

## Accentuating the Positive

**H**ate is a passion that can take over a person's heart in a short amount of time. God knows this, and he challenges us to avoid hate and holding grudges. In the law that Jesus preached, we are not even allowed to hate our enemies or persecutors. That is radical!

It is easy to let injuries build up over time. Eventually we find ourselves far away from those we should be closest to or those we once loved. This separation starts in our thoughts and settles into our hearts and behavior. Hate grows, and if it isn't controlled and redeemed, it can pull us down.

We don't have to hate, be angry, or carry grudges if we don't want to. Our hearts and minds can be filled with God's grace. We can work on three levels to

overcome hate and anger: visual, verbal, and physical. When angry thoughts invade your mind, look up (visual), speak the truth to yourself (verbal), and change your posture (physical). This helps alter self-destructive thought patterns and helps us refocus our heart and mind. Add these natural means to the supernatural means of calling on God's grace, of receiving the sacrament of penance, and of taking moments of

### *For Reflection*

*Michelangelo paints three figures pulling the sinner down. Which three passions weigh down my heart?*

*How can I use human and spiritual means to point my heart and mind in a healthier, God-focused direction?*

prayer to see and speak his truth over a situation.

We are God's temple. His spirit of peace, mercy, and serenity needs to reign inside us. That means getting rid of negative, hateful, and hurtful thoughts toward ourselves and others. Don't let them pull you down!

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: *The Sinner*, detail of *The Last Judgment*, circa 1536  
Artist: Michelangelo Buonarroti  
Location: Sistine Chapel altar wall

*“You shall not hate any of your kindred in your heart...  
Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your own people.  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:17-18).*

# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 [secretary@icbvm.org](mailto:secretary@icbvm.org) [ccd@icbvm.org](mailto:ccd@icbvm.org) [bulletin@icbvm.org](mailto: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 Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD .....610 582-3880  
 Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
 Parish Fax.....610 404-2609  
 Parish Website.....www.icbvm.org

Immaculate Conception Academy.....610 404-8645  
 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.allentowndiocese.org

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 19, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Andrew J. Lakatosh*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 SUN 7:30 AM Dec'd Members of the Pribanick Family  
 9:00 AM Michael Foraker  
 11:00 AM Margaret & Dr. Nicholas Christ  
 MON **No MASS**  
 TUES 7:00 PM Joseph & Anna Shisslak  
 WED 7:30 AM Bruce Ketterer

THURS 7:00 PM Andrew J. Lakatosh  
 FRI 7:30 AM Fr. Burgoyne  
 SAT 5:15 PM Josephine Bogus  
 SUN 7:30 AM Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 9:00 AM Anna Kline  
 11:00 AM John Butler

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

**SCRIP:** Porambo **5:15pm** Pisarek **7:30am** Kasperowicz **9:00am** Carvalho **11:00am** Citrano

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15 PM	Mary Jo Simon	Mary Schwendt	Chris and Lyndsay Surkosky, Zach Whalen
SUN	7:30 AM	Sherry McCollum	Pam Amos	Isabella and Mia Pizzo, Mya Salanek
	9:00 AM	Pat Fessler	Barrie Pease	Sadie Mangan, Marissa and Steven Tepper
	11:00 AM	John Peterson	Barbara Romig	John Dinnocenti, Will Gray, Faith Ouimet

***Second collection next week is the Debt Reduction Collection***

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 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. On this day the Church throughout the world will embark on a penitential journey of 40 days marked by prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

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, 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 Bernas, Rita Dougherty, Norma Nanni, Becky Shemanski, Lottie Becker, Lou Franco and Helen McDonald

Congratulate the recently baptized: William Jack Owens and his 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:**

<b>Mon</b>	<b>02/20</b>	<b>7:30pm RCIA</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>02/21</b>	<b>7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>02/23</b>	<b>7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>02/25</b>	<b>4-5pm Confession</b>

## **WHAT'S HAPPENING**

*Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.*

### **Immaculate Conception Academy Enrolling for 2017-2018**

Immaculate Conception Academy provides a 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org) to arrange a tour.

*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/either Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting meals at the Kennedy House from 9:30 until 2:30 each day. 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 information, please contact Marcella Kraycik at [Mrskraycik@icaknights.org](mailto:Mrskraycik@icaknights.org).*

**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.

**Women's Society - Easter Candy Order Forms** are in the narthex and in next week's bulletin. We are offering homemade Peanut Butter and Coconut eggs in 1/2lb and 1lb boxes for your enjoyment. Anyone who has tasted our candy knows how good it is! Please order and submit payment as soon as possible but no later than March 12<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made payable to ICC Women's Society. You can drop your order in the collection plate, at the school or church office building, or mail to ICC, 905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518.

### **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](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org)

**Berks Catholic Presents Xanadu - March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** Visit [www.berkscatholic.org](http://www.berkscatholic.org) for ticket information.

Attention High School Seniors of Italian Descent: Victor Emmanuel II Beneficial Society offers a \$12,000 scholarship available to Berks County High School seniors living in Berks County and who are of Italian descent. Applications must be picked up at your local high school guidance counselor's office and returned to VE II by March 15, 2015. Any questions, please contact Fred Ranalli Jr. 610 678 2512.

On April 23, 2017, the Polish-American Board of Education of Berks County will be awarding ten college scholarships totaling \$25,000 to Berks County high school seniors of Polish-American descent. Applicants for the scholarships can obtain application forms and guidelines in the office of the guidance counselor in all Berks County high schools, in the Polish-American Cultural Center in the GoggleWorks, or download from [www.pabeberks.org](http://www.pabeberks.org). Applications are due no later than March 18<sup>th</sup> to the Scholarship Secretary, Ronald Savitski, 159 Texter Mountain Road, Wernersville, PA 19565-9442. As part of this awards program, the Polish-American Heritage Association of Berks County will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a child or grandchild of a current member of the organization. To obtain more information and the criteria required to apply for this scholarship contact Sandy Lubas Hummel at [sahummel@ptd.net](mailto:sahummel@ptd.net) or 610.582.8717.

Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist Invite You To **Father Pio Mandato, F.M.H.J. - March 7<sup>th</sup> - 9am-Noon - Includes Conference, Exposition of the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mass.** Fr. Pio Mandato is a Capuchin priest from the village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy, the same town where St. Padre Pio was born. Fr. Mandato received his first Holy Communion from Saint Padre Pio before he and his family migrated to America in 1964. He grew up in New Jersey and entered the Capuchin Seminary at the age of 17, where he received his Franciscan formation and later his priestly formation. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1985. Father belongs to the Diocese of Scranton. His priesthood is dedicated to prayer, solitude, and preaching. **ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND! YOUR GENEROUS DONATION WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.** To register, contact: Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, 640 E. Main St., Birdsboro - [olme@olme.org](mailto:olme@olme.org) - 610-582-3333 - [www.olme.org](http://www.olme.org)

**Catholic Charities, Diocese of Allentown will hold its Tenth Annual Gala on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm at The DeSales University Center, Center Valley.** Reverend Monsignor Walter T. Scheaffer, pastor of St. Mary Church, Kutztown, and Anne Jandl and Jandl Family Farms, will be honored for their contributions in helping the poor in the Diocese of Allentown. To receive an invitation, become a sponsor or place an ad in the program book, please contact Julie Scheck at 610-871-5200, ext. 216 or [jscheck@allentowndioocese.org](mailto:jscheck@allentowndioocese.org).

The 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reading and Berks County Regional Holy Name Society Communion Breakfast will be held March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Doubletree Hotel on Penn Street in Reading. A Mass will be celebrated at the Doubletree at 8:15am by Rev. Thomas J. Kuller, Facilities Director at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville. Breakfast will follow the Mass. The keynote speaker is Dr. Randy Ireson, director of the Glen Mills Correctional Institution in Concordville, PA. Glen Mills is the top-rated juvenile detention in America. Tickets are \$15. Make checks payable to David Krick, 536 Walnut Tree Dr, Blandon PA 19510. Call 484-336-3632 for ticket info.

**Mary's Shelter 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bowl A Thon - March 19<sup>th</sup>**  
- Berks Lanes, Sinking Spring - 12:30-2:30 or 3-5  
Session - Fun, Food, Prizes - Registration and Pledge Form [www.marysshelter.org](http://www.marysshelter.org) - \$125 lane sponsorships available - Contact Amy at 610-603-8010 or [office@marysshelter.org](mailto:office@marysshelter.org)

## Calendar

### Monday

February 20

Weekday

Sir 1:1–10

Mk 9:14–29

### Tuesday

February 21

Weekday

Sir 2:1–11

Mk 9:30–37

### Wednesday

February 22

Chair of St. Peter,

Apostle

1 Pt 5:1–4

Mt 16:13–19

### Thursday

February 23

St. Polycarp,

Bishop and Martyr

Sir 5:1–8

Mk 9:41–50

### Friday

February 24

Weekday

Sir 6:5–17

Mk 10:1–12

### Saturday

February 25

Weekday

Sir 17:1–15

Mk 10:13–16

### Sunday

February 26

Eighth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Is 49:14–15

1 Cor 4:1–5

Mt 6:24–34

# Dear Padre,

## Is it ever OK to use “God” and “damn” together?

When we pray “hallowed be thy name” in the Lord’s Prayer, we give God the reverence he is due. Because the Lord’s name is holy, we mustn’t abuse it. The Second Commandment tells us not to “take the name of the LORD...in vain” (see Exodus 20:7). With our tongue, “we bless the Lord

and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. This need not be so...” (James 3:9–10).

What happens, when our reverence is contradicted by cursing? For some, cursing is a cathartic response to pain or anger. Those who view it as a form of stress management or as a substitute for physical

aggression may contend that condemning in this context is neither literal nor deliberate. If God knows our hearts, that our misuse of his name is insincere, what’s the harm?

“A sharp tongue is the only edge[d] tool that grows keener with constant use,” wrote Washington Irving. In other words, if we constantly and carelessly misuse God’s name, we may stop feeling sorry that it offends him. That irreverent attitude is more offensive—and more dangerous—than the vocabulary. Scripture warns, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue; those who choose one shall eat its fruit” (Proverbs 18: 21).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



SHUTTERSTOCK



## A Word From Pope Francis

*“It’s terrible to see an insult or taunt issue from the mouth of a Christian. It is ugly....To insult is not Christian....Before God we are all sinners and in need of forgiveness.”*

—Angelus, September 7, 2014