

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

522 Main Street • P.O. Box 399 • Marydel, Maryland 21649-0399

Phone: 410-482-7687 • Fax: 410-482-7253

www.iccmarydel.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Friday 9:30-12noon, Closed Wednesdays

Because of the limited size of our staff, hours are subject to change. It's best to call first.

December 16, 2018 – Third Sunday of Advent

Eucharist of the Lord's Day

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. (in Spanish)

Weekday Eucharist
Thursday 7:00 p.m. (in Spanish)

Holydays of Obligation

As announced in the bulletin

Reconciliation

After the Sunday morning Masses,
Thursday evening 6:30pm
And by appointment at any reasonable time

Pastoral Care and Liturgy

Very Rev. James S. Lentini, V.F., Pastor
Rev. Idongesit A. Etim, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Timothy J. Brady, Parochial Vicar
Father Mano Salla, Parochial Vicar

Deacon James M. Tormey, Sr.
Deacon Sherman Mitchell, III

Christian Formation

Mrs. Alicia Poppiti, D.R.E.

Hispanic Ministry

Mrs. Arline Dosman

If you or someone you know is in need of financial assistance, please call

St Vincent DePaul (302) 670-6702

The Sacraments

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process in which adults and children of catechetical age join the Catholic Church. Please contact Deacon Sherman Mitchell III, our R.C.I.A. Coordinator, for details at 302-492-0753.

Parents wishing to present their children for **Infant Baptism** must participate in an orientation session. Please call the parish office at 410-482-8939 for details.

Please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 about the preparation of young people for **Confirmation**, or about children's first reception of the Sacraments of **Reconciliation** and the **Eucharist**.

Couples planning **Matrimony** meet with the Pastor or one of the Deacons at least one year in advance of the wedding date they are considering. Please call the parish office to arrange for this meeting.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: The **Anointing of the Sick** is appropriate for anyone faced with hospitalization or a serious challenge to health. When a hospital admission is planned, please arrange to receive the Anointing here beforehand, if at all possible. Our lay ministers to the sick bring **Holy Communion** to those unable to come to Mass for any length of time. Please call the parish office to arrange for these services.

Your Pastor, Deacons and parish staff members are always happy to speak in confidence with anyone who senses a call to **ordained ministry** or **religious life**.

Dear Parishioners,

By promulgation of an urban legend, many people in the 1980s believed that "Mikey" – the little kid from the Life cereal commercials – died from eating and mixing Pop-Rocks candy with a Pepsi, causing his stomach to explode. Many people, even today, believe that Elvis Presley is still alive and that Paul McCartney is really dead (replaced by a look-alike). None of these claims are true (except maybe the Elvis one). And just like these nagging urban legends, there is a tale told about the origin of Christmas being on December 25, which is repeated so often that it has come to be taken as, dare I say, the Gospel truth. But it isn't.

A Specious Tale. The tale, as told, is this: The reason that Christmas is on December 25 has nothing to do with the birth of Christ, rather it has to do with early Christianity's desire to snuff out Pagan religion by supplanting one of

their "sacred days" with ours. Thus, in the days of the Roman Empire there was a festival named after the god Saturn called **Saturnalia**. It ran from December 17-23, featuring a party-hardy atmosphere. The tale goes on to say that Christians chose December 25 as the date for Christmas to steal the thunder from **Saturnalia**, and ultimately replaced it. Thus, the oft told tale goes: the only reason that Christmas is on December 25 is because the Christians supplanted a Pagan feast day.

To this I say: "balderdash" (and I don't mean the board game)! I write this column, to set the record straight as to why December 25 is celebrated as the date of the birth of Christ.

Roman Holiday. Now, let me start with the best-case scenario for the probity of this tale of Christmas being built on Pagandom. At best, this is a conjecture. What I

can say, with certainty, is: there was a Roman Empire, it deigned there to be a god called Saturn, and had a festival called Saturnalia in late December. But, that's where the veracity of the aforementioned tale ends. So, why then is there this assertion that the early Church Christianized a pagan feast and called it Christmas? Because those who like to take shots at Christianity want to be able to say that Christmas' foundations are Pagan, and that we have no idea when Jesus Christ was born. It is an attempt sow seeds of doubt, amidst our fields of the faith.

Puritan Made. The first considerations that something was amiss with December 25 as the date of Christ's birth began with the Puritans of the 17th century. The Puritans, following their reified belief that if it isn't in Scripture, it isn't so, put forth the idea that since the Bible doesn't indicate when Christ was born, it can therefore be concluded that December 25th must be a date made up by the Catholic Church. This got the ball rolling, and others bought-in. Later on, some scholars began the assertion, without any basis but conjecture, that the reason the Church took this date of December 25th (since it wasn't scriptural) was because, back in the third century, it wanted to stomp down the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia – and perhaps, run rings around Saturn – and replace it with Christmas.

23 Skidoo. The problem with that theory is that Saturnalia always ended on December 23. So, here's a good question: why would Christians have put Christmas on December 25 – two days after Saturnalia – if they wanted to wipe it out? My goodness! That would be like wanting to stamp out Independence Day by adding a holiday on July 6th. Or saying that Lincoln's Birthday on February 16th was done to steal the thunder from Washington's Birthday on February 12th. The simple answer is this: Saturnalia is not the "reason for the (date of the) season;" Christmas' proximity to Saturnalia is coincidental, not purposeful.

Feast of the Sun. Similarly, a claim is also made that Christmas steals from the Roman pagan celebration of Sol Invicta (the Feast of the Unconquered Sun). This feast was created, whole cloth, by Emperor Aurelius in 274 A.D. in an attempt to bolster the sick-unto-death religion of the Roman Empire by honoring the sun god. This feast, which occurred around the same time as Saturnalia, was certainly not steeped in Roman tradition. It was created on whim, not historical basis. And, far from Christmas trying to obscure or override this feast, scholar Thomas Talley in his work, "The Origins of the Liturgical Year" observes that Sol Invicta was in fact a Roman response to the practice of upstart Christianity's celebration of Christmas in late December.

In any event, both Saturnalia and Sol Invicta proved to be fad-fests which passed as quickly into obscurity, as mood rings, click-clacks and the Macarena.

Feast of the Son. December 25th as Christmas – celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ – can be found universally on the Church's calendar as far back as 354 A.D. Yes, I know, that date is many years after the establishment of Saturnalia and Sol Invicta, leading some to make the assertion that Christmas being on December 25 was a response to those Roman feasts. However, we must remember that until 313 A.D., Christianity was not legal in the Roman Empire, and the celebration of Christmas was often done in secret. But, there is evidence of celebrations of Christmas (in the form of writings and hymns), which pre-date the formal celebration of the pagan Roman feasts that were mentioned.

Mystery Date? So, if the Pagan religion theory is out of the running, then where did we get the date for Christmas? Well, to the chagrin of those who put forth that Christmas's date cannot be found in scripture, the date of December 25 as Christmas is in fact built upon Scripture. From whence in Scripture might this assertion be drawn? To answer this, we have to put Jesus aside for a moment and turn to St. John the Baptist and his father Zechariah.

Stop, Luke, and Listen. In Luke's Gospel, 1:8-9, we are told, "*Once when he [Zechariah] was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense.*" It goes on to say that the Angel Gabriel appeared to him announcing (in Luke 1:13): "*Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John*" In an early tradition from text called De solstitia, it is asserted that this priestly ceremonial duty Zechariah performed was performing was part of the festival of Tabernacles (at the Autumnal Equinox). This then places the conception of St. John the Baptist at the Autumnal Equinox, which the Romans observed on September 25.

Hear the Angel Voices. In Luke 1:36, when the Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she is called by God to bear the Son of the Most High, he drops in this tidbit: "*And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren.*" Six months from the time of John's conception in the womb of Elizabeth, would mark March 25 as the date of Jesus' conception by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary. This understanding is likewise asserted by the early 3rd century Roman and Christian historian Sextus Julius Africanus who also dates Jesus' conception to March 25. From all of this we, and the early Christian Church, binding its faith in the Holy Scripture, would date the birth of John the Baptist to the summer solstice, and the nativity of the Lord to the winter solstice, as understood in Roman times, on December 25 (nine months after his conception).

It's a Date! And that is why the date of Christmas is December 25; that is the reason for the date of the season! While, from an empirical standpoint, I have to admit, that, yes, it is possible that this date could be wrong; nonetheless, this explanation shows that the early Christians and our early Church arrived at the date of Christmas based on Holy Scripture, not on pagan Roman practices. And so, as Advent winds down, keep your eyes

focused ahead on the joy of Christmas -- December 25: the birth of Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini,
Pastor

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Altar Servers

December 23

8:30am Mass – Mike Dixon & Averi Locke
11am Mass – Isaac Meyer & Sherlin Santizo
Spanish Misa 1pm – Emily & Yorly Escalante

December 24

5:00pm Mass- William & Isaac Meyer
7pm Mass- Mikey Dixon, **1 needed**
Midnight Mass- **2 needed**

Christmas Day- December 25

9am Mass- Vincent Haass, **1 needed**
Spanish Mass 10:30am-Darly Ortega, **1 needed**

Lectors

December 23

8:30am Mass – Barbara Thompson
11am Mass – Sherry Tucker
Spanish Misa 1pm – Darío Ortega, José Luis Ramírez

December 24

5:00pm Mass- Deacon Tormey
7pm Mass- **needed**
Midnight Mass- Lani Small

Christmas Day- December 25

9am Mass – Karen Cairns
Spanish Mass 10:30am- Darío Ortega, José Luis Ramírez

Eucharistic Ministers

December 23

8:30am Mass – Alan & Diane Smith
11am Mass – Frank & Joyce Cristiano
Spanish Misa 1pm – Dolores Cuin, Carlos Miguel, Flora Pérez, Genaro Pérez, Antonio Pérez

December 24

5:00pm Mass- Charlotte Tormey, Alicia Poppiti
7pm Mass – Marilyn Dixon, **1 needed**
Midnight Mass – Greg Taraila, **1 needed**

Christmas Day- December 25

9am Mass – Diane and Alan Smith
Spanish Mass 10:30am- A. Velásquez, Epifanio Morales, G. Morales, Adrián Miranda, Carlos Miguel



We need musicians for the Christmas Eve 7pm & midnight mass, as well as the 9am Christmas morning mass.

Interested in learning how to work the computer to provide music? Can you play piano, or bring your guitar...

Just as long as we have some music at each mass. Please contact the office to volunteer.



Collection Counters

Dec 16 Elisa & Tom Costello
Dec 23 Marilyn Dixon & Maurilio Gabriel
Dec 30 Ann Lawson & Assistant

Church Cleaning Crew

Diciembre 21, 2018 Grupo # 1 Rectoría-Oficina Celia Berduo, Lidia Fernández, Adrián Matías, Agurinda Santizo, Maricela Santizo, Patricia López

Diciembre 21, 2018 Grupo # 2

Hortencia Bamaca, Luz Morales, Lilian Díaz Bamaca Rosemary Bamaca, Froilán Berduo, Sheila Berduo



Immaculate Conception Church Giving Wreath

The tags on the wreath are for the children of the families we are helping. The rest of the family can be helped by anyone donating a container of cookies, a comfort throw, or household items.

All wrapped presents and items should be given to Marilyn Dixon in the hall between the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM mass on Sunday morning, or the office, before Thursday, Dec. 20, 2018.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, December 16

8:30 Andrea Nagyiski

11:00 Charles McCurdy

Misa en Español 1pm For the People

Thursday, December 20

7pm Misa For the People

Sunday, December 23

8:30 Ed & Elvira Lemp

11:00 Alexis DeFrancesco

Misa en Español 1pm For the People

The Mass book for 2019 is open

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Offertory: \$ 2447.00

Retirement for the Religious: \$ 582.00

Immaculate Conception: \$ 984.00

Second Collection Today: Christmas Flower Offering

*Your continued support of the work of your Church
is much needed and appreciated.*

SCHEDEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Dec 16 9:40am – SRE Classes in Classroom

Sun, Dec 16 11am – Confirmation Prep -hall

Sun, Dec 16 Noon – Confirmation Sponsors - CC

Sun – Sat 7pm – Posadas at houses

Mon, Dec 17 – 7pm Penance Service Holy Cross

Fri, Dec 21 7pm – Band Practice-cc

Fri, Dec 21 7pm – RCIA-office

Knights of Columbus



Next meeting

Tues, January 8

6:30pm Rosary

**7pm Meeting
in the Knights Hall**

All members are encouraged to attend. Membership is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practicing Catholics. For more info, contact Grand Knight, Bruce Kelley (302) 502-6040 or kelley29@comcast.net. Follow us on Facebook @ Knights of Columbus Council 12509

FROM THE DRE'S DESK

School of Religious Education

9:40am-10:50am

December 23rd- Classes 9:40-10:50am

December 30th – NO Classes

January 6th – Classes 9:40-10:50am



Sacramental Prep:

Confirmation: Today, Sunday, December 16th from 11am-1pm in the parish hall.

Sponsor meeting for Confirmation: Today, Sunday, December 16th at 12noon in the computer center.

First Reconciliation: Saturday, January 12th at 9 and 11 am at Holy Cross in Dover.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Advent

Theme: John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Question for Children: Why is it so important to keep promises which you have made?

Question for Youth: What do you remember from stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

Question for Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

3o domingo de adviento

Tema: Juan bautizó con agua, pero el Mesías bautizará con el Espíritu Santo y con fuego.

Pregunta para los niños: ¿Por qué es tan importante mantener las promesas que hayan hecho?

Pregunta para los jóvenes: ¿Qué recuerdas de los relatos sobre tu bautismo? ¿Qué significa tu bautismo para ti hoy día?

Pregunta para los adultos: ¿Cómo pueden vivir la promesa de su bautismo cada día?

Advent Penance Service:

**Monday, December 17th at 7pm at
Holy Cross**



Marriage & Family Life Corner

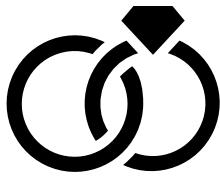
Parenting Pointer –

As your family prepares Christmas gifts for each other, this is a good time to discuss with your child how to share their older but still good toys, clothes, etc.

Marriage Moment –

Sometimes pressure preparing for Christmas can blind us to what's really important. Start by remembering that Christ lives in your beloved. Pause. Take time to rejoice in each other today.

Retrouvaille



is a peer ministry of volunteer couples who can help a couple re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille can help heal a marriage, as it has for tens

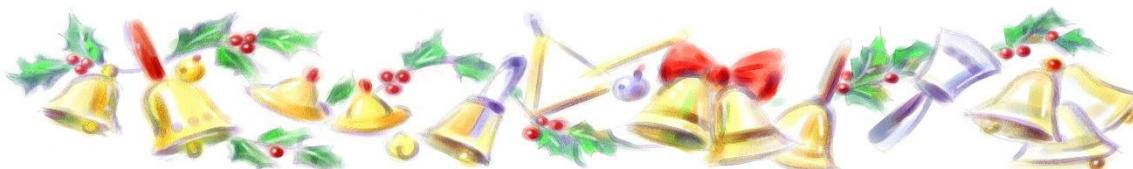
of thousands of couples throughout the world. **The next program begins on the weekend of February 8-10 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August.** For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

100th Anniversary



T-shirts and Cats Meow are still available for \$15 each. Contact Judy Carrow at 302-653-8123 if you would like to purchase either.

Thank you to the Anniversary Committee for a wonderful celebration event.



Next week, look for the Christmas Edition of The Dialog. In it you will find Bishop Malooly's annual Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore, plus a special 150th anniversary tribute to priests in service to our diocese and parishes.



Saint Thomas More Academy is accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. Financial Aid Application Deadline: Jan 14, 2019 A Catholic high school education at St. Thomas More Academy does not have to be out of reach solely for financial reasons. STMA families are eligible for both local and diocesan needs-based financial aid. Apply for aid online at: <https://factsmgt.com/parent-resources/grant-and-aid/> If you are interested in spending a day at STMA or learning more about STMA, we encourage you to visit us in person or through our website www.saintmore.org



Christmas Mass Schedule is an insert this week. Please be sure to check Mass times.

COLUMNA DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 16 DE DICIEMBRE, 2018.

Queridos feligreses,

Al promulgar una leyenda urbana, muchas personas en la década de los 80 creyeron que "Mikey", el pequeño niño de los comerciales de cereales Life, murió al comer y mezclar dulces Pop-Rocks con una Pepsi, lo que provocó que su estómago explotara. Mucha gente, incluso hoy, cree que Elvis Presley todavía está vivo y que Paul McCartney está realmente muerto (reemplazado por un parecido). Ninguna de estas afirmaciones son ciertas (excepto tal vez la de Elvis). Y al igual que estas fastidiosas leyendas urbanas, al igual que estas leyendas hay una leyenda sobre el origen de la Navidad el 25 de diciembre, que se repite con tanta frecuencia que ha llegado a tomarse como, me atrevo a decir, la verdad del Evangelio. Pero no lo es.

Una Leyenda Artificiosa. La leyenda, como se ha dicho, es lo siguiente: la razón por la que la Navidad es el 25 de diciembre no tiene nada que ver con el nacimiento de Cristo, sino que tiene que ver con el deseo del cristianismo primitivo de acabar con la religión pagana al sustituir uno de sus "días sagrados" con la nuestra. Así, en los días del Imperio Romano hubo un festival que lleva el nombre del dios Saturno llamado Saturnalia. Se celebraba desde del 17 al 23 de diciembre, con un ambiente de fiesta. La historia continúa diciendo que los cristianos eligieron el 25 de diciembre como la fecha de Navidad para robar el trueno de Saturnalia, y finalmente lo reemplazaron. Por lo tanto, a menudo se cuenta el cuento: la única razón por la que la Navidad es el 25 de diciembre es porque los cristianos sustituyeron una fiesta pagana. A esto digo: "Insensato" Escribo esta columna para aclarar por qué el 25 de diciembre se celebra como la fecha del nacimiento de Cristo.

Vacaciones Romanas. Ahora, permítanme comenzar con la mejor explicación para la probidad de esta historia de Navidad que se construye en Paganismo. En el mejor de los casos, esta es una conjetaura. Lo que puedo decir, con certeza, es que: hubo un Imperio Romano, se dignó allí ser un dios llamado Saturno, y tuvo un festival llamado Saturnalia a fines de diciembre. Pero ahí es donde termina la veracidad de la historia mencionada. Entonces, ¿por qué existe esta afirmación de que la Iglesia primitiva cristianizó una fiesta pagana y la llamó Navidad? Porque aquellos a quienes les gusta atacar al cristianismo, quieren poder decir que los fundamentos de la Navidad son paganos, y que no tenemos idea de cuándo nació Jesucristo. Es un intento de sembrar semillas de duda, en medio de nuestros campos de la fe.

Hecho Puritano. Las primeras consideraciones de que algo estaba mal con el 25 de diciembre como la fecha del nacimiento de Cristo comenzaron con los puritanos del siglo 17. Los puritanos, siguiendo su creencia deificada de que si no está en las Escrituras, no es así,

plantean la idea de que dado que la Biblia no indica cuándo nació Cristo, se puede concluir que el 25 de diciembre debe ser un Fecha puesta por la Iglesia Católica. Esto hizo rodar el balón, y otros lo compraron. Más tarde, algunos eruditos comenzaron a afirmar, sin ningún fundamento que conjectura, que la razón por la que la Iglesia tomó esta fecha del 25 de diciembre (ya que no era bíblica) era porque, en el siglo III, quería derribar el antiguo festival romano de Saturnalia (y quizás, ejecutar anillos alrededor de Saturno) y lo reemplace con la Navidad.

23 Skidoo. El problema con esa teoría es que Saturnalia siempre terminaba el 23 de diciembre. Entonces, esta es una buena pregunta: ¿por qué los cristianos pusieron la Navidad el 25 de diciembre, dos días después de Saturnalia, si quisieran eliminarla? ¡Dios mío! Eso sería como querer eliminar el Día de la Independencia agregando un día festivo el 6 de julio. O decir que el cumpleaños de Lincoln el 16 de febrero se hizo para robar los truenos del cumpleaños de Washington el 12 de febrero. La respuesta simple es esta: Saturnalia no es la "razón de la (fecha del tiempo); la proximidad de la Navidad a Saturnalia es una coincidencia, no tiene un propósito.

Fiesta del Sol. De manera similar, también se afirma que la Navidad roba la celebración pagana romana de Sol Invicta (la Fiesta del Sol Inconquistado). Esta fiesta fue creada, toda una tela, por el emperador Aurelio en 274 d. C., en un intento de reforzar la religión de los enfermos de muerte del Imperio Romano honrando al dios sol. Esta fiesta, que se produjo casi al mismo tiempo que Saturnalia, ciertamente no estaba impregnada de la tradición romana. Fue creado por capricho, no de base histórica. Y, lejos de la Navidad, tratando de oscurecer o eliminar esta fiesta, el erudito Thomas Talley en su trabajo, "Los orígenes del año litúrgico" observa que Sol Invicta fue de hecho una respuesta romana a la práctica de la celebración de la Navidad por parte del cristianismo a fines de diciembre. .

En cualquier caso, tanto Saturnalia como Sol Invicta demostraron ser algo pasajero que pasaron rápidamente a la oscuridad, como suena el humor, los clics y la Macarena.

Fiesta del Hijo. El 25 de diciembre como Navidad, que celebra el nacimiento de Jesucristo, se puede encontrar universalmente en el calendario de la Iglesia desde el año 354 DC Sí, ya sé, esa fecha es muchos años después del establecimiento de Saturnalia y Sol Invicta, lo que lleva a algunos a afirmar que la Navidad, el 25 de diciembre, fue una respuesta a esas fiestas romanas. Sin embargo, debemos recordar que hasta el 313 d. C., el cristianismo no era legal en el Imperio Romano y la celebración de la Navidad a menudo se hacía en secreto. Pero, hay evidencia de celebraciones de Navidad (en forma de escritos e himnos), que preceden a la celebración formal de las fiestas paganas romanas que se mencionaron.

¿Fecha Misteriosa? Entonces, si la teoría de la religión pagana está fuera de la carrera, entonces, ¿de dónde sacamos la fecha para Navidad? Bueno, para disgusto de los que propusieron que la fecha de Navidad no se encuentre en las Escrituras, la fecha del 25 de diciembre, como la Navidad

se basa en la Escritura. ¿De dónde se puede extraer esta afirmación en las Escrituras? Para responder a esto, tenemos que poner a Jesús a un lado por un momento y acudir a San Juan Bautista y a su padre Zacarías.

Para, Lucas, y Escucha. En el Evangelio de Lucas, 1, 8-9, se nos dice: " Una vez, cuando [Zacarías] estaba sirviendo como sacerdote en su turno de división ante Dios, según la práctica del servicio sacerdotal, fue elegido por sorteo para entrar al santuario del Señor para quemar incienso". Continúa diciendo que el Ángel Gabriel se le apareció anunciando (en Lucas 1:13):" No temas, Zacarías, "Pero el ángel le dijo: «No temas, Zacarías, porque tu oración ha sido escuchada. Tu esposa Isabel te dará un hijo y le pondrás por nombre Juan." En una tradición antigua del texto llamado De solsticio, se afirma que este deber ceremonial sacerdotal que Zacarías realizó fue parte del festival de los Tabernáculos (en el Equinoccio de Otoño).). Esto luego coloca la concepción de San Juan Bautista en el Equinoccio de Otoño, que los romanos observaron el 25 de septiembre.

Escucha la Voz del Ángel. En Lucas 1,36, cuando el Ángel Gabriel le anuncia a María que ella es llamada por Dios para dar a luz al Hijo del Altísimo, él deja caer en este cofre: " Y he aquí, Isabel, tu pariente, está esperando un hijo en su vejez, y esta es el sexto mes para la que fue llamada estéril ". Seis meses desde el momento de la concepción de Juan en el vientre de Isabel, marcaría el 25 de marzo como la fecha de la

concepción de Jesús por el poder del Espíritu Santo en El vientre de María

Este entendimiento también es afirmado por el historiador romano y cristiano de principios del siglo III, Sexto Julio Africano, que también data la concepción de Jesús al 25 de marzo. De todo esto, nosotros, y la Iglesia cristiana primitiva, vinculando su fe en la Sagrada Escritura, fechan el nacimiento de Juan el Bautista al solsticio de verano, y la Natividad del Señor al solsticio de invierno, tal como se entendió en la época romana, el 25 de diciembre (nueve meses después de su concepción).

¡Es una Fecha! Y es por eso que la fecha de navidad es el 25 de diciembre; ¡Esa es la razón de la fecha del Tiempo! Si bien, desde un punto de vista empírico, debo admitir que, sí, es posible que esta fecha esté equivocada; sin embargo, esta explicación muestra que los primeros cristianos y nuestra iglesia primitiva llegaron a la fecha de Navidad en base a las Sagradas Escrituras, no a las prácticas paganas romanas. Y así, mientras el Adviento está finalizando, mantén tus ojos enfocados en la alegría de la Navidad - ¡25 de diciembre: el nacimiento de Jesucristo!

Tuyo en Cristo
P. James Lentini,
Párroco