

God Loves Us Like a Mother

There is no place children feel safer than in their mother's arms. Since she provides them with all they need, both physically and emotionally, their trust and confidence is total. God tells us not to worry and gives us the reason: *I will never ever forget you. I know your needs and I will take care of them. Do you think a mother can forget her child? Even if she were to forget, I won't!*

In the Gospel, Jesus doesn't just suggest not to worry, he commands it: "Do not worry," he says more than once. He knows what preoccupies us—food, clothing, work, and money. Why worry? What good will it do? Can you eat better, increase your wealth, or change your appearance by worrying? Can you add a day to your life fretting about your health?

Sure, we need to think about providing for our physical needs. We need to make good, informed, and healthy decisions. The key is to reflect and decide, not to worry and obsess. Keep it all in perspective. Life is much more than material goods and personal aspirations.

God loves us so much, like a mother loves her child. He provides for all his creatures, even for the lily that only blooms for a day. He knows everything



Piece: *The Rest on The Flight into Egypt*, circa 1510
Artist: Gerard David
Location: National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

you need and, like a good parent, desperately wants to give it to you!

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

What worries me most right now? Make a list and entrust it all to Jesus.

*"Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.
Sufficient for a day is its own evil"
(Matthew 6:34).*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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

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 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC
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EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – FEBRUARY 26, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Anthony Volpiccini and
 In Honor of Lisa & Mike Endy – 40th Wedding Anniversary*

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Josephine Bogus	THURS	7:00 PM	Patricia Gombar
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	FRI	7:30 AM	Dec'd Members of the George L. Smith Family
	9:00 AM	Anna Kline	SAT	5:15 PM	Anthony Volpiccini
	11:00 AM	John Butler	SUN	7:30 AM	Jerome Setlock
MON		No Mass		9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Frank Bentz, Jr.		11:00 AM	Leon Doney
WED	7:30 AM	Delores McCullough			
	9:00 AM	ICA Mass – Philip Kubovcsak			
	7:00 PM	Fr. Joseph Campion			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Zubik 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	Jason Mariano	Shirley Wheeler	Sarah Forkin, Ande and Ethan Kraycik
SUN	7:30 AM	Amanda Marley	Michelle Marley	Michael Beitz, Trey Bradfield, Matt Lambert
	9:00 AM	Josephine Hohl	Stephanie Myers	Michael DiScala, Elly Smithson, Sidney Wolf
	11:00 AM	Karl Filachek	Mary Gray	Joey Cizmarik, Nicholas Donnelly, Will Gray

Second collection next week is Church Building & Parish Maintenance

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, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Tony Guilliams, Steve Mammarella, Gloria Richards, Jane Falcone, Andrew Martin, Joseph Kolenda, Kenneth Barth, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Arlene Shirley, Robert Thomas, Madison Rhoads, Rita Dougherty, Norma Nanni, Becky Shemanski, Lou Franco, Joe Nanni and Helen McDonald

Pray for the recently deceased: Paul Bringenberg, John Burns and Lottie Becker

Welcome our new parishioners: Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Wiedemann

Congratulate the newly baptized: Logan Jacob Finkbiner, Julia Elizabeth Haring and Jenna Michelle Haring

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon 02/27 7:30pm RCIA
Tues 02/28 7:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Wed 03/01 Ash Wednesday
Thurs 03/02 7:30pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
Fri 03/03 7pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 03/04 4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Women's Society - Easter Candy Orders Being Taken Now

Don't delay and chance missing out on our delicious Peanut Butter and Coconut Eggs. Please order and submit payment as soon as possible but no later than March 12th. Make checks 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.

The members of our parish Youth Groups wish to thank everyone who patronized our Spaghetti Dinner held this past Saturday. We had a great turn out of parishioners, family members and friends who enjoyed the homemade meatballs and sauce. The proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner will help underwrite the costs of our upcoming trips to the Catholic Youth Conference to be held at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in June and our Mission Trip to the Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center in Louisa, Kentucky in July. Thank you for your support and a special thank you to the Women's Society for making the delicious meatballs for us.

ICA HSO Coach Bag Bingo - March 25th - Social Hall Doors Open 5pm/Games Begin 6pm

\$25 in advance/\$30 at the door. Tickets include 16 regular games and a door prize. Bingo cards for our 4 special games and the Grand Prize will be sold at the event. We will also have Basket Raffles, a 50/50 raffle and a Wine Pull. Contact Kira at 610-301-8942 or ICABINGO@gmail.com. Checks should be made payable to ICA HSO. Online payments can be made through PayPal www.ICAHSO.org. BYOB- Adult Only Event.

RESORTS Casino AC - March 20th - LEAVE the Church promptly at 9:30am - Package Deal: Pay \$32 get \$25 Back - Call Carol J. if interested at 610-775-4447

St Catharine of Siena School - Position Opening Principal for the 2017-2018 Academic Year

St. Catharine of Siena School (Pre-K - 8) is seeking a dynamic and innovative educational leader with a strong commitment to academic excellence and Catholic values to serve as Principal. Please visit www.scsreading.org or www.allentowndiocese.org employment page for more information.

Congratulations!! to our 7th and 8th Grade Boys CYO Basketball Team who won the Berks County Championship last weekend by defeating Saint Peter's of Reading. Our boys will now proceed onto the diocesan championship rounds by playing Saint Matthew's of Minersville this weekend at Nativity BVM High School in Pottsville. **Go Knights!**

National 40 Days for Life Campaign and Prayer Vigil, March 1 to April 9. Reading Planned Parenthood, 4th and Franklin Sts, Reading, 7am-4pm, Mondays through Saturdays. 40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil to end abortion. Call Pro-Life Berks 610-375-3395 for info.

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, MARCH 3RD AT 7:00PM. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO AFTERNOON STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH THE CHILDREN DUE TO AN EARLY DISMISSAL.

Annual Lenten Food Drive for the benefit of the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House, and Catholic Charities of Reading begins March 1st. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. Food will be collected through Palm Sunday. If you have any questions, contact Deacon Jim at 610-385-3666.

A Lenten Endeavor: Operation Rice Bowl - Fast and pray with your family and make a sacrificial offering to Operation Rice Bowl so as to help those who live with hunger and poverty both at home and abroad. The Rice Bowl is located in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

Immaculate Conception has been asked to participate with other local Churches in meeting the needs of the Food Pantry, called "Community Table" at the Birdsboro Community Center. We are collecting **Cleaning Products** such as bathroom, window and kitchen cleaners; laundry soap items and paper towel/wipes. The Collection Bin is in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please email Deacon Chuck at catgio@comcast.net.

Eucharistic Adoration: During the forty days of Lent our church will be open every Wednesday evening beginning March 8th, 7pm to 9pm for Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the monstrance on the altar. You are welcome to come and spend some quiet time with the Lord Jesus. You may bring your own prayer books, use any of the books in our parish library, read the Bible, pray the Rosary, or just sit and relax and enjoy the peace that comes from simply being in the presence of God. You may feel that you can't pray well. Don't let that discourage you. The mere fact that you have carved out a period of time to be with Jesus is a great act of faith. When you come, bring to the Lord your hopes and desires, your dreams and aspirations, your fears and anxieties and entrust all them all to God.

Don't Give Up Chocolate For Lent! Join Dynamic Catholic for Best Lent Ever, a FREE email program designed to help you have a life changing Lent. This program is based on Matthew Kelly's "Resisting Happiness". This book leads readers in a deeply personal way, to the realization that they cannot get to where they want to go without God. It was specifically written to re-engage disengaged Catholics and inspire individuals to grow in their spiritual lives. Visit BestLentEver.com to sign up. Beginning Ash Wednesday, participants will receive daily emails with practical tips, short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly, and personal reflections from Dynamic Catholic team members. Participants will discover how to open their hearts to God and do more than just give up chocolate for Lent...leading to their best Lent ever.

Calendar

Monday

February 27

Weekday

Sir 17:20–24

Mk 10:17–27

Tuesday

February 28

Weekday

Sir 35:1–12

Mk 10:28–31

Wednesday

March 1

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12–18

2 Cor 5:20–6:2

Mt 6:1–6, 16–18

Thursday

March 2

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15–20

Lk 9:22–25

Friday

March 3

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1–9a

Mt 9:14–15

Saturday

March 4

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b–14

Lk 5:27–32

Sunday

March 5

First Sunday
of Lent

Gn 2:7–9; 3:1–7

Rom 5:12–19

Mt 4:1–11

Dear Padre,

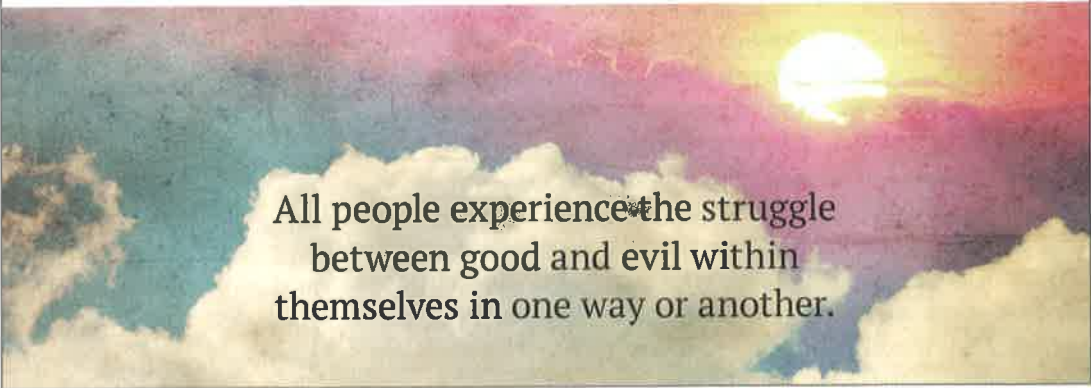
I'm an active Catholic but feel torn between two sides of myself: one that is faithful in prayer and charitable to others, another that is poorly disciplined, selfish, and given to sensuality and pornography. It seems God is holding on to me, but I don't know why.

I am reminded of Paul's personal struggle as expressed in Romans: "What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate.... Now if [I] do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.... Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me...?" (7:15, 20, 24).

Remain faithful to your religious practices, and don't get down on yourself. Having immoral tendencies does not make you a hypocrite; it makes you human. All people experience the struggle between good and evil within themselves in one way or another. It may be helpful to find a spiritual director or counselor who can help you deal with your weaknesses. You could learn how to be more disciplined in prayer and how to overcome your preoccupation with pornography. Keep trying to accentuate the positive and deal with the negative.

You say God is holding on to you. Remember that Francis Thompson called God "the Hound of Heaven." God does not let go easily.

Fr. Daniel L. Lowery, CSSR
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



All people experience the struggle
between good and evil within
themselves in one way or another.

SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word From Pope Francis

"If [your children] are crying with hunger, feed them, don't worry. Let us thank the Lord for the gift of milk....What milk does for the body, the Word of God does for the spirit."

—Homily, Sistine Chapel, January 11, 2015