



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 25, 2018

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18

Rom 8:31b-34

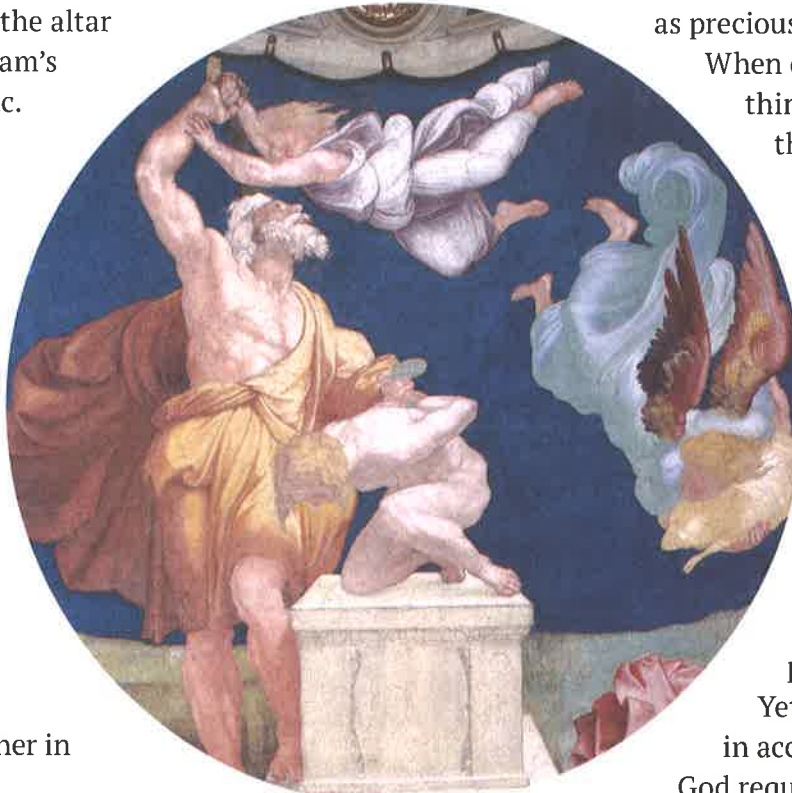
Mk 9:2-10

## Let Go and Let God

**K**neeling humbly on the altar  
is the son of Abraham's  
old age, the promised Isaac.  
He was the answer to  
prayer, a commitment by  
God that, through this  
child, Abraham would  
have descendants as  
numerous as the stars.  
Yet God was asking  
him to sacrifice that  
hope and promise.  
And Abraham,  
although surely not  
understanding, was  
willing to obey the  
Father. It represents  
the supreme test of faith.  
Abraham is called our Father in  
Faith for a reason.

Abraham is looking up to God,  
not focused on the creatures, even  
as much as he loved his son. We also  
need to be looking up to God in order  
to rightly value the things below.

He understands that no godly gift should take  
God's place in the human heart—even something



Piece: *The Sacrifice of Isaac*, 1511  
Artist: Raphael Sanzio  
Location: Vatican Museums

as precious as his God-given child.  
When dealing with all the good  
things God gives us, even  
those he has promised  
and those we love most,  
we must be willing to  
submit to his plans.  
God doesn't always  
make sense to us, and  
we are painfully aware  
that his ways are not  
always our ways.

Isaac is a young  
boy, but certainly big  
enough to put up a fight  
as his elderly father's  
plans become evident.  
Yet we see him kneeling  
in acceptance of the sacrifice  
God requests. Although he wants  
to understand, he doesn't make the  
reason an absolute. Isaac foreshadows  
the trusting lamb led to slaughter, the  
ram whose head will be caught in a  
crown of thorns, and the Son who will not be spared  
by the heavenly Father.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*Are we willing to lay peacefully within God's plan, even if it means sacrifice?*

*Do we trust his plans more than our own?*

*Is there anything more beloved by us than God's loving plan for us?*

*He who did not spare his own Son...  
how will he not also give us everything else along with him?  
Romans 8:32*

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence  
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 Deacon Charles A. Giordano  
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 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

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## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – FEBRUARY 25, 2018

### *The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Andrew J. Lakatosh*

#### ★★★ MASS INTENTIONS ★★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Joseph D. Nanni	THURS	7:00 PM	Stephen Gresh
SUN	7:30 AM	Josephine Bogus	FRI	7:30 AM	Dean Pellerzi
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Stetina Family
	11:00 AM	Theona Kozak	SUN	7:30 AM	Anthony Volpiccini
MON	7:30 AM	God's Blessings on Mary Ellen Magee		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Andrew J. Lakatosh		11:00 AM	Jennie & Carlo DeFrancesco
WED	7:30 AM	William P. Smith – 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary			

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	John Gleason	Kevin Creamer	Michael Beitz, Andrew Kurtas, Dante LaScala
SUN	7:30AM	Amanda Marley	Michelle Marley	Ande, Ethan and Lucien Kraycik
	9:00AM	Pat Fessler	Pam Amos	Carina Cress, Avery Lang, Mya Salaneck
	11:00AM	Bob Newman	Becky Shemanski	John Dinnocenti, Carson Endy, Luke Voelker

### *Second Collection Next Week is for Church Building & Parish Maintenance*

#### 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.

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, Joanne Iannotti, Karen Dougherty, Nicholas Dellaquila, Curt Miller, Anne Hiryak, Alice Smyk, Ed Cahill, Theresa Nelson, George Ciotti, Sharon Egolf, John Glacken, Sr., Joseph Stanton, Sharon Painter, Clyde Smith

**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:***

<b>Mon</b>	<b>02/26</b>	<b>7:30pm RCIA</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>02/27</b>	<b>7:30pm Bell Choir</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>02/28</b>	<b>7pm Eucharistic Adoration</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>03/01</b>	<b>7:30pm Adult Choir</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>03/02</b>	<b>7pm Junior High Youth Group</b> <b>7pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>03/03</b>	<b>9am Men's Group "Esto Vir"</b> <b>4-5pm Confessions</b>

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

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, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 7:00PM.

***PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 1:45PM DUE TO AN EARLY DISMISSAL AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY.***

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. Sign up at [DynamicCatholic.com/Lent](http://DynamicCatholic.com/Lent)

**Discover/Rediscover Catholicism** - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic is "Science and Christianity" with Dr. Joseph Gazzillo as the presenter. Class begins at 7:30pm in the office building lower level meeting room. Contact the office with questions at 610-582-2411.

**Annual Lenten Food Drive** for the benefit of the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish and The Kennedy House - Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. If you have any questions, contact Deacon Jim Bardi at 610-385-3666.

The **Women's Society** is selling Gertrude Hawk candy. 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 **February 25**.

**JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP NEWS** will meet on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7-9pm. All students in our parish in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. You are welcome to bring a friend!

**Esto Vir Men's Group Meeting** - March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9am - Men of ICC please join us in the parish office, lower level in a fun and relaxed environment while learning about our Catholic faith. The focus will be on Lent and practical ways to make it meaningful. Coffee/juice/light breakfast 8:30am. Bring a friend!

**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.

**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](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org)

Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/icaknights/](http://www.facebook.com/icaknights/)

**Congratulations** to our ICCYO Girls 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Varsity Basketball Team on their 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the county, which qualifies them for the Diocesan playoffs! Good luck to all of our players and coaches! **GO KNIGHTS!**

**EASTER EGG HUNT** - Join us for an egg hunt for our parish children age 12 and younger on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 11am in the social hall. We are collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and cash. A donation box is in the narthex. Thanks!

**One Day Retreat with Franciscan Friars of the Renewal:** Father Terry & Brother Shawn - February 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am-2pm. The One Day Retreat will include two Conferences, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Holy Sacrifice of Mass. Contact Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist to register at 610-582-3333. All are Welcome! Your generous donation will be deeply appreciated.

**RESORTS Casino AC - March 19th - LEAVE the Church promptly at 9:30am - Call Carol J. if interested at 610-775-4447**

Daniel Boone Optimist Club Spring Craft Show - March 10<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm, Daniel Boone Middle School, 1845 Weavertown Road, Douglassville - Over 100 Crafters  
Free Admission-----Free Parking-----Refreshments  
Additional Information: [www.danielbooneoptimist.com](http://www.danielbooneoptimist.com), [DBCraftShow@gmail.com](mailto:DBCraftShow@gmail.com) or call Lydia at 610-639-1439

**Youth Group will be cleaning up the cemetery on March 18<sup>th</sup>**

## Calendar

### Monday

February 26

Lenten Weekday

Dn 9:4b-10

Lk 6:36-38

### Tuesday

February 27

Lenten Weekday

Is 1:10, 16-20

Mt 23:1-12

### Wednesday

February 28

Lenten Weekday

Jer 18:18-20

Mt 20:17-28

### Thursday

March 1

Lenten Weekday

Jer 17:5-10

Lk 16:19-31

### Friday

March 2

Lenten Weekday

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a,  
17b-28a

Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

### Saturday

March 3

Lenten Weekday

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20

Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

### Sunday

March 4

Third Sunday  
of Lent

Ex 20:1-17 or

Ex 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

1 Cor 1:22-25

Jn 2:13-25

# Dear Padre,

**Our guitar group plays music five minutes before the opening song at Mass. By the time the interminable *Gloria* is sung, I already have a headache! Why so much music?**

At Mass, the faithful “form one body, whether in hearing the Word of God, or in taking part in the prayers and in the singing, or above all by the common offering of the Sacrifice and by participating together at the Lord’s table” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 96). Thus, liturgical music can be a form of prayer, uniting the assembly in praise to God. Ideally, it’s “a particularly apt way to express a joyful heart, accentuating the



solemnity of the celebration and fostering the sense of a common faith and a shared love” (On Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy [*Dies Domini*], 50) by Pope John Paul II.

However, this ideal isn’t always reality. To address your question, let us divide humanity into two groups: people who like

to sing and people who don’t; those who sing in full voice in the shower and those who prefer monastic silence. Every congregation includes both groups. While not everyone is naturally inclined to make a joyful noise, most people appreciate music’s power to give voice to what’s deep in the human heart.

Some may even feel there’s not *enough* music at Mass instead of too much. Nevertheless, happy the liturgical ministers who know when the sum of the individual Mass parts—sung or otherwise—can become too tedious. And blessed are the music makers who know the power of silence, an instrumental, or an optional recessional song, even for solemn occasions.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR | From *Liguorian* magazine, October 2017  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



## A Word From Pope Francis

*Lent...is a special time for recalling the gift of our baptism, when we became children of God. The Church invites us to renew the gift she has given us, not to let this gift lie dormant as if it were something from the past or locked away in a memory chest.*

—Homily, February 14, 2016