

The Courage to Heal

Leprosy was a highly contagious skin disease that led to certain death for anyone who caught it in Jesus' time. For good reason the Jewish law demanded that a leper live set apart and scream out as he walked along to keep everyone at a safe distance. Imagine the pitiful scene of everyone discreetly but purposefully moving away at the sound of someone screaming, "Unclean, unclean!"

Yet the leper doesn't scream to keep Jesus away. He walks right up to our Lord and confesses his faith in Jesus' power to heal him of this incurable bacteria. He humbly admits his contagious illness and places himself before Jesus. And unlike anyone else might do, Jesus doesn't run away, he walks toward him. He does the unthinkable. He touches him!

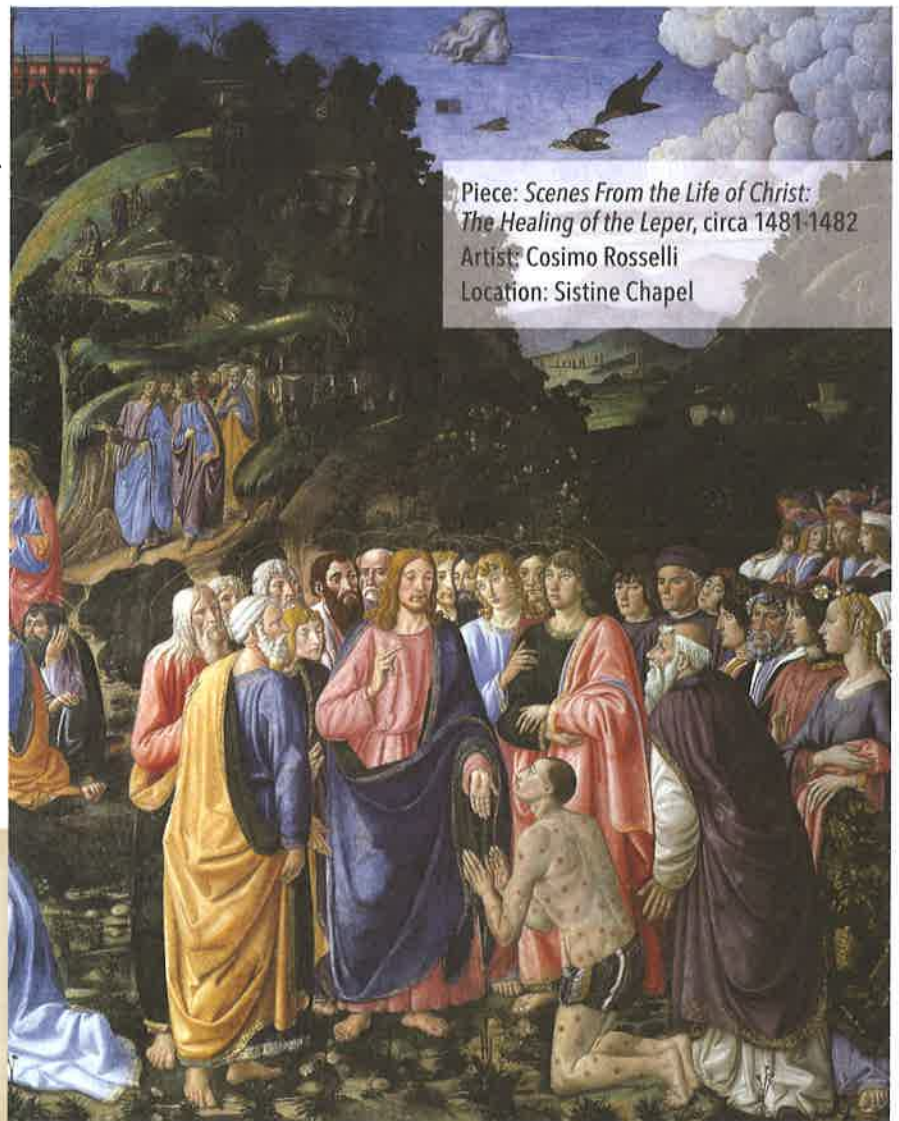
We need not be ashamed of our deadly sin that eats away at our heart and cripples our ability to love. Go to Jesus, expose it to him, and let his loving touch transform you.

The terrible disease of leprosy was still a major problem well into the nineteenth century when St. Damian, a Belgian missionary, went to the Hawaiian Island of Molokai to serve as parish priest to all

the lepers quarantined on that island. Not fearing to touch them, he cared for them for many years until, as expected, he contracted the disease and died of it.

This is what it means to be a Christian! Be like Jesus. Be not afraid of your wounds or those of others, no matter how repellent, and give of yourself to care for them.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



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

For Reflection

How at peace am I with my own wounds, sins, and imperfections?

Am I mature and free enough to ask for help and also reach out and help others in their moral or physical suffering?

*"If you wish, you can make me clean."
...[Jesus] said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."*

(Mark 1:40–41)

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 11, 2018

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anthony Volpiccini

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	George W. Low	THURS	7:00 PM	Dr. Nicholas & Margaret Christ
SUN	7:30 AM	Brother Sudzina, S. J.	FRI	7:30 AM	Mary Lou Giordano
	9:00 AM	Anthony Volpiccini – 28 th Anniversary	SAT	5:15 PM	Josephine Buchanan
	11:00 AM	John Iezzi – 2 nd Anniversary	SUN	7:30 AM	Paul Bringenberg – 1 st Anniversary
MON	No Mass			9:00 AM	Michael Foraker
TUES	7:00 PM	Paul Vignone – 16 th Anniversary		11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
WED	7:30 AM	Anna E. Kemp			
	9:00 AM	ICA Mass – Andrew Martin			
	7:00 PM	John Kakas			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Joe Bailey	Jennifer Stuart	Caitlyn Bailey, Delaney Hyer, Elly Smithson
SUN	7:30AM	Dan Sweeney	Adelina Kieffer	Alex and Jason Carvalho, Daniel Montowski
	9:00AM	Gretchen Markel	Isabelita Santos	Beth Cote, Ally and Jacob Santos
	11:00AM	Leonard Cline	Mary Gray	Ethan Cline, Pearce and Will Gray

Second Collection Next Week is the Catholic Home Missions

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, Helen McDonald, Joanne Iannotti, Karen Dougherty, Nicholas Dellaquila, Curt Miller, Anne Hiryak, Alice Smyk, Ed Cahill
 Pray for the departed: Charles Reppert, Sr., Fr. Daniel Cipar, Ed Woznicki, Joan Krawlzik
 Congratulate the newly baptized: Shane Nathaniel Woods
 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:

Mon	02/12	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	02/13	7:30pm Bell Choir
Thurs	02/15	7:30pm Adult Choir
Fri	02/16	1:45pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Sat	02/17	4-5pm Confessions



WHAT'S HAPPENING



**Please note there will be no Mass on
February 12th.**

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AS HE
CARRIED THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION.
STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK
ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH AT 1:45PM WITH THE
CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY
AND AT 7:00PM.

Don't Give Up Chocolate for Lent! Instead, take a 40-day journey to become the best version of yourself. Join our parish of the Immaculate Conception for Best Lent Ever, a free email program designed to help you have a life-changing Lent. Every day you'll get inspirational videos, practical tips and encouraging stories. Are you ready to have your best Lent ever? Sign up at DynamicCatholic.com/Lent

Eucharistic Adoration: During the 40 days of Lent our church will be open every Wednesday evening, 7-9pm for Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the monstrance on the altar. You are welcome to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord Jesus. You may bring your own prayer books, use any of the books in our parish library, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, or just sit and relax and enjoy the peace that comes from simply being in the presence of God. You may feel that you can't pray well. Don't let that discourage you. The mere fact that you have carved out a period of time to be with Jesus is a great act of faith. When you come, bring to the Lord your hopes and desires, your dreams and aspirations, your fears and anxieties and entrust all them all to God.

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

Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner - February 24th, 4:30-7:30pm - Social Hall - \$9 in advance/\$10 at the door/\$4 for children 4-10 - Dinner includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, beverage. Take out is available. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on February 17/18 and at the door. Proceeds benefit the youth group's summer trip to the Steubenville Youth Conference and mission trip to Louisa, KY. Call Liz at 610-404-4425 for info.

Please join members of the **Women's Society** on Thursday, February 22 at 9am in the social hall to help 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 Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner is not only delicious, but it gives the parish community a wonderful opportunity to gather together. Don't miss it!

Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education Program is now enrolling students in Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2018-19 School Year. *ICA offers:*

- Faith based learning in a safe, secure environment
- A Full Day, Academic Kindergarten (Students must be 5 by 10/15/18)
- A challenging academic curriculum, which includes weekly Art, Music, Gym, S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) classes
- A 1:1 student to Chromebook ratio for students in grades 4-8, as well as iPad access for all grades
- A robust athletic program through Immaculate Conception CYO and Berks Catholic sports programs, as well as an instrumental music program and Drama Club
- Transfer grants (\$1500 over 2 years) for students entering grades 1-7. Financial aid is available to those who qualify.

Our Early Education Program includes:

- Preschool which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am to 12:00 pm for students who are 3 years of age.
- Pre-Kindergarten which offers students 4 years of age the option to attend:
Full Days: 8:30am-2:45 pm, Monday through Friday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday
Half days: 8:30am-12pm, Monday through Friday or Monday/Wednesday/Friday

To arrange a tour, please contact Mrs. Adele Reilly, Advancement Director, at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/icaknights/

The Immaculate Conception Academy Annual Fund helps to ensure the long-term viability of the Academy and to provide the necessary funding to ensure we continue to have the ability to meet the challenges of the future.

This year, your support will help us replace and update our Smart Board Technology, which has been a critical part of our classroom learning since opening our doors in 2003.

Your tax-deductible contribution will greatly impact our school community. Please help us continue to make ICA a vibrant and special place for many years to come by making your gift today! Donation envelopes and information can now be found in the ICA kiosk in the Narthex. Online donations can be made by visiting www.icaberks.org and clicking on the "Support ICA" tab!

Thank you for your support of Catholic Education in our community!

The Women's Society will meet February 21st at 7pm in the social hall. Meeting will begin with recitation of the Rosary, followed by business meeting and light refreshments.

The Women's Society is selling Gertrude Hawk candy for our Easter candy fundraiser this year. Please consider ordering from the extensive list of premium candy. Order forms with pertinent information are available in the Narthex. Please submit your orders by **Sunday, February 25.**

Immaculate Conception Academy Aftercare is looking for someone willing to work several hours per week from 3pm to 6pm. Must have completed "Protecting God's Children" and obtain required background checks and clearances. Call Laura DeFalco at 610-463-8157.

Calendar

Monday

February 12

Weekday

Jas 1:1–11

Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday

February 13

Weekday

Jas 1:12–18

Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday

February 14

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12–18

2 Cor 5:20–6:2

Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday

February 15

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15–20

Lk 9:22–25

Friday

February 16

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1–9a

Mt 9:14–15

Saturday

February 17

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b–14

Lk 5:27–32

Sunday

February 18

First Sunday
of Lent

Gn 9:8–15

1 Pt 3:18–22

Mk 1:12–15

Dear Padre,

Why is church often packed on Ash Wednesday, even though it is not a holy day of obligation?

Indeed, pastoral experience corroborates your observation. Holy days of obligation draw well—but it's standing-room only on Ash Wednesday. There's something undeniably elemental about the ugly smudge of ashes on the forehead. People wear it without embarrassment or shame. It is as if to say, "I'm Catholic and proud of it."

Ash Wednesday is unique because it signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about—people who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism in order to rise with him to a new life. We renew our

baptismal commitment to be his people in the world. As we recall and celebrate Christ's passage through death to life, we renew our own death to old sinful ways to rise and live with recaptured vigor.

The symbols of Ash Wednesday touch us powerfully. When we hear, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return," we are reminded of our vulnerability and dependence on God. Despite our mechanisms of power, ultimately, like dust in the wind, we can be whisked away in an instant and brought to our knees.

At the same time, we are called to scale the spiritual heights to turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel, affirming that

we are a people with an enduring destiny and a sacred mission in the world. Together we get our ashes and turn back to the Lord.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications



CNS PHOTO/VICTOR ALEMAN, ANGELUS NEWS



A Word From Pope Francis

[Jesus says] he is the real instrument of the Father's mercy, who goes to encounter everyone, bringing consolation and salvation, and, in doing so, he manifests God's justice. The blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf regain their dignity and are no longer excluded because of their disease.

—General Audience, September 7, 2016

SPAGHETTI DINNER

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

SOCIAL HALL

905 CHESTNUT STREET

DOUGLASSVILLE

Saturday, February 24, 2018

4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



Ticket Includes: Spaghetti, Meatballs, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Beverage

Cost: **Adults \$9.00 in advance/ \$10 at the door**

\$4.00 – Children (4 to 10 years of age)

Take Out Is Available

Tickets will be on sale during Social Sunday and after all Masses on Feb. 17/18

Call Liz at 610-404-4425 for more information

**Proceeds Benefit ICC Youth Group's Trip to Steubenville Youth Conference and
Mission Trip to Lousia, KY**

Dear Parishioners and Friends:

The Women's Society of our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception is pleased to offer Gertrude Hawk Chocolates as an Easter Fund Raising program. Gertrude Hawk Chocolates is unsurpassed for its quality and guaranteed value. Homemade recipes, the finest ingredients and attention to detail have kept the company at the top of the industry for 80 years. With such an early Easter, and to get everyone their candy, we need to start selling/buying right away.

We welcome your participation!

Sell Online!

Gertrude Hawk Chocolates has an **ONLINE FUNDRAISING program!** Simply setup a Fundraising user account, *then* email co-workers, friends and family your participant number to ask for their support.

How do online orders get delivered?

Online orders placed within the sale dates **below** can choose to have their orders delivered for free with the main shipment. (Seller responsible for delivering order)

OR

Out of town friends and family can choose to send their orders directly to their home! (Shipping fees apply) With this option, orders can be placed now through **3/25/18!**

All web orders require credit card payment.

Please check the back of your brochure for instructions on how to get started!

Your Group Code is 109018

For online support or any questions, call Gertrude Hawk Chocolates 1-800-706-6275.
Visit **www.gertrudehawkfundraising.com**

SALE DATES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Our sale begins **TODAY!!**

Order form (white and yellow copies) and money are due **Sunday, February 25, 2018**

- * Keep the bottom copy and brochure for your records
- * Total dollars sent in should equal Grand Total Amount on order form
- * Make checks payable to **ICC WOMEN'S SOCIETY**
- * Parishioners return the forms to the collection baskets or parish office.
- * Students return the forms to the school.

The order pickup date is **March 17 and 18 at the Social Hall**

**Thank You
for Your Support!**