

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

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

www.iccmarydel.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Closed Wednesdays & Fridays

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

June 24, 2018 – Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

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. Timothy J. Brady, 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

Dear Parishioners,

This past Friday, we celebrate the feast day of St. Thomas More, an English statesman, a family man, and a faithful Catholic who was put to death by the order of King Henry VIII for refusing to recognize the supremacy of the King of England over the Catholic Church in England. St. Thomas More is the model of the faithful Catholic; he put his faith above his life. But, in the end, what was hoping to do by his sacrifice? On the most basic level, he was hoping to be true to his beliefs, no matter the personal cost. But on another level, one could posit that St. Thomas More was attempting, by this show of his faith, to call the King back to the faith – to witness his faith to those straying. In short, the good works and daring acts of faith by saints – like, St. Thomas More, for instance – strengthen the faithful, and help to win converts to the faith! So, this week I want to write about great conversions to the Catholic faith.

Take me to Your Liter. Now there are lots of conversions we experience in life, like when we convert measurements from imperial measure (inches, feet) to that of the metric

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**.

system (centimeters, meters). In the format wars of the early video era, there were people who converted from BetaMax to VHS, from VHS to DVD. In the cell phone carrier battle, conversion from AT&T to Verizon to Sprint happens all the time. There are other conversions, too: Moving from caffeinated to decaf, from PCs to Macs, and even (God forbid) betraying the logic of the universe and moving from McDonalds to Burger King. In short, we change lots of things in our lives, we make many conversions. However, having a conversion or change of heart, in the realm of faith, is a little tougher than going from a Big Mac to Whopper (although for me, it might be a comparable challenge). Tough though it may be, we are called to conversion.

Conversion... and All that Jazz. In 1981, jazz guitarist George Benson hit the top ten of the American pop charts with a song with a conversion-type title, "Turn Your Love Around." That title sums up a key to conversion – we have to turn our love around. If God is not the center of our life, then we have to turn things around. Amidst the twang of his

guitar, Benson sang, “*You've got the love, you've got the power, but you just don't understand.*” Indeed, we sometimes don’t understand the place of primacy that God is to have in our lives. But we have the love and the power to make the needed change.

God vs Gold: One “L” of a Difference. Conversion is always called for because people are fickle at times when it comes to faith. What do I mean? Well let’s step into the Wayback Machine and set the dial to the 12th Century B.C. We find that the Jewish people, at the time of Moses, after having been rescued by God from slavery to the Egyptians, began to forget about what God did for them. They started worshipping a golden calf. Moses was pretty ticked by this. He chastised his people, calling them (without the use of a guitar) to turn their love around. Are we like that? We can be; it can happen to us when we put other things in our life before God, thus creating our own idols.

Thus, we are called to turn back to God; to straighten up and fly right; to repent and believe in the Gospel. In short, we are called to conversion. You might say, “Well, that’s easier said than done.” So true! But, we are blessed, because in our Catholic faith, there have been many conversions that we can look to, to inspire us. Some did not just change the person making the conversion but changed the world. To this end I present you game-changing conversions in Church history:

The Conversion of St. Paul. Saul of Tarsus was a persecutor of Christians; he hated them. He saw Christianity as upending the way of life of the Jewish peoples and causing divisions. He sought out to arrest Christian, persecute them, and even kill them. As tradition and scripture relate, one day on the road to Damascus, Saul

was travelling to torment some more Christians (nothing like a fun road trip). On that road he was suddenly, in the words of the 1977 hit song, blinded by the light. There was a flash; he was thrown from his horse. Unable to see he lay on the ground and the voice of Christ spoke to him. That encounter with Christ, change his life. When he got his sight back in three days, he saw the world differently; soon after this he was baptized and became known as Paul. St. Paul went from being an enemy of Christianity to its biggest evangelical agent. He spread Christianity to the Gentiles (non-Jews) bringing it from Jerusalem throughout Mediterranean Europe and into to Rome. He was ultimately beheaded, in Rome, for his faith and evangelizing.

The Conversion of St. Augustine. Young St. Augustine had many questions about life, and he followed various philosophers looking for answer. None filled his soul with the answers he wanted. During this time, and up until his early 30s, Augustine also lived raucous, promiscuous and bacchanalian life style. He was lookin’ for love in all the wrong places. Then one day, when he was in his 30s, he heard St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan preach, and he heard the beginnings of the answers to his questions. St. Ambrose would guide him in learning of the faith. He was inspired to conversion by a verse of Scripture (Roman 13:13-14... go ahead look it up). That led him to be baptized in the faith of his mother, St. Monica, who prayed for his conversion daily for many years. In the years after converting to the faith, Augustine became a Bishop and one of the greatest philosophers and theologians of Catholicism.

Next column: More of the great Catholic Conversions in our faith history.

Yours in Christ, Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, June 24

8:30 Messner & Hampton Family

11:00 Bruce Schepens

Misa en Español 1pm For the People

Thursday June 14 Misa en Español

7pm For the People

Sunday, July 1

8:30 Thompson & Harter Family

11:00 Michael Poppiti

Misa en Español 1pm For the People

2018 Mass book is now open. To schedule a Mass, please contact the office

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Offertory: \$ 3345.02

Supplementary: \$ 578.62

Second Collection Today: Peter’s Pence

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

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist



As for you, little child you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High. You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before Him, to make known to His people their salvation through forgiveness of all their sins, the loving-kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn on high... (Luke 1:76-78).

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Collection Counters

June 24

Elisa & Tom Costello

July 1

Marilyn Dixon & Maurilio Gabriel

July 8

Ann Lawson & Assistant

Church Cleaning Crew

Junio 29, 2018 Grupo # 8

Rafael Morales, Marcos González, Osvaldo Miranda
Eleazar Santizo, Reyna Morales

Julio 6, 2018 Grupo # 9

Reynaldo Pérez, Maribel Ortiz, Juventino López,
Isenia Escalante, Clemente Escalante

Altar Servers

July 1

8:30am Mass –Mike Dixon & Anna Clancy

11am Mass – Savannah Strauss & Sherlin Santizo

Spanish Misa 1pm – Jeffrey Gabriel & Darly Ortega

Lectors

July 1

8:30am Mass – Catherine Beck

11am Mass – Laura Schlaupitz

Spanish Misa 1pm – Áda Escalante, Haydi Fuentes

Eucharistic Ministers

July 1

8:30am Mass – Brenda Lawson, Sarah Bell

11am Mass – Frank & Joyce Cristiano

Spanish Misa 1pm – Ovidio Roblero, Natalina Capistran, Salome Morales, A. Escalante, Verónica Bravo

Marriage & Family Life Corner

Marriage Moment –

Use the light to do something outdoors to renew your love in the early morning or late evening.

Parenting Pointer –

Discipline does not mean punishment. The purpose of discipline is to help your child learn to become responsible. Allow your child to experience the consequences of their actions.



Before you head to the beach or bay, check out the Vacation Mass Guide
www.cdow.org/vmg/

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Jun 24 following 8:30am Mass- Baptism

Sun, Jun 24 9:45am – VBS Planning Meeting

Wed, Jun 27 7pm – 100th Anniversary Planning

Fri, Jun 29 7pm Band Practice

Knights of Columbus

Next meeting Tues, June 26th

7pm Meeting

in the Knights Hall

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



"WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"

Prayer + Fraternity + Sports

The **Quo Vadis 2018** program is a three day event for high school and college age men to learn more about the priesthood; deepen their catholic faith; and have fun. **Registration is free. Register on line and find more information at cdow.org/vocations**

Thursday, July 26 to Sunday, July 29 at the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA.

FROM THE DRE'S DESK



VBS will be here at ICC soon!

July 30th - August 3rd
We will be having our next VBS meeting on **TODAY Sunday, June 24th between the Masses at 9:45 in the hall.**

Please let us know if you are interested in helping out this year. Registration forms are available in parish office.

Happy Summer from St. Thomas More!



Congratulations Class of 2018!

Saint Thomas More would like to congratulate the Class of 2018. The graduating class of 36 was offered \$6 million dollars in college scholarships and grants. \$1.58 million was accepted.

"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you" B.B. King
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.

Registration for Religious Education starting in September is open.



Please stop in the office and register your children and reserve their spot now. Do not wait for September! Do it today.

REGISTRATIONS!! Registrations for 2018-2019 are now available at the office, and online. Please get your registrations for school of Religious Education this weekend. We would like to have all registered for next year by July 1st. Please return registrations to Alicia as soon as possible. Fees are as follows: \$35 per child, not to exceed \$150 per family. This is to defray all costs of books, materials, and supplies.

LAS MATRICULAS: para nuestro programa de formación cristiana de niños en domingo están todavía disponibles en el despacho parroquial, en la entrada principal del templo, y en el internet. Favor de someterlas en lo más pronto posible, con la cobra de \$35 por cada niño, y no más de \$150 cada familia.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Theme: God's promises will be fulfilled

Question for Children: How did you feel when you first heard about Jesus?

Question for Youth: How do you think people received John's news that Jesus' arrival was at hand? What fears, doubts, or joys do you think they experienced at the news?

Question for Adults: When and where have you seen God's promises fulfilled? How did it make you feel?

Solemnidad de la natividad de San Juan Bautista

Tema: Las promesas de Dios se cumplirán

Pregunta para los niños: ¿Cómo se sintieron cuando escucharon de Jesús por primera vez?

Pregunta para los jóvenes: ¿Cómo creen que las personas percibieron la noticia de Juan sobre la llegada de Jesús que se aproxima? ¿Qué angustias, dudas o alegrías creen que ellos experimentaron con esa noticia?

Pregunta para los adultos: ¿Cuándo y dónde han visto el cumplimiento de las promesas de Dios? ¿Cómo se sintieron?

Are you being called to the priesthood or religious life?



Find out more about the priesthood at www.diocesanpriest.com

Find out more about the religious life: religiouslife.com

Let us help you to discover God's plan for your life.

E-mail: vocations@cdow.org

or

Call us: **(302) 573-3113** today!

COLUMNÁ DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 24 DE JUNIO, 2018.

Queridos feligreses,

El pasado viernes, celebramos la fiesta de Santo Tomás Moro, un estadista inglés, un hombre de familia y un fiel católico que fue condenado a muerte por orden del rey Enrique VIII por negarse a reconocer la supremacía del Rey de Inglaterra sobre la Iglesia Católica en Inglaterra. Santo Tomás Moro es el modelo del fiel católico; él puso su fe por encima de su vida. Pero, al final, ¿qué esperaba hacer con su sacrificio? En el nivel más básico, esperaba ser fiel a sus creencias, sin importar el costo personal. Pero en otro nivel, uno podría postular que Santo Tomás Moro estaba intentando, mediante esta muestra de su fe, llamar al Rey de vuelta a la fe, para dar testimonio de su fe a los que se extravián. En resumen, las buenas obras y los audaces actos de fe de los santos, como Santo Tomás Moro, por ejemplo, fortalecen a los fieles y ayudan a ganar conversiones para la fe. Entonces, esta semana quiero escribir sobre grandes conversiones a la fe católica.

Llévame a Tu Litro. Ahora hay muchas conversiones que experimentamos en la vida, como cuando convertimos las medidas de la medida imperial (pulgadas, pies) a la del sistema métrico (centímetros, metros). En las guerras de formato de la era del video inicial, hubieron personas que se convirtieron de BetaMax a VHS, de VHS a DVD. En la batalla de las compañías de teléfonos celulares, la conversión de AT & T a Verizon a Sprint ocurre todo el tiempo. También hay otras conversiones: pasar de la cafeína a la descafeinada, de las PC a las Mac, e incluso (Dios no lo quiera) traicionar la lógica del universo y pasar de McDonalds a Burger King. En resumen, cambiamos muchas cosas en nuestras vidas, hacemos muchas conversiones. Sin embargo, tener una conversión o cambio de corazón, en el ámbito de la fe, es un poco más difícil que pasar de una Big Mac a Whopper (aunque para mí, podría ser un desafío comparable). Aunque sea difícil, estamos llamados a la conversión.

Conversión ... y todo ese Jazz. En 1981, el guitarrista de jazz George Benson llegó a estar entre la lista de los 10 primeros lugares pop estadounidenses con una canción con un título tipo conversión, "Turn Your Love Around (Da Vuelta a Tu Amor)". Ese título resume la clave de la conversión: tenemos que cambiar nuestro amor. Si Dios no es el centro de nuestra vida, entonces tenemos que cambiar las cosas. En medio del tintineo de su guitarra, Benson cantó: "Tienes el amor, tienes el poder, pero simplemente no entiendes". De hecho, a veces no entendemos el lugar de primacía que Dios tiene

que tener en nuestras vidas. Pero tenemos el amor y el poder para hacer el cambio necesario.

Dios vs Oro: una "L" de Diferencia. La conversión siempre es necesaria porque las personas a veces son caprichosas cuando se trata de la fe. ¿Qué quiero decir? Bien, entremos en el baúl de los recuerdos y pongamos el dial al siglo XII B.C. Encontramos que el pueblo judío, en el tiempo de Moisés, después de haber sido rescatado por Dios de la esclavitud de los egipcios, comenzó a olvidarse de lo que Dios hizo por ellos. Empezaron a adorar a un becerro de oro. Moisés estaba bastante molesto por esto. Castigó a su pueblo llamándolos (sin el uso de una guitarra) para dar vuelta a su amor. ¿Somos así? Podemos ser; puede sucedernos cuando ponemos otras cosas en nuestra vida antes que Dios, creando así nuestros propios ídolos.

Por lo tanto, estamos llamados a regresar a Dios; para enderezar y volar bien; arrepíéntete y crear en el Evangelio. En resumen, estamos llamados a la conversión. Usted podría decir: "Bueno, eso es más fácil decirlo que hacerlo". ¡Muy cierto! Pero, somos bendecidos, porque en nuestra fe católica, hemos tenido muchas conversiones que podemos buscar para inspirarnos. Algunos no solo cambiaron a la persona que hacia la conversión sino que cambiaron el mundo. Para este fin, presento las conversiones que cambian el juego en la historia de la Iglesia:

La Conversión de San Pablo. Saulo de Tarso era un perseguidor de cristianos; los odiaba. Él vio el cristianismo como un cambio en el modo de vida de los pueblos judíos y causando divisiones. Buscaba arrestar a los cristianos, perseguirlos e incluso matarlos. Como la tradición y las escrituras nos relatan, un día en el camino a Damasco, Saúl viajaba para atormentar a más cristianos (nada como un divertido viaje por carretera). En ese camino, de repente, en las palabras de la canción de 1977, cegado por la luz. Hubo un relámpago y fue arrojado de su caballo. Incapaz de ver, yacía en el suelo y la voz de Cristo le habló. Ese encuentro con Cristo, cambia su vida. Cuando recuperó la vista tres días después, vio el mundo de una manera diferente; Poco después de esto, fue bautizado y fue -

Conocido como Pablo. San Pablo pasó de ser un enemigo del cristianismo a su mayor agente evangélico. Él extendió el cristianismo a los gentiles (no judíos) trayéndolo desde Jerusalén a través de la Europa mediterránea y hacia Roma. Finalmente fue decapitado, en Roma, por su fe y evangelización.

La Conversión de San Agustín. El joven San Agustín tenía muchas preguntas sobre la vida, y siguió a varios filósofos en busca de respuestas. Nadie llenó su alma con las respuestas que quería. Durante este tiempo, y

hasta sus primeros años 30, Agustín también vivió un estilo de vida estridente, promiscuo y el deseo de hacer lo prohibido. Estaba buscando amor en todos los lugares equivocados. Entonces, un día, cuando tenía unos 30 años, escuchó a San Ambrosio, obispo de Milán, predicar, y escuchó el comienzo de las respuestas a sus preguntas. San Ambrosio lo guiaría en el aprendizaje de la fe. Fue inspirado a la conversión por un versículo de las Escrituras (Romanos 13: 13-14 ... adelante, búskuelo). Eso lo llevó a ser bautizado en la fe de su madre, Santa Mónica, quien por muchos años oró diariamente por su conversión. En los años posteriores a la conversión a la fe, Agustín se convirtió en obispo y uno de los más grandes filósofos y teólogos del catolicismo.

Siguiente Columna: Más de las grandes conversiones católicas en nuestra historia de fe.

Tuyo en Cristo,

P. James Lentini

Párroco