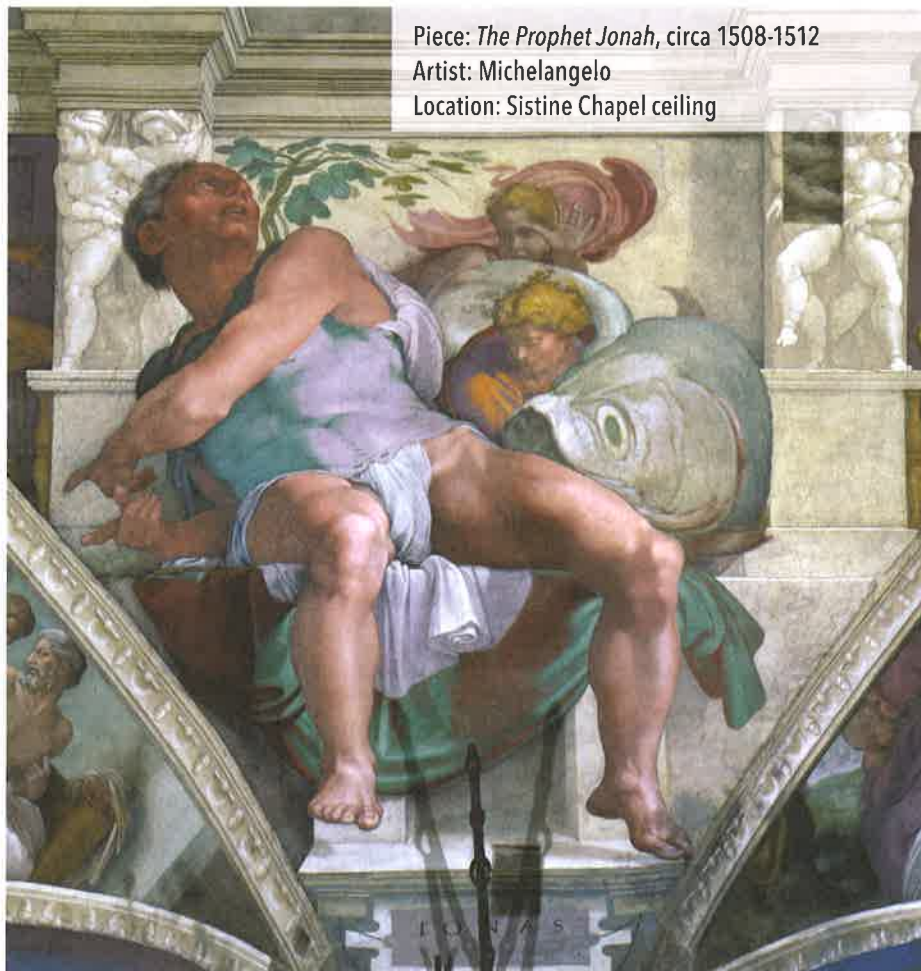


God's Patient Call

This painting of Jonah in the Sistine Chapel is directly above *The Last Judgment*. Michelangelo chooses to depict Jonah for his theological connection to Jesus, who said, "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights" (Matthew 18:40).

Unlike Jesus, Jonah initially balks at God's call until he grudgingly accepts and preaches to the city of Nineveh. In his rebellion, he gets in a boat and goes the opposite direction from where God was calling. Eventually he was thrown overboard and swallowed by the fish, seen painted at his side. After a three-night stomachache, the fish spewed Jonah up on the shore, back where he had started.

Jonah looks up to heaven with a weary longing, which might denote his melancholy personality. The fig tree further reinforces his weakness because it recalls the episode when Jonah lay under the fig tree in depression and lethargy.



Piece: *The Prophet Jonah*, circa 1508-1512
Artist: Michelangelo
Location: Sistine Chapel ceiling

Like Peter and Andrew, James and John, God entered Jonah's life and called him. Unlike the apostles, it took him a while to say yes. We can also be slow to respond to the invitation of God in our soul, whether in big or small things. Perhaps the attraction of the world or fear of sacrifice keeps us from saying yes. Yet his voice is constant and persistent.

Michelangelo paints Jonah dangling above *The Last Judgment* as if to subtly say, you are cordially invited to say yes to God's patient callings...while you still have time.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Do I understand that putting off the voice of God is also putting off all the good, joy, and peace he wants to bring about by what he is asking?

*Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.
(Mark 1:17-18)*

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
 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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 21, 2018

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Monsignor Richard J. Loeper
 In Memory of Monsignor Thomas J. Birch*

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Gordon Corson	THURS	7:00 PM	Mary Loeb
SUN	7:30 AM	Josephine Buchanan	FRI	No Mass	
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Louis Lanza
	11:00 AM	Victoria Barletta	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON	No Mass			9:00 AM	Clyde & Rowena Smith – 60 th Wedding Anniversary
TUES	7:00 PM	Christine Maslar		11:00 AM	John Steigerwalt
WED	No Mass				

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Jason Mariano	Mary Schwendt	Adam, Carlina and Marielle Davis
SUN	7:30AM	Toni Kaucher	Jim Kaucher	Carina Cress, Eliana and Simon Crew
	9:00AM	CATHOLIC	SCHOOLS	WEEK
	11:00AM	Becky Shemanski	Steve Lukes	Parker Davis, Nicholas Donnelly, Andrew Kurtas

Second Collection Next Week is for Catholic Relief Services

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

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, Virginia Marks, Ken
 Rumler, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, John
 LeFosse, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Mark McDonald, Dante
 Stetina, Nancy Iezzi, Charles Reppert, Helen McDonald, Joanne
 Iannotti, Karen Dougherty, Nicholas Dellaquila, Pat and Curt
 Miller

Welcome to our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Andres Paulino
 Pray for the departed: Mary Del Grosso, William Lore, Mirta
 Butler

Newly Baptized: Adalyn Elizabeth Horbach, Sergio Manolo Viola
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:

<u>Sun</u>	<u>01/21</u>	Women's Society Soup Sale
<u>Mon</u>	<u>01/22</u>	7:30pm RCIA
<u>Tues</u>	<u>01/23</u>	7:30pm Bell Choir
<u>Wed</u>	<u>01/24</u>	7pm Women's Society Meeting
<u>Thurs</u>	<u>01/25</u>	7:30pm Adult Choir
<u>Sat</u>	<u>01/27</u>	4-5pm Confessions



WHAT'S HAPPENING



**Please note there will be no Masses on
January 22nd, 24th or 26th**

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic will be the "Sacraments of Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick." Deacon Paul Hiryak is the presenter. Class begins at 7:30pm in the office building lower level meeting room. Contact the office with questions at 610-582-2411.

Women's Society Meeting – RESCHEDULED - January 24th, 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!

Lector Training Session – February 3rd, 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

Coach Bingo - February 10th, 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>

Berks Catholic Open House and Registration Event on Sunday, January 28th beginning promptly at 2pm. To register or for more information, visit 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.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK STARTS JANUARY 28TH

Love. Learning. Leadership.

Catholic Schools – Faith, Academics, Service

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 28

Parish Family is welcome to all of today's activities

9am Opening Mass

9am-1pm ICA Open House

10am-1pm Science Fair Set-Up

Candy Bar BINGO Doors Open at 1pm, Games start 2pm

(Bring candy bar for admission-ICC Social Hall)

Monday, January 29

Parish Family is welcome to all of today's activities

9am-3pm Science Fair judging

1:30-2:30pm 4th Grade Wax Museum

Tuesday, January 30

Academy Tours 9-11am and 1-2:30pm

9-11am Science Fair Tours

Brain Show Mania (12-1pm gr. 4-8/1:15 gr. K-3)

6:15pm - Science Fair Awards

6:30pm Brain Show Mania for all Parish Families

Wednesday, January 31

Make your own Sundaes at Lunch

Step-Up Day

Thursday, February 1

Sports Dress Down Day - Prayer Partner Game Day

Teacher Luncheon

Afternoon at the Movies

Friday, February 2

Parish Family is welcome to all of today's activities

9am Special Person Mass - Please join us for light

refreshments after Mass

10:30am – Band Concert at ICA

12pm – Early Dismissal

Please mark your calendars for all of the fun events we have scheduled for the week. We hope you can join us!

*** *** ***

For registration information, please contact Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/18 and 1st Grade students aged 6 by 10/15/18.

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, 19518

Thank you for your generous support of Catholic Education!

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.

Are you carrying the emotional hurt associated with a past abortion? God in his mercy wants you to experience forgiveness and peace. Come to a Rachel's Vineyard retreat sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Allentown. The retreat will be the weekend of March 9th-11th. Please call 610.332.0442 (x2019). Registration deadline is Feb. 26.

Calendar

Monday

January 22

Day of Prayer for the
Legal Protection of
Unborn Children

2 Sm 5:1-7, 10

Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday

January 23

Weekday

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19

Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday

January 24

St. Francis de Sales,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church

2 Sm 7:4-17

Mk 4:1-20

Thursday

January 25

Conversion of St. Paul,
Apostle

Acts 22:3-16 or

Acts 9:1-22

Mk 16:15-18

Friday

January 26

Sts. Timothy and Titus,
Bishops

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5

Mk 4:26-34

Saturday

January 27

Weekday

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17

Mk 4:35-41

Sunday

January 28

Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Dt 18:15-20

1 Cor 7:32-35

Mk 1:21-28

Dear Padre,

Whenever I try to pray, I'm plagued with a thousand distractions. How can I learn to control my mind better?

Maybe you're trying too hard. You've heard how some baseball hitters press when they're trying to come out of a slump. Their very effort to overcome their problem makes them tighten up more. They are so worried about the mechanics of their swing, stance, or grip that they can't hit the ball. That's why their coach might advise them to stay loose in the batter's box. We could use the same advice in our approach to prayer. Do your best to pray well, but don't be too upset if your prayer is not "perfect."

Some scrupulous Catholics will repeat a prayer if their mind wanders the first time through, but this isn't advisable. I suggest that you make a good intention, say your prayer and, even if your mind wanders, don't repeat it. Remember that distractions are as natural as breathing, and even the saints couldn't pray without them. When a distraction comes, treat it as you would a fly buzzing around your head. Occasionally shoo it away, but don't spend all your time and concentration on it. The good Lord can read your heart. He loves you just as you are, distracted mind and all.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

From *Understanding Scrupulosity* by Fr. Thomas Santa, CSsR, © 2017 Liguori Publications



A Word From Pope Francis

For every Christian, the proclamation and witnessing of the Gospel is never an isolated act. This is important....No evangelizer acts, as Paul VI recalled, "in virtue of a...personal inspiration, but in union with the mission of the Church and in her name."

—Address to International Union of Superiors General,
May 8, 2013