

Advent

November 29, 2015 ♦ First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14–16

1 Thes 3:12–4:2

Lk 21:25–28, 34–36

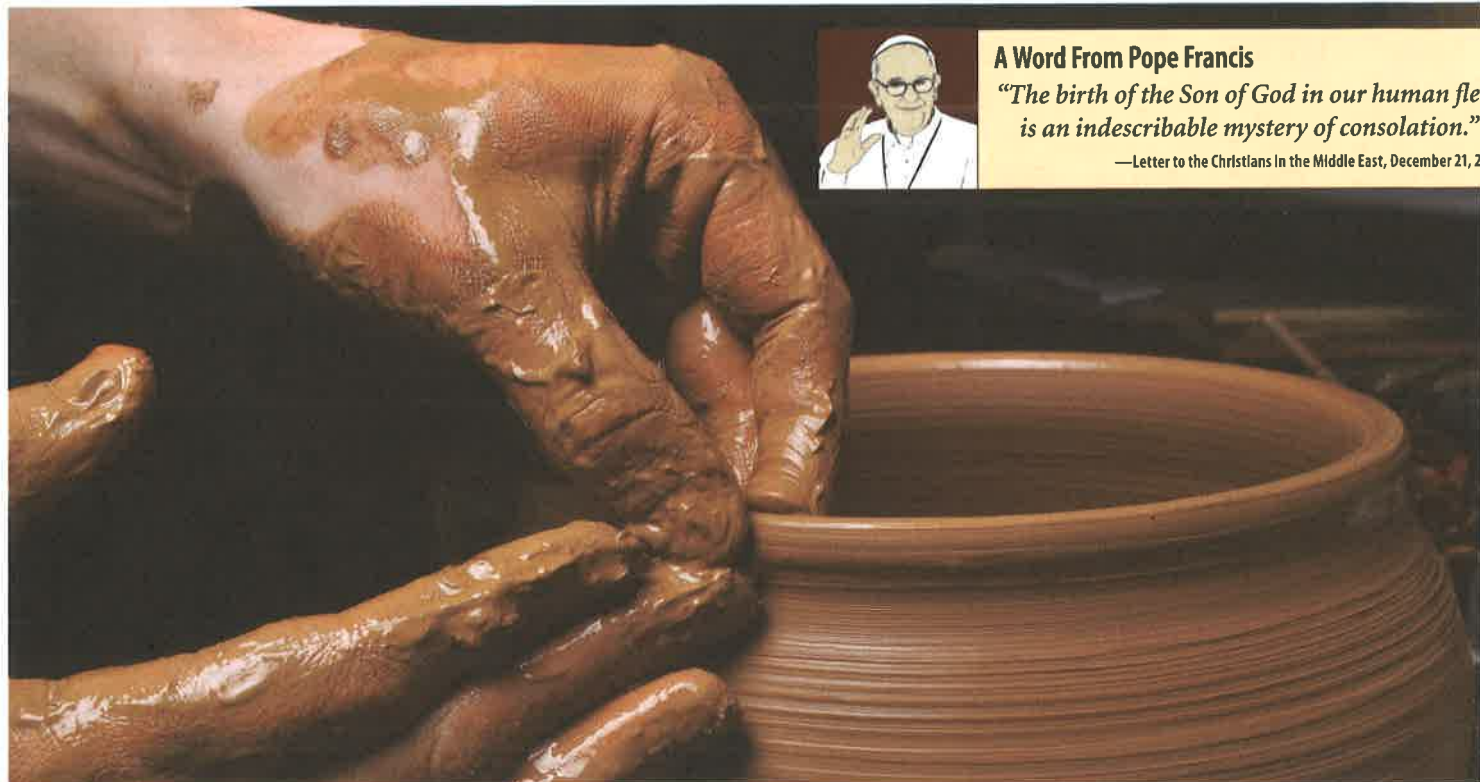
We begin this Church year as we left the last one—with a description of the signs that will come before Christ appears. But where Mark warns of the coming judgment for the enemies of God, Luke, with great subtlety, shifts the nuance so that people will hear the hope of salvation. “Stand erect and raise your head,” he calls out. At the end of the Church year, we meditate on Christ’s coming in glory to judge the living and the dead. In the beginning, we remember the Incarnation: God’s emptying himself to become fully human and to come into the world. Both events are heralded by and will mean great change for us and for the world.

Change happens when God breaks into the world, regardless of the time. In account after account in the Bible, we watch as God visits people and changes their

names (Abraham and Peter), their lives (Jeremiah, the apostles, the woman at the well), and heals their separation and brokenness (the blind man, the paralytic, and Lazarus). Also, sinners are punished (Dives and Jezebel) and landscapes are altered (Isaiah’s vision of valleys lifted up and mountains laid low). This saving action continues throughout history, especially within the Church and among the saints.

Advent is a time to remember that Christ came to change the world and each of us. Have we allowed ourselves to be changed? Are we willing to be shaped by the hand of God, called by a different name, and given a place in Christ’s mission? Let’s hope so because, ready or not, here he comes.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

“The birth of the Son of God in our human flesh is an indescribable mystery of consolation.”

—Letter to the Christians in the Middle East, December 21, 2014

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 secretary@icbvm.org; ccd@icbvm.org; bulletin@icbvm.org;

Rev. Msgr. John B. McCann Pastor
 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
 Deacon Paul J. Hiryak, Deacon James A. Bardi,
 Deacon Charles A. Giordano
 Parish Office610 582-2411
 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
 Parish Preschool610 404-8645
 Parish Fax.....610 404-2609
 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610404-8645
 Academy Website.....www.icaberks.org
 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC
Direct Telephone 800 791-9209
 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:
 Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
 Telephone 610 332-0442, Ext. 19
 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndioocese.org

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – NOVEMBER 29, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	HELEN JANISZEWSKI	THU	7:00 PM	MICHAEL KILARESKI
SUN	7:30 AM	PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY	FRI	7:30 AM	MARY G. KELLY
	9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	SR. JANINE TORZECKA
	11:00 AM	PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY	SUN	7:30 AM	SAL & RUTH MONASTERO – 72 ND ANNIVERSARY
MON		No MASS		9:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
TUE	7:00 PM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS		11:00 AM	RITA KLANG
WED	7:30 AM	MICHAEL FASTI			

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Helen Janiszewski and
 In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Zubik 5:15 Pisarek 7:30 Kasperowicz 9:00 Greico 11:00 Citrano

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Barbara Giordano	Kevin Creamer	Michael Beitz, Alyssa Boraten, Matthew Dugan
SUN	7:30am	Jim Kaucher	Toni Kaucher	Lilia and Simon Crew, Parker Davis
	9:00am	Josephine Hohl	Stephanie Myers	Sarah Forkin, Andela and Ethan Kraycik
	11:00am	Rhonda Ouimet	Becky Shemanski	Nicholas Donnelly, Carson Endy, Aiden Reber

The second collection next week is for Church Building and Parish Maintenance

ICA HSO 12 Days of Christmas Raffle

- December 3 - \$50 Wawa Gift Card
- December 4 - \$75 Visa Gift Card
- December 7 - \$100 Red Lobster Gift Card
- December 7 - \$125 Visa Gift Card
- December 9 - \$150 Giant Gift Card
- December 10 - \$175 Visa Gift Card
- December 11 - \$200 Toys-R-Us Gift Card
- December 14 - \$225 Visa Gift Card
- December 15 - \$250 Target Gift Card
- December 16 - \$275 Visa Gift Card
- December 17 - \$300 Amazon Gift Card
- December 18 - Grand Prize - \$500 Visa Gift card

Tickets \$5 each or \$20 for five.

Tickets will be available in the church office or by emailing ica.hso@gmail.com. Winners will be announced at www.ica.hso.org.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Alice Smyk, , Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Kathy Patrick, Doris Slater, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Rex Voelker, Linda Ritchie, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Walter & Marjorie Hansen, Betty Erjavec, Christine Flanagan, Joann Gilbert, Thomas Kirchner, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Irene Wade, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Stephen Thomkins, Carolyn Creech, Janet Motta, Frances Bambrick, Stanley Giniewski, Bobbi Sweeney and Ted Reznick

Pray for the recently departed: Father Charles Sperlak

Congratulate the newly baptized: Lucy Kate Yocum and her family

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	11/30	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	12/01	7pm Baptism Class 7:30pm Bell Choir
Thurs	12/03	4pm Youth Choir 7:30pm Adult Choir
Fri	12/04	7pm Junior High Youth Group
Sat	12/05	4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Dear Friends,

I trust you had a very Happy Thanksgiving and I pray that God will continue to bless you and your family as we begin to prepare now for the celebration of Christmas Day. I wish to express my appreciation and gratitude to our parishioners who donated Thanksgiving Baskets full of food for families in need whose children are enrolled at Daniel Boone High School. We had a tremendous response to our request for help. Because of your goodness, many families in our community had a happier Thanksgiving Day. As we begin now the holy season of Advent in preparation for Christmas, I invite you to set time aside to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 4pm to 5pm. Our Advent Parish Penance Service will be held on December 21st at 7pm. On that occasion visiting priests will be available to hear confessions and impart God's pardon and peace. As always, be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Monsignor John McCann

Please note there will be NO MASS on Monday, November 30th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

Junior High School Youth Group will meet on December 4th, 7pm-9pm for an evening of fun, food, games, prayer and praise. All 7th & 8th graders of our parish are welcome to attend and bring a friend.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

ICA 8th grade is sponsoring our annual **Breakfast with Santa** on December 5th! There are seating's at 8am and 10am. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee/milk will be served. We will have face painting, cookie and ornament decorating, pictures with Santa and a Christmas Petting Zoo! Tickets are \$8, age 2 and under free. Tickets sell out quickly so get yours today! Call 610-404-8645 for information!!!

If you could see the face of God in your life every day, would you want to or would you turn away? If you could hear the voice of God in your heart every day, would you listen? If you could have a taste of the Kingdom of God now, would you want to? If your answer is YES, this seminar is for you. Registration is now open on-line for the "Not Just Running with Jesus" Seminars being held this advent season. Visit www.single-hearted.com or call John Paul Kasperowicz at 215-499-1641 for more information

Just a reminder.....The Women's Society Christmas Luncheon is being held Sunday, December 6th at 1pm.

The Women's Society will be holding its annual Christmas Cookie Sale before and after all Masses Saturday, December 12th and Sunday, December 13th. We will have our beautiful pre-packaged assortments in addition to our bagged cookies to add to your cookie collection. Please consider a donation of a few dozen of the favorite cookies you bake. Cookies should be bagged by the dozen and labeled and may be dropped at our table in the narthex before all Masses. Cookies being donated for the assortments do not need to be bagged by the dozen and should be dropped off Saturday, December 12th from 9am-11am in the social hall where we will be assembling and packaging. Please join in the fun. **We are also accepting donations of festive containers/plates for the assortments.**

A Message from the Children of Immaculate Conception Academy:

Thank you to those who generously donated to our Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive. Because of your overwhelming generosity of non-perishable items and by supporting our snack bar at the Fall Fair, we were able to provide meals and turkeys to multiple families. Thank you for all you do. May you and your family have a blessed Thanksgiving. Gratefully, the Student Council and Mission Representatives of Immaculate Conception Academy.

OPLAKTY, Blessed Christmas Wafers, are now available in the church narthex. This custom is many centuries old and finds its origins in the countries of Eastern Europe, particularly Slovakia, Poland and Lithuania. The breaking and sharing of the Christmas wafer at the holy supper on Christmas Eve was a sign of friendship, love and forgiveness among family members and friends. At the holy supper an extra place setting was placed on the table symbolizing that Jesus Christ was the unseen Guest in the home. As you prepare to celebrate Christmas this year, be mindful of the many customs and traditions which remind us of the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Jesus Christ, the Savior.

The Filipino Catholic Community of Berks County will celebrate **Simbang Gabi** (Christmas Novena Masses) at: **Holy Rosary Church, 3rd & Franklin Sts.,**
Reading - December 4, 7pm - December 5, 11am -
December 6, 1pm - December 11, 7pm - December 12,
11am - December 13, 1pm - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Daniel Boone Interact Club Cordially Invites You to the Annual Christmas Luncheon for Seniors

Daniel Boone High School, December 10th at 12pm with Christmas Carols presented by Daniel Boone High School Choir. RSVP 610-582-6100, x2202.

Holy Guardian Angels Church, 3121 Kutztown Road, Reading will conduct its 22nd annual Advent Concert with Vespers on December 6th at 4pm in the church.

Daniel Boone Optimist 34th Annual Craft Show – December 5th/6th, 9am-3pm at the Daniel Boone Middle School – Over 120 crafters – www.danielbooneoptimist.com

Christmas Bazaar at nativity of BVM Ukrainian Catholic Church hall (211 Grace St, Reading) – December 5th, 12pm-4pm. Call 610-376-0586 for more information.



November 29, 2015

dear Padre

Monday
NOVEMBER 30
St. Andrew, Apostle
Rom 10:9–18
Mt 4:18–22

Tuesday
DECEMBER 1
Advent Weekday
Is 11:1–10
Lk 10:21–24

Wednesday
DECEMBER 2
Advent Weekday
Is 25:6–10a
Mt 15:29–37

Thursday
DECEMBER 3
St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Is 26:1–6
Mt 7:21, 24–27

Friday
DECEMBER 4
Advent Weekday
Is 29:17–24
Mt 9:27–31

Saturday
DECEMBER 5
Advent Weekday
Is 30:19–21, 23–26
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6–8

Sunday
DECEMBER 6
Second Sunday of Advent
Bar 5:1–9
Phil 1:4–6, 8–11
Lk 3:1–6

Liguori.org



At college, where do I go to church?

Q I am a college student and live with my parents, but I prefer my friend's parish. My father says Church law requires me to go to my home parish. Is this true?

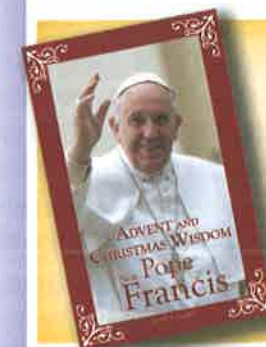
According to the Code of Canon Law, parishes and dioceses are normally established according to geographical boundaries. In the United States, Catholics generally attend and support the parish in which they live, just as each pastor is required by *canon law* to care for the spiritual needs of all who reside within his boundaries. Exceptions to this practice include parishes established for specific ethnic groups or for the military.

That said, Catholics may go to another parish to fulfill specific spiritual needs. For instance, they can attend Mass "away from home" to accommodate their work or school schedule. Around the world there may be countless liturgical variations to the Mass, but ultimately it is the same celebration.

As a pastor, I understand that I cannot be everything to everyone. People have different preferences when it comes to worship style, preaching content, and available ministries. I would rather help someone enjoy Mass and be spiritually fed and challenged than remind him or her of our religious obligations.

Your journey toward an adult spirituality is important. The parish you choose should be more than just a place to socialize or be entertained. Be sure it also reflects God's presence and leads you to do the same.

FR. RICK POTTS, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



During this Advent season, "remember the real gift: God giving himself to us through the Incarnation. Reflect on yourself. In how many ways can you become a gift from God to those you know and to those you do not?"

—From *Advent and Christmas Wisdom From Pope Francis* by John Cleary

To see sample pages from this book, visit Liguori.org, type the title or 826467 in the search bar, and click on the book.



CHRISTMAS GIFT CARD EVENT

NOVEMBER 22, 2015 TO DECEMBER 13, 2015



Name (please print) _____ Phone Number _____

Credit (student's name) _____ Pick Up (*circle one*) Scrip Table or Church Office

Restaurants		Quantity	Total \$\$	Retail & Online Stores		Quantity	Total \$\$
Buca Di Beppo	\$25			Amazon.com	\$25		
Chili's, Macaroni Grill, On the Border, Maggiano's	\$25			Aeropostale	\$25		
Cracker Barrel	\$10			American Eagle	\$25		
Cheesecake Factory	\$25			Bath & Body Works	\$25		
Chipotle Mexican Grill	\$10			Bed Bath & Beyond	\$25		
PF Chang's	\$25			BonTon	\$25		
Outback	\$25			BonTon	\$100		
Red Robin	\$25			Cabela's	\$25		
Ruby Tuesday	\$25			Cabela's	\$100		
Ruth's Chris Steak House	\$50			Claire's	\$10		
Texas Roadhouse	\$25			Christmas Tree Shops	\$25		
TGI Friday's	\$25			CVS Pharmacy	\$25		
				Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25		
Quick Food				Dressbarn	\$25		
Arby's	\$10			Gymboree	\$25		
Cold Stone Creamers	\$10			JC Penney	\$25		
Domino's Pizza	\$10			JJ Photography	\$25		
Dunkin Donuts	\$10			J Crew	\$25		
KF C	\$5			L.L. Bean	\$25		
Panera Bread	\$10			Macy's	\$25		
Panera Bread	\$25			Macy's	\$100		
Papa John's Pizza	\$10			Nike	\$25		
Pizza Hut	\$10			Men's Wearhouse	\$25		
Starbucks	\$10			Old Navy/GAP/Banana Rep	\$25		
Taco Bell	\$10			Payless Shoes	\$20		
				Pier 1	\$25		
				Pottery Barn	\$25		
Entertainment				Regis /Holiday Hair/Super Cuts	\$25		
				Ross	\$25		
Barnes & Noble	\$10			Shutterfly	\$25		
Barnes & Noble	\$25			Sports Authority	\$25		
Chuck E. Cheese	\$10			Sports Authority	\$100		
iTunes	\$15			Staples	\$25		
				T J Max/Marshall's	\$25		
				T J Max/Marshall's	\$100		
Home Improvements				Talbots	\$25		
				Target	\$25		
Ace Hardware	\$25			The Children's Place	\$25		
Home Depot	\$25			Walmart	\$25		
Lowe's	\$25						

Total Number of Gift Cards _____ Total Amount (Must be prepaid) \$ _____