

# Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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

[www.immaculateconceptionmarydel.com](http://www.immaculateconceptionmarydel.com)

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

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

## December 27, 2015 – Feast of the Holy Family

### Eucharist of the Lord's Day

**Sunday:** 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.  
7:00 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,  
Wednesday evening 6:30pm

And by appointment at any reasonable time

#### Pastoral Care and Liturgy

Very Rev. James S. Lentini, V.F., Pastor  
Rev. John Olson, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Anthony Giamello, Associate Pastor

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 James M. Tormey, Sr., our R.C.I.A. Coordinator, for details at 302-697-2049.

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**.

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### Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday – the Sunday after Christmas – the Church celebrates the feast of the Holy Family. This year marks the 122nd anniversary of this feast honoring Jesus, Mary and Joseph; it was added to the Church calendar by Pope Leo XIII in 1893.

In our culture, when we speak about a family, in terms of composition, we usually speak of it being made up of father, mother and child. That order of reference (father, mother, child) is pretty common. Thus, for you Flintstones fan's we speak of Fred, Wilma and Pebbles; for you royal-watchers we speak of Prince William, Kate and George; and of course, there were Mike, Carol and the Brady kids. We sometime hear the order amended as woman, man, and child (for you I Love Lucy fans, Lucy, Ricky and Little Ricky). However, when we speak of the Holy Family, that entire order-of-reference is flipped on its head. We never speak of Joseph, Mary and Jesus; rather we speak of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. And the question to consider here is very much the same question I asked when the

movie Jaws 4 came out in 1987: Why? Well, while Jaws 4 still remains a mystery, I have some thoughts on the unique manner in which we refer to the Holy Family.

The identification of the Holy Family as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I think is done to remind us that the Holy Family, as a faithful family, puts God first – and Jesus as God incarnate is thus first in priority. And so in the Holy Family: Jesus had a special place, and place of priority. And so today, in scripture we are focused on Jesus. And so in this week's Pastor's column I want to focus on Jesus' actions not just from today's Gospel, but from what comes next. You see, in today's Gospel story, there is that great sense of the Divine: Prophets laud Jesus as the long awaited Messiah, that he will change the world, and so on. And that's important, yes, but what happens next in this scriptural sequence helps frame better for us the family life aspect of this day. What happens next focuses us on his presence and his absence from the Holy Family, one fine day, in about 12 A.D. Picking up where today's Gospel leaves off, Luke relays the following:

*Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.*

*After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety."*

*And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them.*

This completion of today's passage from Luke's Gospel shows us not Jesus in the temple as a baby, but Jesus at the age of twelve. Is that significant? Yes. That was the age that every Jewish boy was expected to make his bar mitzvah and so become a responsible subject of the law. It was a ceremony of legal adulthood. From then on he was required to keep the law and make the annual pilgrimages to Jerusalem like any other Jewish man. One way teenagers celebrate their coming of age is to go out and do those things that law and rules forbade them to do. What do I mean by that? Well parents may well recognize this as the time when your child stops asking where he came from and begins to not tell you where he is going. And, as we can see, Jesus was no exception.

To celebrate his coming of age what does he do? He attends Temple Bible class without informing his parents. When his parents catch up with him after two days of searching for him everywhere, all he tells them is, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Even holy families do have their occasional tensions and misunderstandings.

The most puzzling part, or perhaps amusing part, of the story, however, is the way it ends: After he went off and scared his parents half to death, Luke tells us "Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them" 12-year old Jesus already knows that his mission is to be in his Father's house and be about his Father's business. From the test-run he did in Jerusalem earlier that day, it was clear that he was already capable of doing it very well, because "all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers" The puzzle then is this: If Jesus, already at the age of twelve, was ready to begin his public mission, and was evidently well prepared for it, why would he go down with his parents and spend the next eighteen years in the obscurity of a carpenter's shed only to begin his public ministry at the age of thirty? Were those eighteen years wasted years? Certainly not! In a way that is hard for us to understand, Jesus' hidden life in Nazareth was as much a part of his earthly mission as his public life. We are reminded that it was at this time that "And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man." And when we reflect on the fact that for every one year of his public life Jesus spent ten years in family life, then we shall begin to understand the importance and priority he gave to family life.

We have two lives, a private or family life and a public or professional one. These two lives should be in harmony but very often they are in tension. Whereas Jesus resolved the tension by giving priority to his family life, we, unfortunately, often try to resolve it by giving priority to our professional life, leaving our family life to suffer. In that regard, there is an old anecdote that tells the tale of an unhappy man who thought the only way he could prove his love for his wife was to work hard. The anecdote stated, "To prove his love for his wife, he swam the deepest river, crossed the widest desert and climbed the highest mountain. As for his wife, she divorced him, and said that he was never home." In today's celebration of Holy Family, Jesus Christ reminds us to value and invest in our private life with our families and our friends before our professional life at the work place, even when our job is as important as saving the world.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor

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### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Sun., Dec 27 8:30am:** Deceased of Hampton/Messner Families

**11:00am:** Patty McCloskey

Misa en Español **7:00pm:** For the People

**Thur, Dec 31 7:00pm:** Lambert Weber

**Sun., Jan. 3 8:30am:** Deceased members of Immaculate Conception

**11:00am:** Catherine Larkin

Misa en Español **7:00pm:** For the People

*Our Mass book for 2016 year is open. Please stop by office or call to have Masses scheduled.*

### COLLECTION TOTALS:

**Regular Offertory:** \$2784.00

**Christmas Flower Offering** \$ 731.50

### **Second Collection Today: Supplemental**

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



**Knights of Columbus:** Meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tues., in the hall at 6:30pm. For more information contact Grand Knight, Clyde Hinebaugh 410-482-8699 or [clydehinebaugh@gmail.com](mailto:clydehinebaugh@gmail.com)

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

### Collection Counters

**Dec 27** - Marilyn Dixon & Ann Lawson

**Jan. 3** - Frank & Joyce Cristiano

**Jan. 10** - Robin & Paul Engstenberg

### Church Cleaning Crew

**January 2, 2016 Grupo #8**

**Hortencia Bamaca**, Lucia Morales, Rosemary Bamaca,  
Froilán Berduo, Sheila Berduo, Andy De León

**January 2, 2016 Rectoría- Oficina Grupo #9**

Natalia Domingo, Victoriano Pérez, Américo García, María  
García, Julio Hernández, **Hayde Fuentes**

**January 9, 2016 Grupo #10**

**Miguel López**, Verónica López, Gregorio López, Juan  
Ramírez, Federico Pérez.

### New Year's Mass

**New Year's Eve, December 31, 2015**

**5 pm: Lector-** Diane Smith

**Eucharistic Ministers-** Elisa and Tom Costello

**Altar Servers-** Meg & Vincent Haass

### ***Víspera María Madre de Dios***

**7pm: Lectores-** Carlos Miguel, Simón De  
Jesús Quevedo, Salome Morales

**New Year's Day, January 1, 2016- Solemnity of Mary**

**9:00 am: Lector** – Lani Small

**Eucharistic Ministers-** Diane and Alan Smith

**Altar Servers-** Servers Needed

### Altar Servers

**Jan. 3**

**8:30am Mass** – Hannah Nagyiski

**11:00am Mass** – Meg & Vincent Haass & Sherlin Santizo

**Spanish Misa 7:00pm** – Itzel Roblero, Armando Macario,  
Reynaldo Alvarez

### Lectors

**Jan. 3**

**8:30am Mass** – Steve Schoepp

**11:00am Mass** – Laura Schlaupitz

**Spanish Misa 7:00pm** – Froilan Berduo, Javier Carreto

### Eucharistic Ministers

**Jan. 3**

**8:30am Mass** – Deacon Tormey, Karen Durham, Julia Moore

**11:00am Mass** – Nancy Mooney, **Servers needed**

**Spanish Misa 7:00pm** – Antonio Perez

### SCHEDULED EVENTS

**NO SRE:** Sun, Dec 27

**RICA:** Sun, Dec. 27, 1:30pm, Computer Center

**JOVENES:** Sun, Dec 27, 3:30pm, church basement

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Wed Dec. 30-Fri Jan. 1-will reopen on  
Monday, January 4, at 9:30am

## Marriage & Family Life Corner

### Marriage Moment –

**The feast is over but the visiting and company may continue through the Christmas holidays. Although generally a happy time of family togetherness, Christmas can also be a time when stress causes short tempers. Be mindful and merciful with your beloved these days when you might be together in extremely close quarters.**

### Parenting Pointer –

**Relish the glee of giving and receiving a gift. After the hubbub dies down, pause as a family not only to thank each other, but to be thankful that you have the resources to give gifts and that you have a family to share this time with. Don't let the day slip slide away without this pause.**

*Immaculate Conception*

*Church*

***New Years Mass:***

***New Years Eve: Thursday,***

*December 31<sup>st</sup>*

*5pm (English)*

*7pm (Spanish)*

***New Years Day-Solemnity  
of Mary***

*9am Mass only*

**Save The Date**

**Annual Penny Party  
Sat., Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**



**FROM THE DRE'S DESK**  
**School of Religious Education**



**NO SRE TODAY, classes resume on January 3rd**  
**QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

**Feast of the Holy Family**

**Theme:** Jesus establishes his obedience to and relationship with God the Father.

**Question for Children:** Why is it important to obey our parents? Why is it important to obey God?

**Question for Youth:** Jesus was obedient to his parents, even though he was the Son of God. Why is obedience so important? Is it something you struggle with?

**Question for Adults:** How are you, too, called to our Father's house?

**Pregunta de la semana**

**Fiesta de la Sagrada Familia**

**Tema:** Jesús establece su obediencia a y su relación con Dios el Padre.

**Pregunta para los niños:** ¿Por qué es importante obedecer a sus padres? ¿Por qué es importante obedecer a Dios?

**Pregunta para los jóvenes:** Jesús, aunque era el Hijo de Dios, era obediente con sus padres. ¿Por qué es tan importante la obediencia? ¿Te cuesta ser obediente?

**Pregunta para los adultos:** ¿Cómo a ustedes también se les llama a la casa del Padre?

**Youth and Young Adults – Save this date!** – Bishop Malooly invites you to gather in prayer and support for our vocations.



Each of us is called and the church needs Priests, Deacons, Religious and committed laity to build up and support the family and this the Church.

Mindful that some of you may be on break from college we planned a Holy Hour on Friday, January 15 at 7:00pm at St. Joseph on the

Brandywine. Questions? Contact Fr. Carroll at 302-573-3113 or [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org).

**Are you called to be a Deacon?**



The Diocese of Wilmington welcomes applicants for a new class of Permanent Deacons that will begin formation in June 2016. The five-year preparation program consists of human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation. Spiritual formation programs are held one Saturday a month during the initial year of discernment. Academic

formation, beginning with the second year, takes place one weekend a month from September to June. Applicants must be 60 or younger when the program begins. Minimum ordination age is 35. Applicants must demonstrate a zeal for service to God's people; experience in some volunteer parish or diocesan ministry is preferred.

Information nights are scheduled from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the following locations:

Tues, January 12, 2016

Church of the Holy Child, 2500 Naamans Rd.,  
Wilm, DE 19810

Parish Activities Center (Education Wing)

Thursday, January 14, 2016

Holy Cross, 631 S. State St., Dover, DE 19901  
Early Learning Center (2<sup>nd</sup> floor)

Thursday, January 21, 2016

St. Francis de Sales, 535 Riverside Drive, Salisbury,  
MD 21801  
Mercy Hall

Wives of interested married men are invited and strongly encouraged to attend. The sessions will discuss the role of the permanent deacon, qualifications for admission, and the formation process.

For further information and registration, please contact the Office for Deacons at 302-573-2390.



**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

Diocese of Wilmington

Helping Catholic Charities this year can be as easy as shopping!

Catholic Charities is a participant in the AmazonSmile Foundation, which donates 0.5% of the purchase price of to Catholic Charities. So, as shop online this Christmas, visit <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/51-0065685> to automatically support Catholic Charities with your purchases on Amazon.

Are you planning a household remodel or facelift in preparation for the holidays? Don't discard your gently-used household goods – donate them! Catholic Charities Thrift Center in Wilmington is in great need of furniture, mattresses, and working appliances. Demand for these items continues to outpace our supply. To schedule a pickup, call the Thrift Center at 302-764-2717.