

# 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](http://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.*

## January 14, 2018 – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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,

Roman Philosopher Seneca once mused, "A gift consists not in what is done or given, but in the intention of the giver or doer." A very sound truth that leads the Christian heart in its giving of gifts, most especially at Christmastime; we give freely and generously in imitation of Christ as a way of loving our neighbor, and honoring our Lord in doing so.

In this regard, I want to extend my gratitude and thankfulness for all of the many, many gifts, gift cards, cash gifts and greeting cards that I received from the members of the Parish. As always, I am deeply moved by your kindness. Be aware that appreciate all of these expressions of gift-giving made during the season of and in honor of the Birth of our Lord. Also, a special "thank you" for the many gifts of cakes, cookies, and other healthy delights etc., all of which I am now wearing. May God bless you all; please accept my heartfelt thanks!  
Fr. Lentini

This past Monday, due to a glitch-year in the Church calendar, we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord (which is normally celebrated on a Sunday). In the events of this holy day which marked for us the end of the Christmas season, Christ was "baptized" in the Jordan. That is to say, He underwent a symbolic washing away of sin, or as it is commonly called, a baptism of repentance. Now in truth, Jesus Christ did not need this Baptism, but underwent it to show us an example of what leads to holiness: turning back to God. Which is why God expresses his approval: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

**Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing.** In life, sometimes we can take common-place items, and make something more of them (or as it said today, we "re-purpose" them). This is what Jesus did: He took the action and elements of Baptism, and made it into more than just a symbolic washing. He made of it a Sacrament that is genuinely efficacious and of great dignity – that is to say, Baptism is not symbolic; it is real. When a person is baptized, he

leaves that Sacramental moment differently than he entered; not merely in terms of spiritual awareness, but substantially changed. When the water of Baptism is poured upon a person, and the words: “I baptized you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” are spoken, something happens. The natural and the supernatural world coalesce, and that person has an encounter with Jesus Christ: or as I like to call it, parodying a famous movie title, a “close encounter of the best kind.”

**Cause and Effect!** So, you may ask, what happens to that person when he encounters Christ in Baptism? Well, let me start by noting that the water that is poured upon a person in Baptism is water that a priest or deacon has invoked God upon, and is blessed. That water is understood to be the water that flowed from the side of Christ at his crucifixion. And as this water is of God, specifically of Christ, it does more than just wash, and it is more than just a symbolic element of repentance. It is now efficacious – it has an effect. In fact, the Sacrament of Baptism has six effects on a baptized person:

**Wipeout!** In movie franchises today, like *Spiderman* and *Star Trek* or even the eminently forgettable *Point Break*, the origin of the characters or the storyline is not merely retold, but reimagined or rebooted – and that usually makes scads of money. In Baptism our life with God is reimagined for what it can be at its best and purest; and our human nature is rebooted. In Baptism, all sins (original and extra crispy, as I like to say) are forgiven. Original sin, personal sins, and punishment due for those sins are wiped away. Thus Baptism gives a rebirth, a reboot, and nothing remains that would impede one’s entry into heaven. For all this talk of newness, however, the consequences of original sin (given to us by Adam and Eve’s disobedience) remain for all of us, especially concupiscence (an inclination to sin) which we all wrestle with throughout life, but can resist by God’s grace. (see the Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC] #1262-1264)

**Connections.** There’s an old saying in business and politics: It’s not *what* you know, it’s *who* you know. That is true also in the ecclesial realm of the faithful. A baptized person has connections. Those connections may not get you into Harvard, but they’ll get you into heaven. You see, in Baptism one is made a new creature – an adopted son of God who shares in God’s divine life. The baptized person becomes claimed by and connected to Christ and a co-heir with him, as well as becoming a temple of the Holy Spirit. (see CCC #1265)

**Grace-fullness.** In Baptism one receives “Sanctifying grace” (a.k.a. a share in God’s Divine Life). In life, this enables one to believe in God with faith, hope and love; it enables one to be guided by the Holy Spirit; it enables one to grow in goodness and virtue. The Devil hates this, and

tries to tempt us away from faith, hope and love, and move us to doubt, despair and selfishness, but keeping strong in faith, allows to maintain (to paraphrase a TV series title) *Grace Under Fire*. (see CCC #1266)

**Catholic Church, Inc.** In Baptism one becomes incorporated as a member of the body of Christ, and shares in Christ’s priestly, prophetic and kingly mission. This membership as a part of Christ’s mystical (supernatural) body, makes one a member of the Catholic Church and calls for that baptized person to serve others and to obey and submit to the authority of the Church in faith. (see CCC #1267-1270)

**A “Bunch” of Christian.** Just as TV’s Marcia, Jan and Cindy (and their mother Carol) became Brady family members with Greg, Peter and Bobby because of their new relationship to the father (Mike Brady), so, too, in Baptism one becomes connected by Sacramental bond to all baptized Christians. We all become brothers and sisters in Christ. Thus, Baptism is important, as it connects all Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ. (CCC 1271)

**Stain Alive, Stain Alive.** Did you ever have a Sharpie Marker (a.k.a. laundry marker) in your pants or shirt pocket without the lid on it? Embarrassingly, I can say that I have. And it makes a terrible mess; it makes a stain that cannot be removed! Hence, that type of marker it is oft referred to as an “indelible marker.” In Baptism, an indelible spiritual mark is made upon one’s soul which can never be removed, not even by sin. It impresses upon the soul a character (often referred to as seal or mark), by which we are incorporated into Christ and made members of the Catholic Church. That mark on our soul is kind of like a branding mark put on cattle; it permanently marks the ownership of the creature no matter where it may wander. So, too, no matter where we wander in life, Christ still calls us his own, and we can always come back to him. (CCC 1272-1273)

**Beginnings.** The rock group Chicago started its career with an early hit called *Beginnings*, which acclaimed: “*It’s only the beginning, of what I want to feel forever.*” Likewise, Baptism, the first of the seven Sacraments, is only the beginning of our life with Christ and it paves the way to the other Sacraments, and further encounters with Him. Today, we celebrate the Christ’s baptism in the Jordan, which he would later recast into what is our Sacrament of Baptism, which is “the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit.” (CCC #1213).

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini,  
Pastor

## MASS INTENTIONS:

**Sunday, Jan. 14**

**8:30:** Anna Adam

**11:00:** Jeanne Persinger

Misa en Español **1pm** For the People

**Thu Jan. 18 7pm** For the People

**Sunday, Jan. 21**

**8:30:** James Messner

**11:00: For the People**

Misa en Español **1pm** For the People

*2018 Mass book is now open.*

*To schedule a Mass, please contact the office.*

## STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

### Collection Counters

**Jan 14** Robin & Paul Engstenberg

**Jan 21** Tom & Mary McGowan

**Jan 28** Elisa & Tom Costello

### Church Cleaning Crew

**Enero 19 , 2018 Grupo # 7**

Rafael Morales, Marcos González, Osvaldo Miranda

Eleazar Santizo, Reyna Morales

**Enero 26, 2018 Grupo # 8**

Reynaldo Pérez, Maribel Ortiz, Juventino López,

Isenia Escalante, Clemente Escalante

### Altar Servers

**January 21**

**8:30am Mass** – Mike Dixon & Averi Locke

**11:00am Mass** – Savannah Strauss & Sherlin Santizo

**Spanish Misa 1pm** – Jose & Yareli Ortiz

### Lectors

**January 21**

**8:30am Mass** – Karen Cairns

**11:00am Mass** – Jim Ward

**Spanish Misa 1pm** – Juan Díaz, Rubelio Velásquez

### Eucharistic Ministers

**January 21**

**8:30am Mass** – Deacon Tormey, Brenda Lawson, Lani Small

**11:00am Mass** – Deacon Mitchell, Alicia Poppiti , Joan Stewart

**Spanish Misa 1pm** – Alberto Morales, Carlos Miguel, Flora Pérez, Miguel López, Antonio Pérez



### **Catholic Advocacy Network**

Stay informed on issues important to Catholics. It takes just 3-5 minutes to join. Join the Catholic Advocacy Network today by visiting <http://www.cdow.org/>

## COLLECTION TOTALS:

**Regular Offertory: \$3159.65**

**Supplementary: \$ 320.00**

**December 31: \$1952.05**

**\$645.00**

**Solemnity of Mary: \$1826.77**

**Second Collection Today: Supplementary**

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

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Sun, Jan 14 - 9:40am SRE Classes**

**Sun, Jan 14 – 2pm RICA**

**Sun, Jan 14 – 2:30 Confirmation Prep**

**Mon, Jan 15 – Office closed- MLK Holiday**

**Mon, Jan 15 & Wed Jan 17 7pm ESL**

**Sat, Jan 20 – 6:30pm Culto**

## Save The Date

### **Annual Penny Party**

**Sat., Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018**



Do you have a New Years Resolution to Clean out the Garage? PLEASE consider donating your “unwanted treasures” and yard-sale type items to our Penny Party FUNd-Raiser this year. We are accepting donations now through Feb 9th. Please drop off at the Office Garage or contact Alan Smith (302) 379-3878. See bulletin insert for more information.

## **Knights of Columbus**

**Next meeting - Tues, January 23rd**

**in the Knights Hall @ 7pm**

**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 [kelly29@comcast.net](mailto:kelly29@comcast.net)

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



### **Retrouvaille...a lifeline for Marriages**

Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication build intimacy and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. The next program begins on the weekend of February 16 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 our weekends, visit our web site at: [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

## FROM THE DRE'S DESK

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



**Confirmation Prep for teens: Today, Sunday, January 14, 2:30-4:30pm in the hall.**

### **Sacrament of 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation:**



Yesterday, January 13, at 9am & 11am, at Holy Cross in Dover, 30 of our young people received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation. Please keep our children in prayer, while they journey towards their First Communion.



### **BRINGING IT HOME-**

In the Gospel message today we hear Jesus ask, "What are you looking for?" This question is one that each of us should ask ourselves. The answer the two disciples provide is simple, but carries with it a commitment. By accepting Jesus as their teacher they also made a commitment to relent to His authority, and follow His guidance. As followers of Christ we too have agreed to take Him as our teacher. Do you ever struggle with Christ's teachings? Many do, but fortunately we have individuals to help us to understand His teachings. Who do you turn to when you struggle? When was the last time you sought out assistance with your walk with Christ? This week consider finding someone who can help you in your journey, and can assist you in deepening your relationship with Christ.



**Looking for the right fit for your child?  
St. Thomas More is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year.**

Schedule a visit to see what amazing opportunities your child can experience both inside and outside of the classroom at STMA.

The Class of 2017 was offered \$7,033,373 million dollars in college scholarship and grants.

Contact the Admissions Office to learn how your child can Get MORE @STMA! We encourage you to visit us in person or through our website [www.saintmore.org](http://www.saintmore.org) to learn why we were voted

**2017 Best Private School in Kent County.**



## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### **Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Theme:** God calls us to follow Christ.

**Question for Children:** What can you do this week to show that you are a follower of Jesus?

**Question for Youth:** Andrew seemed to know immediately that he should follow Jesus. Do you have that same sense of confidence in your faith in Jesus? What helps? What makes it hard?

**Question for Adults:** In what ways do you experience being called by Jesus? What does he want you to do?

### **2do domingo del tiempo ordinario**

**Tema:** Dios nos llama a seguir a Cristo.

**Pregunta para los niños:** ¿Qué puedes hacer esta semana para mostrar que eres seguidor de Jesús?

**Pregunta para los jóvenes:** Andrés parecía saber inmediatamente que debía seguir a Jesús. ¿Tienes ese mismo sentido de confianza en tu fe en Jesús? ¿Qué te ayuda? ¿Qué te lo hace difícil?

**Pregunta para los adultos:** ¿De qué maneras vive el llamado de Jesús? ¿Qué desea Él que usted que haga?

## **Are you being called to the Priesthood?**

Come socialize, talk, and hang-out with priests, and men like yourself, who think the Lord may be calling them to be a priest. Find out about the *amazing* life of the Priesthood.



CAS North will meet on January 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption in Hockessin, Delaware. For more information, contact Father Chris Coffey at [FrCoffey@sjbde.org](mailto:FrCoffey@sjbde.org) or call 302-999-0211.CAS

CAS- South will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Saint John the Apostle Church, 506 Seabury Drive, Milford, DE on January 22, 2018.. Contact Father John Solomon at [fatherjohnsolomon@gmail.com](mailto:fatherjohnsolomon@gmail.com) or 302-674-5787.

## **Marriage & Family Life Corner**

### **Marriage Moment –**

It's the season of New Year's Resolutions. This can be good, but it can also turn your focus away from your beloved to self-improvement. Today, make one specific Resolution to deepen your love.

### **Parenting Pointer –**

Does your child have any friends from different ethnicities? Find ways to mix or read stories of a different ethnic group.

## COLUMNA DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 14 DE ENERO, 2018.

Queridos feligreses,

El pasado lunes, debido a un desliz en el calendario de la Iglesia, este año celebramos el Bautismo del Señor (que normalmente se celebra los domingos). En los eventos de este día santo que marcó para nosotros el final del tiempo navideño, Cristo fue "bautizado" en el Jordán. Es decir, fue sometido al lavado simbólico del pecado, o como comúnmente se le llama, un bautismo de arrepentimiento. Ahora, en verdad, Jesucristo no necesitó este Bautismo, sino que lo experimentó para mostrarnos un ejemplo de lo que lleva a la santidad: volver a Dios. Por eso Dios expresa su aprobación: "Este es mi Hijo amado, en quien tengo mis complacencias".

**No Hay Nada Como la Cosa Real** En la vida, a veces podemos tomar elementos de lugares comunes y hacer algo más de ellos (o, como se dice hoy, los "reutilizamos"). Esto es lo que hizo Jesús: tomó la acción y los elementos del Bautismo, y lo convirtió en algo más que un lavado simbólico. Lo convirtió en un Sacramento que es genuinamente eficaz y de gran dignidad, es decir, el bautismo no es simbólico; es real. Cuando una persona es bautizada, deja ese momento sacramental de manera diferente a como entró; no solo en términos de conciencia espiritual, sino sustancialmente cambiado. Cuando el agua del Bautismo se derrama sobre una persona, y las palabras: "Yo te bautizo en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo y del Espíritu Santo" se pronuncian, algo sucede. El mundo natural y el mundo sobrenatural se unen, y esa persona tiene un encuentro con Jesucristo: o como me gusta llamarlo, parodiando un famoso título de película, un "encuentro cercano de la mejor clase".

**¡Causa y Efecto!** Entonces, puedes preguntar, ¿qué le sucede a esa persona cuando se encuentra con Cristo en el Bautismo? Pues bien, permítanme comenzar señalando que el agua que se derrama sobre una persona en el Bautismo es agua que un sacerdote o diácono ha invocado a Dios y que es bendecido. Se entiende que el agua es el agua que fluyó del

costado de Cristo en su crucifixión. Y como esta agua es de Dios, específicamente de Cristo, hace más que solo lavar, y es más que solo un elemento simbólico de arrepentimiento. Ahora es eficaz, tiene un efecto. De hecho, el Sacramento del Bautismo tiene seis efectos en una persona bautizada:

**1. ¡Borra!** En las franquicias de películas actuales, como Spiderman y Star Trek, o incluso en Point Break eminentemente olvidable, el origen de los personajes o la trama no se repite, sino que se reinventa, y eso suele generar un montón de dinero. En el Bautismo, nuestra vida con Dios se vuelve a imaginar para lo que puede ser mejor y más pura; y nuestra naturaleza humana se reinicia. En el Bautismo, No obstante, el bautizado permanecen ciertas consecuencias temporales del pecado, como los sufrimientos, la enfermedad, la muerte o las fragilidades inherentes a la vida como las debilidades de carácter, etc...así como una inclinación al pecado que la Tradición llama concupiscencia: "la concupiscencia, dejada para el combate, no puede dañar a los que no la consienten y la resisten con coraje por la gracia de Jesucristo. Antes bien "el que legítimamente lucha ,será coronado" (CIC #1262-1264).

**2. Conexiones.** Hay un viejo dicho en los negocios y en la política: *no es lo que sabes, es a quien conoces*. Eso es cierto también en el ámbito eclesial de los fieles. Una persona bautizada tiene conexiones. Esas conexiones a lo mejor no te lleven a Harvard, pero te llevarán al cielo. Verás, en el Bautismo uno se convierte en una **nueva criatura**: un hijo adoptivo de Dios que comparte la vida divina de Dios. La persona bautizada es reclamada y conectada con Cristo y es un coheredero con él, además de convertirse en un templo del Espíritu Santo. (ver CIC # 1265)

**3. Grace en Plenitud.** En el Bautismo uno recibe "gracia santificante" ( una comparte en la Vida Divina de Dios). En la vida, esto permite a uno creer en Dios con fe, esperanza y amor; permite a uno ser guiado por el

Espíritu Santo; permite a uno crecer en bondad y virtud. El diablo odia esto y trata de alejarnos de la fe, la esperanza y el amor, y nos mueve a la duda, la desesperación y el egoísmo, pero manteniéndose fuerte en la fe, permite perseverar. Gracia santificante, gracia de la justificación. (parafraseando el título de una serie de televisión) Grace Under Fire. (ver CCC # 1266)

**4. Iglesia Católica Inc.** En el Bautismo, uno se incorpora como miembro del cuerpo de Cristo y participa en la misión sacerdotal, profética y real de Cristo. Esta membresía como parte del cuerpo místico (sobrenatural) de Cristo, lo hace a uno miembro de la Iglesia Católica y exige que esa persona bautizada sirva a otros y obedezca y se someta a la autoridad de la Iglesia con fe. (ver CIC # 1267-1270)

**5. Un "Montón" de Cristianos.** Justo cuando Marcia, Jan y Cindy (y su madre Carol) de la serie de TV se convirtieron en miembros de la familia Brady con Greg, Peter y Bobby debido a su nueva relación con el padre (Mike Brady), también en el Bautismo uno se conecta por un vínculo sacramental con todos los cristianos bautizados. Todos nos convertimos en hermanos y hermanas en Cristo. Por lo tanto, el bautismo es importante, ya que conecta a todos los cristianos como hermanos y hermanas en Cristo. (CIC 1271)

**6. Manteniéndote Vivo, Manteniéndote Vivo.** ¿Alguna vez tuvo un Marcador Sharpie (por ejemplo, un marcador de lavandería) en tus pantalones o en el bolsillo de tu camisa sin la tapa puesta? De manera vergonzosa, puedo decir que me ha pasado. Y hace un desastre terrible; ¡hace una mancha que no se puede quitar! Por lo tanto, ese tipo de marcador a menudo se denomina "marcador indeleble". En el Bautismo, se hace una marca espiritual indeleble en el alma que nunca se puede quitar, ni siquiera por el pecado. Impresiona sobre el alma un personaje (a menudo denominado sello o marca), mediante el cual nos incorporamos a Cristo y nos hacemos miembros de la Iglesia Católica. Esa marca en nuestra alma es como una marca marcada en el ganado; marca permanentemente de la propiedad de la criatura, sin importar dónde pueda vagar. Entonces, también, sin importar

a dónde vayamos en la vida, Cristo todavía nos llama suyos, y siempre podemos volver a él. (CIC 1272-1273)

**Comienzo.** El grupo de rock Chicago comenzó con un éxito temprano su carrera llamado Beginnings, que aclamó: "Es solo el comienzo, de lo que quiero sentir para siempre". Del mismo modo, el Bautismo, el primero de los siete Sacramentos, es solo el comienzo de nuestra vida con Cristo y la puerta que abre el acceso a los otros Sacramentos, y más encuentros con El. Hoy celebramos el Bautismo de Cristo en el Jordán, que más tarde lo refundiría en lo que es nuestro Sacramento del Bautismo, que es "la base de toda la vida cristiana, el pórtico de entrada a la vida en el Espíritu" (CIC # 1213).

Tuyo en Cristo,  
P. James Lentini  
Párroco