

Ordinary Time

January 31, 2016 ♦ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 1:4–5, 17–19 ♦ 1 Cor 12:31–13:13 or 13:4–13 ♦ Lk 4:21–30

In my work as a pastoral associate, I frequently speak with couples preparing for marriage. They often ask for suggestions about readings and desire to have something a little unconventional. When I ask what they mean, they will say something like, “We’ve heard that love reading so many times, and some of the Gospel readings we have heard aren’t what we want to say.” I ask them what they think love is and, after a pause, they begin to tell me what they believe about love. It usually includes words like patient, humble, wanting the good of the other. We look at the reading from Corinthians again and they suddenly understand why so many choose it. It is one of the more beautiful descriptions of love that we have, and the love Paul describes is grounded in the Lord—God’s love for us and the love we must have for each other.

I think the ending of the passage is of greatest importance to marriage and the Christian life. Marriage is a process of becoming known. We “put aside childish things,” like unrealistic notions of romantic love, and work at loving a real person. Spouses begin their marriage knowing each other only partially but grow in understanding with each passing day. That wisdom leads to unity and transforms the spouses. This movement mirrors our life with God. We know very little as baptized infants and children. But as we pray, worship, and serve, we come to know God more until we meet him face to face and our lives are one with his.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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A Word From Pope Francis

“Marriage is the icon of God’s love for us. Indeed, God is communion too: the three Persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit live eternally in perfect unity. And this is precisely the mystery of Matrimony: God makes of the two spouses one single life.”

—General Audience, April 2, 2014



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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 31, 2016

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM CATHERINE ALDERMAN
 SUN 7:30 AM HELEN SCHWENDT – 9TH ANNIVERSARY
 9:00 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 11:00 AM MARY ANN & KEN SUTTON – 60TH ANNIVERSARY
 MON **No Mass**
 TUE 7:00 PM BILL PENDER
 WED 7:30 AM FATHER JOSEPH BARNES

THU 7:00 PM BARBARA PEASE
 FRI 7:30 AM EDWARD MACCARONE
 10:30 AM ICA MASS – CHRISTINE GRITT
 SAT 5:15 PM TOM HAFER
 SUN 7:30 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 9:00 AM ELI IZZI
 11:00 AM JOANN HOFER

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Honor of Kathleen & Bob Hocker – 55th Anniversary

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Gulla 5:15pm Costanzo 7:30am Schwendt 9:00am Grieco 11:00am Hafer

DAY	MASS	LECTOR	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15pm	Shirley Wheeler	Joe Bailey	Taylor Moyer, Diego and Hannah Santos
SUN	7:30am	Toni Kaucher	Jim Kaucher	Rachel Barnes, Christopher & Lyndsay Surkosky
	9:00am	Brian Hannon	Isabelita Santos	Sean and Stephen Hannon, Elly Smithson
	11:00am	Steve Lukes	Mary Jo Simon	Ryan Ferrante, Faith Ouimet, Colby Mullins

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

Immaculate Conception Academy and Early Education Registrations

We welcome everyone to join us if you have a student entering preschool (age 3) through 8th grade. Academy tours are available by contacting Adele Reilly at adele.reilly@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 10/15/16 and 1st grade students aged 6 by 10/15/16. ICA offers a full day Kindergarten.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Alice Snyk, Yolanda Marino, Marie Snyder, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Kathy Patrick, Doris Slater, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Champion, Dan Casciano, Linda Ritchie, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Walter & Marjorie Hansen, Irene Wade, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Stephen Thomkins, Carolyn Creech, Frances Bambrick, James Smith, Mike Kovach, William Reardon, Maryanne Emory, Marianne Whalen, Virginia Marks, Madge Butto, Rose Malcolm, Paul Milshaw, Dylan Spriggs, Rose Osorio, Linnford Bittner, David Herrera, Erminio Cioppa, Bob Hocker, Nicole Susanne MaGee and Joan Cronin
 Please pray for the recently deceased: Louis Lanza
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:

CHATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mon	02/01	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	02/02	7:30pm Baptism Class
Thurs	02/04	4pm Youth Choir
Fri	02/05	7pm JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP
Sat	02/06	4-5pm Confession

Women's Society Bake Sale

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass on Monday, February 1st. Thank you for your kind understanding in the regard.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK STARTS JANUARY 31ST

Love. Learning. Leadership.

Catholic Schools – Faith, Academics, Service

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 31

9am Opening Mass (ICC Parish Family Welcome)

9:30am Kennedy House, Grades 7&8

3pm Candy Bar BINGO (ICC Parish Family Welcome)

(Bring candy bar for admission-ICC Social Hall)

7pm-8:30pm STEM Night for Parents and Students

7pm-8:30pm Science Fair Set-Up

Monday, February 1

Science Fair viewing and judging throughout the day

1:30pm 4th Grade Wax Museum (ICC Parish Family Welcome)

Tuesday, February 2

Brain Show Mania (10:00 grades 5-8/1:00 grades K-4)

6pm - Science Fair Awards

6:30pm Brain Show Mania (ICC Parish Family Welcome)

Wednesday, February 3

Make your own Sundaes at Lunch

Step-Up Day – Grades Pre-K through 7

Thursday, February 4

Sports dress down day and Prayer Partner activities

Teacher Luncheon (11:30-12:45 Homeroom Moms cover lunch)

Afternoon at the Movies

Friday, February 5

10:30am Mass (ICC Parish Family Welcome)

12pm – 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 Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/16 and 1st Grade students aged 6 by 10/15/16.

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 Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645.

Berks Catholic Open House and Registration

January 31st, 2-4pm Open registration for new students and tours. Please join us and feel the energy in our community! For info, call Nicole Smith at 610-374-8361 x244. Financial Aid and Transfer Grants are available.

Mark Your Calendar!

Ash Wednesday is February 10th

Dear Parishioners,

Your dedication to our faith community of the Immaculate Conception and the level of financial support you provide is a great source of encouragement to me and a blessing to our parish family. The weekly offering is so vitally important because it sustains our ministries, our parish programs and our daily operations. I am most grateful to all of our parishioners who not only contributed to today's collection but who also brought their sacrificial offering from last week when attendance at Mass was impeded because of the blizzard conditions. Thank you for your goodness in this regard and as always be assured of my continued prayers and best wishes for you and your family.

God Bless you!

Monsignor John McCann

Junior High School Youth Group will meet on February 5th, 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.

ICCYO Spring Registrations for Boy's Baseball (Boys: 6th-8th) are available on our website www.ICCYO.com

Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner- February 20th, 4:30-7:30pm, social hall. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Includes spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and beverage. Adults \$9 purchased in advance, \$10 at the door. Children 4-10, \$4. Take out is available. Tickets will be sold at Social Sunday on February 7th, after all Masses February 13/14 and at the door. Call Liz at 610-404-4425 for more information. Proceeds benefit the Youth Group Trip to the Catholic Youth Conference and the Mission Trip to Kentucky.

A Note of Appreciation: On behalf of our parish family of the Immaculate Conception, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation our parish staff, Matt Weidner and Jim Craft who worked tirelessly throughout and after the recent blizzard to clear the mountains of snow that accumulated on the driveways, parking lots and sidewalks of our parish campus. Thank you for the excellent work you accomplished on our behalf and the time you spent apart from your own families during the storm and its aftermath.

Immaculate Conception Cemetery: Please be advised that due to the recent blizzard and the amount of snow that accumulated, our parish cemetery is **temporarily closed to pedestrian and vehicular traffic**. For your own safety, we ask you to please refrain from visiting the cemetery at this time. The cemetery will be re-opened as soon as conditions permit. Thank you for your kind cooperation in this regard.

2015 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 2015 Contribution Statement, please contact the church office at 610-582-2411.



January 31, 2016

dear Padre

Monday

FEBRUARY 1

Weekday

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30;

16:5-13

Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday

FEBRUARY 2

Presentation

of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4

Heb 2:14-18

Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Wednesday

FEBRUARY 3

Weekday

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17

Mk 6:1-6

Thursday

FEBRUARY 4

Weekday

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12

Mk 6:7-13

Friday

FEBRUARY 5

St. Agatha,

Virgin and Martyr

Sir 47:2-11

Mk 6:14-29

Saturday

FEBRUARY 6

St. Paul Miki and
Companions, Martyrs

1 Kgs 3:4-13

Mk 6:30-34

Sunday

FEBRUARY 7

Fifth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8

1 Cor 15:1-11 or

15:3-8, 11

Lk 5:1-11

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What should spouses do if they are being abused?



I know Catholics whose spouses cheat and abuse them. What should they do?

If someone is in an abusive marriage, the Church would want, tell, and help that person to do whatever is needed to reach safety. The Church doesn't tolerate anyone staying in a place where physical or mental abuse occurs. Separation is often a first and necessary step. However, there is always hope for reconciliation. If a husband is abusive and his wife leaves, but then he seeks treatment and changes his ways, the Church would hope that the marriage could be saved.

The same is true for an adulterous spouse. If he or she is repentant and takes steps to change and make amends, the Church hopes for and encourages reconciliation. But if a spouse refuses treatment or continues the affair, the next step would be a civil divorce. Even after a civil divorce, there can be hope and reconciliation. It is only

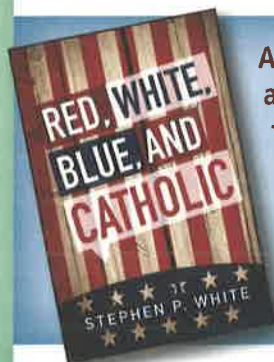
after separation and a civil divorce that the annulment process could begin.

It's important to remember that when a couple gets married they marry for better and for worse. This means there is a call, an expectation, to work things out, to forgive and to repair hurts, and not to rush a divorce. But to be sure, if you are dealing with addiction, abuse, or infidelity in your relationship, the Church supports your need to be secure.

FR. PATRICK KEYES, CSSR
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At the heart of good citizenship is love. Love for the people to which we are bound by birth and by choice. This is not a blind love, which ignores failings, but a love that wills and strives for the best for ourselves and our country. In this light, it becomes easier to see why the best thing we can do as Americans is to become the best and most faithful Catholics.

—From *Red, White, Blue, and Catholic* by Stephen P. White

To see sample pages from this book, call us at 800-325-9521, or visit Liguori.org and type the title or 826450 in the search bar.