

Epiphany of the Lord

◆ January 4, 2015 ◆

“Through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race.”

Mary Chapin
Carpenter’s wonderful

Christmas carol “Come Darkness, Come Light” calls all people, regardless of their situation or where they are in their faith, to come see the Christ Child. All are welcome to see that love has come to earth and to bring whatever they have to the Child who waits for them in a manger.

Whenever I hear this song, I’m moved to tears by its simplicity. For reasons of which I’m not entirely sure, I’m reminded of the beginning section of John’s Gospel, which lays out so beautifully the coming of Christ to earth. “Through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race,” John narrates; later he tells us, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

What is our response? Do we come as the song invites us? Do we hold back, afraid that it’s too late for us? Do we listen to the siren songs of other gods, who whisper that they have the key to our happiness?

Today's Readings

Is 60:1–6

Eph 3:2–3a, 5–6

Mt 2:1–12

Today’s readings are an invitation to know ourselves as children of God, to know the hope of his call to us, and to know that this light cannot be overcome by any darkness the world has to offer.

The rush of the holidays is behind us, and a new year has begun. We have a little breathing space. In our liturgical calendar, though, the Christmas season is still with us.

There is still time to come, by whatever means we’re able, and give our lives over to Christ.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - JANUARY 4, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM ROSE & JIM FONATANA	THU	9:00 AM CAROL WEILER
SUN	7:30 AM JOHN BRADLEY	FRI	7:30 AM MARGUERITE MARSHALL
	9:00 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM ENID & RAY KEITH
	11:00 AM CHARLES M. O'SHEA, JR.	SUN	7:30 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
MON	No MASS		9:00 AM WILLIAM & ELAINE BORZILLO
TUE	7:00 PM LOUIS TASSIN		11:00 AM NICOLINA KENNEDY - 1 ST ANNIVERSARY
WED	7:30 AM FRANK HILL		

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josephine Fredriksen
 And also In Memory of Catherine Alderman*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Zubik 5:15pm Pisarek 7:30am Collura 9:00am McCauley 11:00am Hafer

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Ann Marie Arbo	Mary Schwendt	Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho
SUN	7:30am	Pam Amos	Sean Werner	Mickey and Will Gray, Josh Piccarreta
	9:00am	Barrie Pease	Stephanie Myers	Allie and Sarah Forkin, Danielle Walter
	11:00am	Bob Newman	Mary Ann Cotter	John and Matthew Dugan, Aaron Gulla

The second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

The March for Life in Washington, D.C., began as a small demonstration on January 22, 1974, the first anniversary of the now-infamous Supreme Court decisions in *Roe v Wade* and *Doe v Bolton* and rapidly grew to be the largest pro-life event in the world. The peaceful demonstration that has followed on this somber anniversary every year since is a witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, legalized abortion on demand. Our parish Church of the Immaculate Conception is sponsoring a coach bus to the March for Life scheduled for Thursday, January 22, 2015. The bus will depart the ICC parking lot at 8:00 a.m. and return at approximately 9:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for youth. For additional information or to reserve a seat, please contact Mrs. Angela Peterson at 610-582-6993 or by e-mail at arpeterson@windsteam.net. We pray that as a nation and as a people we might always affirm the sanctity of human life from the first moment of conception until natural death.
 Join us for the 2015 March for Life!

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe & Betty Cuccaro, Cecelia Potts, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, William Kuehler, Maryanne Prentice, John LeFosse, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Loretta Kozlowski, Patricia Reigel, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Ann Schlott, Patricia McDermott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Michael Kovach, Mary Pender, Geri Barth, Jo Ann Hofer, Paul Milshaw, Roger Villano, John Glacken Sr., Jacob Lovera, Tanya Bell; Ronald Readinger and Tom Hafer

Please pray for the recently departed: Lannie Knapp and Margaret Barnes Barton

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	01/04	Social Sunday
Mon	01/05	7:30pm RCIA
Fri	01/09	7pm Senior High YOUTH GROUP
Sat	01/10	4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK STARTS JANUARY 25TH

Love. Learning. Leadership.

Catholic Schools – Faith, Academics, Service

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 25

- 9am Opening Liturgy (ICC Parish Family Welcome)**
- 10am-12pm Science Fair Setup/Open House for Science Fair
- 2pm Candy Bar BINGO (ICC Parish Family Welcome)**
(Bring candy bar for admission-ICC Social Hall)

Monday, January 26

- Science Fair judging throughout the day (Gym)
- 1:30pm 4th Grade Wax Museum (ICC Parish Family Welcome)**

Tuesday, January 27

- Brain Show Mania** (12:00 grades 4-8) / (1:30 grades K-3)
- 6:15pm - Science Fair Awards
- 6:30pm Brain Show Mania (ICC Parish Family Welcome)**

Wednesday, January 28

Make your own Sundaes at Lunch

Thursday, January 29

- Sports dress down day and Prayer Partner activities
- Teacher Luncheon (11:30-1:00 Homeroom Moms cover lunch)
- Afternoon at the Movies

Friday, January 30

9am Liturgy (ICC Parish Family Welcome)

- Special Person Reception in the Social Hall
- 1:15 – Early Dismissal

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

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For registration information, please contact Shannon Villa at 610-404-8645 or shannon.villa@icaknights.org.

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

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you very much for your Christmas greetings and gifts. We deeply appreciated your thoughtfulness and are most grateful to you for your prayerful support and encouragement. We hope that each of you had a holy and happy Christmas and that the New Year will bring you and your family much happiness, lasting good health and peace.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers and as always be assured of our prayers and best wishes.

God Bless You,

Msgr. John B. McCann

Deacon Paul Hiryak

Staff of Immaculate Conception Church

TRANSFER GRANTS: 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 for the first year; \$500 for the second). Call Shannon Villa at 610-404-8645.

ICA TUITION REMINDER – Semi-annual and cash payments are now being accepted. Please remember to deduct the re-registration fee of \$50 that was collected in the spring. If you are unsure of the amount or have any questions, email Sue at susan.guadagno@icaknights.org.

Youth Group News - The Senior High School Youth Group will meet Friday, January 9th at 7pm. **The Junior High School Youth Group** will meet on Friday, February 6th at 7pm. Students of the parish are welcome to attend and bring a friend. Join us for an evening of fun, food prayer and praise.

Save the Date:

Berks Catholic H.S. Open House/Registration **Sunday, January 25, 2014 2pm-4pm**

- 2:00 to 2:30** – Welcome address in the Franco Post Auditorium
- 2:30 to 4:00** – Activity Fair, open registration for new students, tours, meet and greet with Faculty and Administration

Please join us and feel the energy in our community!

For info, call Nicole Smith, Director of Admissions, at 610-374-8361, x244 or nsmith@berksatholic.org. Financial Aid and Transfer Grants are available.

2015 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CALENDARS are now available in the narthex. We are most grateful to the Dengler Funeral Home for providing these beautiful religious art calendars to our parishioners.

SCRIP is a great church fundraiser and you can benefit too! Basically you are buying gift certificates. There is no additional cost and a percentage of what we spend at specific stores comes back to our church and to you in the form of Tuition Credit for School and CCD. Stop by the SCRIP table after Mass and check it out. SCRIP is also available at our Parish Office. SCRIP that is currently available: Boscovs, Kohls, Redners, Applebees, Giant, Red Lobster/Olive Garden/Bahama Breeze/LongHorn Steakhouse/Season 52 and Flynn & O'Hara.

Berks Encore – Birdsboro needs **Meals & Wheels** delivery help (drivers & runners) for routes in Birdsboro (Wednesdays), Douglassville (3rd Monday each month) and Exeter (4th Thursday each month). For more information, contact Patty Barker at 610-582-1603.

World Meeting of Families-Philadelphia 2015 — **Registration Open!** Mark your family calendar for the 8th World Meeting of Families! Philadelphia is proud to welcome families from around the world to this event on September 22-27, 2015. Registration is now open. Families can look forward to speakers, celebrations, activities for kids, and prayer, all of which will bring renewal and transformation for you, your loved ones, and the world. Visit the official World Meeting of Families website at: WorldMeeting2015.org to learn more.

PLEASE REMEMBER to pray for our country and for all those who serve in the Military.

BULLETIN DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY AT NOON

Please **verify** the email address is bulletin@icbvm.org

January 4, 2015

dear Padre

Monday

JANUARY 5

St. John
Neumann,
Bishop

1 Jn 3:22—4:6
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday

JANUARY 6

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 4:7-10
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday

JANUARY 7

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 4:11-18
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday

JANUARY 8

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 4:19—5:4
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday

JANUARY 9

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 5:5-13
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday

JANUARY 10

Christmas
Weekday

1 Jn 5:14-21
Jn 3:22-30

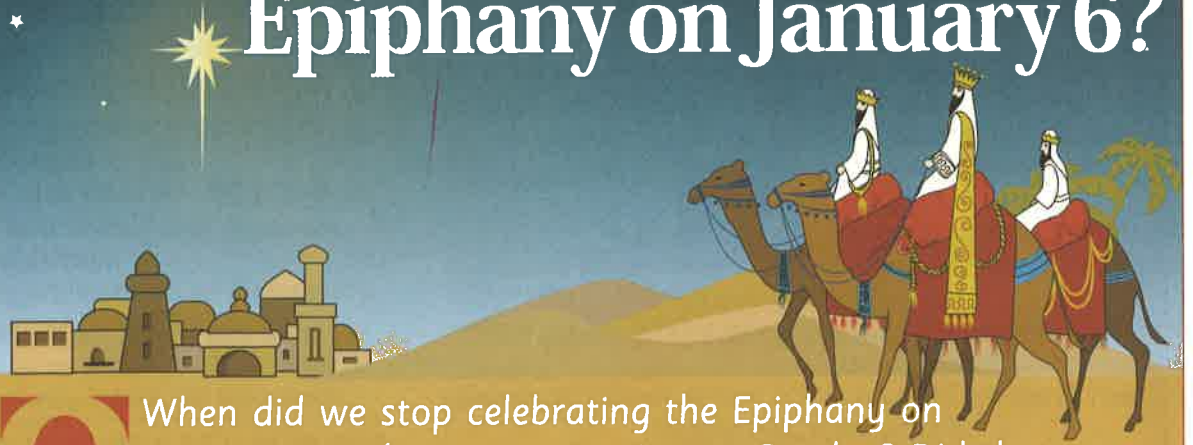
Sunday

JANUARY 11

Baptism of
the Lord

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or
Is 55:1-11
Acts 10:34-38 or
1 Jn 5:1-9
Mk 1:7-11

Why don't we celebrate the Epiphany on January 6?



When did we stop celebrating the Epiphany on January 6 and start moving it to a Sunday? Did that change affect the length of the octave of Christmas?

The *Code of Canon Law* says that Sundays are to be "observed as the foremost holy day of obligation in the universal Church" (1246). That canon also allows national conferences of bishops to "abolish certain holy days of obligation or transfer them to a Sunday."

In November 1983, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the transfer of the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 6) to the first Sunday after January 1. The transfer was reviewed by the Holy See (Vatican) and promulgated in March 1984.

Liturgical celebrations are categorized as solemnities, feasts, and memorials

according to their importance. The two greatest solemnities, Easter and Christmas, continue for an octave (eight days).

Since the octave of Christmas runs from December 25 through January 1 (the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God), it's not affected by the transfer of the Epiphany celebration.

Liturgically, the days after January 1 through the Baptism of the Lord are part of the *season* of Christmas even though they're not part of the *octave* of Christmas.

FR. BYRON MILLER, CSSR
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Experience the Holy Land from your kitchen!

Cook up a savory experience of food and faith with free recipes from *Around the Table With the Catholic Foodie: Middle Eastern Cuisine*. Visit Liguori.org/Catholicfoodie by February 28 to get your free recipes and a coupon for 30% off this full-color book of recipes and stories from the author's Holy Land pilgrimage. Enjoy!