

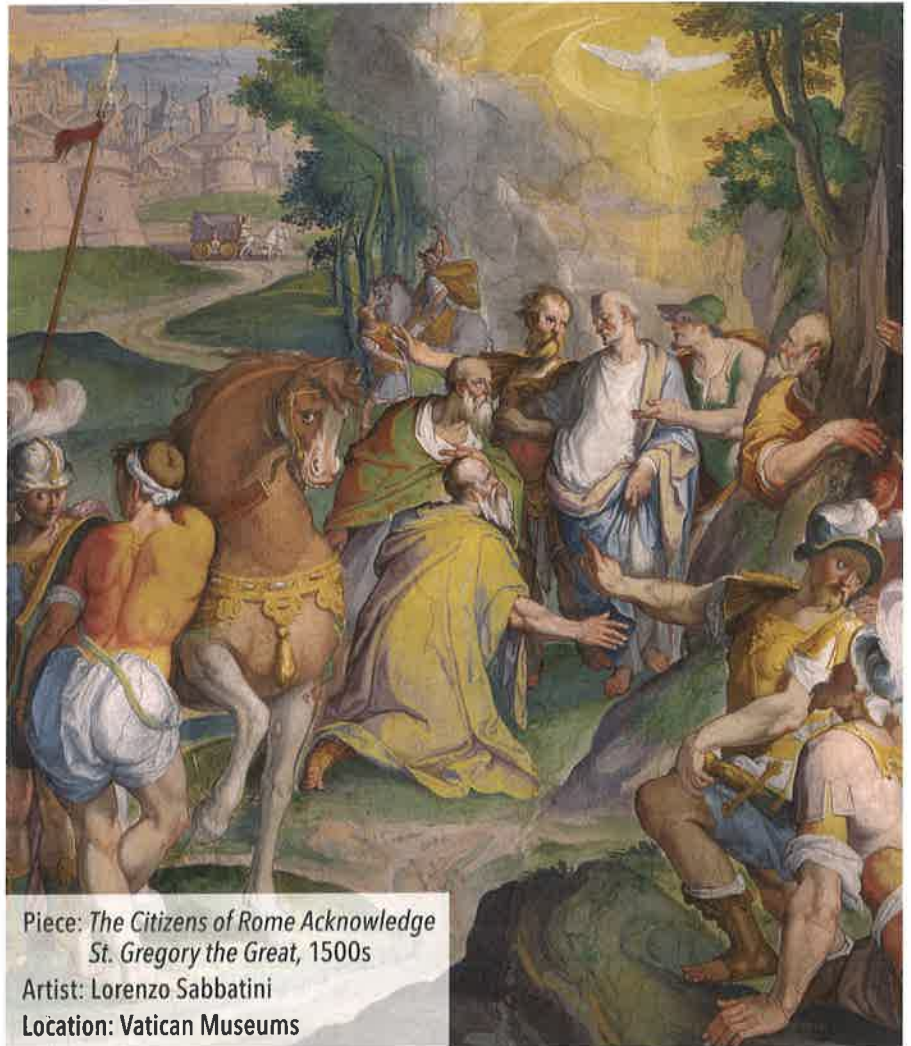
## A Priest's Lot

Today's readings are a stern call to conversion for priests who obviously have a special call to holiness. Like a parent cares for his or her children, a priest is entrusted with the spiritual children of God's family. His example, his words, and his way of carrying out his service all have profound effects on the holiness of the Church.

The last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, condemns the priestly class of the Jews because they had turned away from God's commands and led people astray with faulty instruction. This rule of thumb from the Old Testament is still valid today: so goes the priests, so goes the people!

Jesus himself had harsh words for priests and religious leaders as well. It is clear from the Gospel that one of the main reasons why Jesus was ill-received by so many of his contemporaries was because the priestly class opposed him. "He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him" (John 1:11).

Saint Paul gives us the example of what priests should be. They should so love their people that they become one with them in their suffering, joys, and victories. Rather than build up heavy burdens, they should make them lighter by lending a hand to lift them. They shouldn't dilute the gospel and its demands but, with brotherly love, show the beauty of the gospel by the joy and charity with which they live. Like a good parent, they should be the first to wake



Piece: *The Citizens of Rome Acknowledge St. Gregory the Great*, 1500s  
Artist: Lorenzo Sabbatini  
Location: Vatican Museums

up and the last to go to bed. Slow to judge, quick to forgive. —Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### *For Reflection*

*As a parent, am I a priest in my family? Do I lead my children in prayer, teach them the faith, and set a good example of faith and love of God? Do I pray for priests and offer them support and help?*

*With such affection for you, we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as well, so dearly beloved had you become to us (1 Thessalonians 2:8).*

# 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 Office .....610 582-2411  
 Parish Religious Education/CCD ..610 582-3880  
 Parish Preschool .....610 404-8645  
 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

## THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 5, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of the Esther Pribanick  
 And In Memory of Josephine Nanni – 19<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### ★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	THURS	7:00 PM	Donald Wheeler
SUN	7:30 AM	Parish Memorial Society	FRI		<b>No Mass</b>
	9:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society	SAT	5:15 PM	Barbara Ann Pease – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary
	11:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society	SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
MON	7:30 AM	Geraldine Radwanski		9:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society
TUES	7:00 PM	Frank Bentz		11:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society
WED		<b>No Mass</b>			

### NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Mary Schwendt	Jason Mariano	Andrew Kurtas, Jordan and Lauren Yerger
SUN	7:30AM	Sean Werner	Dan Sweeney	Mason and Morgan Cambria, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00AM	Pat Fessler	Victor González	Meghan Duffy, Mike DiScala, Lyndsay Surkosky
	11:00AM	Mary Jo Simon	Susan DiGuglielmo	Aiden and Owen Reber, Zach Whalen

### **Second Collection Next Week is the Monthly Collection**

#### **Support Immaculate Conception Academy**

#### **Be a 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](http://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](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org) with any questions!

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, 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, 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, Lucy Doney, Mary Okuniewski, Virginia Marks, Ken Rumler, Mark Vignone, Justine Mattassa, TJ Doyle, Harry Wood, Tony Guilliams, Fannie Hunter, John LeFosse, Robert Thomas, Theresa Lynch, Anne Hiryak, Mark McDonald, William Reardon, Frances Bambrick, Roseann Malcolm, Joe Shevenock, Cindy Barnes, Tom Kirchner, Nancy Iezzi, Charles Reppert and Helen McDonald

Welcome our new parishioners: Dr. Jessica Kennedy and Ms. Colleen Halligan

Pray for the deceased: Stephen Gresh

**THIS WEEK AT ICC:**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>11/05</b>	<b>Social Sunday</b>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>11/06</b>	<b>7:30pm RCIA</b>
<b>Tues</b>	<b>11/07</b>	<b>11am Mass Book Opens</b> <b>7:30 Baptism Class</b> <b>7:30pm Bell Choir</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	<b>11/09</b>	<b>7:30pm Adult Choir</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>11/10</b>	<b>7pm Senior High Youth Group</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>11/11</b>	<b>4-5pm Confessions</b>



**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

Please note there will be no Mass on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

***Thanksgiving Baskets for Those in Need***

To assist families in need, all of the churches in the Birdsboro and Douglassville area have agreed to adopt a particular school for the Thanksgiving holiday. Immaculate Conception has adopted Daniel Boone High School and will provide Thanksgiving baskets to families in need with children enrolled in the high school.

If your family would like to donate a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family, please call the parish office at 610-582-2411 to sign-up. We will provide you with a specific list of needed items and the date by which the basket must be brought to the parish office to ensure its timely delivery. Thank you for your concern for those in need.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP** will meet Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm in the lower level meeting room of the Parish Center. All of the teens in our parish in high school are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food, games, prayer and praise. Bring a friend!

**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.

***Immaculate Conception Academy is now on Facebook!*** Please "Like" us for news, event information and to see what a difference ICA makes!

The *Women's Society* will meet November 15<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the social hall. All members are requested to attend if able and all women are welcome. Meeting will begin with recitation of the Rosary, followed by business meeting and light refreshments. We will be discussing our Christmas Luncheon and the Christmas Cookie Sale. There will be no December meeting.

The *Women's Society* will host a bake sale November 18/19. Stop by the table and pick up a few goodies for your Thanksgiving Table. We will be accepting donations of baked goods before all Masses. Even if you are not a member, if you love to bake and would like to make one of your family favorites, we will be most grateful for your donation.

**RESORTS AC TRIP** - November 17 - LEAVE the Church promptly @ 9:30am - Package Deal: Pay \$32 get \$25 Back - Call Carol J. if interested @ 610-775-4447

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic will be "The Creed, Part II" Class begins at 7:30pm in the office building lower level meeting room. All are welcome. Contact the office with questions at 610-582-2411.

***You're Invited to see what a difference ICA makes!***  
Immaculate Conception Academy is committed to providing students in preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade with an education that combines a strong foundation in the core subjects with 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:adele.reilly@icaknights.org). Visit us at [www.icaberks.org](http://www.icaberks.org)!

**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.

**Esto Vir Men's Group** - On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Catholic men's group meeting took place at Immaculate Conception Church in the social hall. A faith filled meeting included prayer, Sunday Gospel reading and reflection as well as faith journey presentations by gentlemen of ICC while enjoying coffee and breakfast. A great time was had by all! Meetings are planned for the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month at ICC. The November meeting was at the Diocese Catholic Men's Fellowship Conference at DeSales University. The December meeting will be back at ICC, so look for details in the bulletin and [facebook.com/EstoVirCMG/](https://www.facebook.com/EstoVirCMG/). Men 18 & over, please plan to join us!

***Mass Book will open for 2018 Masses on November 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am***  
Berks Catholic High School is accepting Applications for the 2018-2019 School Year. Please contact Nicky Smith to schedule a personal tour, receive an Application packet or to schedule a "Saint for a Day" visit. All inquiries are confidential. [nsmith@berkscatholic.org](mailto:nsmith@berkscatholic.org) or 610.374.8361x244

***Make your good marriage great!*** Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend-11/17-19 at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. To apply visit [www.wmephilly.org](http://www.wmephilly.org) or contact Al & Mary Liz at 610-449-1859

**Volunteers Needed:** Clare of Assisi House is a transitional home for women returning citizens. Clare House is located at 325 S. 12<sup>th</sup> St. Reading. As residents arrive at Clare House, there will be a need for volunteers. Some of the needs will be: Driving, some household task, clerical help, yard work and gardening, fundraising, presence during the evening hours. If you are able, or know of anyone who is willing to volunteer with the ministry of providing women a second chance in becoming viable citizens in society, please call Sr. Eileen Doherty, 484-869-5719 or [edohertyosf@gmail.com](mailto:edohertyosf@gmail.com)

**MOVING OUT OF THE AREA?**  
**Please call 610-582-2411 so we can say goodbye and update our records.**

## Calendar

### Monday

November 6

Weekday

Rom 11:29–36

Lk 14:12–14

### Tuesday

November 7

Weekday

Rom 12:5–16b

Lk 14:15–24

### Wednesday

November 8

Weekday

Rom 13:8–10

Lk 14:25–33

### Thursday

November 9

*Dedication of the  
Lateran Basilica*

Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12

1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17

Jn 2:13–22

### Friday

November 10

*St. Leo the Great,  
Pope and  
Doctor of the Church*

Rom 15:14–21

Lk 16:1–8

### Saturday

November 11

*St. Martin of Tours,  
Bishop*

Rom 16:3–9, 16, 22–27

Lk 16:9–15

### Sunday

November 12

*Thirty-Second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

Wis 6:12–16

1 Thes 4:13–18

or 4:13–14

Mt 25:1–13

# Dear Padre,

**A priest recently said the Scriptures should set us free. I wish this could happen to me! I feel so trapped by life. My job, my kids, my aging parents, bills, health insurance. Everywhere I turn I'm cornered by responsibilities. How can Scripture help?**

Many of us feel trapped by life. Life is complicated because often there is too much to do, too many obligations, too much going on. We feel burdened and many times even guilty that we're not doing more. There's never enough time. People are demanding and sometimes hurt our feelings. We can easily become victims of it all. Or we can become defensive, aggressive, or overly "people pleasing."

I invite you to pray the Scriptures daily. Open yourself to the Spirit's movement that's alive in the word and alive in you. Read a short passage. Think about it. Put yourself into the scene. Picture yourself listening to Jesus speak. Allow him to use your name. Let yourself be comforted, loved, freed, healed, and challenged to change your hectic pace in life. Instead of trying to control all that happens, begin to surrender and trust in God. The word of God can lead us to freedom if only we open our hearts to the wisdom it contains. It will probably lead you to prayer, to ask for God's help. You may find your heart opening to receive the love of God you encounter in the word. Remember, Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it" (Luke 11:28).

Adapted from *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications, [Sundaybulletin@liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@liguori.org)



PEXELS



## A Word From Pope Francis

*Let us all remember this: one cannot proclaim the Gospel of Jesus without the tangible witness of one's life. Those who listen to us and observe us must be able to see in our actions what they hear from our lips, and so give glory to God! I am thinking now of some advice that Saint Francis of Assisi gave his brothers: preach the Gospel and, if necessary, use words. Preaching with your life, with your witness.*

—Homily, April 14, 2013