

Ordinary Time

February 15, 2015 ♦ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Teenagers fear an outbreak of acne before a major event. They're sure every eye will focus on a small blemish that seems enormous to them. Sometimes they even avoid going out at all until their faces return to normal.

They're fortunate not to be living in ancient Israel, where skin outbreaks and eruptions were likely viewed as leprosy. Public contact was forbidden. They'd have had to shout "unclean!" as they approached someone. Their exile would have been religiously regulated, and those they met would have avoided any touch.

The man with leprosy who approached Jesus wouldn't have touched Jesus—it was bold of him just to ask Jesus' mercy. In a move that surprised everyone, Jesus reached out to touch the one who was "unclean."

Today's Readings

Lv 13:1–2, 44–46
1 Cor 10:31–11:1
Mk 1:40–45

I can only imagine the man's shock and relief just at the touch of a person who didn't see him as less than human. The wound of separation was healed at that moment, and Jesus confirmed it by healing the man's body. Nor did Jesus stop there. He restored the man to his community by asking him to follow

Mosaic Law (the Law of Moses) and be declared clean.

Teenagers often think their physical flaws are the worst things they can suffer. In truth, it's separation—whether it comes from within us or from others.

Jesus has the power to heal whatever separates us and restore us to community

with God and others.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 15, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM MARGARET & DR. NICHOLAS CHRIST
 SUN 7:30 AM DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE PRIBANICK FAMILY
 9:00 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 11:00 AM JOHN & ALICE HOFFMASTER
 MON **No MASS**
 TUE 7:00 PM ROSE WITKOWSKI
 WED 7:30 AM ELEANOR PAINTER
 9:00 AM ICA MASS - JOAN LEFOSSE
 7:00 PM STANLEY OKUNIEWSKI

THU 7:00 PM ERNA RUSHMORE
 FRI 7:30 AM DAVE KINNEAR
 SAT 5:15 PM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 SUN 7:30 AM JOHN BRADLEY
 9:00 AM SAL MONASTERO
 11:00 AM BILL PENDER

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Honor of Monsignor John McCann,
 Mrs. Patty Tarquinio, Teachers, Staff & Students of ICA*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Lukes 5:15pm Pisarek 7:30am Collura 9:00am McCauley 11:00am Citrano

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Ann Marie Arbo	Joe Bailey	Tucker Di Piazza, Kathryn Krueger, Sadie Mangan
SUN	7:30am	Dennis Piontek	Sean Werner	Allie and Sarah Forkin, Sidney Wolf
	9:00am	Barrie Pease	Pat Fessler	Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho
	11:00am	Karl Filachek	Bob Newman	Mickey and Will Gray, Josh Piccarreta

Second collection next week is Catholic Home Missions/Black & Indian Missions

On Ash Wednesday February 18th the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered at 7:30am, 9:00am with the children of Immaculate Conception Academy and 7:00pm.

Ashes will be distributed at all the Masses. Mark your calendar now and begin the forty days of Lent with a fervent desire for God's pardon and peace.

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 Mammarella, Sister Daniel Marie Liddy, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Ronald Readinger and Tom Hafer

Please welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Sandland

Please pray for the recently departed: Regina Fromuth

Please congratulate the recently baptized: Josephine Grace Pflieger, Eden Jane Kieffer, Vivan Noelle Zerr and families

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon	02/16	7pm Bereavement Support Group 7:30pm RCIA
Wed	02/18	ASH WEDNESDAY
Thurs	02/19	12pm Prime Time
Fri	02/20	9am Women's Society Make Meatballs
Sat	02/21	4-5pm Confessions 4:30-7:30pm Spaghetti Dinner After 5:15 Mass - SOUP SALE

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, February 16, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

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

The Annual Lenten Food Drive for the benefit of the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House and Catholic Charities of Reading will begin Ash Wednesday. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. The food drive runs through Palm Sunday. Contact Jim at 610-385-3666.

Don't forget – The Women's Society will be offering a wide variety of homemade soups for sale before and after all Masses on February 21/22. Pick up a quart or two for dinner. Who can resist a bowl of hot and hearty soup on a cold day? Don't miss out on a wonderful opportunity to try something new, or to enjoy an old favorite. Most of the soups can be frozen to enjoy when you just don't have time to cook. Last year we had chowders, chilies, minestrone, vegetable soups and homemade chicken pot pie just to name a few. Soup donations will be gratefully accepted before all Masses. Please contact Tracey at 484-645-3714 for containers.

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 is holding a Spaghetti Dinner in the ICC Social Hall. The cost 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.

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 20TH AT 1:45PM WITH THE CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY AND AT 7:00PM

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 at 610-404-8645.

Reading March for Life - April 26, 2015 - Rally 2pm - March 3pm - Berks Catholic High School - Donations of baby items needed for Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Collection boxes in Berks Catholic Auditorium.

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

What kinds of people become priests, sisters or brothers? Are they people who don't relate well with other people? No. They are people who love others – people who find real satisfaction chatting with a 93-year-old parishioner, holding the hand of a cancer patient, listening to the troubles of a streetwise teen. They are people with the courage to touch lives, hearts and souls in a high-tech, unchurched world. Are you that kind of person?

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.

COVENANT Home Care and Hospice is in need of Volunteers for Fund Raising, Clerical work, Patient care and Patient companionship visits. Anyone having a few hours to spare not only help someone in need but find it to be very rewarding personally. Our Office is located in Shoemakersville on Route 61 north of Reading. If interested, please call Vince Chiles at 1-800-726-8761



February 15, 2015

dear Padre

Monday
FEBRUARY 16
Weekday
Gn 4:1–15, 25
Mk 8:11–13

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 17
Weekday
Gn 6:5–8;
7:1–5, 10
Mk 8:14–21

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 18
Ash Wednesday
Jl 2:12–18
2 Cor 5:20—6:2
Mt 6:1–6,
16–18

Thursday
FEBRUARY 19
Thursday After
Ash Wednesday
Dt 30:15–20
Lk 9:22–25

Friday
FEBRUARY 20
Friday After
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:1–9a
Mt 9:14–15

Saturday
FEBRUARY 21
Saturday After
Ash Wednesday
Is 58:9b–14
Lk 5:27–32

Sunday
FEBRUARY 22
First Sunday
of Lent
Gn 9:8–15
1 Pt 3:18–22
Mk 1:12–15

Why can't Catholics take Communion in Protestant churches?

Q Why can't I take Communion in a Protestant church? I agree with their belief that their Communion is merely a symbolic celebration. How does this go against Church teaching?

According to canon law 844, "Catholic ministers administer the sacraments licitly to Catholic members of the Christian faithful alone, who likewise receive them licitly from Catholic ministers alone."

The canon goes on to outline the exceptions to this rule: when "the danger of death is present or if, in the judgment of the diocesan bishop or conference of bishops, some other grave necessity urges it," or for "members of Eastern Churches which do not have full communion with the Catholic Church if they seek such on their own accord and are properly disposed."



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that eucharistic intercommunion with "ecclesial communities derived from the Reformation and separated from the Catholic church...is not possible" (1400).

The Church encourages us to celebrate with our Protestant brothers and sisters; however, receiving Communion implies a unity that unfortunately does not exist. Therefore, as the *Catechism* says, we must pray for the return of "complete unity among all who believe in him" (1398).

FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR
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FREE GIFT



Liguori wants to give your family a free e-book!

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.