

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., Fridays 9:30-Noon, Closed Wednesdays.

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

December 31, 2017 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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. John T. Solomon, 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,

A joke, as it is told in New York these days, goes as follows: The Seven Dwarfs were marching through the forest one day, and they fell in a deep, dark ravine. Snow White, who was following along, looked over the edge of the ravine and called out to the fallen dwarfs. From the depths of the dark hole a voice returned, "The Giants are Super Bowl contenders." And Snow White thought to herself, "Thank God! At least Dopey survived!"

Bowled Over! Dopey's prognostication aside, the Super Bowl is an event to which everyone can relate. It's like Christmas Day for sports fan – that is, it's like a high holy day (though, I confess, I'm partial to the World Series; that's much holier). I think of the Super Bowl as being, for most people, a strategic and important day.

Many folks build their calendar around that day. And then in the days that follow it, all conversations point back to the events of Super Bowl Sunday. Whether it's about the game itself, the half-time show, the point spread, the local football pool, or the commercials during it, the Super Bowl captivates while it is on, and dominates our conversational lives in its wake.

Eight Days a Week. In similar way, the days after Christmas comprise a period called the Octave (or Eight Days) of Christmas. This Octave covers the period from December 25-January 1. Just as all conversations in the days following the Super Bowl point back to the events of Super Bowl Sunday, so in these eight days following Christmas we are commended to continue engaging in prayer, liturgy, and indeed in the manner of our lives, in ways that points back to

Christmas. Christmas, that is, the coming of God into our world in the person of Jesus Christ, is to frame everything about these eight days of celebration.

Mother's Day. However, it is the final day, or "octave day," of this Christmas Octave, that really focuses us back to the events of that Christmas night: that holy night, that night Divine, when Christ was born. Christ our Savior didn't fall from the sky, or beam down like a crew member of the Starship Enterprise. No, he was born of a woman, Mary. And so, on January 1, we celebrate the unique and profound Motherhood of Mary by observing the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

Loose Change. Those old enough to remember, may recall that prior to 1971, January 1 used to be the day on which the Church celebrated the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord.

Interestingly, the Church used to use the exact same Gospel reading for the Feast of the Circumcision as we use today for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. I guess when they changed the Church calendar for January 1, that reading wasn't (ahem) circumscribed. However, with the change of the Holy Day, from the Circumcision to Mary, Mother of God, the overarching message and focus of the day has shifted also.

Law and Order. Back in the day, the feast of the Circumcision of the Lord, highlighted the Gospel teaching that Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and that they observed their faith and brought their child Jesus to be circumcised as all Jewish boys were required to be on the eighth day after their birth. The emphasis of the feast day was that Mary and Joseph did this in respect for the law.

Love and Order. These days, on January 1, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, the Gospel that is read is still the one refers to the circumcision of Christ. What's the difference then between then and now, on this holy day? I'd say it is one of emphasis. While the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord emphasized obedience to the law as a driving force (hence Jesus being circumcised). The new feast emphasizes (especially since it follows Holy Family Sunday), that Mary raised Jesus and followed her faith not for the sake of merely ritually following the law, but rather she did to be a good mother to her son. Mary knew this child was something special, and so she didn't have Jesus circumcised for the sake of following the law. Rather she had him circumcised because it was the right thing to do, as it was following the will of God.

A Shot in the Arm. To make an analogy: When parents have young children, those children may need to get certain shots to protect them from disease and sickness. I am willing to bet that most parents don't take their child for those shots just because the law required it; I'd expect that most of them take their children to get those shots because they love their children and care about their well-being. In this sense, a parent is fulfilling the law requiring inoculations, but not merely out of duty, but rather, and more importantly, out of love. They were fulfilling the law with all the correct intentions! Mary did likewise, as a good mother.

Yes, Indeed! And so, when we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, we remember Mary's maternal role in the plan of our salvation. Mary said "yes" to God: "Yes, I will bear your Son." And she said this not out of a sense of guilt or obligation, but rather she said "yes" the way God wants to hear "yes" from us: freely, out of love of doing his holy will. This is what we call the Fiat of Mary (no, it's not a car); her "fiat" refers to her freely choosing to say "yes."

And so, we remember Mary as a woman of faith, who had her Son, our Lord, circumcised eight days after his birth as a sign of that loving faith. And on January 1, eight days after the Angels sang of Christ's birth, we, like Mary, act in faith. We come to Church for a Holy Day; we fulfil an obligation but we fulfil it out of love, in imitation of Mary, and in love of Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor



MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, Dec. 31: Holy Family of Jesus
8:30am: Lilly Herin
11:00am: For the People
 Misa en Español **1:00pm** For the People

New Year's Eve: Solemnity of Mary
5:00pm: For the People
7:00pm: For the People

New Year's Day: Solemnity of Mary
Monday, January 1, 2018
9:00am: For the People

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2018:
8:30am: Thompson & Harter Families
11:00am: For the People
 Misa en Español **1:00pm** For the People

2018 Mass book is open. To request a Mass, please contact the Office.

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Regular Offertory: \$ to be posted next week
Christmas offering: \$ to be posted next week

Second Collection Today: Supplementary

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

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Dec 31 – Masses
Mon, Jan. 1- New Years Day
Mon, Jan 1- Office closed
Tue, Jan 2- 7pm Juan XXIII
Thur, Jan 4 – 7pm Misa
Thur, Jan 4- Directiva
Fri, Jan 5- 6:30pm- Ministry Epiphany party
Sat, Jan 6- 6:30pm Culto

Knights of Columbus



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

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Collection Counters

Jan 7 Frank & Joyce Cristiano
Jan 14 Robin & Paul Engstenberg
Jan 21 Tom & Mary McGowan

Church Cleaning Crew

Enero 5, 2018 Grupo #6

Santos Juárez, Arturo Ramírez, Eva Bravo, Herminda Bravo, Paulina Morales, Silvia Ramírez

Enero 12, 2018 Grupo #6

Ovidio Roblero, Natalina Capistran, Fausto Ortiz, Everilda Pérez, Amanda Salas, Ashley Salas

Altar Servers

January 7, 2018

8:30am Mass – Mike Dixon & Anna Clancy

11:00am Mass – Savannah Strauss & Sherlin Santizo

Spanish Misa 1pm – Jeffrey Gabriel & Sofia Ramirez

Lectors

January 7, 2018

8:30am Mass – Diane Smith

11:00am Mass – Sherry Tucker

Spanish Misa 1pm – Ada Escalante, Juan Ramírez

Eucharistic Ministers

January 7, 2018

8:30am Mass – Deacon, Marilyn Dixon, Gerry Godfrey

11:00am Mass – Deacon, Laura Schlaupitz, Judy Carrow

Spanish Misa 1pm – Adelaida Velásquez, Epifanio Morales, Guadalupe Morales, Adrián Miranda, Carlos Miguel



All Ministries! Invitations for the ministry party have been mailed. Please plan to join us for our Epiphany Pirate Pollyanna, Friday, January 5th at 6:30pm in the parish hall, bring a dish and gift.

New schedules have been mailed out. Please look for in mail

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat for post-abortion healing will be held at Jesus House, Wilmington, DE April 6-8. The retreat weekend is a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion to heal. For more information contact Nan Freeman at 302-307-6130 or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org

FROM THE DRE'S DESK

**School of Religious Education
September 24, 2017-May 6, 2018
9:40am-10:50am**

No classes on December 31st.

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th.

Have safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.


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**Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation:
Saturday, January 13, at 9am & 11am,
at Holy Cross in Dover.**

**Please keep our children in prayer as
30 from Immaculate Conception will receive the
Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.**



BRINGING IT HOME- Being raised in the traditions of the Church can sometime feel like an unnecessary burden and inconvenience. We are reminded today, however, that even Christ adhered to His parent's traditions. Surely we cannot claim to know more than Christ. Our traditions are what strengthen our faith, and what brings us closer to the Lord. We should be thankful that individuals like our parents have prioritized our faith in order to pass on these traditions, and the truths that they reveal. This week take a moment to thank those that have helped to raise you in the faith. Say a prayer to thank God for placing them in your life and blessing you with their guidance.

Marriage & Family Life Corner

Marriage Moment –

Christmas is over but the visiting and company may continue through the holidays. Although generally a happy time of family togetherness, it 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 –

How will you celebrate the end of 2017? Gather and remember the joys of the year (birthdays, accomplishments, milestones) and sorrows (deaths, hurts, mistakes). End with a group hug.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Theme: Families grow through good times and bad.

Question for Children: Why is it important for you to obey your parents or guardians?

Question for Youth: God chose to be among us in the person of Jesus. How does having a God who knows what it means to be human affect the way you pray or think about God?

Question for Adults: Whether single, married, or divorced, how does Paul's advice ring true in your own life? Choose one of his suggestions and share how it touches your life.

La Sagrada Familia de Jesús, María y José

Tema: Las familias crecen en los tiempos buenos y en los malos.

Pregunta para los niños: ¿Por qué es importante que obedezcas a tus padres o tutores?

Pregunta para los jóvenes: Dios eligió estar entre nosotros mediante la persona de Jesús. ¿Cómo el tener un Dios que sabe lo que significa ser humano influencia la manera en la queoras a Dios o lo que piensas de Él?

Pregunta para los adultos: Sin importar que sea soltero, casado o divorciado, ¿en qué se parecen los consejos que da Pablo a lo que pasa en su vida? Elija una de sus sugerencias y comente de qué manera afecta su vida.



Saint Thomas More Academy

133 Thomas More Drive, Magnolia, DE 19962

Saint Thomas More Academy is a Catholic College Preparatory School located in Kent County. Saint Thomas More is Faith Focused, Teacher Connected,

Arts Inspired, College Centered and Honor Guided.

Happy New Year from Saint Thomas More Academy!

May every day of the New Year glow with cheer and happiness for you and your family. Have a prosperous and healthy New Year!

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 to learn why we were voted

2017 Best Private School in Kent County.



Queridos feligreses,

Una broma, como se dice en estos días en Nueva York, es lo siguiente: Los Siete Enanitos marcharon un día por el bosque y cayeron en un profundo y oscuro barranco. Blanca Nieves, que los seguía, miró por encima del barranco y llamó a los enanos caídos. Desde lo más profundo del agujero oscuro, una voz regresó: "Los Gigantes son contendientes al Super Bol". Y Blancanieves pensó para sí misma: "¡Gracias a Dios! ¡Al menos el Mudito (Dopey) sobrevivió!"

iPor Encima! Dejando a un lado el pronóstico del Mudito(Dopey), el Super Bol es un evento con el que todos pueden relacionarse. Es como el día de Navidad para los fanáticos de los deportes, es decir, como un día sagrado (aunque, lo confieso, soy parcial la Serie Mundial, para mí eso es mucho más sagrado). Pienso que el Super Bol es, para la mayoría de las personas, es un día estratégico e importante. Muchas personas construyen su calendario alrededor de ese día. Y luego, en los días que siguen, todas las conversaciones apuntan a los eventos del domingo del Super Bol. Ya sea sobre el juego en sí, el espectáculo de medio tiempo, la diferencia de puntos, el conjunto de fútbol local o los comerciales durante el juego, el Super Bol cautiva mientras están jugando y domina nuestras vidas conversacionales a su paso.

Ocho Días a la Semana. De manera similar, los días posteriores a la Navidad abarcan un período llamado Octava (Ocho días) de Navidad. Esta Octava abarca el período entre el 25 de diciembre y el 1 de enero. Del mismo modo que todas las conversaciones en los días posteriores al Super Bol apuntan a los acontecimientos del domingo del Super Bol, en estos ocho días posteriores a la Navidad se nos encomienda continuar la oración y la liturgia, y de hecho en la forma de nuestras vidas, en formas que apuntan hacia la Navidad. La Navidad, es decir, la venida de Dios a nuestro mundo en la persona de Jesucristo, es enmarcar todo acerca de estos ocho días de celebración.

Día de la Madre. Sin embargo, es el último día, o "octava", de esta Octava, de Navidad que realmente nos devuelve a los eventos de esa noche de Navidad: esa noche santa, esa noche Divina, cuando nació Cristo. Cristo nuestro Salvador no cayó del cielo ni bajó como un miembro de la tripulación de la nave espacial Enterprise. No, nació de una mujer, María. Y así, el 1 de enero, celebramos la Maternidad única y profunda de María al observar la solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios.

Cambios Suelto. Los que tienen edad suficiente para recordar, recordaran que antes de 1971, el 1 de enero solía ser el día en que la Iglesia celebraba la Fiesta de la Circuncisión del Señor. Curiosamente, la Iglesia solía utilizar exactamente la misma lectura del Evangelio para la Fiesta de la Circuncisión que usamos hoy para la solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios. Supongo que cuando cambiaron el calendario de la Iglesia para el 1 de enero, esa lectura no estaba (ejem) circunscrita. Sin embargo, con el cambio del Día de Precepto, desde la circuncisión hasta María,

Madre de Dios, el mensaje general y el enfoque del día también han cambiado.

Ley y Orden. En el pasado, la fiesta de la circuncisión del Señor, destacó la enseñanza del Evangelio de que María y José eran judíos fieles y que observaron su fe y trajeron a su hijo Jesús para ser circuncidado ya que todos los niños judíos debían estar en el octavo día después de su nacimiento. El énfasis del día de la fiesta fue que María y José hicieron esto respetando la ley.

Amor y Orden Hoy en , el 1 de enero, cuando celebramos la solemnidad de María, la Madre de Dios, el Evangelio que se lee todavía se refiere a la circuncisión de Cristo. ¿Cuál es la diferencia entonces entre entonces y ahora, en este día sagrado? Yo diría que es uno de énfasis. Mientras que la Fiesta de la Circuncisión del Señor hizo hincapié en la obediencia a la ley como una fuerza motriz (por lo tanto, Jesús está circuncidado). La nueva fiesta enfatiza (especialmente porque sigue al Domingo de la Sagrada Familia), que María crió a Jesús y siguió su fe no por el simple hecho de seguir ritualmente la ley, sino que lo hizo para ser una buena madre para su hijo. María sabía que este niño era algo especial, por lo que no circuncidaba a Jesús por el cumplimiento de la ley. Más bien lo hizo circuncidar porque era lo correcto, ya que estaba siguiendo la voluntad de Dios.

Una Inyección en el Brazo. Para hacer una analogía: cuando los padres tienen niños pequeños, esos niños pueden necesitar ciertas vacunas para protegerlos de virus y enfermedades. Estoy dispuesto a apostar que la mayoría de los padres no llevan a sus hijos por esas vacunas solo porque la ley así lo exige; Esperaría que la mayoría de ellos llevan a sus hijos para recibir esas vacunas porque aman a sus hijos y se preocupan por su bienestar. En este sentido, un padre está cumpliendo la ley que exige las vacunas, pero no solo por obligación, sino, y más importante aún, por amor. ¡Ellos estaban cumpliendo la ley con todas las intenciones correctas! María hizo lo mismo, como una buena madre.

iSí, Y de Hecho! Y así, cuando celebramos la solemnidad de María, Madre de Dios, recordamos el papel materno de María en el plan de nuestra salvación. María dijo "Sí" a Dios: "Sí, llevaré a tu Hijo". Y ella dijo esto no por sentimiento de culpa u obligación, sino que dijo "sí" de la manera en que Dios quiere escuchar nuestro "sí": libremente, por amor a hacer su santa voluntad. Esto es lo que llamamos el Fiat de María (no, no es un automóvil); su "fiat" se refiere a que libremente elige decir "sí".

Y así, recordamos a María como una mujer de fe, que tuvo a su Hijo, nuestro Señor, circuncidado ocho días después de su nacimiento como un signo de esa amorosa fe. Y el 1 de enero, ocho días después de que los Ángeles cantaron el nacimiento de Cristo, nosotros, como María, actuamos con fe. Venimos a la iglesia por un día sagrado; cumplimos una obligación, pero la cumplimos por amor, a imitación de María y en amor a Cristo.

Tuyo en Cristo, **P. James Lentini**, Párroco