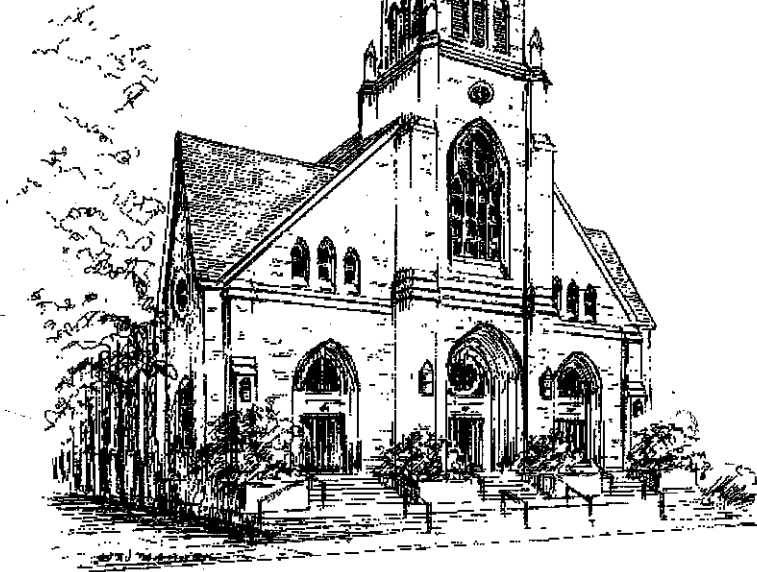


Immaculate Conception BVM Church



501 Ridge Avenue · Allentown, Pa. 18102
Rectory: 610-433-4404
Email: icc.church@verizon.net

Served By:

Rev. John M. Gibbons, Pastor
Rev. George R. Winne, Assistant
Rev. Edwin V. Schwartz, In Residence
Mr. Richard Benkovic, Permanent Deacon

Adult Choir

Brian Rupnik, Director

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Ms. Wendy Krisak, M.S.W.
Direct Telephone: 800-791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:

Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J.
Telephone: 610-332-0442, Ext. 19

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Director: Rev. John M. Gibbons
Devotions: Mondays: Mass and Novena 8 am

Immaculate Conception CCD Program

1st thru 8th Grades
Sundays from 9 to 10:15 am

Parish Secretary

Mrs. Caryl Garnel

Baptism

Sundays at 1:30 PM. Arrangements must be made well in advance at the rectory. Sponsors require their Pastor's certification for eligibility as practicing Catholics. Parents and sponsors must attend one preparatory session prior to the Baptism.

Marriage

Arrangements should be made six months in advance. Couples are required to participate in a Marriage Preparation Program.

Ministry to the Sick

Urgent calls are accepted at any time, day or night. Arrangements for Communion calls should be made by calling the rectory office. On being admitted to any area hospital, please give the parish code #111. Hospitals are visited regularly.

Parish Registrations

New parishioners are asked to register at the rectory. Only registered parishioners in good standing can be authorized by the rectory to be sponsors at Baptism and Confirmation and witnesses at weddings. Young adults of working age should register independently of their parents. Please notify the rectory if you change your address or move to another parish.

Mass Schedule

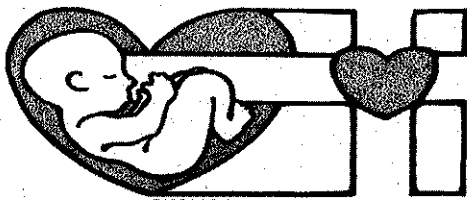
Saturday: 4:15 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM
Daily: 8:00 AM
Holy Days: 8:00 AM, 7:00 PM
First Friday: 8:00 AM

Confessions

Saturday 3:30 - 4:00 PM
Any time by appointment

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time . February 26, 2017

✠ *All to Jesus through Mary, the patroness of our parish* ✠



Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017

Can a mother forget her infant,
be without tenderness for the child of her womb?
Even should she forget,
I will never forget you.

—Isaiah 49:15

The Rules for Fasting & Abstinence during

LENT

Church Law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good-Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Who must fast?

All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation cease when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her birthday.

Who must abstain?

All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean?

The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean?

The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence?

Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill?

Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (5 March until 11 June 2017). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.



Sacrificial Giving

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Many thanks to all our parishioners who support the parish faithfully. May God bless your generosity.

Weekend of 2/19 \$2,135.00

Pray for the Sick of our Parish, for their health and spiritual consolation, and those who care for them: Alicia, Pat Ammoni, Michael Begany, Denise Bevich, Frances Sullivan Bickel, Florence Close, Jenny Dornblaser, Theresa M. Fischer, John and Mary Gallagher, Lisa Garcia, Ginny Garnel, Ted Garnel, Jack Gibbons, Derrick Grover, Michael Herman, Tracy Johns, Laura Huber, Rosemarie Lettko, Catherine Link, Anne Lintner, Helen MacDonald, Stephen Manescu, Matthew McClafferty, Elizabeth Miller, Madonna Miltenberger, Mary Monahan, Dorothy Nele, Minh Nguyen, Fotine Nomie, Bernadette O'Donnell, Yvonne Orlando, Zennia, Perez, John Rider, Kathleen Roxberry, Diane Sadler, Samuel Sayesh, John Scheirer, John and Rosemary Scheirer, Dorothea Shunk, Margaret T. Smith, Julia and Robert Snyder, Bernice Sommers, Bonita Stortz, Gloria Szczepanski, Grace Wagner, Evelyn Wichie, Judith Williamson, Edwin Worth, Carol Wright, Alicia and Nicole Wurster, Evelyn Ziegler.

When family members are admitted to area hospitals use the parish code #111.

Stations of



the Cross

© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays: March 10
6pm March 17
in the church March 24
March 31
April 7

News Around the Town!

Desales University Accounting Students to provide "Free" Tax Preparation Assistance Junior and senior accounting students from DeSales University will provide tax preparation assistance free of charge to senior citizens and those with lower incomes beginning Monday, January 23, through Friday, March 31. The program is part of the United States Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Students are required to pass a test given by the IRS, in order to receive certification to participate in the program. To schedule an appointment call 610-282-1100 ext. 1868.

Bus Trip Mohegan Sun Casino bus trip on Wednesdays, March 8th, & April 12th 2017. Cost is \$25. Receive \$5 food voucher and \$25 slot play. Bus leaves St. Joseph the Worker, Orefield at 9:45AM and back about 5PM. Call Sue Mueller (610) 392-2957 for reservations. All checks payable to Sue

Mueller, 5211 Wagon Wheel Dr., Schnecksville, PA 18078.

First Fridays St. Francis Retreat House, 3918 Chipman Rd. Easton. On the first Friday of each month we offer a Day of Prayer from 9:00am to 2:30pm. Registration begins with coffee and Danish followed by Presentation, Eucharist, Lunch, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and concludes with Benediction. Suggested Offering: \$30 Please call 610-258-3053 to register.

Low Impact Aerobics Sign-ups Looking for a night out with friends? Our instructor, Karen Hoff, is offering 8 classes of aerobics on Tuesday nights and two Thursday (3/23 & 4/20) nights (6:00 - 6:50 PM) from March 7 to April 25 in St. Elizabeth's parish hall. The cost is only \$20.00 per person which includes 8 weeks of 50 minutes of aerobic exercises. All that is needed is a towel or mat for the floor work exercises. Registration deadline is March 1st. E-mail for more information - Mary

Spieker - dirreled@sercc.org. Bring a friend!

Bus Trip Bronx - Saturday, April 22, 2017. Tram ride through the Botanical Gardens. For the first time in more than ten years, the artwork of world-renowned sculptor Dale Chihuly will be featured in a major exhibition in New York. Departure from St. Joseph's Church is 8AM and returning about 5PM. Cost is \$70. Call Sue Mueller (610) 392-2957 for reservations. All checks payable to Sue Mueller, 5211 Wagon Wheel Dr., Schnecksville, PA 18078.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Feb 26 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you." Learn how to focus on what's truly important and enhance your marriage by attending a **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** weekend. For information call 1-732-904-9636 or visit www.aweekendforyourmarriage.org.



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

News around Parish



Contribution Statements If you need a statement of contributions for your 2016 records, please call the rectory office during business hours at 610-433-4404. A statement will be mailed to your home.

Young Adult Married Retreat Treat your marriage to a special gift in the New Year! You and your spouse are invited to Behold: Our Souls Proclaim the

Greatness, a day of reflection for young adult married couples sponsored by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry. The event will take place on Saturday, March 25, 2017 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at St. Francis Retreat House (3918 Chipman Rd., Easton). The cost is \$30 per couple and includes a light breakfast, lunch, and activities for the day. Childcare is available onsite (call office for details). To register or for more information, contact Alexa Doncsecz, adoncsecz@allentowndiocese.org, or call our office at (610) 289-8900 ext. 21.

EITC and OSTC Tax Credit Programs Do you own a business or know someone who owns a business and pays PA state

National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Please join the *Guadeloupians for Life* with Sr. Martha Zammatore, from the Office of Hispanic Affairs, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a Rosary for Life every Tuesday at 1:30pm.

taxes? If the answer is YES...how would you like to see those tax dollars be kept at St. Elizabeth Regional School? Please contact Mrs. Linda Schiller, Principal, at the school, at 610-264-0143 or altlse@ptd.net to learn about the Education Improvement Tax Credit and the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit programs.

Monday Evening Mini Retreat St. Francis Retreat House, 3918 Chipman Rd., Easton. Monday, March 13, 2017.

"Naming and Claiming Our Anger"

Our emotions sometimes move us to anger—at ourselves, at our society, our families, the Church, and even at God. With some tears and guilt feelings we can

admit this, but to find healing and acceptance we need to face these feelings head-on and truthfully. Then we can work through them with patience and perseverance. Presenters: Laura Long and Jeannie Panella. Retreat begins at 6pm with a full meal. Please check-in by 5:30pm. After the meal there will be a presentation and discussions in the main conference room, followed by evening prayer; the closing blessing is at 9pm. The donation for Monday evening retreats is \$25.00 per person. Please register at least 10 days before the retreat. Call 610-258-3053.

Working Man's Special Tickets for March can be purchased for \$5.00 from any parish volunteer or at the rectory office every weekday during business hours. Based on the Pennsylvania 3-Digit Evening Number, purchase a ticket for \$5.00 makes you eligible to win \$100 every time your number is drawn during the month of March.

Mass Schedule

Saturday, February 25

4:15pm Brian J. Monahan

Sunday, February 26

8:00am Scott Sniscak

10:30am Bernadine Janny

Monday, February 27

8:00am Mary Jo Long

Tuesday, February 28

8:00am Michael Turczyn

Wednesday, March 1—Ash Wednesday

8:00am Deceased members of
Cunningham Family

7:00pm John Janny, Sr.

Thursday, March 2

8:00am Donald Fallon

Friday, March 3

8:00am Emma Latsch

Saturday, March 4

4:15pm Bernadine Janny

Sunday, March 5

8:00am Catherine Cunningham

10:30am Robert Wieder

Altar Servers Schedule

Saturday, March 4

4:15pm Randy Czankner

Sunday, March 5

8:00am Sophie Annoni

10:30am Samir Safadi

Lectors Schedule

Saturday, March 4

4:15pm Wanda Benkovic

Sunday, March 5

8:00am Dick Sniscak

10:30am Nancy Miltenberger

Eucharistic Ministers Schedule

Saturday, March 4

4:15pm Wanda Benkovic

Sunday, March 5

8:00am Fran Sniscak, Jerry Hersh

10:30am Jennifer Rupnik, Christine Lindenmuth

Youth and Adult News

SAVE THE DATE !

Class of 1967 50th ACCHS Reunion

Weekend of June 2—4, 2017

6/2—Participation at 2017 ACCHS Commencement

6/3—Tour of ACCHS Buildings 10am—12pm

6/4—50th celebration at Barn Swallow Farm
2pm—5pm

More Information to Follow!!!! If you did not receive a Save the Date postcard, please email me at scassium67@gmail.com with your information.

Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist Invite You To:

Father Pio Mandato, F.M.H.J. Tuesday, March 7, 2017: 9 AM — 12 Noon Includes Conference, Exposition of the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Mass.

Conference & Homily Topic: *"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a Solitary place, where he prayed."* (Mark 15:35) *Fr. Pio Mandato* is a Capuchin priest from the village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy, the same town where St. Padre Pio was born. Fr. Mandato received his first Holy Communion from Saint Padre Pio before he and his family migrated to America in 1964. He grew up in New Jersey and entered the Capuchin Seminary at the age of 17, where he received his Franciscan formation and later his priestly formation. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1985. Father belongs to the Diocese of Scranton. His priesthood is dedicated to prayer, solitude, and preaching. To register for an event contact: Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, 640 E. Main St., Birdsboro, PA 19508 olme@olme.org è 610-582-3333 è www.olme.org
ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND! YOUR GENEROUS DONATION WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.