

# 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 7, 2018 – The Epiphany of the Lord (Solemnity)

### 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**.

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Dear Parishioners,

The name of the month "January" comes from the name Roman god Janus. Janus had two faces: one face looking to the past and the other looking to the future. As we enter the new year of 2018, it is indeed a good time to prayerfully look back at the year that has just ended and to look with hope to the new year ahead of us. John Lennon in his 1971 hit, "Happy Christmas," said it well: "And so this is Christmas, and what have we done, another year over, and new one just begun."

**What Have We Done?** And so, at this time of year, we ask ourselves "and what have we done?" We ask ourselves a battery of questions about the year that just passed. We look back, hopefully not just to lament or just to celebrate, but rather to use that time of retrospection to determine how we can do better, what we need to change and how to move forward in the coming year.

**To Thine Own Self.** A review of the past year helps us to set goals and resolutions for the new year. But for us we perhaps often fall into the way of our culture by making mere wishes rather than making real and honest resolutions. The culture tells us that you can do and be anything you want; that sounds nice and uplifting, but it is not true. We have to be honest with ourselves and know our own limitations. One can wish and wish, but a blind man will not become a baseball umpire; a paraplegic will not become a tap dancer; Lucy may wish to get into Ricky's show on every episode of "I Love Lucy," but it is not in the cards; and I may want to be the center on the Philadelphia 76ers, but that is not going to happen. As the old saying goes, "If wishes were horses, beggars would ride!"

**Of Wishcraft and Genies.** So, for us, resolutions cannot be fantastical wishes that some genie will magically grant. No, for us resolutions must be real improvements: they identify things we should be doing but are not doing. They are changes we need to make and can make in our own life, by

examining ways to overcome obstacles in our path that may keep us from the right path; the path to which Christ beckons us.

**Climb Every Mountain.** I am reminded of the song “Up Where We Belong” from the movie “An Officer and a Gentleman” – one of the lines in that song noted, “There are mountains in our way, but we climb a step every day.” Resolutions are ways to make those steps and to climb those mountains in our life. In making those steps, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, is both our guide and our companion, and the one who can make our climb successful. Our faith in Christ and his Church is what allows us to move forward and move mountains! It is our resolutions this year and every year that should move us to put that faith in to action and allow the Lord to lead us forward.

**Plan B?** But what if we don’t do that? What if we don’t want to resolve to improve ourselves and move forward with Christ? Well, the alternative shuns resolutions and instead substitutes wishes. The alternative to moving forward is to simply spend your life looking back, and just wishing things were different. Or look at others and lamenting what they have and you don’t and wishing for it to be otherwise. No plan, just disembodied wishes, and lament.

**Same Old, same old?** I am reminded of a song played on the radio during this time of year, by singer Dan Fogelberg, called “The Same Old Lang Syne.” In that song, the singer spends his time looking back on an old relationship rather than looking forward. One Christmas Eve, the snow was falling beautifully, and he meets his old girlfriend. Amidst the beauty of the snow, the two people talk about old times, they reminisce, and they do all of those things we do when catching up with old friends. And as the snow continue to fall, they shared a beer in her car and talked and talked. And the singer then wishes, wishes, wishes that perhaps they could get back together and relive their former ways of life, their glory days, even though she is now married. But then, reality sets in, and the real world comes down on him

like an anvil. And the two of them part ways – and she drives away. The singer then laments, “*And as I turned to make my way back home, the snow turned into rain.*”

**A Lot of Salt.** This is what can happen to us when we tie ourselves to this world and are always looking backwards and not ahead. When we lament what others have that we don’t. When we lament what was left behind. When we lament what could have been. There’s nothing wrong with remembering, because it is the past that can help us with the present and the future. But we cannot languish there. That’s what happened to Lot’s wife. In the Book of Genesis, as Abraham and others looked ahead to the promised land, she looked back, and wound up frozen as a pillar of salt unable to ever look forward. I would commend any of you who are of this mindset, lament all you want, but life doesn’t have an undo button – we must look forward. We can remember yesterday, but our eyes must be on tomorrow.

It is only when we look ahead to the promises of our Lord, to the hope of heaven, to the joys of faith, that we shall be able to realize our New Year’s Resolution of a new and strengthened life in union with God and his Holy Church... a Church that was born of his Son, who was born of his mother Mary, who pondered all of these things in her heart, and cooperated with God’s grace to the fullest.

And so, let our resolution for this new year, and for every year to come, be this: To follow the example of Mary, the Mother of God, who trusted in the Lord, and who didn’t fear the future, as she said, “*Let it be unto me according to the thy word.*” Those ten little words are the ingredients of one big happy year ahead for us all in 2018. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

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### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Sunday, Jan. 7**

**8:30:** Thompson and Harter Family

**11:00:** For the People

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

**Thu Dec. 7 7pm** For the People

**Sunday, Jan. 14**

**8:30:** Anna Adam

**11:00:** Jeanne Persinger

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

**2018 Mass book is now open.**

**To request a Mass, please contact the Office.**

### COLLECTION TOTALS:

**Regular Offertory: \$ 2778.00**

**Christmas offering: \$ 6107.46**

December 31 and January 1<sup>st</sup> collections will be posted next week.

**Second Collection Today: Supplementary**

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

## 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 12, 2018 Grupo #6**

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

#### **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 14**

**8:30am Mass** – Anna Clancy & Avery Locke  
**11:00am Mass** – Savannah Strauss & Sherlin Santizo  
**Spanish Misa 1pm** – Itzel Roblero & Reynaldo Alvarez

### Lectors

#### **January 14**

**8:30am Mass** – Theresa Thompson  
**11:00am Mass** – Donna King  
**Spanish Misa 1pm** – Levin Ramírez, Antonio Pérez

### Eucharistic Ministers

#### **January 14**

**8:30am Mass** – Deacon Tormey, Charlotte Tormey,  
Mark Pluceik  
**11:00am Mass** – Deacon Mitchell, Paul Lardizzone,  
Bob VanVessan  
**Spanish Misa 1pm** – Ovidio Roblero, Natalina  
Capistran, Salome Morales, Anselmo Escalante,  
Verónica Bravo

## **Knights of Columbus**

**Next meeting - Tues, January 9th  
in the Knights Hall**

**Rosary 6:30 - Meeting @ 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 kelley29@comcast.net

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



## SCHEDULED EVENTS



**JOIN THE  
KNIGHTS TODAY  
Breakfast in the  
Hall 9AM**

**Sun, Jan 7 - 9am Knights of Columbus Breakfast**

**Sun, Jan 7 - 9:40am SRE Classes**

**Sun, Jan 7 – 2pm RICA**

**Sun, Jan 7 – 2pm Estudio Biblico**

**Mon, Jan 7 – 6pm St Vincent DePaul**

**Mon, Jan 8 & Wed Jan 10 7pm ESL**

**Tues, Jan 9 – 7pm Juan XXIII**

**Thu Jan 11 7pm 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting**

**Sat, Jan 13 – 9am & 11am 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation at Holy  
Cross**

## **Marriage & Family Life Corner**

### **Marriage Moment** –

We humans mark time with watches and calendars. As we start a new year, however, perhaps it would be meaningful to enter into a conscious NOW with your beloved. As you read this, pause, find your spouse, and look at each other tenderly. Ponder the goodness of being together. Embrace.

### **Parenting Pointer** –

Gazing at stars can be a wondrous experience. Look up at the sky with your child tonight. Hopefully you will see stars. Ponder the universe together.



### **JOIN THE Catholic Advocacy Network**

As we witnessed recently, there are many issues facing the State of Delaware that are of concern to Catholics. Life issues such as abortion and euthanasia, assistance for Catholic school families, aid to the poor and vulnerable are just a few issues that concern us. It is up to us to stay informed about these issues. One way is to join the Delaware Catholic Advocacy Network (DCAN). It takes just 3 minutes to just 5 minutes to join Catholics in the Diocese of Wilmington as members. Marylanders are invited to join the Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network or the Maryland Catholic Conference. The actions of our government have an enormous impact on the lives of you and your family. Join the Catholic Advocacy Network today by visiting <http://www.cdow.org/>

## FROM THE DRE'S DESK

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



### Sacrament of 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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



The appearance of the Magi in the Gospel reveals to us that Christ did not just come to the world for a select few, but for the whole world. We are reminded that Christ's message was for all to hear. His light shined bright for the Magi to see and follow. As you walk with Christ does His light shine through you? Do others see Christ's love through your words and deeds? Like the Magi, who presented gifts to our Lord, we too have gifts to give. Utilizing your gifts, to give glory to our Lord, is one way you can show others your Love for Christ.



Saint Thomas More is now Accepting  
applications for the

2018-2019 school year.

*Affordable, quality, Catholic education with tuition  
rates starting as low as \$8,000!*

**Financial Aid Application Deadline: January 16, 2018**

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](http://www.saintmore.org) to learn why we were voted

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



## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### Epiphany of the Lord

**Theme:** The mystery of the incarnation - Jesus is a gift to all humanity.

**Question for Children:** In your life, who helps you to see Jesus in other people such as a classmate or a friend?

**Question for Youth:** The star guided the Magi to Jesus. What are the people or events who have guided you in your relationship with Jesus?

**Question for Adults:** How this past week did you demonstrate God's love at home and at work?

### Solemnidad de la Epifanía

**Tema:** El misterio de la encarnación: Jesús es un regalo para toda la humanidad.

**Pregunta para los niños:** En tu vida, ¿quién te ayuda a ver a Jesús en otras personas, como un compañero o un amigo?

**Pregunta para los jóvenes:** La estrella guió a los Magos a Jesús. ¿Qué personas o acontecimientos te han guiado en tu relación con Jesús?

**Pregunta para los adultos:** ¿De qué manera demostró el amor de Dios en casa y en el trabajo durante la semana pasada?



### 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.

### 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.

## COLUMNA DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 7 DE ENERO, 2018.

Queridos feligreses,

La etimología de Enero hace alusión al primer mes del año correspondiente al calendario gregoriano, esta denominación fue nombrado en honor a Jano que en la mitología romana representa a la puerta los principios y desenlaces. Los romanos representaban a Jano con dos caras. Era el dios de los umbrales y de las puertas (el pasado y el futuro). Era también el dios de las transiciones. Es coherente, por tanto, que se le dedicara el mes con el que empieza el año, pues enero mira al año que entra y al que se va. Al comenzar al nuevo año de 2018, es un buen momento para mirar en retrospectiva el año que acaba de terminar y mirar con esperanza el nuevo año que tenemos por delante. John Lennon en su éxito de 1971, "Feliz Navidad", lo dijo muy bien: "Así que esto es Navidad, y lo que hemos hecho, otro año más y uno nuevo por comenzar".

**¿Qué Hemos Hecho?** Y así, en esta época del año, nos preguntamos "¿y qué hemos hecho?" Nos hacemos una serie de preguntas sobre el año que acaba de pasar. Miramos hacia atrás, ojalá no solo para lamentarnos o simplemente para celebrar, sino para usar ese momento de retrospectiva para determinar cómo podemos mejorar, qué debemos cambiar y cómo avanzar en el próximo año.

**A Tu Propio Pequeño Ser.** Un análisis del año pasado nos ayuda a establecer metas y resoluciones para el nuevo año. Pero para nosotros, tal vez caigamos en el camino de nuestra cultura haciendo meros deseos en lugar de hacer resoluciones reales y honestas. La cultura nos dice que puedes hacer y ser lo que quieras; eso suena bien y edificante, pero no es verdad. Debemos ser honestos con nosotros mismos y conocer nuestras propias limitaciones. Uno puede desear y desear, pero un ciego no se convertirá en un árbitro de béisbol; un parapléjico no se convertirá en bailarín de salsa; Puede que Lucy desee estar en todos los programas de Ricky en cada episodio de "Yo Quiero a Lucy", pero no está en las tarjetas; y Yo es posible que desee ser el centro de los 76ers de Filadelfia, pero eso no va a suceder. Como dice el viejo refrán, "¡Si los deseos fueran caballos, los mendigos montarían!"

**De Hechicerías y Genies.** Así pues, para nosotros, las resoluciones no pueden ser deseos fantásticos que algún hechicero otorgaría mágicamente. No, para nosotros las resoluciones deben ser mejoras reales: identifican cosas que deberíamos estar haciendo pero que no estamos haciendo. Son cambios que debemos hacer y podemos hacer en nuestras propias vidas, examinando formas de superar los obstáculos en nuestro camino que puedan

impedirnos el camino correcto; el camino al que Cristo nos llama.

**Llegando a la Cima de cada Montaña.** Recuerdo la canción "Up Where We Belong" de la película "Oficial y Caballero", una de las frases de esas canciones decía: "Hay montañas en nuestro camino, pero subimos un escalón todos los días". Resoluciones son formas de hacer esos pasos y escalar esas montañas en nuestras vidas. Al hacer esos pasos, Jesucristo, nuestro Señor y nuestro Dios, es a la vez nuestro guía y nuestro compañero, y el que puede hacer que nuestro caminar sea exitosa. ¡Nuestra fe en Cristo y su Iglesia es lo que nos permite avanzar y mover montañas! Son estas nuestras resoluciones este año y todos los años lo que debería movernos a poner esa fe en acción y permitir que el Señor nos guíe.

**¿Plan B?** Pero, ¿y si no hacemos eso? ¿Qué pasa si no queremos resolver para ser mejores y seguir adelante con Cristo? Bueno, la alternativa es rechazar las resoluciones y en su lugar sustituye los deseos. La alternativa para seguir adelante es simplemente pasar la vida mirando hacia atrás, y simplemente desear que las cosas fueran diferentes. O mira a los demás y lamentarse de lo que otros tienen y tú no y deseando que sea de otra manera. Sin plan, solo deseos intangibles, y lamentos.

**¿Lo Mismo de Siempre?** Recuerdo de una canción que se toca mucho en la radio durante esta época del año, por el cantante Dan Fogelberg, llamado "The Same Old Lang Syne". En esa canción, el cantante pasa su tiempo mirando hacia atrás en una vieja relación en lugar de mirar hacia el futuro. Una Nochebuena, maravillosamente, la nieve caía y se encuentra con su antigua novia. En medio de la belleza de la nieve, las dos personas hablan sobre los viejos tiempos, recuerdan y hacen todas esas cosas que hacemos cuando se encuentran viejos amigos. Y a medida que la nieve continúa cayendo, compartieron una cerveza en el automóvil de ella hablaron y hablaron. Y el cantante deseando, deseando que tal vez puedan volver a estar juntos y revivir su relación y su forma de vida anterior, sus días de gloria, a pesar de que ahora ella está casada. Pero en ese momento, regresan a la realidad, y el mundo real cae sobre él como un yunque. Y los dos se separan, y ella se marcha. El cantante luego se lamenta: "Y cuando va de regreso a casa, la nieve se convirtió en lluvia".

**Mucha Sal.** Esto es lo que nos puede pasar cuando nos atamos a este mundo y siempre miramos hacia atrás y no hacia adelante. Cuando lamentamos lo que otros tienen que nosotros no tenemos. Cuando lamentamos lo que quedó atrás. Cuando nos lamentamos de lo que pudo haber sido. No hay nada de malo en recordar, porque recordar es vivir, es el pasado el que nos puede ayudar con el presente y el futuro. Pero no podemos desalentarnos. Eso es lo que le sucedió a la esposa de

Lot. En el Libro del Génesis, mientras Abraham y otros miraban hacia la tierra prometida, ella miró hacia atrás y quedó congelada como un pilar de sal incapaz de mirar hacia delante. Quisiera recomendarle a cualquiera de ustedes que tengan esta mentalidad, láméntense todo lo que quieran, pero la vida no tiene un botón para deshacer; debemos mirar hacia adelante. Podemos recordar el ayer, pero nuestros ojos deben estar en el mañana.

Solo cuando miramos hacia adelante a las promesas de nuestro Señor, a la esperanza del cielo, al gozo de la fe, podremos hacer una realidad nuestras Resoluciones del Año Nuevo de una vida nueva y fortalecida en unión con Dios y su Santa Iglesia ... una Iglesia que nació de su Hijo, que nació de su madre María, quien consideró todas estas cosas en su corazón y cooperó con la gracia de Dios al máximo.

Y así, dejemos que nuestras resoluciones para este nuevo año, y para cada año venidero, sea esta: seguir el ejemplo de María, la Madre de Dios, que confió en el Señor y que no temió el futuro, al decir: "Hágase en mí según tu palabra". Esas pequeñas palabras son los ingredientes de un gran año feliz para todos nosotros en 2018.

¡María, Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros!

Tuyo en Cristo,

P. James Lentini, Párroco