



Our Parish COMMUNITY

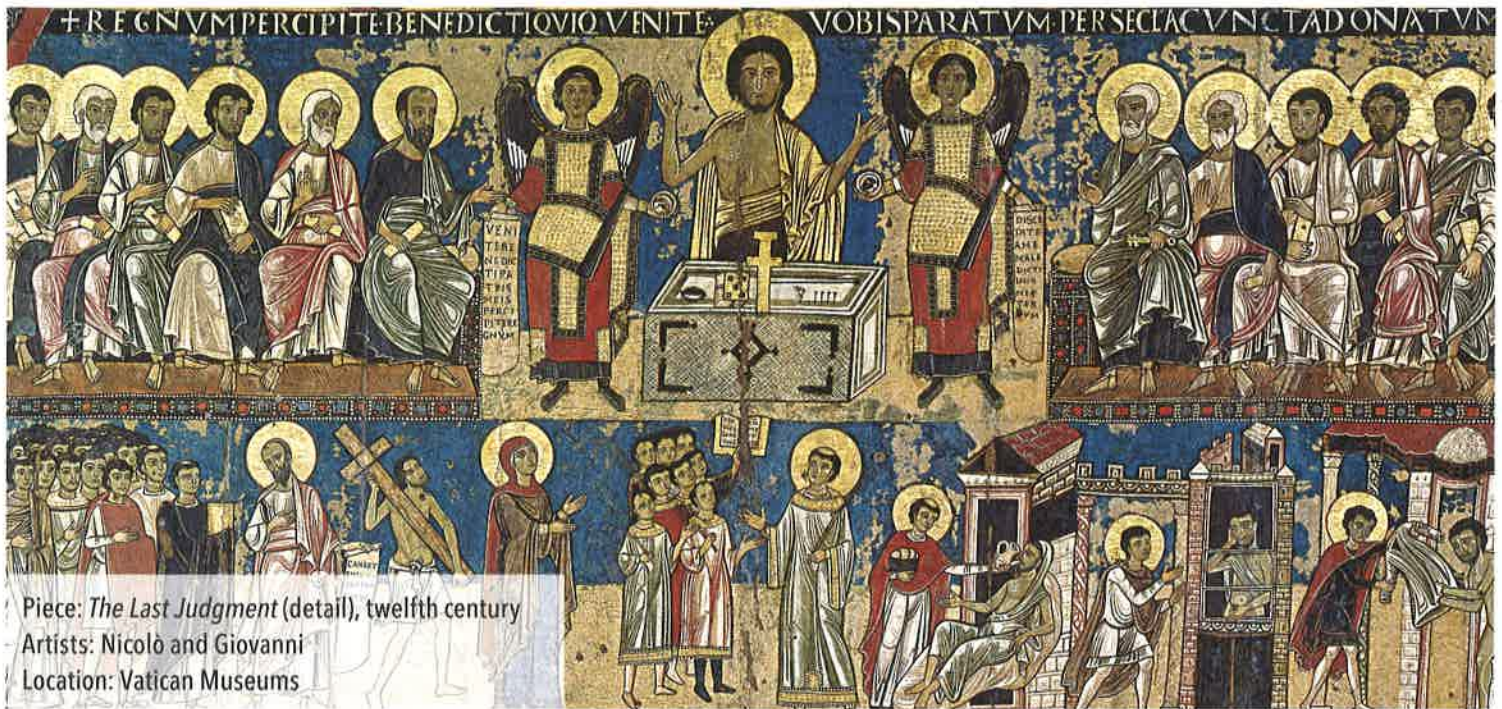
November 12, 2017

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wis 6:12-16

1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14

Mt 25:1-13



Piece: *The Last Judgment* (detail), twelfth century
Artists: Nicolò and Giovanni
Location: Vatican Museums

Get Ready

As we near the end of the liturgical year and prepare for Advent, the readings get us ready for the Second Coming of Jesus by addressing our own final encounter with him. The Church summarizes the last realities each person must reflect on: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. In short, when we die we will face personal judgment. If our response has been to return Jesus' love, the reward will be heaven. But if we reject Jesus, the result will be hell.

This should not be a source of anxiety or fear, but rather faith, serenity, and hopeful confidence. If we are not quite ready, now is the age of mercy, and God's grace abounds for those who seek it. It is a healthy thing to be prepared and wise. All of us know our final encounter with Jesus at the end of life is coming. It would be foolish to ignore it or not maturely reflect on its implications.

Oil is the natural resource mentioned in the Gospel because without the light and warmth that an oil lamp provided, the guests could get lost in the dark or need to abandon the wait because of the cold. As we journey through this life, awaiting the marriage feast of Jesus, our hearts can get dimmed and icy if we are not lit by the oil of love and the warmth of the Spirit. We don't know the day or the hour when Jesus will come take us into the eternal banquet, but we know for sure that day is coming.

The wise guest is the person fueled by the oil of love and ready for any eventuality. As the Boy Scout motto goes—Be Prepared.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

For Reflection

Am I constantly in contact with the mercy of God so I am always ready? How am I living now so that I am always prepared for the final encounter with Jesus?

[Jesus said,] "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13).

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. Strajkowski.....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

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – NOVEMBER 12, 2017

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of the Amanda Christie Haight
 And In Memory of Barbara Pease*

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	Barbara Ann Pease – 2 nd Anniversary	THURS	7:00 PM	Bereavement Mass
SUN	7:30 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners	FRI	7:30 AM	Donald Lakatos – 4 th Anniversary
	9:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society	SAT	5:15 PM	Elizabeth Russoniello
	11:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society	SUN	7:30 AM	Parish Memorial Society
MON	7:30 AM	Elizabeth Barth		9:00 AM	Parish Memorial Society
TUES	7:00 PM	Msgr Richard J. Loeper		11:00 AM	Living & Deceased Parishioners
WED	7:30 AM	Florence & Orlando LeBresco			

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

DAY	MASS	Lector	COMMENTATOR	ALTAR SERVERS
SAT	5:15PM	Ann Marie Arbo	Sherry McCollum	Elaina and Simon Crew, Bridget Ottinger
SUN	7:30AM	Amanda Marley	Michelle Marley	Parker Davis, John Dinnocenti, John Babiec
	9:00AM	Stephanie Myers	Brian Hannon	Rachel and Sarah Forkin, Stephen Hannon
	11:00AM	Steve Lukes	Greg Shemanski	Adam, Carlina, Marielle Davis

Second Collection Next Week is for Debt Reduction

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 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!

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 Williams, 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, Rosemarie Strock, Joan E. Smith and Helen McDonald

Pray for the deceased: Arthur Killian

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon	11/13	7:30pm RCIA
Tues	11/14	7:30 7th Gr Parent Mtg Confirmation 7:30pm Bell Choir
Wed	11/15	7pm Women's Society Meeting
Thurs	11/16	7:30pm Adult Choir
Sat	11/18	4pm Basket Drop-Off 4-5pm Confessions Women's Society Bake Sale

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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.

Scholastic's All for Books Fair at ICA in the Library

All Are Welcome Today from 9am to 1pm

This is a great opportunity to purchase books. ICA is also **collecting donations** for the **All for Books** campaign. Scholastic will match monetary donations raised with a donation of up to one million books to nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping children and families in need. Please consider making a donation. Not only will children in need benefit, but ICA students will also benefit as ICA will use the donations to purchase books for our classrooms and library. Donations can be dropped at the school office. Make checks payable to "ICA" (note "All for Books" on the memo line of your check). Donations will be collected through November 15th.

2017 Dance-A-Thon for Catholic Education – Donations are still being accepted. Please place it in an envelope marked "**ICA Dance-a-thon**" and drop it in any Sunday collection basket or mail it to ICA, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518. **All donations are greatly appreciated.**

The *Women's Society* will meet November 15th, 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. We will also be selling blank Christmas note cards that feature pictures from our church and hometown collectible of our church.

WATER IS OFF IN THE CEMETARY

Discover/Rediscover Catholicism - Join us on Monday evenings for a better understanding of our Catholic Faith. This week's topic will be The Blessed Virgin Mary featuring Sr. Joan Noreen as presenter. 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.

On November 16th at 7pm, Immaculate Conception will celebrate a Bereavement Mass commemorating in our prayers all of our parishioner's family members and friends who died over the course of the past year. We pray that God will receive into the arms of his mercy all of the faithful departed and that those who mourn may know consolation and peace in the promise of life everlasting. You are invited to attend this Mass. A reception will follow in the social hall.

Bereavement Support Group will meet on November 20, 2pm (*note time change to afternoon*) in the lower level of the church office. Anyone grieving the loss of a loved one is welcome! Call Pat (610-775-1892) or Toni (610-404-1389).

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - ICA 8th grade is sponsoring our annual **Breakfast with Santa** on December 2nd! Seating's are at 8am and 10am. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee/milk will be served. We will have face painting, cookie decorating, crafts and pictures with Santa! Tickets are \$8, age 2 and under free. Tickets sell out quickly so get yours today! Call 610-404-8645 for information!!!

Esto Vir Men's Group – Faith filled meetings with prayer, readings and reflections are planned for the 1st Saturday each month at ICC. The next meeting is December 2nd at 9am in the church office, lower level meeting room. Men 18 & over, please plan to join us!

Today is Diocesan Disability Awareness Sunday. Let us take to heart the words of the United States Catholic Bishops: "*It is not enough to merely affirm the rights of people with disabilities. We must actively work to make them real in the fabric of modern society...the Church must work to increase the public's sensitivity toward the needs of people with disabilities and support their rightful demand for justice*".

March for Life: On January 19th our parish family of the Immaculate Conception will sponsor a bus to the March for Life being held in Washington DC. Watch the bulletin for more information as the date nears or contact Angela Peterson at 610-582-6993 or apeterson@windstream.net.

Knights of Columbus Christmas Bazaar - November 18, 9am-3pm KOC Council Hall, 675 Constitution Ave, Pottstown - There will be crafts, food, door prizes, and lots of holiday cheer! Proceeds directly benefit the Knights of Columbus charitable works in this and our other member parishes.

St. Catharine of Siena Christmas Boutique - Route 562 in Exeter Township 11/17, 5-9pm and 11/18, 8am-3pm - unique holiday shopping from 46 fine craftsmen, gift basket raffle, a cash raffle and more! Visit www.scsreading.org/scsparish/wp/ for info.

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND is being organized by Fr. Rodgers, pastor of St. Benedict's Church. April 18-27, 2018. Anyone interested in this trip are invited by Collette Tours to an information meeting at St. Benedict's parish hall on November 20th at 7 p.m.

Calendar

Monday

November 13

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini,
Virgin

Wis 1:1-7

Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday

November 14

Weekday

Wis 2:23-3:9

Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday

November 15

Weekday

Wis 6:1-11

Lk 17:11-19

Thursday

November 16

Weekday

Wis 7:22b-8:1

Lk 17:20-25

Friday

November 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary,
Religious

Wis 13:1-9

Lk 17:26-37

Saturday

November 18

Weekday

Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9

Lk 18:1-8

Sunday

November 19

Thirty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Prv 31:10-13,

19-20, 30-31

1 Thes 5:1-6

Mt 25:14-30 or

25:14-15, 19-21

Dear Padre,

How will it happen that Jesus will come again and lead us “through the gates”? Do you think that this will happen any time soon?

We have it from the best of authorities that the date of the world’s end is hidden. Jesus said: “But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone” (Matthew 24:36).

In spite of Christ’s admonition that the day of his Second Coming is known but to God, there have been countless false prophets who have confidently but incorrectly predicted a date for the end of the world. Most of these foolish forecasters based their claims on their misinterpretation of the Book of Revelation.

Throughout history, many have attempted to use the Book of Revelation as a timetable. They misinterpreted symbols and numbers as a forecast of what would happen in their own century. Over and over again, such people have used Revelation to predict the end of the world.

The world might end tomorrow, in five billion years, or somewhere in between. Jesus tells us we can’t know for sure. We are sure, however, that this world will pass away. And for each one of us the world will end at the moment of death. What matters is that we should always be ready to meet Christ, our Judge. And we shall be ready if we follow Christ, our Shepherd. Jesus leads us safely through this life by his teaching, his example, and his grace.

Adapted from *Dear Padre: Questions People Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications, Sundaybulletin@liguori.org



PHOTO: PEXELS



A Word From Pope Francis

Dear brothers, unless we train ministers capable of warming people’s hearts, of walking with them in the night, of dialoguing with their hopes and disappointments, of mending their brokenness, what hope can we have for our present and future journey? It isn’t true that God’s presence has been dimmed in them.

—Address to Bishops of Brazil, July 27, 2013



Breakfast with Santa

Join us on Saturday, December 2, 2017

Immaculate Conception Social Hall

8:00 or 10:00 seatings

*Face Painting *Picture with Santa *Hot Chocolate *Cookie Decorating *Christmas Craft

 Clip & Return

Santa Breakfast Ticket Order Form

Please print name clearly on form. Form may be returned to ICA, 903 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, PA 19518, Attention: Santa Breakfast or put in the ICC Collection Basket. Make checks payable to ICA.

Indicate if you would like 8:00 AM seating or 10:00 AM seating please:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check One: Tickets will be picked up AT Door

Tickets should be sent home with ICA Student: _____ Class: _____

Tickets should be mailed to the above address

Tickets (adults & those ages 3 and over) _____ X \$8 = \$ _____ Total

Children attending who are 2 and under (Free) _____

8:00 AM seating

10:00 AM seating



NATIONAL DONOR SABBATH **TALKING POINTS**

What is National Donor Sabbath?

National Donor Sabbath, observed each November, seeks to educate faith-based communities about the need for organ, eye and tissue donors. This national initiative partners with houses of worship and faith-based organizations to educate congregations about the critical need for donors and to dispel myths about the donation process. All major religions support organ and tissue donation.

How many lives can be saved through the gift of organ and tissue donation?

Just one organ donor can save up to eight lives, and one tissue donor can benefit as many as 75 others.

How great is the need for donors / # people waiting for organs now?

- The overall need for organ donation remains enormous.
- More than 117,000 people are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.
- 20 people die every day in the U.S. waiting for an organ.
- Currently, in Gift of Life's region, there are more than 5,400 men, women, and children awaiting a life-saving transplant.
- This need for more donors is critical.

Why is it so critical to raise awareness of the importance of organ and tissue donation?

- Because lives literally depend upon it.
- 94% people surveyed in the U.S. support organ donation, yet in many states, including PA, the organ donor registration rate is below 50%.
- This means we need to keep talking about organ donation, we need to keep educating the public about how to register to become organ donors.
- We encourage everyone to talk to their loved ones during their lifetime about donation and make their preferences known.
- Talk to teenagers before they get their drivers licenses.

How can someone learn more about or sign up to become a designated organ donor?

For more information or to register visit donors1.org. It only takes 30 seconds to register!

Who should register?

Everyone should register. Some people think they are too old or sick to become donors. That is often not the case. At the time of death, medical professionals evaluate suitability for donation on a case-by-case basis.

Why are there so many people on the transplant waiting list?

As medicine has advanced, transplants have become more successful and more people have been added to the national waiting list. At the same time, the numbers of donors has not grown as quickly as the number of people who are in need of organs and tissue.

What are some of the questions or concerns that you hear most from people?

If I am designated as a donor, the doctors won't try to save my life.

Doctors, nurses and paramedics will do everything they can to save your life. In fact, an individual must be in a hospital, on a ventilator and pronounced brain dead in order to donate organs. The doctors working to save an individual's life are entirely separate from the medical team involved in recovering organs and tissues.

My religion does not support organ or tissue donation.

All of the major religions in this country approve of organ and tissue donation and consider it a gift - an act of charity. If you have questions, contact your religious advisor.

I am too old or sick to be a donor.

There is no set age limit for organ and tissue donation. At the time of death, trained medical professionals will evaluate patients on a case-by-case basis to determine if a donor is medically suitable for donation. Therefore, people of any age wishing to become organ and tissue donors should indicate it on their driver's license and inform their family of their wishes.