

Offering the Gospel to All

If you asked Jesus what he did while on earth, I believe he would say, “preached and healed.” Those were his missions. He had good news to share and a longing to convince his listeners of the truth of this gospel of love and freedom. He was moved because he saw them like sheep without a shepherd. The gospels are nothing other than documentation of Jesus’ efforts to preach the gospel!

Paul shared Christ’s ardor. He was entrusted with preaching to the Gentiles the truth of the Gospel, and he did all he could to convince them of his message. He says he became all things to all, to save at least some. He worked hard during the day so he could pay his own way and offer his message for free. He adapted himself to his audience—their customs and ways of thinking—so they wouldn’t take offense at him, closing their hearts to his message.

How many missionaries have used this same approach? Just think of the French Jesuits Sts. Jean de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues of the Great Lakes region, St. Junípero Serra in the West, or Mother Cabrini serving European

immigrants on the East Coast. They learned new languages, ate new foods, and adopted new traditions to insert themselves into these cultures and share the gospel. They took a page out of Paul’s book, becoming all things to all to save at least some.

We are modern-day apostles and missionaries. Let’s take a page out of Paul’s book, and offer this gospel of hope and love to so many souls in need.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *Scenes From the Life of Christ: The Sermon on the Mount*,
circa 1481-1482
Artist: Cosimo Rosselli
Location: Sistine Chapel



For Reflection

When you look around, what needs for the gospel of love do you see? Which of these needs can you fill as Jesus’ apostle?

[Jesus said,] “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.”

(Mark 1:38)

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
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 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645.....www.icaberks.org
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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 4, 2018

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Father Francis Straka

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Eleanor Angelo	THURS	7:00 PM	Bill French
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	FRI	7:30 AM	Eleanor Painter
	9:00 AM	Barbara Pease	SAT	5:15 PM	George W. Low
	11:00 AM	Tom Hafer	SUN	7:30 AM	Brother Sudzina, S. J.
MON		No Mass		9:00 AM	Anthony Volpiccini – 28 th Anniversary
TUES	7:00 PM	Cynthia Swisher Schrickram		11:00 AM	John Iezzi – 2 nd Anniversary
WED	7:30 AM	Gerald Barbera			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Lukes 5:15pm Costanzo 7:30am Collura 9:00am Grieco 11:00am Hafer

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Shirley Wheeler	Ann Marie Arbo	Meghan Duffy, Isabella and Mia Pizzo
SUN	7:30AM	Tom Callahan	Michelle Marley	Taylor Moyer, Hannah Santos, Angela Serpico
	9:00AM	Josephine Hohl	Brian Hannon	Joey Cizmarik, Vinny Ferrara, Stephen Hannon
	11:00AM	Jim Keaveney	John Peterson	Avery Kelly, Anna and Daniel Schlegel

Second Collection Next Week is the Monthly Collection

Mark your calendar!

The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. On Ash Wednesday, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 7:30am, at 9:00am with the children of Immaculate Conception Academy and at 7:00pm. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at all the Masses.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Delores Woy, Bob & 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, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, John LeFosse, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Dante Stetina, Nancy Iezzi, Charles Reppert, Helen McDonald, Joanne Iannotti, Karen Dougherty, Nicholas Dellaquila, Curt Miller, Anne Hiryak, Alice Smyk

Welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Alleman

Pray for the departed: Reverend Edwin V. Schwartz, Florence Fontana

Congratulate the newly baptized: Gavin Henry Carver

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	02/04	Women's Society Bake Sale SOCIAL SUNDAY
Mon	02/05	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	02/06	7:30pm Baptism Class 7:30pm Bell Choir
Thurs	02/08	7:30pm Adult Choir
Fri	02/09	7-9pm SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP
Sat	02/10	4-5pm Confessions 5pm HSO Coach Bag BINGO



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Please note there will be no Mass on February 5th.

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic is "Living the Married Life" with Toni and Jim Kaucher as presenters. Class begins at 7:30pm in the office building lower level meeting room. Contact the office with questions at 610-582-2411.

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS will meet on Friday, February 9th, 7-9pm. All high school students in our parish are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. You are welcome to bring a friend!

The Women's Society will host The Big Game Bake Sale February 3rd and 4th. Stop by the table and pick up a few goodies to enjoy while you are watching The Big Game!

Please join members of the Women's Society on February 22nd, 9am in the social hall to prepare meatballs for the Youth Group's Spaghetti Dinner. We always have a great time working together in supporting the wonderful youth of our parish. The dinner is not only delicious, but it gives the parish community a wonderful opportunity to gather together.

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>

Immaculate Conception Academy is now enrolling for the 2018-19 School Year! Any public, private, or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy, grades 1 through 7, will receive a Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grant of \$1,500 over two school years (\$1,000 the first year; \$500 the second). For information or to set up a tour, please contact Mrs. Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Visit us at www.icaberks.org!

Like and follow us on Facebook to see what's happening at ICA www.facebook.com/icaknights/

Immaculate Conception Academy would like to thank our Home and School Volunteers for all their work to make our Catholic Schools Week events a success! We would also like to thank all of those who joined in our celebration of our school! Your support and prayers are greatly appreciated by our students, staff and administration.

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.

Immaculate Conception Academy would like to congratulate the winners of the 2018 Middle School Science Fair

Grand Champion- Sabrina Knipe

8th Grade Natural Science: Delaney Hyer, John Battistelli, Leah Shepsko, Gabriella Fontana; 8th Grade Physical Science: Sean Reilly, Gabriella Femino, Anna Schlegel, Mya Seleneck; 7th Grade Natural Science: Lauren Yerger, Angela Serpico, Bridgett Ottinger, Andrew Kurtas; 7th Grade Physical Science: Jack Treacy, Rebecca Adams, Alyssa Uhlman, Daniel Schlegel; 6th Grade Natural Science: Charlotte Dolena, Lauren Wethey; 6th Grade Physical Science: Caitlyn Bailey, Lucien Kraycik, Sarah Gatz

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. All inquiries are kept confidential.

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.

1st Annual Wine & Food Tasting Fundraiser sponsored Sts. Joseph and John Education Foundation – Sacred Heart Villa Rec Hall, 51 Seminary Ave, Reading - 3/5/18, 6:30-9:30pm – \$30 donation – RSVP by 2/14/18 – Gary 610-698-2531

Women's Heart Attack and Heart Disease Support Group meets the 2nd Thursday monthly. St. Ignatius, 2810 St. Alban's Dr, Reading, 7to9pm. Call 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 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. Call Lydia Rieger at 610-639-1439.

84th Annual Berks/Layman's communion breakfast – March 11th at Doubletree Hotel, Reading, Mass will be celebrated at 8:15am by the Rev. Thomas Kuller; followed by breakfast. Breakfast speaker is Dr. Robert Brigham, President of Reading Hospital Dept. of Surgery. Tickets are \$15. Contact Ed at 610-373-3080 for ticket info. Free parking at the Doubletree Hotel.

Calendar

Monday

February 5

St. Agatha,
Virgin and Martyr

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13

Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday

February 6

St. Paul Miki and
Companions, Martyrs

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30

Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday

February 7

Weekday

1 Kgs 10:1-10

Mk 7:14-23

Thursday

February 8

Weekday

1 Kgs 11:4-13

Mk 7:24-30

Friday

February 9

Weekday

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19

Mk 7:31-37

Saturday

February 10

St. Scholastica,
Virgin

1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34

Mk 8:1-10

Sunday

February 11

Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46

1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Mk 1:40-45

Dear Padre,

How can I ask my priest for better homilies?

First, let me commend you for not just accepting bad preaching as a necessary evil. Priests are just like anyone else: Each has his gifts, and not everyone is a gifted preacher.

One of the best things parishioners can do for their priest is to give him



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

some honest, specific, helpful feedback instead of the generic, "Nice homily, Father." Many people say that so automatically that it's been said to me even when I wasn't the priest who delivered the homily!

Most priests don't get a lot of quality feedback on their preaching.

Some may find it hard to hear a critique, but most would welcome sincere, constructive criticism as long as it comes from the heart and the goal is to make them better preachers. You can even do this in a letter. Just be sure to sign it so he will take it seriously and be able to contact you for further feedback.

Keep in mind that a homily is not the same as a sermon. Whereas a sermon often includes a lot of moralizing, a homily must artfully draw the listener into questions of the human heart and bring that day's Scripture reading to bear on those questions. In that homily we hear in faith how hope, love, sacrifice, and belief in God guide us on our life journey.

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

Jesus sends his disciples out to all nations....We too were part of all those people of two thousand years ago. Jesus did not provide a short list of who is, or is not, worthy of receiving his message and his presence. Instead, he always embraced life as he saw it.

—Canonization of Fr. Junípero Serra, September 23, 2015