

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., 9:30-12noon Fridays, Closed Wednesdays

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

February 26, 2017 – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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,
Thursday evening 6:30pm

And by appointment at any reasonable time

Pastoral Care and Liturgy

Very Rev. James S. Lentini, V.F., Pastor
Rev. Michael Angeloni, Associate Pastor
Rev. Idongeset Etim, 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**.

Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Our New Priest. Let me take this time to welcome the newest member of Parish's clergy family: Our new parochial vicar, Fr. Idongeset Etim (a.k.a., Fr. Etim). Fr. Etim was ordained in 2009, alongside one of our former priests, Fr. Carlos. Since then he has served as a Parochial Vicar at both Our Lady of Fatima and St. John the Beloved parishes, in New Castle and Wilmington, respectively. It should be noted that Fr. Etim was a parishioner at Holy Cross in the early 2000s. Like Fr. Olson and Fr. Lentini before him, Fr. Etim developed his vocation during his time at Holy Cross and from there went to the seminary. And now, he returns to Holy Cross and to Immaculate Conception as a Parish Priest. Over the next few weeks, you will have a chance to meet and know our new priest. Please join me in welcoming him to our Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes.

Of Baseball, Lent and Sacrifices. In baseball, a "sacrifice" (or "sacrifice bunt") is defined as: a batter's act of deliberately bunting the ball in a manner that allows a

runner on base to advance to another base, while the batter himself doesn't reach first base. In this course of action, the batter is almost always sacrificed. What exactly does he sacrifice? Many things: himself, his chance to get on base, his chance at a single, double, triple or homer, his stats, his time on the field of play, etc. But, in truth, he knows that when he commits to that sacrifice he is doing a good thing, the right thing, and best thing for advancement to victory. He gains far more from that sacrifice than he loses.

Of Loss and Gain. The season of Lent is upon us; it begins this week with Ash Wednesday. The Season of Lent is a time when, among other things, we as Catholics, are called to sacrifice in several ways. And like the aforementioned bunting baseball player, when we sacrifice, we, too, gain far more than we what we give up.

Benefits of Sacrifice. The sense of sacrifice during the season of Lent, allows us to shun those things we want or like and focus on those things we need. It allows to focus

on examining our hearts and see how things stand between us and God. That focus allows us to ask key questions: Have we moved away from God? Has our faith waned? Have we done things that we regret doing? Have we not lived our lives according to God and his commandments and his Church? This is the season of Church year in which we pause, reflect, and prepare to turn back to the Lord – and repent from ways that have distanced us from God.

The sacrificial aspect of Lent, combined with almsgiving and prayer, allows us to properly prepare for that repentance and reflection. It calls on us to abstain or sacrifice from things that might naturally be a predilection or temptation for us. Sacrifice, for us, during Lent occurs in several ways, to wit:

- **Fasting.** The Church commands that we fast on Ash Wednesday and then again Good Friday; this means a reduction in our consumption of food and drink.
- **Abstinence.** On all Fridays in Lent, we abstain from meat, which, speaking for myself is truly a sacrifice as I love my burgers, steaks, hot dogs, veal parmigiana, and so on.
- **Personal Sacrifice.** There is a very good and long standing tradition in our faith of finding something during Lent to sacrifice – a small of way of showing God that you love Him so much, and wish to share in his Son’s sacrifice so much, that you are making a powerful sacrifice. I remember one Lent giving up my favorite beverages, another giving up McDonald’s (which was good for me, but probably caused layoffs at the McDonald’s).

Why Sacrifice? So, people may ask, “Why do you Catholics sacrifice and fast during Lent? Why do you give up things for Lent? When did God ask anyone to sacrifice?” Moreover, if that inquiring person knows his scriptures, he may even toss in, “Didn’t God say he

desires mercy and not sacrifice?” All great questions... and there is a simple answer, direct answer to all of them.

Back in the Day. You see, there is a good basis for our sacrificial sense during Lent, and it is all bound up in Scripture and Tradition, which teaches us that fasting aids us in avoiding the near occasion of sin. Where did this all begin? Well, it goes back to the very beginning of man. One of the very first commands that God gave to man was in the Garden of Eden when he told Adam and Eve to abstain for eating one specific fruit: “The LORD God gave the man this order: ‘You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil.’” (Genesis 2, 16-17a).

One could say, as did St. Basil the Great: “fasting was ordained in Paradise.” Now, we are all aware that the “Adam and Eve No Forbidden Fruit Diet Plan” didn’t work out for them... or us. We are all effected by that original sin of man, of failing to fast/abstain in the Garden of Eden. Thus, in one sense, fasting can be seen as a manner in which we work to restore friendship with God. That is, our Lenten sacrifices and disciplines can be understood as trying to overcome the temptation that felled Adam and Eve.

The New Covenant. Also, it must be noted, that in light of the New Testament and the New Covenant sealed in the Blood of Christ, we also, and more profoundly understand our sacrifices as a form of sharing in the sacrifice of Christ, who died that we might live. Christ shows us the value of sacrifice every time we gaze upon the crucifix. And so, as you commit to your Lenten sacrifices, meditate upon the depth of Christ’s sacrifice; in doing so, you will celebrate his victory over sin and death all the more when Easter arrives.

This Lent, as you sacrifice (fasting, abstinence, and personal sacrifice), don’t feel that you are losing out on anything, but rather, like the bunting batter I spoke of, realize that you are gaining far more than you are giving up.

Yours in Christ, Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun., Feb. 26 8:30: Ruth Gulrich
11:00: Sam Broomall
 Misa en Español **7pm For the People**
ASH WEDNESDAY:
 Wed. March 1 9am **For the People**
5:30pm For the People
 Misa en Español **7pm For the People**
Sun., Mar., 5 8:30: Robert Messner
11:00: For the People
 Misa en Español **7pm For the People**

The Mass book for the 2017 year is now open.

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Regular Offertory: \$ 3068.00
Supplementary: \$ 661.55
Second Collection Today: Supplementary

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

Tax Letters are prepared and available for pick up at the Church Office.



Join the Knights of Columbus and your Parish Community for Shrove Tuesday Dinner in the Hall at 5PM this week.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Collection Counters

Feb 26 Frank & Joyce Cristiano

Mar 5 Paul & Robin Engstenberg

Mar 12 Tom & Mary McGowan

Church Cleaning Crew

March 3, 2017 Grupo #5

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

March 10, 2017 Grupo #6

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

Altar Servers

Note: Servers Needed for Ash Wednesday

Mar 5

8:30am Mass – Anna Clancy & Mikey Dixon

11:00am Mass – Savannah Strauss & Carmine Poppiti

Spanish Misa 7pm – Emily & Yorly Escalante

Lectors

Mar 5

8:30am Mass – Paul McQuaide

11:00am Mass – Sherry Tucker

Spanish Misa 7pm – Juan Diaz, Rubelio Velásquez

Eucharistic Ministers

Note: Ministers Needed for Ash Wednesday

Mar 5

8:30am Mass – Deacon Tormey, Chris & Joyce Ford

11:00am Mass – Deacon Mitchell, Gerri Garvin, Bob

Vanvessan

Spanish Misa 7pm – Ovidio Roblero, Natalina

Capistran, Salome Morales, Anselmo Escalante,

Verónica Bravo



Shrove Tuesday Supper:

February 28th at 5PM

Breakfast items, chicken and burgers.

Donations Appreciated.

Our Knights of Columbus are sponsoring and coordinating this as a Parish Community Event.

PS - Helpers are still needed for serving. This is a great opportunity for students scheduling service projects.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Feb 26 9:40am SRE Classes

Sun, Feb 26 1pm RICA

Mon, Feb 27 7pm ESL

Tue, Feb 28 5pm Shrove Dinner in Hall RCIA

Tue, Feb 28 7pm RCIA

Wed, March 1 ASH WEDNESDAY MASS:

9am, 5:30pm and 7pm(Spanish)

Fri, Mar 3 7pm Stations of the Cross

Sat, Mar 4 6:30pm Culto



Knights of Columbus

We meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month at 6:30pm. **Come join us!**

For more info, contact Grand Knight, Harry Brown 302-233-8336.

Follow us on Facebook @ **Knights of Columbus Council 12509**

Marriage & Family Life Corner

Marriage Moment –

"Do not worry about your life." (Mt 6:26) Worries come naturally into most couple's lives. It may seem unrealistic not to worry. Try watching some birds today. It's winter, but somehow they are surviving. Do they look sad? Learn from the birds.

Parenting Pointer –

Children whine and complain. (OK, adults do this too.) Join with your child to make a "Gratitude List." See how many things you can each think of for which you are grateful.



Join Come And Seek along with other men like yourself, who think the Lord may be calling them to be a priest.

- + Saint Francis de Sales Parish Office Complex, located at the corner of Camden Avenue and Wicomico Street in Salisbury, Maryland on March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. For information, contact Fr. Glenn Evers at (410) 882-3244.
- + Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, 7200 Lancaster Pike in Hockessin, Delaware on March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Contact Father Chris Coffey at (302) 239-7100 x 24 for information.



FROM THE DRE'S DESK
School of Religious Education

Religious Education Classes
9:40am-10:50am on Sundays

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

First Communion Preparation – Session #4, Tuesday, March 7, 6:30-7:30pm in the hall.

Confirmation Preparation- Session # 6, Sunday, March 12, 12:30-3:30pm in the hall.

ADULT FORMATION:

6 Weeks with the Bible: The next sessions begins March 8th - Lenten Journey with Luke- "The Good News of God's Mercy"

Answer Bishop Malooly's Invitation to Love Without Measure.



*Bishop Malooly invites youth and young adults from all parishes and schools to join him as we come together for the eighth annual **Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 8, 2017.** Young people from across the diocese will carry the diocesan pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wilmington with the bishop as a representation of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and his journey on Good Friday to Calvary. The day begins at St. Elizabeth parish with opening prayer and a concert featuring Cooper Ray at 10:30 am. We conclude with the 5pm Mass at St. Elizabeth. Don't miss this great opportunity to wrap up your Lenten journey with hundreds of your peers. **Cost for the day is \$15 per person or \$45 max per family (bring your own lunch).** For more information, visit www.cdowcym.org. To register, **please contact Alicia Poppiti at (410) 482-8939.***



This week we are presented with one of my favorite passages. The message is simple; worry not for the Lord will provide. How often have you found yourself stressing over or worrying about things that you need? Maybe it's making the mortgage or concerns about having enough food in the house. These concerns can tend to creep up during tough economical times. While these stressors are certainly valid Jesus provides us with comfort through this message, assuring us that the Lord will provide. Recognizing that anxiety and stress will only hold you back can allow you to focus on those things that you have control over. During these times are you turning to the Lord for comfort? Are you trusting in Him? When you do you may be surprised by the results.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Theme: God is always present in our life.

Question for Children: What do you worry about? What can you do to stop worrying and rely on God?

Question for Youth: Do you serve two masters? If so, what can you do to stop and serve only God?

Question for Adults: Who really is the master of your life?

8o domingo del tiempo ordinario

Tema: Dios siempre está presente en nuestras vidas.

Pregunta para los niños: ¿De qué se preocupan? ¿Qué pueden hacer para dejar de preocuparse y depender de Dios?

Pregunta para los jóvenes: ¿Sirven a dos amos? De ser así, ¿qué pueden hacer para solo servir a un amo?

Pregunta para los adultos: ¿Quién es realmente el maestro de sus vidas?



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend - MARCH 24-26th

is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together. A time to share their feelings, hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations, and do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person they have chosen to live with for the rest of their lives.

Call: 1-302-220-9833 or visit: www.wwme-delmar.org Application Fee of \$100 confirms your food and lodging.

Catholic Charities asks all its communities to "Stock the Pantry"



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Diocese of Wilmington

by contributing nonperishable food goods now through March 2017.

"Over 3,000 households in the Diocese depend on Catholic Charities for food assistance, often on a monthly basis. Our Stock the Pantry drive helps us meet the increasing demand we are experiencing," said Richelle Vible, Catholic Charities' Executive Director. "At least 1 in 5 of our neighbors does not have enough to eat on a daily basis, and must choose between buying food and making their rent, mortgage, or utility payment."

Catholic Charities will accept donations at its locations Monday through Friday between 9 am to 4 p.m. Drop off food donations at:

Kent County Office	Seton Center
2099 S DuPont Highway	30632 Hampden Avenue
Dover, DE 19901	Princess Ann, MD 21853
(302) 674-1600	410-651-9608

To make an online monetary donation, visit Catholic Charities' website, www.cdow.org/charities. Designate your gift to Food Assistance

COLUMNA DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 26 DE FEBRERO, 2017.

Estimados feligreses,

Nuestro nuevo Sacerdote. Déjame aprovechar esta ocasión para darle la bienvenida al nuevo miembro de la familia clerical de la parroquia: Nuestro nuevo vicario parroquial, P. Idongeset Etim (a.k.a., P. Etim). El Padre Etim fue ordenado en 2009, junto a uno de nuestros sacerdotes, el Padre Carlos. Desde entonces ha servido como Vicario Parroquial en las parroquias Nuestra Señora de Fátima y San Juan el Amado, en New Castle y Wilmington, respectivamente. Cabe señalar que el P. Etim era un parroquiano en Holy Cross a principios de los años 2000. Como el padre Olson y el padre Lentini antes de ellos, el Padre Etim desarrolló su vocación durante su tiempo en Holy Cross y de allí fue al seminario. Y ahora vuelve a Santa Cruz y a la Inmaculada Concepción como sacerdote. Durante las próximas semanas, tendrán la oportunidad de hablar y conocer a nuestro nuevo sacerdote. Por favor de darle la bienvenida a nuestras Parroquias de Holy Cross y de la Inmaculada Concepción.

De Béisbol, Cuaresma y Sacrificios. En el béisbol, un "sacrificio" (o "bunt de sacrificio") se define como: el acto de un bateador de dar un suave golpe a la pelota que se hace dejando que la pelota golpee el bate (sin lanzar). Usado deliberadamente para sorprender a los jugadores de la defensa o hacer avanzar a un corredor a otra base, mientras que el bateador no alcanza primera base. En este curso de acción, el bateador es casi siempre sacrificado. ¿Qué sacrifica exactamente? Muchas cosas: él mismo, su oportunidad de llegar a la base, su oportunidad en un solo, un doble, un triple o un cuadrangular, sus estadísticas, su tiempo en el campo de juego, etc. Pero, en verdad, él sabe que cuando se compromete a ese sacrificio está consiente de que está haciendo lo correcto, y lo mejor para el avance a la victoria. Gana mucho más de ese sacrificio de lo que pierde.

De Pérdida y Ganancia. El tiempo de la Cuaresma está encima de nosotros; Comienza esta semana con el Miércoles de Ceniza. El Tiempo de Cuaresma es una época en la que, entre otras cosas, como católicos, estamos llamados a sacrificarnos de varias maneras. Y como el jugador de béisbol antes mencionado, cuando nos sacrificamos, nosotros también ganamos mucho más de lo que perdemos.

Beneficios del Sacrificio. El sentido de sacrificio durante el Tiempo de Cuaresma, nos permite evadir esas cosas que queremos o nos gusta y nos concentramos en aquellas cosas que necesitamos. Permite enfocarnos en examinar nuestros corazones y ver cómo están las cosas entre nosotros y Dios. Ese enfoque nos permite formular preguntas claves: ¿Nos hemos alejado de Dios? ¿Ha disminuido nuestra fe? ¿Hemos hecho cosas que lamentamos haber hecho? ¿No hemos vivido nuestras vidas según Dios, sus

mandamientos y su Iglesia? Este es el tiempo del año de la Iglesia en la que nos detenemos, reflexionamos y nos preparamos para regresar al Señor - y arrepentirnos de caminos que nos han alejado de Dios.

El aspecto sacrificial de la Cuaresma, combinado con la limosna y la oración, nos permiten prepararnos adecuadamente para ese arrepentimiento y nuestra reflexión. Nos invita a abstenernos o a sacrificarnos de cosas que, naturalmente, pueden ser una predilección o tentación para nosotros. Sacrificio, para nosotros, durante la Cuaresma se produce de varias maneras, a saber:

- **Ayuno.** La Iglesia ordena que ayunemos el miércoles de Ceniza y luego el Viernes Santo; Esto significa una reducción en nuestro consumo de alimentos y bebidas.

- **Abstinencia.** En todos los viernes de Cuaresma, nos abstenemos de la carne, que, hablando por mí es verdaderamente un sacrificio porque me gusta mis hamburguesas, filetes, perros calientes, ternera a la parmigiana, y así sucesivamente.

- **Sacrificio Personal.** Hay una muy buena y larga tradición en nuestra fe de encontrar algo durante la Cuaresma para sacrificar - una pequeña manera de mostrarle a Dios que verdaderamente lo amas, y deseas compartir el sacrificio de Su Hijo, que estás haciendo un gran sacrificio. Recuerdo una Cuaresma cuando renuncié a mis bebidas favoritas, otro no comer un McDonald's (que era bueno para mí, pero probablemente causó despidos en el McDonald's).

¿Por qué Sacrificio? Pues, la gente puede preguntar: "¿Por qué los católicos sacrifican y ayunan durante la Cuaresma? ¿Por qué renuncian a cosas en la Cuaresma? ¿Cuándo Dios pidió a alguien que se sacrificara? "Además, si esa persona investigadora conoce sus Escrituras, incluso puede decir" ¿No dijo Dios que desea misericordia y no sacrificios? "Todas buenas preguntas... y hay una simple respuesta, una respuesta directa a todos ellos.

En Aquellos Tiempos. Ves, hay una buena base para nuestro sentido de sacrificio durante la Cuaresma, y está todo enlazado en la Escritura y en la Tradición, que nos enseña que el ayuno nos ayuda a evitar las ocasiones de pecar. ¿Dónde empezó todo esto? Bueno, se remonta al principio del hombre. Una de los primeros mandamientos que Dios le dio al hombre fue en el Jardín del Edén cuando le dijo a Adán ya Eva que se abstuvieran de comer una fruta específica: "El Señor Dios le dio al hombre esta orden: "Tú eres libre de comer de cualquiera de los árboles del jardín, excepto del árbol del conocimiento del bien y del mal "(Génesis 2, 16-17a).

Se podría decir, como lo dijo San Basilio el Grande: "el ayuno fue ordenado en el Paraíso". Ahora, todos somos conscientes de que el "plan de dieta de Adán y Eva de la fruta Prohibida" no funcionó para ellos... o para nosotros. Todos somos afectados por ese pecado original del hombre, de no ayunar / abstenerse en el Jardín del Edén.

Así, en un sentido, el ayuno puede ser visto como una manera en la que trabajamos para restaurar la amistad con Dios. Es decir, nuestros sacrificios y disciplinas de Cuaresma pueden ser entendidos como tratando de superar la tentación que derribó a Adán y a Eva.

La Nueva Alianza. También hay que señalar que a la luz del Nuevo Testamento y de la Nueva Alianza sellado en la Sangre de Cristo, nosotros también, y de manera más profunda entendemos nuestros sacrificios como una forma de compartir el sacrificio de Cristo, quien murió para que pudiéramos vivir. Cristo nos muestra el valor del sacrificio cada vez que contemplamos el crucifijo. Y así, mientras ustedes se comprometen con sus sacrificios de Cuaresma, mediten en la profundidad del sacrificio de Cristo; Al hacerlo, celebrarán aún más ,Su victoria sobre el pecado y sobre la muerte cuando llegue la Pascua.

Esta Cuaresma, mientras sacrificas (ayuno, abstinencia y sacrificio personal), no sientas que estás perdiendo nada, sino que, al igual que el bateador de que hablé, te das cuenta de que estás ganando mucho más de lo que estás dando.

Suyo en Cristo,
Fr. Lentini James
Párroco