

Healed Through His Wounds

Jesus refers to the story that Michelangelo painted into a corner of the Sistine Chapel. It is about the time the Chosen People were attacked by serpents and many were dying. God instructed Moses to place two serpents on a staff and lift it up over the people. All they had to do was look at the serpents to be miraculously healed of their bite wounds.

We have all been bitten by sin. This can be our own self-destructive choices and attitudes, or we can be victims of other's sins. Yet sin and suffering doesn't need to have the last word. We can overcome if we choose to look at Christ crucified and learn his lesson of love. Jesus teaches us to not be defined by our ugly choices or the wounds we suffer. Our wounds and weaknesses can become the place of our healing. Jesus wants to heal us. That is why he let himself be lifted up!

To embrace this healing is simple yet challenging. First it requires simple faith to believe you are loved by the Father, no matter what. Second we need a constant, often-denied effort on our part to sincerely repent and work with

God's grace to transform self-limiting attitudes and habits into virtues.

Even if you feel dead in your transgressions now, Jesus has already secured your path to life. Grace awaits you. The first step is to accept the love from he who is lifted up with arms outstretched to receive you.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Do I have any unspoken beliefs that, in some way, I am unlovable?

Do I need to repent from whatever attitudes or actions distance me from that love?



Piece: *The Brazen Serpent*, 1508-1512
Artist: Michelangelo
Location: Sistine Chapel

[Jesus said,] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

John 3:14

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 11, 2018

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Joseph D. Nanni – 1st Anniversary
 And In Memory of Gus Fredriksen*

★★MASS INTENTIONS★★

SAT	5:15 PM	Joseph D. Nanni – 1 st Anniversary	THURS	7:00 PM	Cynthia Swisher Schickram
SUN	7:30 AM	Joseph & Edith Banyas	FRI	7:30 AM	Ken Umstead
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners		9:00 AM	ICA Mass – Marguerite McDermott
	11:00 AM	Carol Keaveney	SAT	5:15 PM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON	7:30 AM	Leona Murphy	SUN	7:30 AM	Charles Wagner – 7 th Anniversary
TUES	7:00 PM	Gus Fredriksen – 36 th Anniversary		9:00 AM	Mary Lou Giordano
WED	7:30 AM	Patricia Gail Bealer		11:00 AM	Edgar Weitzel

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Barbara Giordano	Sherry McCollum	Trey Bradfield, Josh Piccarreta, Sean Purretta
SUN	7:30AM	Adelina Kieffer	Tom Callahan	Avery Kelly, Amanda Marley, Sidney Wolf
	9:00AM	Brian Hannon	Victor González	Stephen Hannon, B.González, LyndsaySurkosky
	11:00AM	Terry Hughes	Jim Keaveney	Nicholas Donnelly, Aiden and Owen Reber

Second Collection Next Week is for Debt Reduction

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, Ed Cahill, Theresa Nelson, George Ciotti, Sharon Egolf, John Glacken, Sr., Joseph Stanton, Sharon Painter, Clyde Smith, Beppie McGee, Joe Shevenock, Bartholomew Magliocchetti, Bogdan Kusnierz, Margot Newman

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	03/12	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	03/13	7:30pm Bell Choir
Wed	03/14	7pm Eucharistic Adoration
Thurs	03/15	7:30pm 1st Communion Parent Meeting
Fri	03/16	1:45pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS 7pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Sat	03/17	4-5pm Confessions



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 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 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

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic is "Morality: The Virtues" with Dcn. Paul Hiriyak 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 will meet March 21st at 6:30pm in the social hall. Prior to the meeting, an Agape Service will be held. Please join us for this special service.

Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education program is now enrolling for the 2018-19 school year!

ICA offers:

• **A Full Day, Academic Kindergarten** (Students must be 5 by 10/15/18)

Our Early Education Program includes:

• **Preschool** which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30am to 12:00pm 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, M-F or M/W/F

Half days: 8:30am-12pm, M-F or M/W/F

• **Space is also available in Grades 1-8**

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/

Bereavement Support Group will meet on Monday, March 19th, 2 p.m. in the lower level of the Parish office. Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome. For information call Pat at 610-775-1892 or Toni at 610-404-1389.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 24th, 5:15pm

Sunday, March 25th, 7:30am, 9am and 11am

Blessing of Palms at all Masses

Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession at 11am

Living Stations of the Cross at 4pm

Penance Service

Monday, March 26th, 7pm

Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm

Family Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

After evening Mass until 10pm

Come, "Watch One Hour" with Jesus

Good Friday

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm

Confessions following until 5:30pm

Day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Saturday

Blessing of Food at Noon

Confessions from 12:30pm to 2pm

Easter Vigil Mass, 8pm

Reception of RCIA Candidates

Easter Sunday

Masses at 7:30am, 9am and 11am

Blessing of the Children's Easter Baskets at 9am, 11am

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 23rd at 1pm

Palm Sunday, March 25th at 4pm

Children from Immaculate Conception Academy will present the Living Stations of the Cross. Everyone is cordially invited to participate in the beautiful

reenactment of the events of Calvary. Please come to celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten

Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.

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

The Women's Society thanks all who bought Gertrude Hawk for our Easter candy fundraiser. Please pick up your order before and after Masses on March 17/18 in the Social Hall.

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

Adult Volunteers Needed for CCD teaching positions, hall monitors, and classroom aides. Please consider giving one hour of service each week beginning in mid September through mid April. Join our great team as we strengthen our faith community by fostering love and knowledge of God in our youth. If interested, please contact Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-385-3880.

Immaculate Conception Academy wishes the best of luck to Gabriella Femino as she competes in the Berks County Spelling Bee Championship Finals on March 12th and to our 6th, 7th and 8th grade students competing in the Reading-Berks Science and Engineering Fair!

Calendar

Monday

March 12

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17–21

Jn 4:43–54

Tuesday

March 13

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1–9, 12

Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday

March 14

Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8–15

Jn 5:17–30

Thursday

March 15

Lenten Weekday

Ex 32:7–14

Jn 5:31–47

Friday

March 16

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12–22

Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

Saturday

March 17

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18–20

Jn 7:40–53

Sunday

March 18

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jer 31:31–34

Heb 5:7–9

Jn 12:20–33

Dear Padre,

A friend said he was looking forward to celebrating the Triduum. Can you explain that word to me?

The word *triduum* is Latin meaning “three days.” In the early part of the 1900s, most major feasts of the Church were preceded by three days of prayer and pious exercises in preparation for the feast at hand. Today we use the word to refer to the paschal Triduum. These three days celebrate Christianity’s most sacred events—the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The official beginning of the paschal Triduum takes place the evening of Holy Thursday, when we celebrate the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This day is also referred to as Maundy Thursday, because Jesus gives a command



(*mandatum*) to his followers to be an example of love and service to others. The Mass of the Lord’s Supper ends in somber stillness, as the tabernacle is emptied and the altar is stripped bare. The priests, ministers, and congregation then exit in silence.

Good Friday is a day of somber quiet, as we relive

the passion and death of Jesus. The service centers on the solemn veneration of the cross. Holy Saturday is characterized by the spirit of waiting and quiet anticipation until the festive Easter Vigil, celebrated in the evening, when the Church comes alive with the new light of Christ and catechumens are joyfully received into the eucharistic community. The Triduum ends with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

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



A Word From Pope Francis

Jesus shows a particular predilection for those who are wounded in body and in spirit: the poor, the sinners, the possessed, the sick, the marginalized. Thus, he reveals himself as a doctor both of souls and of bodies, the Good Samaritan of man. He is the true Savior: Jesus saves, Jesus cures, Jesus heals.

—Angelus, February 8, 2015