

A Chosen People, A Common Ancestry

All of today's readings have a common theme: how Jesus' words to his Jewish brothers and sisters influence our faith.

The Catholic Church's relationship with our Jewish brothers and sisters has been strengthened dramatically over the last years. This is thanks in large part to Vatican II's Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (*Nostra Aetate*), particularly Judaism.

Our deep connection with Judaism is rooted in the fact it was to these Chosen People God offered the Old Covenant. We are also indebted to them because their history and culture formed the lives of the people of God and the Holy Family, from which the early Church sprung.

Christianity's firm belief that Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah is the reason our Church is like a

shoot sprung from the root of Jesse. This difference was something Paul's Letter to the Romans dealt with directly—the need for all, both Jews and Gentiles, to accept Jesus.

The key element to this acceptance is the faith shown in the Gospels. Jesus reaches out to his fellow

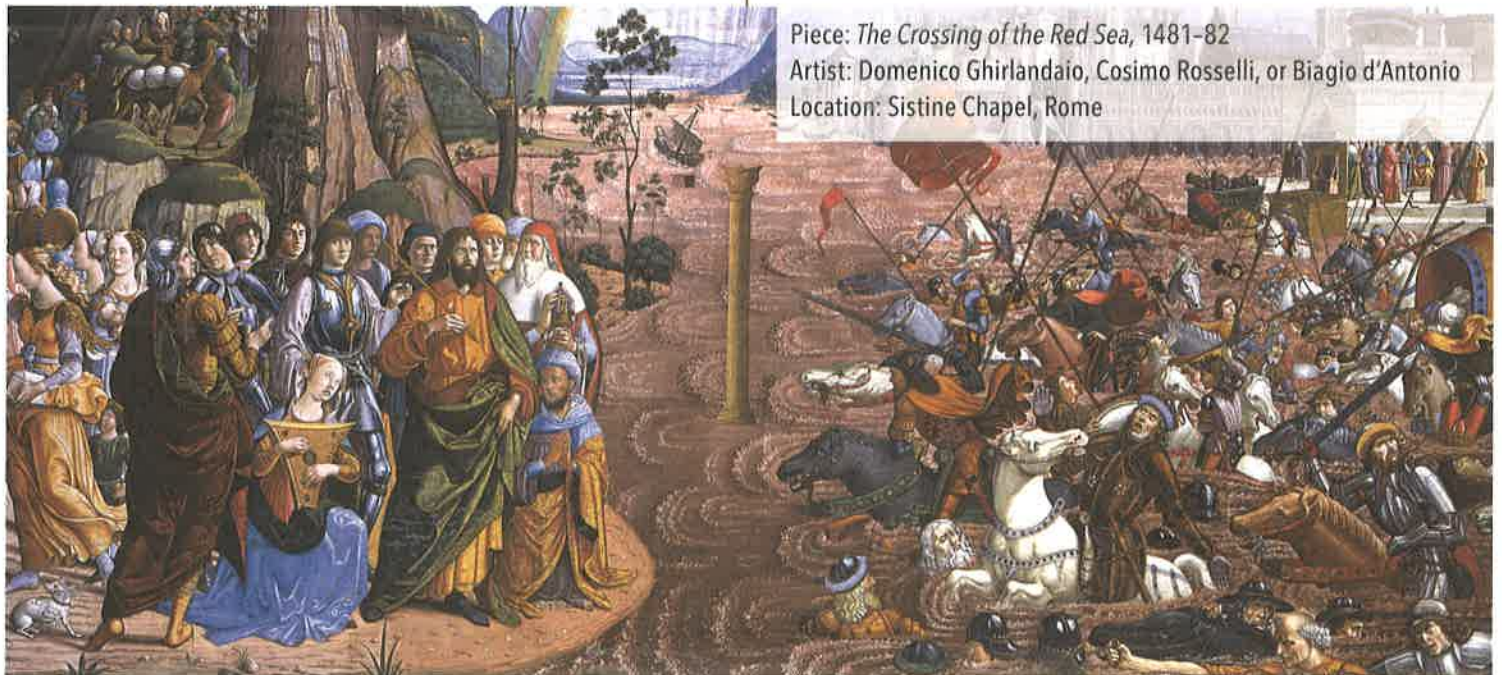
members of the house of Judah yet also recognizes that a Canaanite (Gentile) woman has faith that leads to salvation. This has key implications for both insiders and outsiders: One can no longer claim salvation by a bloodline or nationality but only by one's acceptance of Jesus as the Son of God

and active participation in his body, the Church. Jesus broadens the welcome and opens God's house to all people.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

How can you become more united with your ancestors in faith? How can you strengthen your bond with your brothers and sisters in Christ in your parish community or greater public community?



Piece: *The Crossing of the Red Sea*, 1481-82
Artist: Domenico Ghirlandaio, Cosimo Rosselli, or Biagio d'Antonio
Location: Sistine Chapel, Rome

“Them I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer” (Isaiah 56:7).

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. Bardj,
 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.....www.icaberks.org
 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC
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 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:
 Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
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 Diocese of Allentown...www.allentowndiocese.org

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 20, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Joseph Nanni, Sr. - 25th Anniversary,
 Paul Kakalecik – 4th Anniversary and*

God's Blessings Upon Russell & Patricia Haas – 50th Wedding Anniversary

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	John Butler	THURS	7:00 PM	William J. McNally
SUN	7:30 AM	Florence & Orlando LeBresco	FRI	7:30 AM	Suzanne Metzker
	9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	SAT	5:15 PM	Catherine & Michael Truckley
	11:00 AM	Leon Doney	SUN	7:30 AM	Edith & Joseph Banyas
MON		No Mass		9:00 AM	Jesse Painter – 52 nd Anniversary
TUES	7:00 PM	Dolores McCullough		11:00 am	Living & Deceased Parishioners
WED	7:30 AM	Paul Kakalecik – 4 th Anniversary			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Porambo 5:15 Pisarek 7:30 Kasperowicz 9:00 McCauley 11:00 DeFalco

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Jason Mariano	Ann Marie Arbo	Meghan Duffy, Chris and Lyndsay Surkosky
SUN	7:30AM	Michelle Marley	Dennis Piontek	Mason and Morgan Cambria, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00AM	Gretchen Markel	Brian Hannon	Joey Cizmarik, Stephen Hannon, Steven Tepper
	11:00AM	Steve Lukes	Karl Filachek	Michael DiScala, Alex and Jason Carvalho

Second Collection Next Week is Religious Ministries

The Blessings of Backpacks and School Bags

On the weekend of August 27th, our parish family of the Immaculate Conception will have the “*Blessings of Backpacks and School Bags*” for all those returning to school. The “*Blessings of Backpacks and School Bags*” will occur at the 9:00 and 11:00 Masses. All of the children of our parish are invited to bring their backpacks and school bags to Mass that Sunday for a special blessing as they prepare to begin a new school year.

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, Mary Elizabeth Loeb, Joseph Kolenda, Dominic Strock, Bob Hocker, Mike DiScala, Mildred Mattassa, Deb Petras, Ronald Kryman, Anna Swiezak, Margarie & Walter Hansen, Rita Dougherty, Lou Franco, Lucille Schiel, John Fritz, Lucy Doney, Mary Okuniewski, Mark McDonald, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Mark Vignone, Justine Mattassa, TJ Doyle, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, Jacob Hafer, John LeFosse, Jennifer Quinter, Edward Woznicki, James Weikel, Francine Owens and Anthony Cossa

Pray for the recently departed: Shirley Schiel

Congratulate the newly baptized: Cullen James Gamoneda

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon 08/21 7pm Bereavement Support Group

Sat 08/26-5pm 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

How was your school year?

Is something missing from your child's education?

Immaculate Conception Academy is committed to providing students in preschool through grade 8 with an education that combines a strong foundation in the core subjects with 21st century learning. Our dedicated faculty strives to bring out the best in each student and challenges them to live our "Three L's":

Love. Learning. Leadership.

Please come and see what a difference ICA makes.

To schedule a tour, please contact Adele Reilly,

Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or

adele.reilly@icaknights.org.

Visit us at www.icaberks.org!



**Immaculate Conception Academy
Positions Available**

Immaculate Conception Academy is accepting applications for Middle School teachers, a Music teacher, classroom aids 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 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.

Bereavement Support Group will meet on August 21st, 7pm in the church office meeting room, lower level. Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome and encouraged to attend. For info, call Pat 610-775-1892 or Toni 610-404-1389.

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.

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Starting September 11th, join us on Monday evenings at 7:30pm for a better understanding of our Catholic faith. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) isn't just for those wishing to become a Catholic. It's for anyone seeking a better understanding of the beliefs, teachings and traditions of Catholicism. If interested or curious, contact Deacon Paul Hiryak or Msgr. McCann by calling the parish office at 610-582-2411. We hope to see you!

RESORTS AC TRIP - August 25th - Leave church promptly at 9:30am - Package Deal...Pay \$32, get \$25 - Call Carol J if interested 610-775-4447

Thank You, Thank you.... The Women's Society would like to thank all the volunteers who offered their time in cooking, serving, cleaning up, and transportation of food and supplies for and to the Kennedy House. We are blessed with great parishioners. Thank you for taking this opportunity to serve with us. Those who enjoyed the meals were most grateful.

ICCYO Fall Registration Information for Girls' volleyball (4th-8th) and Cross-Country (Boys and Girls: Kindergarten-8th) is available on our website: www.ICCYO.com

CCD Registration Forms are available in the Narthex, icbvmccd.org, parish office, and Office of Religious Education. Classes are filling up so register now! Volunteers are always welcome! If you would like to volunteer an hour of your time once a week to bring the Good News of Christ to the children of our parish by educating, please call Mrs. O'Donnell at (610) 582-3880.

Immaculate Conception's Home & School Organization will be holding our Annual Christmas Bazaar at Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, November 4th, 9am-3pm. **Vendor spaces are still available.** If you would like more information on becoming a vendor please email ICAXmas@gmail.com or stop in the parish office for an application.

Annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass Celebration - Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, 1875 West Turner St., Allentown, 18104 September 17th at 3pm. We invite couples celebrating 5, 25, 40, 50, or 60+ years of marriage to this event. Please refer to the A.D. Times for a registration form, register at www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass, request a form at MFLF@allentowndiocese.org, or by calling 610-289-8900 ext. 2028. The form must be completed and returned to the Office of Marriage & Natural Family Planning, 2121 Madison Avenue, Bethlehem, 18017 by September 8.

Fall and Winter Craft Fair - Thousands of items! Wooden, Textiles, Jewelry, Candles, Holiday Decorations and Gifts September 22 - 5-9pm, September 23/24 9am-6pm Birdsboro/Union Fire Company, 214 W. First St, Birdsboro. All proceeds benefit the local food pantry in Birdsboro, Hopewell Love, and the needs of the community. For more information please contact 610-582-4377

Calendar

Monday

August 21
St. Pius X,
Pope
Jgs 2:11–19
Mt 19:16–22

Tuesday

August 22
*Queenship of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*
Jgs 6:11–24a
Mt 19:23–30

Wednesday

August 23
Weekday
Jgs 9:6–15
Mt 20:1–16

Thursday

August 24
*St. Bartholomew,
Apostle*
Rv 21:9b–14
Jn 1:45–51

Friday

August 25
Weekday
Ru 1:1, 3–6, 14b–16, 22
Mt 22:34–40

Saturday

August 26
Weekday
Ru 2:1–3, 8–11; 4:13–17
Mt 23:1–12

Sunday

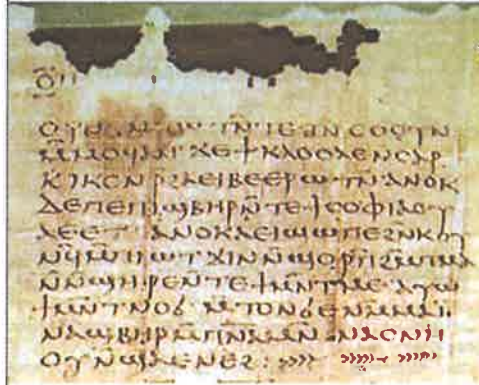
August 27
*Twenty-First Sunday
in Ordinary Time*
Is 22:19–23
Rom 11:33–36
Mt 16:13–20

Dear Padre,

What are the gnostic gospels and apocryphal books? Is it OK to read them?

In the two earliest manuscripts of the Bible, both of which are in the Vatican Library, one contains the seven apocryphal books of the Old Testament and the other does not. The Catholic Church includes these apocryphal books and considers them to be the inspired word of God, as is everything included in Catholic translations of the Bible. Selections from these books are included in our *Lectionary* and proclaimed during Mass.

When Martin Luther left the Catholic Church, he used the Bible manuscript that did not contain the seven apocryphal books, but then he placed these books in a section between the Old and New Testaments, calling them Deuterocanonicals. He did not discard these books entirely but considered them of



APOCALYPSE OF PETER/WIKIPEDIA

lesser importance than the other books. Some Protestant translations of the Bible exclude these books altogether.

The gnostic gospels, however, are entirely separate from these apocryphal books. Gnosticism is a heresy condemned by the Catholic Church. As part of their false proclamation, gnostics produced stories of Jesus' life that supported their belief, and these "gospels" contain teachings that are contrary to our Catholic faith. While the gnostic gospels could be read out of interest in their historical or philosophical context, they are not the inspired word of God and should not be read in that light.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"Mutual understanding of our [Catholic and Jewish] spiritual heritage, appreciation for what we have in common and respect in matters on which we disagree: all these can help to guide us to a closer relationship, an intention which we put in God's hands. Together, we can make a great contribution to the cause of peace; together, we can bear witness, in this rapidly changing world, to the perennial importance of the divine plan of creation; together, we can firmly oppose every form of anti-Semitism and all other forms of discrimination. May the Lord help us to walk with confidence and strength in his ways."

—Address to the two chief rabbis in Israel on a visit to Heichal Shlomo Center, Jerusalem, May 26, 2014