

The Eye of God

The Book of Romans meditates on a truth we sometimes neglect, but that has inspired many artists. Creation longs to share in the freedom of God's kingdom. Sin has affected nature, so salvation will also set it free from corruption. What would a glorified planet look like? Charles Burchfield, a nature painter, tried to imagine just that.

He painted thousands of scenes from his bedroom in Salem, Ohio. He became obsessed with dramatizing landscapes and was known to sketch as he walked to and from school. His love and meditations didn't keep him from entering the army, but given his gifts, he was assigned to the camouflage unit, using his skills to paint tanks and drapery. Some of his designs are still used today.

What Burchfield discovered was that a pristine nature scene was a divine image. The forms, the colors, the patterns were all created by God and guided by his providence. By painting these scenes, one was truly touching the hand of God and entering into his mind. His painting *Eye of God in the Woods* illustrates the eye of God in a sun that pierces through the trees of a snowy forest with a rolling brook.

God speaks in nature motifs. Scripture is full of them. Jesus also used nature as a model for his teachings: seeds sown in different soils, clouds predicting rain, a sparrow, a catch of fish.

Nature is a glorious soil from which inspiration can sprout. This week, meditate and marvel at the beauty of creation and, like Jesus, take lessons from it for your spiritual life.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Piece: *Eye of God in the Woods*, 1949

Artist: Charles Burchfield

Location: Collection of the
Monumenti Musei e Gallerie
Pontificie, Vatican City



For Reflection

How often do I spend time outdoors enjoying nature?

*What messages from God can I find
in the natural world today?*

"[Hope] that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God" (Romans 8:21).

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/CCD ..610 582-3880
 Parish Preschool610 404-8645
 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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 16, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Josie & Gus Fredriksen

And In Memory of Christine A. Maslar

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Harold Care – 5 th Anniversary	THURS	7:00 PM	Dolores McCullough
SUN	7:30 AM	Esther Pribanick – 13 th Anniversary	FRI	7:30 AM	Blanche Welsh
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Jerome Setlock
	11:00 AM	John Iezzi	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON		No Mass		9:00 AM	MaryAnn & Joseph Gulla
TUES	7:00 PM	Anthony DiGuglielmo		11:00 AM	Anthony Pugliese
WED	7:30 AM	Evelyn Haight Giordano			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Porambo 5:15 Pisarek 7:30 Schwendt 9:00 Grieco 11:00 Hafer

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Joe Bailey	Sherry McCollum	Sarah Forkin, Anna and Daniel Schlegel
SUN	7:30AM	Amanda Marley	Michelle Marley	Michael Beitz, Trey Bradfield, Austin Lobaugh
	9:00AM	Victor González	Josephine Hohl	Brianna González, Marissa and Steven Tepper
	11:00AM	Greg Shemanski	Leonard Cline Jr.	Ethan Cline, Michael DiScala, Josh Piccarretta

Second Collection Next Week is for Religious Ministries

2017 Vacation Bible School

"Mission Discovery"

It's not too late to register!

July 17 through July 21, 6-8pm

Open to children ages 5 to 11

\$30 per child. Adult and teen

volunteers are always welcome. Join

the mission to discover what God is
calling you to do with your life!

Contact: Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-582-3880 or ccd@icbvm.org

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Ann Schlott, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Dan Casciano, Jake Maccarone, Madge Butto, Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Rose Osorio, Steve Mammarella, Joseph Kolenda, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Robert Thomas, Rita Dougherty, Lou Franco, Lucille Schiel, John Fritz, Lucy Doney, Mary Okuniewski, Mark McDonald, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Helen McDonald, Mark Vignone, Justine Marie Mattassa, Maria Houck, Barbara Reznick, Darlene Strock, TJ Doyle, Irene Wade, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, Jacob Hafer, John LeFosse, Eileen Ridall, Lucia Scotto, Anthony Cossa, Edward Woznicki, Jacob Lovera

Pray for the recently departed: Lloyd Wolf, Jr.

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:

VBS – Mission Discovery, Daily 6-8pm

Mon 07/17 7pm Bereavement Support Group

Sat 07/22 4-5pm Confession



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Summer Office Hours

Immaculate Conception Church

Tuesday through Friday, 9:30am to 4:30pm

Immaculate Conception Academy

Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00am to 1:00pm

Immaculate Conception Academy has openings in its Full Day Kindergarten program for the 2017-18 school year!

In addition to providing a strong foundation in mathematics and language arts, our program features S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education as well as art, music, and physical education.

Before and after school care options are available.

For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

****Openings are still available in Preschool, Pre-K and grades 1-8 as well! Contact us today!!! Space is limited in some classes****



**Immaculate Conception Academy
Positions Available**

Immaculate Conception Academy is accepting applications for Middle School teachers, a Music teacher and Substitute teachers for the 2017-18 school year. Teacher candidates must hold or be eligible for PA certification. Please send letter of interest, resume, copies of certification and transcripts, along with clearances and references to Mrs. Christine Foley, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, 19518.

Love. Learning. Leadership.

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.

Resorts AC Trip – Come along and enjoy the fabulous Jersey shore! Friday, July 21st – leave church promptly at 9:30am. Package deal – Pay \$32, get \$25 back. Call Carol J if interested at 610-775-4447

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP will meet July 17th at 7pm in the lower level (rear) of the parish office. Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one will be welcomed warmly. For information call Toni Kaucher at 610-404-1389 or Pat Fessler at 610-775-1892.

Kentucky Mission Trip: Please pray for the members of our parish Youth Group who are in the final stages of preparation for their Mission Trip to Kentucky. Our young people will depart for Kentucky on July 23rd. Accompany them with your prayers for a safe journey as they will be travelling over 500 miles to reach their destination. Pray too that God will bless them with a good experience as they put their faith into action by using their talents and gifts to serve the poor and those most vulnerable. While at the Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center in Louisa, Kentucky our youth group members will engage in home repairs including tarring and sealing a porch roof, repairing sub-flooring and joists in a kitchen and on a porch. They will also be working in a food pantry and visiting families in need. Throughout their week in Kentucky our teenagers will be working alongside of college students and seminarians who are spending the entire summer at the Mission Center as interns. Thank you for your generous support of the Mission Trip through your patronage of the Spaghetti Dinner, Pancake Breakfast and Car Wash sponsored by the Youth Group. Our young people also wish to thank the Knights of Columbus for their generous support of the Mission Trip.

Come and serve...at the Kennedy House, 532 Spruce Street, Reading, August 5th/6th, approximately 8:45am to 1pm. Between 300 and 450 meals will be prepared and served. Serving so many is no easy task, and we need lots of hands to get it done. No cooking involved. We need help buttering bread, plating desserts and fruit, pouring drinks, wrapping utensils, cleanup etc. Parents and children 10 and up are encouraged to experience the joy of serving others together. Please contact Marsha: mgazz615@icloud.com or 610-385-6319 to volunteer or for information. There will also be a sign-up sheet in the narthex at the SCRIP table. Please make sure you indicate which day/days you will be helping along with your phone number. Thank you!

ICC Girls and Boys CYO Cross Country Information meeting at ICA on July 17th, 6:30pm in the breezeway at school entrance. This is open to boys and girls in Grades K-8. The season will be discussed including the race we host which will be held on September 17th. Feel free to bring your children to the meeting. If we have time we will go out on the trail. If your child is interested in running for the team, email Jessica Bailey at jmbailey727@yahoo.com to be added to the team distribution list.

St. Peter's Church Festival – July 23, 12-7pm – St. Benedict Picnic Grove, Rt. 10, Plowville – ethnic foods, games, raffles, much more – Call 610-372-9652

MOVING OUT OF THE AREA?

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

Traveling this summer?

Visit www.masstimes.org for Mass schedules

Calendar

Monday

July 17

Weekday

Ex 1:8–14, 22

Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday

July 18

Weekday

Ex 2:1–15a

Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday

July 19

Weekday

Ex 3:1–6, 9–12

Mt 11:25–27

Thursday

July 20

Weekday

Ex 3:13–20

Mt 11:28–30

Friday

July 21

Weekday

Ex 11:10–12:14

Mt 12:1–8

Saturday

July 22

St. Mary Magdalene

Sgs 3:1–4b or

2 Cor 5:14–17

Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

Sunday

July 23

Sixteenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16–19

Rom 8:26–27

Mt 13:24–43

or 13:24–30

Dear Padre,

Why does the Bible have two creation stories?

Scholars believe these stories (Genesis 1–3) were written by two authors during different times and situations in Jewish history. The first story focuses on the creation of the universe; the second emphasizes the creation of man and woman.

The creation account that appears first in the Bible (Genesis 1:1–2:4a) was written six centuries before the birth of Christ by a priest wanting to reaffirm for the Jews that only one God is the all-powerful creator of all that exists. At that time, a belief in several powerful, warring gods was common in the cultures surrounding Judaism.

The story that appears later in the Bible (Genesis 2:4b–3:24) was actually written earlier—four centuries earlier—by a sage in the court of King David. It affirmed that human beings have an inherent dignity and a responsibility to live within boundaries. They must obey God, a rule that applies to kings as well.

Both accounts contain the closely held beliefs regarding human dignity (made in God's image and likeness) and responsibility (care for the earth as God would care for it) that are core to the Christian faith. At their heart they teach us through symbol and story about that God who is partially knowable, the source of life and hope amid the chaos and loss that beset every generation.



TAMARA SHUTTERSTOCK

Source: "Dear Padre," October 2011 *Liguorian*
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. 'Through the greatness and the beauty of creatures one comes to know by analogy their maker' (Wisdom 13:5); indeed, 'his eternal power and divinity have been made known through his works since the creation of the world' (Romans 1:20). For this reason, Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty. Rather than a problem to be solved, the world is a joyful mystery to be contemplated with gladness and praise."

—*Laudato Si'*, May 24, 2015



2017 VBS Registration Form

Please Print

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Last School Grade Completed: _____

Address: _____

Father's Name: _____ Best Contact #: _____

Email Address: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Best Contact #: _____

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact #1: _____

Best Contact #: _____

Emergency Contact #2: _____

Best Contact #: _____

Please list any allergies or other important medical information of which the staff needs to be aware. _____

This fun filled "Mission" will be held Monday through Friday, July 17 – July 21, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm in our parish Education Center.

The fee is \$30/child. One form per child please. Make checks payable to Immaculate Conception Church. You can mail the form to VBS, 903 Chestnut St., Douglassville, PA 19518, deliver in person to the Office of Religious Education, or put in an envelope marked "VBS" and place in the Sunday collection basket.

Please register early to save a space and make preparations for this mission more efficient.

For questions or volunteer information, please contact Mrs. O'Donnell at 610-582-3880 or email at ccd@icbvm.org.