

Piece: *School of Athens*, circa 1510
Artist: Raphael
Location: Apostolic Palace, Vatican City



Bright Lights

Saint Paul says he came to the Corinthians in weakness and that he didn't use eloquent or persuasive words; rather he evangelized them in humility and with signs of the power of God. He doesn't claim to be a powerful or influential preacher. He was a humble and convinced apostle; thus, it was the power of God at work in him.

This doesn't mean he didn't make the best case possible for the faith. On the contrary, we are all called to profess and witness to the truth and to develop and use all our gifts and talents. Paul is simply stating that what is most important is that we remain open to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within us and maintain our confidence

in God and not in our own qualities or abilities.

If we are humble servants of the truth, then God's power will be shown. Isaiah prophesies that if we live charity in a real way—offering food to hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked—then our light will shine strongest. Not only that, but our own personal wounds, whatever they are, will be healed.

Truly, loving others is the best way to heal our own soul.

Isaiah proclaims further that if we live this way, God will have our backs. In biblical terms, “the glory of the Lord shall be [our] rear guard.” The Lord will be a soldier who walks behind us, covers our blind spots, curtails our weaknesses, and protects and defends us. If God is for us, who can be against us? Let your light shine!

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

How do I live out God's love at home? In my workplace? In public? How can my light shine even brighter this week?

*“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden”
(Matthew 5:14).*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 5, 2017

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

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM Barbara Pease
 SUN 7:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:00 AM Tom Hafer
 11:00 AM God's Blessings on Linda & Stephen Sutton
 MON **No MASS**
 TUES 7:00 PM Cynthia Schickram
 WED 7:30 AM Dec'd Members of the Vanore Family

THURS 7:00 PM Brother Wm. Sudzina - 5th Anniversary
 FRI 7:30 AM Maryanna Niemczyk
 SAT 5:15 PM Anthony Volpiccini - 27th Anniversary
 SUN 7:30 AM Paul Vignone - 15th Anniversary
 9:00 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners
 11:00 AM Stanley Okuniewski

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Dowling 5:15pm McNamara 7:30am Collura 9:00am McCauley 11:00am DeFalco

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15 PM	Joe Bailey	Jennifer Stuart	Joey and Logan Conlon, Ryan Ferrante
SUN	7:30 AM	Dan Sweeney	Adelina Kieffer	Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho
	9:00 AM	Stephanie Myers	Isabelita Santos	Rachel Barnes, Carina Cress, Kathryn Krueger
	11:00 AM	Susan DiGuglielmo	Bob Newman	Ethan and Leonard Cline, Tim Stewart

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

Immaculate Conception Academy Enrolling for 2017-2018

Immaculate Conception Academy provides a 21st century education for students in preschool through grade 8, including a full day Kindergarten program as well as Art, Music and STEM education.

ICA also offers CYO and Berks Catholic Youth sponsored athletics, an instrumental music program, and other activities including Drama Club, Science Explorers and an active Student Council!

Before and after school care options are available! Ask us about transfer grants of up to \$1500 for students entering grades 1-7!

Find out what an ICA education can do for your student! Please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-4645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org to arrange a tour.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto, Doris Slater, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Steve Mammarella, Gloria Richards, Jane Falcone, Fannie Hunter, Andrew Martin, Mary Okuniewski, Paul Bringenberg, Joseph Kolenda, Kenneth Barth, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Sonny Motta, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Arlene Shirley, Mark McDonald, Robert Thomas, Madison Rhoads, James Smith, Maria Houck, Rita Burnas, Rita Dougherty, Norma Nanni and Helen McDonald

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:

Sun	02/05	Social Sunday Women's Society Bake Sale
Mon	02/06	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	02/07	7:30pm Baptism Class 7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Thurs	02/09	7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
Fri	02/10	7pm SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP
Sat	02/11	4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, February 6th. Thank you for your kind understanding in the regard.

The Student Council of Immaculate Conception Academy is looking for enthusiastic volunteers of all ages to help set up, serve, and tear down at the Kennedy House Soup Kitchen both Saturday, February 25th and Sunday, February 26th. We will be hosting meals at the Kennedy House from 9:30 until 2:30 each day. You can volunteer on both days or one day only. The Kennedy House is located at 530 Spruce Street, Reading. This is a great opportunity for middle schools students needing service hours for Confirmation and high school graduation requirements. For more information, please contact Marcella Kracyk at Mrskracyk@icaknights.org or 610-404-8645.

Immaculate Conception Academy 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 the first year; \$500 the second). Call Adele Reilly at 610-404-8645.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS - The Senior High School Youth Group will meet on Friday, February 10th 7-9pm. All high school students in our parish are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. Please bring a friend!

Super Bowl Bake Sale – The Women's Society will be offering a wide variety of delicious baked goods on Super Bowl Sunday. If you are hosting a party, let us do the dessert for you. Or pick up dessert for your Sunday dinner. We have something for everyone. Stop by the table and pick your favorite

The Women's Society will meet Wednesday, February 15th at 7pm in the social hall. All members are requested to attend if able. Meeting will begin with recitation of the Rosary, followed by the business meeting. Light refreshments will be offered. If you have never been to a meeting please come and join us. All women of the parish are welcome to participate in any of our activities whether they are a member or not.

Everyone welcome for MEATBALL MADNESS – Lots of meatballs, lots of fun. Please join members of the Women's Society on Friday, February 17th at 9am to help us prepare the meatballs for the Youth Group's Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Lots of hands make for light work for everyone.

Immaculate Conception Academy Aftercare is looking for someone willing to work several hours per week from 3pm to 6pm. Must have completed "Protecting God's Children" and obtain required background checks and clearances. Call Laura DeFalco at 610-463-8157.

BAPTISM CLASS – FEBRUARY 7th AT 7:30PM – LOWER LEVEL, CHURCH OFFICE – BAPTISM CLASS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE BAPTISM OF YOUR FIRST CHILD. CALL RITA AT 610-582-2411 TO REGISTER.

Youth Group's Annual Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 18th. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Watch the bulletin for additional details. Proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner help defray the costs of the Youth Group Trip to the Catholic Youth Conference at the Franciscan University of Steubenville and the Mission Trip to Kentucky both scheduled for the summer of 2017.

Berks Catholic News

Registration for the 2017-18 school year is open. Please contact Nicky Smith for more information. All inquiries are confidential. nsmith@berkscatholic.org

Berks Catholic Presents Xanadu - March 17th and 18th at 7pm. Visit www.berkscatholic.org for ticket information.

Volunteers Needed at John Paul II Learning Center to share time and talents for a few hours a week or month (9:30am-noon) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays during the school year with the secondary students in their new commercial teaching kitchen. If interested, contact Mary Adams at 610-777-0605 or madams@johnpauliicenter.org.

2016 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS have been mailed. If you didn't receive it or would like a 2016 Contribution Statement, please contact the church office at 610-582-2411.

Event Supporting Retired Nuns – The Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in Reading invite you to Bernardine Bonanza, February 18th, 6:30-9:30pm at the McGlenn Conference Center. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Sr. Maria at 484-334-6815

St. Benedict's Prime Timers invites all to join us April 27-30 for a trip to the Azalea Festival in Virginia. Trip includes: Lodging, Transportation, 3 Breakfasts, 3 Dinners including the Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Cruise, Naval Base, MacArthur Memorial, Chrysler Museum, NATO Festival and reserved seats for 64th Annual Parade of Nations. Taxes and Gratuities included. Cost is \$529 per person (\$719 singles). Call Marie Blimline for more information 484-332-3241.

MOVING OUT OF THE AREA?

Please call 610-582-2411 so we can say goodbye and update our records.

"What Would Mary Say" February 11th at Holy Ghost Church, South Bethlehem from 1-5pm. Come join us for an afternoon of healing and renewal, song and praise, Confession, Vigil Mass and Healing Service with Father Ariel Hernandez from Camden Diocese and Father Cliff Bishop, pastor of Holy Ghost and Liaison for the Charismatic Renewal of Allentown Diocese. Free Will Offering. Contact us at 610-866-3391, ext 8.

Redner's Save-A-Tape – In order for ICC to receive the 1% credit 1) you must use your Pump Perks card 2) please submit the entire receipt and 3) do not use a highlighter on the totals as this erases the number.

Calendar

Monday

February 6

St. Paul Miki and
Companions,
Martyrs

Gn 1:1–19

Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday

February 7

Weekday

Gn 1:20–2:4a

Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday

February 8

Weekday

Gn 2:4b–9, 15–17

Mk 7:14–23

Thursday

February 9

Weekday

Gn 2:18–25

Mk 7:24–30

Friday

February 10

St. Scholastica,
Virgin

Gn 3:1–8

Mk 7:31–37

Saturday

February 11

Weekday

Gn 3:9–24

Mk 8:1–10

Sunday

February 12

Sixth Sunday

in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15–20

1 Cor 2:6–10

Mt 5:17–37 or

5:20–22a, 27–28,

33–34a, 37

Dear Padre,

Does the Church give guidelines for what we should and shouldn't watch on TV and in theaters?

The Communications Department of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides “Catholics, especially families, with information they can use to evaluate entertainment media programming from a Catholic perspective.” Along with its “Family Guide for Using Media,” it provides up-to-date movie reviews and ratings through the Catholic News Service (catholicnews.com) and access to archives dating from 2010 into the 1930s.

As part of forming their children in the faith, parents must educate them about the media's influence, monitor the content each member interacts with, and model appropriate media use. All our media choices—print, digital, or otherwise—should affirm and support Christian values. Consider these questions:



- Does this piece portray human life as a gift from God? Is sexuality linked to life and marriage? How is dying presented?
- Does it promote healthy friendships and lasting commitments within marriage? Does it affirm gratitude, stewardship or charity, and obedience to proper authorities?
- Does it connect moral consequences with the characters' actions? Is exploitation, oppression, or neglect of any group condoned? Is respect shown for a variety of cultures?
- Does it foster a sense of the divine, of human destiny beyond this life, and of our obligation to forgive and seek forgiveness?

It is advisable to balance your use of suitable media with human interaction.

Source: *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, Liguori, 2003
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

“Christ’s humility is not moralism or a feeling. Christ’s humility is real; it is the choice of being small, of staying with the lowliest and with the marginalized, staying among all of us sinners.”

—Address to the poor and prison inmates, September 22, 2013