

## Reaching Far and Wide

A mysterious scene barely comes to light before us. Are we inside or outside of a Roman portico? What is going on in the background? The central scene clearly shows the Child Jesus perched in the Virgin's arms and surrounded by swaddling clothes. A glow emanates from the Child that enlightens the three Wise Men processing toward Jesus. Their whole caravan chaotically crowds around and strains to see the king they have come to worship. A dalmatian wanders behind while a camel appears in the back lighting with a knowing smirk. The Ethiopian sage sympathetically stares out from the center of the painting and seemingly asks us if we understand the significance of their travels.

The arrival of these astronomers from the East sends a very important message for all of us at Mass

today. Jesus is the light of the whole world, and all peoples—no matter how far or how lost—are invited by his attractive and saving light. This light came to the Chosen People and will be fully consumed in Jerusalem as Isaiah prophesies. Yet he will proclaim that all peoples are invited to be members of the same family and coheirs to the treasures of God's love and mercy. Faith in him and acceptance of his gospel truth is all he asks. So no matter how far you or anyone you know seems from Jesus and his truth, he loves them and wants them around his table to experience his love.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

*For Reflection* Do I trust that Jesus wants to and can reach any soul, no matter how far away? Will you renew your prayer and gentle testimony to invite those who are still searching?

Piece: *The Adoration of the Magi*, 1645-1650

Artist: Vincent Malo

Location: Vatican Pinacoteca



*Arise! Shine, for your light has come, the glory of the LORD has dawned upon you.*  
(Isaiah 60:1)

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518    secretary@icbvm.org    ccd@icbvm.org    bulletin@icbvm.org

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence  
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi,  
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano  
 Parish Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880  
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 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

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## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – JANUARY 7, 2018

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Peter Bogus  
 In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredricksen*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Catherine Alderman	THURS	7:00 PM	Msgr Richard J. Loeper
SUN	7:30 AM	Thomas D. Kirkpatrick	FRI	7:30 AM	Jesse Painter
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners		9:00 AM	ICA Mass – Barbara Ann Pease
	11:00 AM	Tadeuz Lucarz	SAT	5:15 PM	Joseph D. Nanni
MON	<b>No Mass</b>		SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Frank Janiszewski		9:00 AM	Darlene Strock
WED	7:30 AM	Nicolina Kennedy		11:00 AM	Gabriele D'Onofrio

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Ann Marie Arbo	Joe Bailey	Caitlyn Bailey, Jordan and Lauren Yerger
SUN	7:30AM	Adelina Kieffer	Dan Sweeney	Mason and Morgan Cambria, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00AM	Isabelita Santos	Stephanie Myers	Kathryn Krueger, Ally and Jacob Santos
	11:00AM	Barbara Romig	Mary Gray	Trey Bradfield, Will and Pearce Gray

**Second Collection Next Week is the Monthly Collection**

### 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](http://www.icaberks.org)!

Follow us on Facebook/Immaculate  
 Conception Academy

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato,  
 Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott,  
 Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, 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, 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

Pray for the departed: Daniel A. Casciano, Jr., Rev. Msgr. Joseph P.  
 Dooley

Newly Baptized: Jordan Gerard Hartwich

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:**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>01/07</b>	<b>Social Sunday</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>01/08</b>	<b>7:30pm RCIA</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>01/09</b>	<b>7:30pm Bell Choir</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>01/11</b>	<b>7:30pm Adult Choir</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>01/12</b>	<b>7pm Senior High Youth Group</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>01/13</b>	<b>4-5pm Confessions</b>

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

***Please note there will be no Mass on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.***

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic will be "Prayer" presented by Sister Joan Noreen. 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.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP will meet Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7pm to 9pm in the lower level meeting room of the church office. All high school teenagers in our parish are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food, games, prayer & praise. Bring a friend!**

**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS** – Any 8<sup>th</sup> 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.**

**Women's Society Meeting** - January 17<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the social hall. All members are requested to attend if able. Meeting will begin with recitation of the Rosary, followed by business meeting. Light refreshments will be offered. If you have never been to a meeting, please come and join us. All women of the parish are welcome to participate in any of our activities whether they are a member or not. If you have been thinking about joining, just come to any one of our meetings to check us out. It is not a big commitment of time as we meet only once a month to plan our events. Call Marsha at 610.385.6319 for information.

**Hot, hearty, and homemade!** That describes the wonderful selection of soups you will find at the Women's Society Annual Soup Sale on January 20/21. Choosing just one will be a challenge, so why not pick up a couple of your favorites or take this opportunity to try something new! If you would like to donate one of your family favorites, please pick up containers in the narthex of the church or in the church office.

**Berks Catholic Open House** - If you would like to learn more about all that Berks Catholic has to offer please plan to attend the Berks Catholic High School Open House and Registration Event on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> beginning promptly at 2pm. To register or for more information, visit [www.berkscatholic.org](http://www.berkscatholic.org) or 610-374-8361, x244.

In light of the heightened cases of influenza being reported in our five-county area and the change in the PA Dept of Health's Influenza Status from "sporadic" to "widespread," the Exchange of the Sign of Peace and the Reception of Holy Communion from the Chalice be suspended beginning this weekend. This suspension will be in effect until further notice is given when the incidence of influenza subsides in our region. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Bereavement Support Group will meet on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2pm in the lower level of the Parish office. We welcome anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. Call Toni 610-404-1389 or Pat 610-775-1892.

**Lector Training Session** – February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9-12 in the church. **If you love to read and live the Word of God and feel called to this very important ministry, this is a wonderful opportunity to share this gift with the members of our parish. To register, call the parish office at 610-582-2411 or email [secretary@icbvm.org](mailto:secretary@icbvm.org)**

Immaculate Conception Academy's 2017-18 Annual Fund Appeal is now underway! Visit [www.icaberks.org](http://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!

**March for Life** – January 19<sup>th</sup> – 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](mailto:icc_march4life@windstream.net).

**Coach Bingo - February 10<sup>th</sup>, 6pm** – Social Hall. Doors open 5pm. You must be 21 to attend and it is BYOB and BYOS. Tickets: \$30 each or \$240 a table. Buy tickets at <https://icahsoknights.wixsite.com/store/coach-bingo>

**Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.** Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. The next program begins on the weekend of February 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August. For information, or to register for one of our weekends call 1-800-470-2230 or visit us at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com). All inquiries are kept confidential.

Join us for a Mass for those suffering from addiction. St. Eleanor Catholic Church, Our Lady Chapel, 647 Locust St., Colledgeville. January 27, 11am. Confession available 10-10:45am. Addiction has touched far too many families and taken far too many of our loved ones. Join us that we may draw strength from one another.

## Calendar

### Monday

January 8

*Baptism of the Lord*

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or

Is 55:1-11 or

Acts 10:34-38 or

1 Jn 5:1-9

Mk 1:7-11

### Tuesday

January 9

*Weekday*

1 Sm 1:9-20

Mk 1:21-28

### Wednesday

January 10

*Weekday*

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20

Mk 1:29-39

### Thursday

January 11

*Weekday*

1 Sm 4:1-11

Mk 1:40-45

### Friday

January 12

*Weekday*

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a

Mk 2:1-12

### Saturday

January 13

*Weekday*

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1

Mk 2:13-17

### Sunday

January 14

*Second Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19

1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Jn 1:35-42

# Dear Padre,

## What is the real meaning of the visit of the three kings to Jesus, and does that visit have meaning for us today?

At the most fundamental level, the three kings represent all of the world's nations. These nations come and share their treasures with Jesus. In this context, the mission of the three kings can be seen as a challenge to all nations to recognize Jesus and share the treasures they have.

We can link the story of the three kings with another in Scripture—the multiplication of the loaves (see Matthew 14:13-21). In this story, the disciples represent the three kings. The disciples ask Jesus: “How can we possibly provide food for all these people?” But Jesus insists: “You yourselves give them food to eat.” So the disciples divide up their five loaves and two

fish, and everyone has enough to eat.

The Gospel message is that when we share what we have, then we will have enough for all. We can look at it from a broader viewpoint: When one nation shares with another, there is enough for all. We all work toward this sense of sharing in our own lives by not accumulating more than we need and by



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trying to share with those who have less. We can contribute on another level by being heard through our political choices and through our involvement in local, national, and international issues.

We are not perfect, but the Lord does not demand perfection. The Lord asks for progress and an honest effort. May the Lord strengthen us to share more at home and internationally, so that all of us may royally sit together at our king's banquet.

Source: *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications, [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



## *A Word From Pope Francis*

*Continue to overcome apathy, offering a Christian response to the social and political anxieties, which are arising in various parts of the world. I ask you to be builders of the world, to work for a better world....Don't be observers, but immerse yourself in the reality of life, as Jesus did.*

—Vigil, July 27, 2013

***Would you Love to Proclaim the Word of God?***



***Share Your  
Faith***



***Evangelize by  
Example***

**LECTOR TRAINING  
SESSION NOW AVAILABLE**

**WHEN: Sat. February 3, 2018 at 9:00am-12 Noon**

**WHO: ADULTS WHO LOVE SCRIPTURE**

**WHERE: Immaculate Conception Church**

**HOW: JUST REGISTER!**

**Call Rita Lukes at 610-582-2411, or**

**Email: [rlukes @ icbvm.org](mailto:rlukes@icbvm.org)**