Area Time Bank-What if...fixing someone's car taught you how to play guitar? Or reading kids a book meant you didn't have to cook? Neighbors helping neighbors- that's what the Amity Area Time Bank is about. We're helping people like you exchange all sorts of services- no matter your skills and whatever your needs. We are looking for a few volunteers so we can grow this organization. We meet every 2nd Saturday, 1pm at Tanglewood Farm, 211 Ben Franklin Hwy. W., Birdsboro, PA. Contact Lydia Rieger at AmityCEC@gmail.com or 610-639-1439.

Calendar

Monday

December 11
Advent Weekday

Is 35:1-10
Lk 5:17-26

Tuesday

December 12
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a;
12:1-6a, 10ab
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Wednesday

December 13
St. Lucy,
Virgin and Martyr
Is 40:25-31
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday

December 14
St. John of the Cross,
Priest and
Doctor of the Church
Is 41:13-20
Mt 11:11-15

Friday

December 15
Advent Weekday
Is 48:17-19
Mt 11:16-19

Saturday

December 16
Advent Weekday
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday

December 17
Third Sunday
of Advent
Is 61:1-2a, 10-11
1 Thes 5:16-24
Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Dear Padre,

Especially before Christmas, I appreciate times of silence at Mass but seldom find them. Priests ask the congregation to open their missalettes after Communion to recite the daily antiphon, which seems more trouble to locate and say than to simply remain silent. Please advise.



SHUTTERSTOCK.ZONECREATIVE

Before Mass, it's commendable that silence be observed in the church, sacristy, vesting room, and adjacent areas so that all may "carry out the sacred celebration in a devout and fitting manner" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 45).

During Mass, "Let us pray" is an invitation to observe a moment of silence for the congregation to "place themselves in God's presence and make their personal petitions" (*Introduction to the Order of Mass*, 35). Communal silence is also observed within the penitential act for people to recollect themselves, at the end of a reading or the homily for all to meditate briefly on what they've heard, then after Communion to praise and pray to God in their hearts (*GIRM* 45). In other words, there's a silence that reflects shame before God for our sins, a silence that reflects our need to ponder his word, and a deep silence before God that reflects awe and incapacity for words after receiving the Body of Christ!

If there's no singing after Communion, the antiphon "may be recited either by the faithful, or by some of them, or by a reader; otherwise, it is recited by the priest himself after he has received Communion and before he distributes Communion to the faithful" (*GIRM* 87).

Without liturgical silence, "the celebration can become perfunctory in its haste or burdensome in its unrelieved sound and song" (*Introduction* 48).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR,
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

Isaiah's invitation must resound in our hearts: "Comfort, comfort my people" (40:1) and this must lead to mission. We must find the Lord who consoles us, and go to console the people of God... People today need words, but most of all they need us to bear witness to the mercy and tenderness of the Lord, which...attracts people toward the good.

—Mass with seminarians, novices, and those discerning their vocation, July 7, 2013