

Family Peace

Federico Barocci captured the Holy Family escaping to Egypt. Although they are refugees in a dramatic, stressful situation, he chooses to show the delightful communion among them. Mary sits comfortably in the center of the family, busily

collecting water. Perhaps she will wash the cherries or the toddler's dirty hands. Her face, full of serenity and joy, is lost in thoughts that go beyond the work of the present. She is the model of so many mothers who, in spite of challenging circumstances, focus their energy on loving their children and creating an oasis of peace.

Saint Joseph stands behind the Madonna and reaches up into the tree to pull off a branch for the child Jesus. His strong arm and hand extend straight down toward the child as they both grasp the wood from opposite ends—one giving and the other receiving. This simple domestic gesture of providing for the son is strongly symbolic of what so many husbands and fathers do on a daily basis. Alongside their wives, they care for their families with hard work.

Jesus is next to Mary, and reaches out to Joseph. He receives love from both parents while returning that love with joy and gratitude.

The Holy Family reflects the divine family. One day the heavenly Father will also extend a piece of fruit—this time the bitter passion and the wood of the cross. Although it costs his human nature, Jesus accepts it, thanks in part to the strength he finds in Mary.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *Rest on the Flight into Egypt*, 1570
Artist: Federico Fiori (Barocci)
Location: Vatican Pinacoteca

For Reflection

Does my family know how to gracefully encounter trying times? What attitudes or actions allowed the Holy Family to have peace amidst the crosses?

*The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.
(Luke 2:40)*

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
 Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880
 Parish Preschool610 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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FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – DECEMBER 31, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bogus

In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredricksen

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Bob Muldowney	THURS	7:00 PM	Dolores McCullough – 1 st Anniversary
SUN	7:30 AM	Florence & Orlando LeBresco	FRI	7:30 AM	Josie Fredriksen
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Catherine Alderman
	11:00 AM	Thomas F. Kirchner	SUN	7:30 AM	Thomas D. Kirkpatrick
MON	9:00 AM	Florence Brennan		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	John Tazik		11:00 AM	Tadeuz Lucarz
WED	7:30 AM	Florence Hartline			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Lukes 5:15pm Smith 7:30am Schwendt 9:00am Carvalho 11:00am Citrano

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Shirley Wheeler	Kevin Creamer	Vinny Ferrara, Dante LaScala, Daniel Montowski
SUN	7:30AM	Michelle Marley	Tom Callahan	Joey Cizmarik, Aiden and Owen Reber
	9:00AM	Pam Amos	Brian Hannon	Stephen Hannon, Isabella and Mia Pizzo
	11:00AM	John Peterson	Rhonda Ouimet	Delaney Hyer, Faith Ouimet, Angela Serpico

Second Collection Next Week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance

NEW YEAR'S MASS

NEW YEAR'S DAY

SOLEMNITY OF MARY

Monday, January 1, 9:00am

A New Year Prayer for You

May God give you:

For every challenge, Wisdom;

For every stony path, Strong Shoes;

For every storm, a Rainbow;

For every hardship, Support;

For every journey, Faithful Companions;

For every concern, Hope;

For every blessing, Gratitude;

For every prayer, an Answer;

*And may all life's seasons bring God's
 gift of Mercy to You and those you love.*

Amen

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, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Rita Dougherty, Lou Franco, Lucy Doney, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Mark Vignone, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, John LeFosse, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Mark McDonald, Dante Stetina, Paul Milshaw, Nancy Iezzi, Charles Reppert, Helen McDonald, Curt Miller, Frank Desiderio

Pray for the departed: Donald R. Meschter

Welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Boczkowski

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.



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

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Tues	1/2	7:30pm Baptism
		7:30pm Bell Choir
Thurs	1/4	7:30pm Adult Choir
Fri	1/5	7pm Junior High Youth Group
Sat	1/6	4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Our parish office will be closed Monday, January 1st in observance of the New Year.

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. In observance of the Christmas Season, RCIA classes will resume January 8, 2018 when Sister Joan Noreen will discuss "Prayer". 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. The RCIA team wishes everyone and their families a Happy and Blessed Christmas Holiday.

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.

Save the date!!!!

Immaculate Conception Academy Winter Open House
Sunday, January 28, 2018 - 9am- 1pm

Please join us to see what a difference ICA makes!
For more information or to RSVP, contact Mrs. Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org
Visit us at www.icaberks.org!

Follow us on Facebook/Immaculate Conception Academy

Immaculate Conception Academy's 2017-18 Annual Fund Appeal is now underway! Visit www.icaberks.org for more information or to make your tax deductible online donation! Donations can be mailed to: Immaculate Conception Academy, Attn: Adele Reilly, Advancement Director, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518
Thank you for your generous support of Catholic Education in our community!

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet Friday, January 5th, 7pm to 9pm in the lower level meeting room of the church office. All of the teenagers in our parish in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food, games, prayer & praise. Bring a friend!

March for Life – January 19th – ICC is sponsoring a bus to the March for Life in Washington, DC. Thousands upon thousands of Americans flock to the Nation's Capital every January to remember the more than 55 million Americans who have been lost to abortion. We march to remember the moms and dads who have suffered from the pain of abortion. We march with the vision of a culture of life, one where every child is welcomed into life, and protected by law. For information, call Angela at 610-582-6993 or icc_march4life@windstream.net.

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you very much for your Christmas greetings and gifts. We deeply appreciated your thoughtfulness and are most grateful to you for your prayerful support and encouragement. We hope that each of you had a holy and happy Christmas and that the New Year will bring you and your family much happiness, lasting good health and peace.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers and as always be assured of our prayers and best wishes.

- God Bless You,
- Msgr. John B. McCann
- Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski
- Msgr. Aloysius R. Callaghan
- Deacon James A. Bardi
- Deacon Charles A. Giordano
- Deacon Paul Hiryak
- Staff of Immaculate Conception Church

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS – Any 8th grade student in Catholic, public or private school who is registered in a parish of the Diocese of Allentown is eligible to apply for a one-year partial scholarship of \$1,000 to be applied to tuition at Berks Catholic High School. Scholarships are awarded on the basis of participation in activities, service to school and community, special honors, leadership positions, academic achievement and the recommendation of the pastor. For an application please contact Immaculate Conception Academy Principal, Mrs. Christine Foley at 610-404-8645 or Mrs. Dawn O'Donnell, Director of Religious Education at 610-582-3880. **Application Deadline is February 16, 2018.**

Coach Bingo - February 10th, 6pm – Social Hall. Doors open 5pm. You must be 21 to attend and it is BYOB and BYOS. Tickets: \$25 each or \$200 a table. Tickets can be purchased at <https://icahsoknights.wixsite.com/store/coach-bingo>

Life Ad Campaign of 2018

Please demonstrate your support for the *Life Ad 2018 Campaign* sponsored by the Catholic Community of Berks County by signing your name to Immaculate Conception's list of supporters. This Life Ad will be published in the Reading Eagle on January 22nd, the anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States. Your donations not only publish this Ad but also provide financial support to St. Mary's Shelter. Please consider giving us your signature support. It is important to raise the awareness that many people support the homeless pregnant women.

Thank you for taking a public stand against the tragedy of abortion.

Note: To participate in this endeavor please complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket by January 7, 2018. The suggested donation is \$6 per name. If making your donation by check, please make it payable to Immaculate Conception Church.

Please PRINT name clearly. We can only use the following examples: John Smith, John and Mary Smith or The Smith Family.

Name: _____

Donation: _____

Deadline: January 7, 2018

Calendar

Monday

January 1
Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God
Nm 6:22-27
Gal 4:4-7
Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday

January 2
Sts. Basil the Great and
Gregory Nazianzen,
Bishops and Doctors of the
Church
1 Jn 2:22-28
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday

January 3
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 2:29-3:6
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday

January 4
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious
1 Jn 3:7-10
Jn 1:35-42

Friday

January 5
St. John Neumann,
Bishop
1 Jn 3:11-21
Jn 1:43-51

Saturday

January 6
Christmas Weekday
1 Jn 5:5-13
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38
or Lk 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Sunday

January 7
Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
Mt 2:1-12

Dear Padre,

I worry that I'm cramming too much of my Catholic devotions down my children's throats. Should they have more freedom to choose the faith on their own?

Many of us can connect our faith to our mothers. It was most likely their constancy, love, and devotion that gave us the first hints that faith is important in one's life. When a woman chooses to be a mother, she commits to handing on to her children that which is most powerful and most profound in her own life. Over the years, the children will take what is given, sift through it, and finally add it in some way to their own personalities. But the gift first has to be given, and the commitment of motherhood is giving that gift.

Mary, the patron of the Church and of mothers around the world, is first represented in the Gospels as the one "who believed" (Luke 1:45). It was this deep capacity for faith that became the well that cradled and fed Jesus.

"Education in the faith by the 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" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2226).

The sincerity and reverence of a mother's faith can become a fountain of living water that will naturally overflow, and her children can choose to drink of it. Renew your commitment to handing on your faith to your children freely and without limits!

Source: *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications, Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK: VASTOCKSTUDIO



A Word From Pope Francis

It is necessary to reaffirm the conviction that every family is the principal setting for the growth of each individual, since it is through the family that human beings become open to life and the natural need for relationships with others. Over and over again we see that family bonds are essential for the stability of relationships in society, for the work of education, and for integral human development, for they are inspired by love, responsible intergenerational solidarity, and mutual trust.

—Address, Food and Agricultural Organization, June 20, 2013