

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

522 Main Street • P.O. Box 399 • Marydel, Maryland 21649-0399

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

www.iccmarydel.org

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

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

March 4, 2018 – Third Sunday of Lent

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,

One of my favorite television programs is the situation comedy, "Frasier." It is a sharply written comedy that ran for some eleven seasons and is built around the characters of Frasier Crane and Niles Crane, two brothers who are both psychiatrists. One of the characters in the show is the wife of younger brother Niles; her name is Maris. Maris is referenced in just about every episode, and several episodes are built around her -- however, in eleven seasons, she is never actually seen on-screen. Unseen, but important.

Judge for Yourself. Similarly, in the real world, there are people who are remembered and significant in their absence, and indeed by their absence. One of these is a man known by many as simply "Judge Crater." New York City's Judge Joseph Crater is remembered by name by anyone who grew up in New York -- he is remembered because of his absence. He went missing after dinner at Billy Haas's Chophouse on 45th Street in the city. His absence, presumably caused by underworld vengeance via New York's

Tammany Hall political machine, caused a public outrage that ultimately led to the downfall of many in the Tammany Hall circle. His absence by way of corrupt actors changed New York City government for decades to come.

When Rights Ain't Right. As Catholics, for us, the life issue is so very much about those who aren't here. Whether it be by the hand of those performing abortions or those vying to create new statutory ways for people to die, like "assisted suicide," -- the absence of the least among us, caused by and under the color of law sits badly with us. We are the voices for those who can no longer speak. We are the voices to reject the "right to death" and uphold the God given "right to life."

An Orwellian Moment. In the Delaware State Legislature, HB160, the Orwellian titled "End of Life Options Act," sets out to establish and legalize assisted suicide in our state. It is likely to be pushed by its proponents in the Delaware General Assembly's House of Representatives when it reconvenes this month.

They would seek the end a person's illness by administration of lethal drugs to end the person's life. Heretofore that would be considered murder or manslaughter (depending on the circumstances); it would now morph from a crime into a legal right.

Family Matters. I don't write this in a vacuum. I have had to deal with ill and suffering people in my own family facing these crippling issues of illness. My own mother, just a few years ago, faced a potential long term difficulty following a stroke. My grandmother and grandfather likewise suffered near the end of their lives. But our faith is compassionate in this area: It allows for a natural death. That is to say if a person is suffering badly, and there is little hope of recovery, we, as Catholics can let nature take its course (i.e., leave things in the hands of God) without taking what used to be called "heroic measures" to extend life for the sake of extending life.

Thus for my mom, at age 89, following her stroke she could have been put through a series of operations on her brain which may have extended her life a few months. My mom had made it clear many times: no operations, no extreme measure -- natural death. So, we left things in God's hands and mom passed naturally a few weeks later.

Sick unto Death? Now, while one need not take "heroic measures" to extend a life, nor is it ever acceptable to do the opposite and purposefully accelerate an ill person's death, with that specific intention. The sick should be cared for, the sick should be comforted, the sick should be given palliative care to ease their suffering. The sick should not be killed, and HB 160 would allow that. It must not be allowed. The only killing that should be done is to HB 160.

Hearts and Minds. I would encourage the faithful of our parish to seek the defeat of this pernicious bill. The first step, and the step many can take is to pray. Pray that this law and others like it never see the light of day. You can also encourage your friends and family to do likewise. In a more direct way, contact your legislators and explain your concerns in a respectful manner, and try to change hearts and minds by your actions.

Meanwhile in Belgium. I would caution us to learn the lesson of Belgium, one of the so-called Low Countries, of western Europe. Having legalized assisted suicide in 2003 for grave, terminal illness with suffering, initially there were few uses of the law. In the most recent year where statistics are available that number is closing in on the 2,000 per year mark.

The Slope is Slippery Indeed. Initially most of the Belgian patients who were assisted to their death had cancer or other grave illness, the slippery-slope effect kicked in. In recent years people have also been "euthanized" because they had autism, anorexia, borderline personality disorder, chronic-fatigue syndrome, partial paralysis, blindness/deafness, and manic depression. In a recent case, a patient with dementia, contrary to any stated inclination, was put down like a dog by a doctor. Euthanasia policy has now also been extended to children. A side effect of this disregard for the value of human life is that Belgium now sports one of the highest suicide rates in the world (that excludes the assisted suicides).

One wheelchair bound patient in a European nursing home put it well in a newspaper article: "As the numbers of people dying from euthanasia in Belgium grow, that slippery slope comes into vision. I'm afraid of becoming another statistic, another faceless victim. We are told that safeguards will protect us from abuses. They certainly do not protect the elderly in Belgium."

Belgium has produced great waffles, great artwork, and great architecture. They certainly, however, have produced dreadful policies and laws regarding human life. Pray for Belgium, and pray for Delaware... and pray that a respect for human life returns to our nation. Let's be reminded of this issue daily by the silenced voices of those folks that we don't see anymore. Continued blessings to you and your family this Lenten season!

Yours in Christ, Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, Mar 4

8:30: Anna Roth Cole

11:00: Robert Comollo

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

Thu Mar 8 7pm For the People

Sunday, Mar 11

8:30: For the People

11:00: Vittorio Cristiano

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

Thu Mar 15 7pm For the People

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Regular Offertory: \$ 3223.00

Supplementary: \$ 667.00

Second Collection Today: CRS and Latin America

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

2018 Mass book is now open.

To schedule a Mass, please contact the office

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Collection Counters

Mar 4 Tom & Mary McGowan
Mar 11 Julia Moore & Paul McQuaide
Mar 18 Elisa & Tom Costello

Church Cleaning Crew

Marzo 9, 2018 Grupo #14
Miguel López, Verónica López, Gregorio López, Juan Ramírez, Federico Pérez.

Marzo 16, 2018 Grupo #15
Genaro Pérez, Elizabeth López, Edelfo Tomas, Alfonso Chun

Altar Servers

March 11
8:30am Mass – Mike Dixon & Anna Clancy
11:00am Mass – Vince Haass & Joanna Santizo
Spanish Misa 1pm – Reynaldo Alvarez & Itzel Roblero

Lectors

March 11
8:30am Mass – Marilyn Dixon
11:00am Mass – Sherry Tucker
Spanish Misa 1pm – Antonio Pérez, Geyde Mendez

Eucharistic Ministers

March 11
8:30am Mass – Deacon Tormey, Brenda Lawson, Mark Plucenik
11:00am Mass – Deacon Mitchell, Frank & Joyce Cristiano
Spanish Misa 1pm – Ovidio Roblero, Natalina Capistran, Salome Morales, A. Escalante, Verónica Bravo

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church presents: The Shroud of Turin Exhibit- This exhibit includes a long linen cloth that bears a faint image of a bearded, crucified man with bloodstains that match the wounds of Jesus Christ. It has been preserved and revered for centuries as the Actual burial shroud that wrapped Jesus as recorded in the Bible.

March 1 to March 13, 2018

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church
800-801 West Lea Blvd., Wilmington, DE 19802

SHROUD EXHIBIT HOURS:

Monday through Friday 11:00am-5:00pm
Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm
Sunday 12:00pm-5:00pm

For more information -Phone: 302-762-5511

<http://www.st-nicholas-church.org>

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Mar 4 – JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST
9am Knights BREAKFAST IN HALL
Sun, Mar 4 - 9:40am SRE Classes
Sun, Mar 4 – 2pm RICA
Mon, Mar 5 – 6pm St. Vincent DePaul
Mon, Mar 5 & Wed Mar 7 - 7pm ESL
Tue, Mar 6 – 6:30pm 1st Communion Prep
Tue, Mar 6 – 7pm Juan XXIII
Wed, Mar 7 – 7pm 100th Anniversary meeting
Fri, Mar 2 – 7pm Stations of the Cross
Sat, Mar 3 – 9am Retiro de Cuaresma



Encounter Safiata:

In Burkina Faso, we encounter Safiata, a mother, grandmother and farmer who relies on the money she makes from her crops to put her children through school. How can our purchases this Lent support farmers and artisans? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities?

Visit www.crsricebowl.org



Knights of Columbus

Next meeting
Tues, March 13th
in the Knights Hall
Rosary @ 6:30pm
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 kelly29@comcast.net

Follow us on Facebook @ Knights of Columbus Council 12509



Assistance is needed caring for the linens used in our Church. Please consider offering your time and talents to help. A little time would mean so much!
Contact Ann Marie Weer (410) 482-7237

FROM THE DRE'S DESK

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



NEEDED: TEACHERS! APPLY HERE FOR NEXT YEAR! Share your gifts and get the rewards in heaven.

We will need 3 or more teachers for religious education on Sunday mornings from September to May. Please take the time during Lent this year in prayer and discernment on serving the young people and families of our Parish. Please contact Alicia Poppiti with any questions, 410-482-8939 at parish office.



Catechetical Day (“Call to Missionary Discipleship”) with Bishop W. Francis Malooly will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at St. Thomas More Academy. Bishop Malooly will individually recognize DREs and Catechists celebrating significant anniversary years. The day includes refreshments beginning at 8:30 am and lunch at 12 noon. Presenters are Father Matthew Guckin and Dr. Louis P. De Angelo. The day concludes at 2:00 pm. The registration fee will be \$15.00 per person. Registration deadline is March 16, 2018. Please go to www.cdow.org/CatecheticalDay to find out more about the day and how to register.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Lent

Theme: We must do what God wants.

Question for Children: Share one way in which you “honor your father and mother.”

Question for Youth: Jesus was angry – as we all get at times. When is your anger a good thing? When is it not?

Question for Adults: As you hear the Commandments proclaimed today, which one of them really strikes you?

3er domingo de Cuaresma

Tema: Debemos hacer lo que Dios desea.

Pregunta para los niños: Comparte una de las maneras en que “honras a tu padre y a tu madre”.

Pregunta para los jóvenes: Jesús estaba enojado, como todos lo estamos a veces. ¿Cuándo es bueno enojarse? ¿Cuándo no lo es?

Pregunta para los adultos: Cuando hoy escucha la proclamación de los Mandamientos, ¿cuál de ellos verdaderamente le llama la atención?

Marriage & Family Life Corner

Marriage Moment –

How is your Lenten resolution coming? Is it bringing you closer to your beloved? Consider that both God and your spouse are your beloved. Sacrificing for one can give you a window into how to become closer to the other. Contemplate sacrificial love today.

Parenting Pointer –

How do you and your children pray? Is it memorized, spontaneous, short, frequent, irregular? Talk together about your favorite style of prayer. Do it!

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 March 21, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption in Hockessin, Delaware. For more information, contact Father Chris Coffiey at FrCoffiey@sjbde.org or call 302-999-0211.

Queridos feligreses,

Uno de mis programas favoritos de televisión es la comedia de situación, "Frasier". Es una comedia agudamente escrita que se emitió durante once temporadas y está basada en los personajes de Frasier Crane y Niles Crane, dos hermanos ambos psiquiatras. Uno de los personajes del espectáculo es la esposa del hermano menor Niles; su nombre es Maris. Se hace referencia a Maris en casi todos los episodios, y se crean varios episodios a su alrededor; sin embargo, en once temporadas, nunca se la ve en pantalla. Pasa inadvertido, pero importante.

Júzgate A Ti Mismo. Del mismo modo, en la vida real, hay personas que son recordadas y significativas en su ausencia, y de hecho por su ausencia. Uno de ellos es un hombre conocido por muchos como simplemente "Juez Crater". Juez de la ciudad de Nueva York, Joseph Crater, lo recuerda cualquier persona que creció en Nueva York; es recordado por su ausencia. Desapareció después de la cena en el Chophouse de Billy Haas en la calle 45 de la ciudad. Su ausencia, presumiblemente causada por la venganza del bajo mundo a través de la máquina política del salón Tammany Hall de Nueva York, causó una indignación pública que finalmente llevó a la caída de muchos en el círculo de Tammany Hall. Su ausencia por parte de actores corruptos cambió el gobierno de la ciudad de Nueva York en las próximas décadas.

Cuando Los Derechos No Son Derechos. Como católicos, para nosotros, el problema de la vida se trata tanto de aquellos que no están aquí. Ya sea de la mano de aquellos que realizan abortos o de quienes intentan crear nuevas formas legales para que las personas mueran, como el "suicidio asistido", la ausencia de los menos entre nosotros, causada por y bajo el color de la ley, se sienta mal con nos. Somos las voces de aquellos que ya no tienen voces. Somos las voces para rechazar el "derecho a la muerte" y defender el "derecho a la vida" dado por Dios.

Un Momento Orwellian. En la Legislatura del Estado de Delaware, HB160, el Orwellian titulado "Ley de Opciones de Fin de la Vida" se propone establecer y legalizar el suicidio asistido en nuestro estado. Es probable que sea pase por sus defensores en la Cámara de Representantes de la Asamblea General de Delaware cuando se vuelvan a reunir este mes. Buscarían poner fin a la enfermedad de una persona mediante la administración de drogas letales para terminar con la vida de la persona. Hasta ahora eso se consideraría asesinato u homicidio (según las circunstancias); ahora se transformaría de un crimen en un derecho legal

Asuntos Familiares. No escribo esto en el vacío. He tenido que lidiar con personas enfermas y que sufren en mi propia familia que enfrentan estos problemas paralizantes de la enfermedad. Mi propia madre, hace unos pocos años, enfrentaba una posible dificultad a largo plazo después de un ataque cerebral. Mi abuela y mi abuelo también sufrieron cerca del final de sus vidas. Pero nuestra fe es compasiva en esta área: permite una muerte natural. Es decir, si una persona está sufriendo gravemente y hay pocas esperanzas de recuperación, nosotros, como católicos, podemos dejar que la naturaleza siga su curso (es decir, dejar las cosas en las manos de Dios) sin tomar lo que solía llamarse "medidas heroicas". "Extender la vida por el solo hecho de extender la vida".

Por lo tanto, para mi madre, a los 89 años, después de sufrir un derrame cerebral, pudo haberse sometido a una serie de operaciones en el cerebro que podrían haber prolongado su vida durante algunos meses. Mi madre lo había dejado claro muchas veces: sin operaciones, sin medidas extremas: muerte

natural. Entonces, dejamos las cosas en las manos de Dios y mamá falleció naturalmente unas semanas más tarde.

¿Enfermo hasta la Muerte? Ahora, mientras uno no necesita tomar "medidas heroicas" para extender una vida, ni es aceptable hacer lo opuesto y acelerar deliberadamente la muerte de una persona enferma, con esa intención específica. Los enfermos deben ser cuidados, los enfermos deben ser consolados, los enfermos deben recibir cuidados paliativos para aliviar su sufrimiento. El enfermo no debería ser asesinado, y HB 160 lo permitiría. No debe ser permitido. La única matanza que se debe hacer es a HB 160.

Corazones y Mentes. Animaría a los fieles de nuestra parroquia a buscar la derrota de este pernicioso proyecto de ley. El primer paso, y el paso que muchos pueden dar es rezar. Orar para que esta ley y otras similares nunca vean la luz del día. También pueden alentar a sus amigos y familiares a hacer lo mismo. De una manera más directa, comuníquese con sus legisladores y explique sus inquietudes de manera respetuosa, y trate de cambiar los corazones y las mentes por sus acciones.

Mientras tanto en Bélgica. Con precaución aprendamos la lección de Bélgica, uno de los llamados Países Bajos, de Europa occidental. Habiendo legalizado el suicidio asistido en 2003 por una enfermedad grave y terminal con sufrimiento, inicialmente había pocos usos de la ley. En el año más reciente donde hay estadísticas disponibles, ese número se está acercando a los 2,000 por año.

La Cuesta está Verdaderamente Resbaladiza. Inicialmente, la mayoría de los pacientes belgas que fueron asistidos hasta su muerte tenían cáncer u otra enfermedad grave, el efecto de la cuesta resbaladiza se inició. En los últimos años, las personas también han sido "eutanasias" porque tenían autismo, anorexia, trastorno mentales, crónico- síndrome de fatiga, parálisis parcial, ceguera / sordera y depresión maniaca. En un caso reciente, un paciente con demencia, contrario a cualquier inclinación establecida, fue eliminado como un perro por un médico. Las leyes de eutanasia ahora también se han extendido a los niños. Un efecto secundario de esta indiferencia por el valor de la vida humana es que Bélgica ahora tiene una de las tasas de suicidio más altas del mundo (que excluye los suicidios asistidos).

Un paciente en silla de ruedas en un hogar de ancianos europeo lo expresó bien claro en un artículo periodístico: "A medida que crece la cantidad de personas que mueren por eutanasia en Bélgica, esa pendiente resbaladiza entra en la visión. Tengo miedo de convertirme en otra estadística, otra víctima sin rostro. Nos dicen que las salvaguardias nos protegerán de los abusos. Ciertamente no protegen a los ancianos en Bélgica".

Bélgica ha producido excelentes gofres, obras de arte y una gran arquitectura. Ciertamente, sin embargo, han producido políticas y leyes terribles con respecto a la vida humana. Oremos por Bélgica, oremos por Delaware ... y oremos para que el respeto por la vida humana regrese a nuestra nación. Recordemos diariamente este tema por las voces silenciadas de esas personas que ya no vemos.

¡Bendiciones continuas para ti y tu familia en este tiempo de Cuaresma!

Tuyo en Cristo, P. James Lentini, Párroco