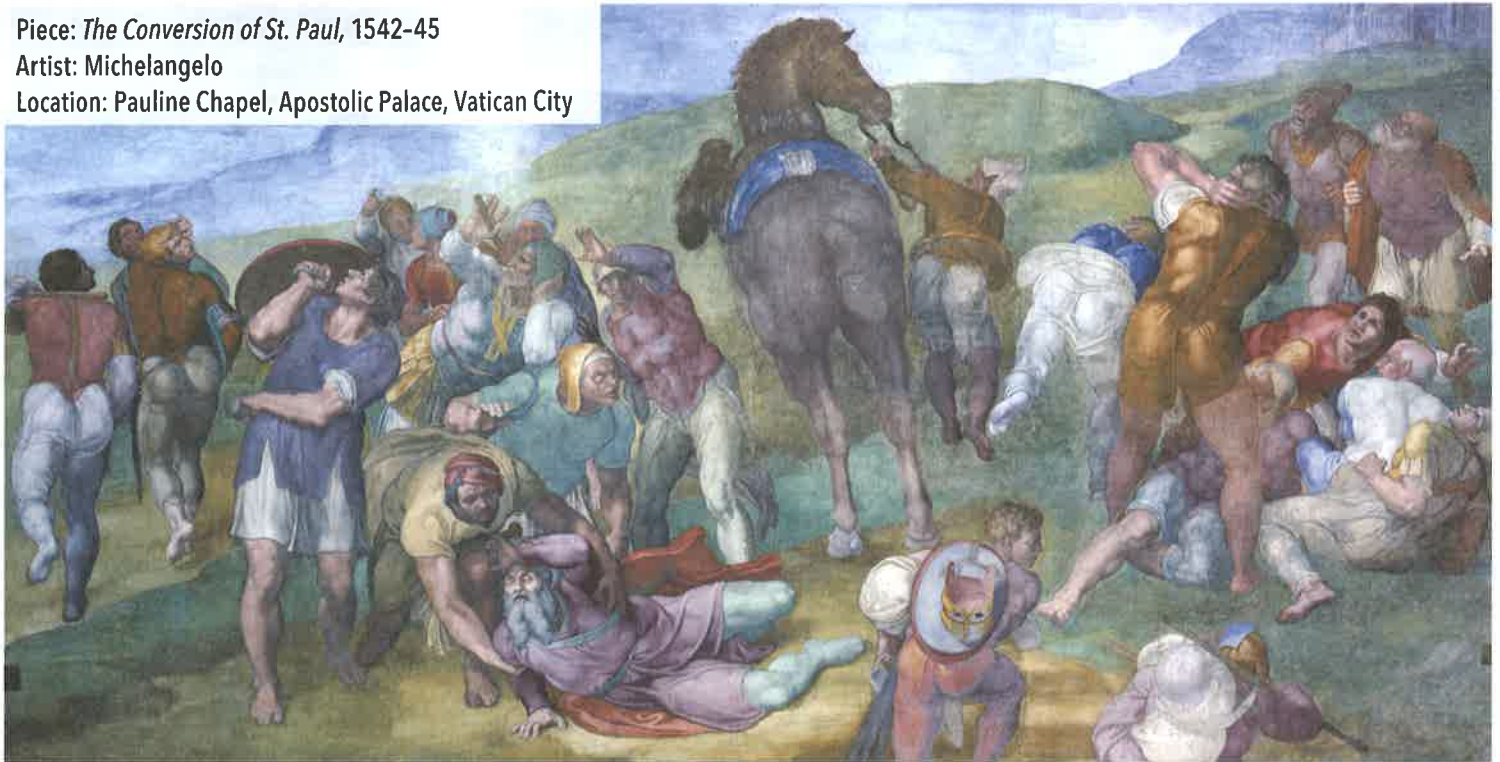


Piece: *The Conversion of St. Paul*, 1542–45

Artist: Michelangelo

Location: Pauline Chapel, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City



A Message of Reform

Alessandro Farnese was elected Pope Paul III in 1534 amidst very difficult times. Martin Luther had left the Church, and many German bishops, along with their kings, were separating from the faith. Part of the push for separation was financial, another part was political, and a third part was spiritual. The papal court and clerical life in Rome were often criticized, encouraging separation.

Pope Paul III started a reform by calling on nine respected cardinals to investigate the accusations and propose measures. The suggestions were received and true reform began to take root—although much of the success was due to the Council of Trent (called by the pope in 1545) and the many saints active at the time: Ignatius, Philip Neri, Teresa of

Ávila, Francis de Sales, Charles Borromeo, and others.

Another measure taken was to contract Michelangelo to paint two frescoes in the Papal Pauline Chapel—the conversion of St. Paul and the crucifixion of St. Peter—a kind of sixteenth-century marketing campaign. This chapel would send a message to all popes and the papal court; indeed, the frescoes challenged everyone in the Curia. Amidst the temptation to power and luxury, the pope was saying, “If you want power, it’s the power to serve which requires true conversion and embracing the cross.”

The chapel needed a pithy Latin phrase to drive

home this message of reform. It comes from today’s second reading: “To me, life is Christ, and death is gain.” That’s a good phrase to live by as we seek our own ongoing conversion.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Do I love without strings attached or do I love to get something in return?

“For to me, life is Christ, and death is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

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.....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. 2019
 Diocese of Allentown...www.allentowndiocese.org

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Gus and Josie Fredriksen

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Philip Kubovcsak	THURS	7:00 PM	Erna Rushmore
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	FRI	7:30 AM	Mary Varney – 13 th Anniversary
	9:00 AM	John Bradley	SAT	5:15 PM	Fr. Joseph Reilly – 5 th Anniversary
	11:00 AM	Dec'd Members of Ruby, Kundrat, Hill & Myers Fams.	SUN	7:30 AM	Fr. Joseph Barnes
MON	No Mass			9:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
TUES	7:00 PM	Sally Lukes Dambaugh		11:00 AM	Leon Doney
WED	7:30 AM	Richard Isett			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Sponsor: Porambo 5:15 Zubik 7:30 Schwendt 9:00 Carvalho 11:00 Citrano

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Jennifer Stuart	Shirley Wheeler	Trey Bradford, Ethan Cline, Sidney Wolf
SUN	7:30AM	Toni Kaucher	Jim Kaucher	Elly Smithson, Jordan and Lauren Yerger
	9:00AM	Barbara Giordano	Isabelita Santos	Avery Lang, Ally and Jacob Santos
	11:00AM	Victor González	Barbara Romig	Meghan Duffy, Isabella and Mia Pizzo

Second Collection Next Week is Church Building and Parish Maintenance

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma Relief

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude and appreciation the extraordinary generosity of our parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in response to the devastating impact of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. The hurricane and the flooding that followed has left many homeless, devoid of their possessions and without the basic necessities to rebuild their lives. As of this date, our parishioners have contributed \$7,563 to the relief efforts now underway in Texas. Thank you for your goodness to those in need. On the very day our parishioners we were responding so generously to the plight of the victims of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma struck Florida and the Caribbean Islands where the devastation and destruction of homes and infrastructure has been so substantial. Because of the great need, the Bishops of the United States have asked every parish in the country to assist the people in Florida and the Caribbean Islands through a special collection to be taken up the weekend of September 30- October 1. The timing of this collection, coming so soon after the collection for the victims of Hurricane Harvey is unfortunate, but the need is great. If you wish to contribute to the relief effort, please place your gift in an envelope marked "Florida Relief" and place it in the second collection that weekend. May God bless you for your generosity to those in need particularly the poor and those most vulnerable.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Yolanda Marino, Morris Motta, 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, Anthony Mattassa Sr, 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 Williams, Fannie Hunter, Jacob Hafer, John LeFosse, Edward Woznicki, James Weikel, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Anne Hiryak and Anthony Cossa

Welcome our new parishioners: Mrs. April Rostek and Ms. Kathleen Swope

Congratulate the newly baptized: Matias Leonel Riat

Pray for the deceased: Matthey Joseph Goodwin

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun 09/24 Women's Society Bake Sale
1pm Protecting God's Children

Mon 09/25 7:30pm RCIA

Sat 09/30 4-5pm Confessions



WHAT'S HAPPENING



Please note there will be no Mass on Monday, September 25th. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

You're Invited to see what a difference ICA makes!

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.

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 - Position Available

Immaculate Conception Academy is offering part time employment for a music teacher. Please send resume and clearances christine.foley@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.

Be an Immaculate Conception Academy Corporate Sponsor

Immaculate Conception Academy is currently seeking corporate sponsors for the 2017-18 school year. In the past, we have been generously supported by our parish families and friends who are also part of our local business community. This support has been critical in our mission to bring out the best in each of our students.

If you are interested in becoming a corporate sponsor, please visit www.icaberks.org for more information!

Information packets can also be found in the wooden kiosk by the door in the Narthex. Please contact Adele Reilly, ICA

Advancement Director at 610-404-8645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org with any questions!

Sunday School - September 24th. Registration is open for children ages 3 to 5. Forms are available in the Narthex and parish office. If you would like to volunteer, please call Dawn O'Donnell at 610-582-3880.

ICA HSO's Annual Christmas Bazaar - Immaculate Conception Church - November 4th, 9am-3pm. **Vendor spaces are still available.** For more information on becoming a vendor please email ICAXmas@gmail.com or stop in the parish office for an application.

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Mondays 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 at 610-582-2411. We hope to see you!

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, the Blessing of Animals will occur on October 1st at 1pm in the piazza in front of the church. Please bring your pets leashed or caged for their safety.

25% OFF AND EXTENDED SHOPPING HOURS for Boscov's "one day only" **Friends Helping Friends - October 17th, 9am-11pm.** Finish up your school clothes shopping, do some early Christmas shopping, or spruce up your home for the fast approaching holiday season while **saving 25%** throughout the store (exceptions listed on passes). Buy your shopping pass in the narthex for \$5 (100% of the proceeds go to ICC). Enjoy free refreshments, entertainment, and chances to win fabulous door prizes including a \$500 shopping spree.

It's Apple Dumpling Time – those big juicy apples are just waiting to be baked into our wonderful dumplings. Order sheets are in the narthex and upcoming bulletins. We will be distributing Apple Dumplings on October 14&15. Please pre-pay and order by October 8th to make sure you get your dumplings. If you would be interested in helping make the dumplings, please join us in the social hall on October 13th and 14th from 9am till ????. We also need helpers to help **press** the dough (**not to make**) on October 12th at 9am. You don't have to be a member to join in the fun. No experience necessary! It is light, easy work, but we need many hands.

Consecration of the Diocese of Allentown to Our Lady of Fatima – In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal, Bishop Alfred A. Schlert will consecrate the Diocese of Allentown to Our Lady of Fatima on October 15th at the Noon Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catharine, Allentown. All clergy, religious, and lay faithful are invited to this historic event in the life of our Church.

Spirit 2017 – "Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?" The Annual Diocesan Men's Conference will be held Nov. 4, 9am-5pm at De Sales University. The day will include keynote addresses, exhibits and a vigil Mass with Bishop Alfred Schlert. Breakfast and lunch is included. Registration fee is \$40 (\$30 before 9/25) and \$10 for high school/ college students. For information and to register, visit www.cmfda.org. Questions call 610-289-8900, x2028. Brochures about the Men's Conference are available in the narthex of the church.

Make your good marriage great! Take a fresh look at your marriage on a Weekend of Discovery. Upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in this area are October 6-8 and November 17-19 at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. To apply visit www.wvme-philly.org or contact Al & Mary Liz Heumann at 610-449-1859.

Calendar

Monday

September 25

Weekday

Ezr 1:1-6

Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday

September 26

Weekday

Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20

Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

September 27

St. Vincent de Paul,
Priest

Ezr 9:5-9

Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

September 28

Weekday

Hg 1:1-8

Lk 9:7-9

Friday

September 29

Sts. Michael, Gabriel,
and Raphael,
Archangels

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or

Rv 12:7-12a

Jn 1:47-51

Saturday

September 30

St. Jerome, Priest
and Doctor of the Church

Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a

Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday

October 1

Twenty-Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Ez 18:25-28

Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5

Mt 21:28-32

Dear Padre,

Why don't we end the Our Father with an Amen during Mass? When we pray the Our Father outside of Mass, we conclude by saying, "Amen."

I remember this discussion growing up. My father noticed that the pastor of our parish insisted on saying "Amen" after the Our Father by adding his very loud "Amen!" and inviting parishioners to follow.

We know early Christians prayed the Our Father daily, though its inclusion in the eucharistic liturgy happens later, and its placement in the liturgy is not yet consistent. An early reference to the placement of the Our Father from a late-fourth-century text places it at the end of the eucharistic prayer (*A Commentary*



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERITZ

on the Order of Mass of The Roman Missal, 597). Here the people would have responded with the final petition, "deliver us from evil" or "Amen" (597).

Today the Our Father is part of the Communion rite, but we do not end the

Our Father with an Amen because in the current structure of the Communion rite the Our Father forms part of a unit. Immediately following the Our Father, the celebrant elaborates on the final petition ("deliver us from evil"). He then says the prayer for peace, which concludes with an Amen. These elements are all connected, one flowing to the next and culminating with the people saying, "Amen" (*"Mystagogical Implications," A Commentary on the Order of Mass of The Roman Missal, 616).* Thus, we do conclude the Our Father with an Amen at Mass, but because it is part of a larger prayer during the Mass, the Amen doesn't immediately follow "deliver us from evil."

Fr. John Schmidt, CSsR | Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"Some of you said that this system cannot endure. We must change it. We must put human dignity back at the center and on that pillar build the alternative social structures we need. This must be done with courage but also with intelligence, with tenacity but without fanaticism, with passion yet without violence. And all of us together, addressing the conflicts without getting trapped in them, always seeking to resolve the tensions in order to reach a higher plane of unity, of peace, and of justice. We Christians have something very lovely, a guide to action...the Beatitudes...(see Matthew 5 and Luke 6)...and the Last Judgment passage (Matthew 25)."

—Address at the World Meeting of Popular Movements, October 28, 2014

Immaculate Conception Parish Men's Group
Esto Vir - Be a Man
Better Man, Better husband, Better Father



Married and single men come join us to discover how rewarding it is to live our vocational calling by God.



We will explore the pitfalls and obstacles that society puts in our paths, and we will discover the help available to "Be a Man" as we are called to be.



On Saturday October, 7th 2017 at 9 AM in the Immaculate Conception social hall, listen to a stimulating presentation, by men of our parish, on their journey to understanding God's plan for their happiness. There will be a light breakfast starting at 8:30 AM.

Visit us on Facebook at
<http://fb.me/EstoVirCMG>



Sign up for the event at
www.EstoVirCMG.org

