

Ordinary Time

February 8, 2015 ♦ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Christ helps us find wholeness no matter what we suffer—
and in him we find our peace and our joy.

Illness, depression, and misfortune can make us feel alone and afraid. We wonder whether anyone can understand what we're going through or help us.

The first five chapters of Mark's Gospel give us several healing stories in which Jesus, by touch or word, restores individuals to wholeness. He casts out demons, as we heard last week. He cures the sick, like Simon's mother-in-law. The stories confirm what our faith tells us—that God's healing power is for all people and that Good News lifts us and gives us joy.

But for those touched by the loneliness of infirmity of mind, body, or spirit, the stories alone might not be enough. Instead, the fervent prayer of the psalmist might be our grace: "The LORD...[heals] the broken-hearted" (Psalm 147:2–3). Or, our peace

might rest in the simple knowledge of two often overlooked lines in the Gospel: "They brought him many who were possessed by demons" (Mark 8:16) and "The whole town was gathered at the door" (Mark 1:33).

Simply put, everyone came, and no one was alone. No matter *what* our condition, we are not alone. Christ is there in our pain and suffering to give us the grace to endure. We're not always cured by human standards, but Christ helps us find wholeness no matter what we suffer—and in him we find our peace and our joy.

Isaiah told us that the name given to the Messiah was *Emmanuel*, which means "God with us."

In Christ, we see the evidence that God's promise has come true.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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Today's Readings

Jb 7:1–4, 6–7
1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23
Mk 1:29–39

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 8, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	MARY D'ACHILLE	THU	7:00 PM	PAUL VIGNONE – 13 TH ANNIVERSARY
SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	FRI	7:30 AM	MICHAEL FASTI
	9:00 AM	ELI IEZZI – 1 ST ANNIVERSARY	SAT	5:15 PM	MARGARET & DR. NICHOLAS CHRIST
	11:00 AM	KATHLEEN & BOB HOCKER – 54 TH WEDDING ANVSRY	SUN	7:30 AM	DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE PRIBANICK FAMILY
MON	<u>NO MASS</u>			9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
TUE	7:00 PM	BROTHER WILLIAM "SUDS" SUDZINA, SJ		11:00 AM	JOHN HOFFMASTER
WED	7:30 AM	ANTHONY VOLPICCINI – 25 TH ANNIVERSARY			

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Eli Iezzi
 And also In Memory of Anthony Volpiccini*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Zubik 5:15pm McNamara 7:30am Schwendt 9:00am Grieco 11:00am Nanni

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Mike Austrevich	Jennifer Stuart	Anna and Matthew Lambert, Avery Lang
SUN	7:30am	Dan Sweeney	Pam Amos	Beth and Gracie Cote, Danielle Passifione
	9:00am	Josephine Hohl	Stephanie Myers	Amanda and Lauren Marley, Isabella Pizzo
	11:00am	Mike Bobb	Rhonda Ouimet	Carson Endy, Ethan Kraycik, Colby Mullins

The second collection next week is for Debt Reduction

Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education 2015-2016 Registrations

We welcome everyone to join us if you have a student entering preschool (age 3) through 8th grade. Open House and Academy Tours are available by contacting Shannon Villa at shannon.villa@icaknights.org or 610-404-8645. Please bring a copy of the child's birth certificate, social security card and immunization record to registration.

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

ICA offers a full day Kindergarten

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe Cuccaro, Cecelia Potts, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, William Kuehler, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Mary Pender, Jo Ann Hofer, Paul Milshaw, Roger Villano, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Kathy Patrick, William Strock, Sr., Helen McDonald, Lana Wentzel, Gina Riegel, Curtis Miller, Steve Manmarella, Sister Daniel Marie Liddy, Joseph & Susan McCorristin and Tom Hafer

Please welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. William R. Houseal

Please pray for the recently departed: Patricia McDermott, Thomas Gramling and Jean G. Miller

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	02/08	4pm Girl Scouts
Mon	02/09	7:30pm RCIA
Wed	02/11	7pm Women's Society
Fri	02/13	7pm Senior High Youth Group
Sat	02/14	4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, February 9, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

The Women's Society will meet February 11th at 7pm in the social hall of the church. All members who are able are asked to attend. If you would like to be a part of this wonderful faith-filled group of women, please feel free to attend our meeting to see what we are all about.

Souper Dooper Soup Sale – What better way to shake the chill of winter than a hot steamy bowl of homemade soup. Plan on stopping by our tables on February 21st and 22nd and pick up a quart or two. Soup will be sold for \$6 dollars a quart. You are sure to find one of your favorites or better yet take the opportunity to try something new. Anyone wishing to donate soup may pick up containers at the Women's Society Meeting on February 11th or contact Tracey at 484-645-3714.

Bereavement Support Group will meet February 16th from 7 to 8:30 pm in the church (use side door, first office on right). For information call Pat 610-775-1892 or Toni 610-404-1389.

Begin the New Year with Primetime on Thursday, February 19th at noon in the church social hall. All seniors welcome. There will be a presentation by the Berks Animal Rescue League. A light lunch will be served. Bring yarn and needles/hooks to work on making blankets for the animals housed at ARL. This is the time to learn to or practice knitting and crocheting. Come join in the fun with the ICC Primetimers.

On Saturday, February 21st, 4:30 to 7:30pm the Youth Group will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner in the ICC Social Hall. The cost of the meal is \$8 (\$4 for children 4 to 10) which includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and a beverage. Take out will be available. Tickets will be on sale after all Masses on February 14/15 and at the door. Proceeds benefit the youth group's summer retreat and mission trip. Call Liz at 610-404-4425 with any questions.

2014 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS- If you requested a statement last year, you should receive it this week. If you didn't receive it or would like a 2014 Contribution Statement, please contact the church office at 610-582-2411.

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.

Given that the incidence of influenza is becoming prevalent, the Sign of Peace offered during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be temporarily suspended. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

SPIRIT NIGHT AT CHICK-FIL-A – Please join us on February 11th, 4:30-7:30pm at Exeter Chick-fil-A. You must bring the flyer in the bulletin so Immaculate Conception Academy receives 15% of your bill.

Senior High School Youth Group

will meet February 13th, 7-9pm. All of the youth of our parish in senior high school are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food, games, prayer and praise! Bring a friend!

Attention ADULT musicians and singers: We are looking for adult musicians and singers to assist with the music ministry at the 9am Sunday Mass. Musicians who are willing to be musically flexible and open to the Holy Spirit, please contact Mr. Kasperowicz at 215-499-1641.

Building a Culture of Vocations

CHILDREN OFTEN TALK about what they want to be “when they grow up”: doctors, lawyers, athletes, nurses, movie stars, teachers, carpenters. They may talk about these roles, but do they ever talk about being a priest, sister or brother? You are the hand of God – encourage your children to consider Church ministry.

Mark your calendars! The Holy Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015.

The National 40 Days for Life Campaign and Prayer Vigil is February 18th through March 29th. A daily prayer vigil will be held in front of Reading Planned Parenthood, 4th and Franklin Sts, Reading, 7am-4pm, Mondays through Saturdays. Be a 30 minute witness for life. In those 30 minutes, you'll be seen by the occupants of 600-900 cars. Pray to end abortion. For info call 610-375-3395.

Post Abortion Healing Retreat: Hurting from a past abortion? Plan to attend the Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekends, February 27-March 1 (Spanish) and March 20-22 (English) through Catholic Charities. Within a safe, confidential, non-judgmental environment, experience God's healing love, and forgiveness. For more information or to register call 1-866-3 Rachel. For a complete listing of Retreat dates and locations visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.

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.

If a Prenatal Diagnosis is Poor...You are not alone. There is help. The Diocese of Allentown has a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding poor prenatal diagnosis. For support, please contact: Sr. Janice Marie Johnson, jjohnson@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-289-8900 x 245.



February 8, 2015

dear Padre

Monday

FEBRUARY 9

Weekday

Gn 1:1–19

Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday

FEBRUARY 10

St. Scholastica,

Virgin

Gn 1:20—2:4a

Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday

FEBRUARY 11

Weekday

Gn 2:4b–9,

15–17

Mk 7:14–23

Thursday

FEBRUARY 12

Weekday

Gn 2:18–25

Mk 7:24–30

Friday

FEBRUARY 13

Weekday

Gn 3:1–8

Mk 7:31–37

Saturday

FEBRUARY 14

Sts. Cyril, Monk,
and Methodius,

Bishop

Gn 3:9–24

Mk 8:1–10

Sunday

FEBRUARY 15

Sixth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Lv 13:1–2, 44–46

1 Cor 10:31—11:1

Mk 1:40–45

What does the Church teach about predestination?

Q A friend told me not to worry about salvation because we're predestined to be saved or condemned. Why try to be a good person if God has already decided where I'll end up?

The idea that some people are predestined to be saved and others are damned is contrary to Catholic teaching.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that "When therefore [God] establishes his eternal plan of 'predestination,' he *includes in it each person's free response to his grace* [600; emphasis added].

The *Catechism* (1038) also cites the parable of the separation of the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31–46), in which the sheep and goats are separated not randomly, but based on their actions: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory,...all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father'....And [those on the left] will go off to eternal punishment."

God wants to save all people. The way we respond to God's gift of salvation is called *free will*. Unfortunately, not everyone accepts that gift.



FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR

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Liguori.org



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When you introduce very young children to the saints, you give them real heroes as role models. Liguori wants to help. For a limited time, we're offering you a free illustrated children's e-book, *John Bosco: Champion for Youth* (869099). Simply visit Liguori.org and use special offer code 15559 when you check out. This free offer ends March 31, 2015. Thank you for letting Liguori walk with you on your spiritual journey.