

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.

March 12, 2017 – Second Sunday of Lent

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,

As I am writing this column, the Boys' Basketball Team of our high school, St. Thomas More Academy, has just won the quarterfinals and will be proceeding to the state final. Last year, they made it to quarterfinals and lost, this year they pummeled Appoquinimink 48-40, and are able to move to the next plateau. I could not be more proud of these young men; they represent the only Catholic school still in the running. The large northern schools like Salesianum, St. Mark's and St. Elizabeth's have all been felled by this point, but our little power-house high school is battling on, representing our Catholic schools – and moving toward victory.

By the time you read this column, St. Thomas More's Ravens may have won the semi-finals and the state championship. And I will be the happiest pastor in the Diocese, if not the world. But the very fact that they made it to the semi-finals puts sheaves of joy in my heart. Our parish high school is doing the Holy Cross name proud, and they do every day, on the court and off. Go Ravens!

Of Virtues and Vices. "The Magnificent Seven" is one of those movies that has a place in the canon of American filmdom. The film tells the story of a Mexican village that hires seven gunfighters to defend them. With an all-star cast, the "Magnificent Seven" referenced by the title were played by actors Charles Bronson, Yul Brynner, Horst Buchholz, James Coburn, Brad Dexter, Steve McQueen, and Robert Vaughn. These seven were in opposition to Eli Wallach, who played Calvera, a Mexican bandit, who with his henchmen, raid and pillage this poor village over and over again. While not originally considered to be a particularly good film, critics over the years have revised their initial reviews of this film; it is now deemed a classic.

"The Magnificent Seven" puts forth a battle of good vs. evil, doers of virtue vs. doers of vice. In the Catholic faith, we have a similar battle of vice and virtue going. Everyone has heard of the "Seven Deadly Sins" -- pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth; these are well-known vices. However, to counter these vices, there are seven (far greater and more Godly) contrary virtues to these vices.

During this season of Lent, we are often told to "avoid sin," "repent from sin," and to "reject sin." Vice is the key ingredient of the cake batter of sin, and so to avoid, repent from, and reject sin, one has to overcome vice. And vice can only be overcome by embracing an opposite virtue. So, I wanted to use this column to compare seven vices (I'll call these "The Repugnant Seven") to their opposite virtues (truly, "The Magnificent Seven").

Vice of Pride. It is oft known as the Devil's favorite vice of man, as it allows man to be drawn into temptation by his personal vanity and by placing himself and his needs above God and neighbor. **The contrary virtue of humility** is an awareness of our abject dependence upon God and human smallness compared to him. It gives us a willingness to serve others in various way – no matter how small, mundane, or even personally effacing.

Vice of Envy. Envy is a disordered desire of another person's success, property, skills or accomplishments. It is envy that causes us to not be fully happy for another person's success or to begrudge another person's blessings. Envy is perhaps the ugliest of the vices, as it pits brother against brother, so to speak. **The contrary virtue of contentment** allows us to be satisfied with our appearance, gifts, talents, relationships, status, possessions, and qualities. It allows one to appreciate that he is "enough" because he is who God made him to be.

Vice of Lust. Lust is the dereliction of free will as relates to the controlling and restraining of our impulses and governing our desires. Lust is where temptations of the flesh are pitted against the Christian call to holiness. **The contrary virtue of self-control** allows us to be able to restrain our lustful desires, and actions, rather than being enslaved to them. Self-control puts up the red light, that tells us to stop.

Vice of Sloth. From crossword puzzle practice, I have learned that a three-toed sloth is called an "ai" – great two letter word! But a sloth is a lethargic beast, and sloth for human is laziness in terms of deed, but even more so, a tepidness or lackadaisicalness in faith. This is the religious slothfulness that afflicts our world today. **The contrary virtue of alertness** (think in terms of Mark 13:33, as regards the end times, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come") allows us to be prepared, to be aware and to keep the Lord at the

forefront of our mind.

Vice of Anger. As we know from Catholic tradition, it is okay to be righteously indignant, but it is not okay to be angry. Anger is what the Devil wants to exploit to make us hate. He whispers in your ear: "Get angry, you'll feel better! Get revenge you're justified. Hate that other person, that'll teach them." It's a canard, it's deceptive, and make no doubt, it separates us from God. Anger is also the bad outcome of impatience – the inability to hit the pause button in life or to wait for things according to God's time not merely your schedule. **The contrary virtue of patience** allows us to wait peacefully, and to endure difficult circumstances such as pain, trouble, delay, or annoyance with grace. It allows us to be long-suffering.

Vice of Greed. Greed is the misplaced value of amassing things for ourselves, oft to the exclusion of others, in the false belief that God doesn't provide for our needs. Earning money isn't greed, playing the stock market isn't greed, desiring to improve your lot in life isn't greed. Greed is when doing those things is the focus of your life. Likewise, the sense of "I deserve it" can be a form of greed. **The contrary virtue of generosity** is a readiness to give freely to other from what you have without the expectation of reciprocity. Also in this category are humility (since no one ever thinks he is greedy, one needs humility to admit to it), faith, hope, contentment, and compassion.

Vice of Gluttony. Many people associate gluttony, quite rightly, with food and drink consumption in overabundance. But, as a nice wrap-up of the seven-deadly sin (vices), consider that we can also be gluttonous with money (greed), misplaced desires (lust), personal self-appreciation (pride), one's own personal comfort (sloth), claiming one's stake (anger), and resentment (envy). **The contrary virtue of temperance** (moderation), when combined with self-control and contentment helps us to overcome gluttony.

I pray that we all have a spiritually strengthening Lent, which allows to move from vice to virtue and draw closer to the Lord, our God.

Yours in Christ, Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun., Mar., 12

8:30: Frances Comegys

11:00: For the People

Misa en Español **7pm** For the People

Thur. Mar., 16 Misa **7pm** For the People

Sun., Mar., 19

8:30: Michael Comegys

11:00: For the People

Misa en Español **7pm** For the People

Stations of the Cross:

Fridays during Lent at 7pm in the Church

Mass Intentions for 2017 are still available.

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Regular Offertory: \$3872.65

CRS and Latin America: \$660.00

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 us in the Hall THIS
MORNING for Coffee and Donuts**

STEWARSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Collection Counters

Mar 12 Tom & Mary McGowan

Mar 19 Julia Moore & Paul McQuaide

Mar 26 Elisa & Tom Costello

Church Cleaning Crew

March 17, 2017 Grupo # 7

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

March 24, 2017 Grupo # 8

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

Altar Servers

Mar 19

8:30am Mass – Mike Dixon & Hannah Nagyiski

11:00am Mass – Sherlin Santizo & Savannah Strauss

Spanish Misa 7pm – Reynaldo Alvarez & Itzel Roblero

Lectors

Mar 19

8:30am Mass – Gerry Godfrey

11:00am Mass – Laura Schlaupitz

Spanish Misa 7pm – Pavel Rivera, Javier Carreto

Eucharistic Ministers

Mar 19

8:30am Mass – Deacon Tormey, Lani Small, Julia
Moore

11:00am Mass – Deacon Mitchell, Paul Lardizzone, Jim
Ward

Spanish Misa 7pm – Dolores Cuin, Carlos Miguel,
Flora Pérez, Genaro Pérez, Antonio Pérez



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.



The St. Thomas More Academy -
Midnight Dreary Players present
"Seussical The Musical" at the
Schwartz Center for the Arts on Friday
March 17th at 7pm and Saturday, March
18th 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are \$10.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Mar 12 9:40am SRE Classes

Sun, Mar 12 12:30pm Confirmation Prep

Sun, Mar 12 1pm RICA

Mon, Mar 13 & Wed Mar 15 7pm ESL

Tue, Mar 14 7pm RCIA

Tue, Mar 14 7pm Juan XXIII

Wed, Mar 15 6:30pm 6 Weeks with the Bible

Fri, Mar 17 7pm Stations of the Cross

Sat, Mar 18 6:30pm Culto

The Dover Columbiettes

Auxiliary are hosting a

Fashion Show & Chinese

Auction on Sat., April 8 at

the Columbian Home, 219

Vepco Blvd., Camden. Doors

open at 11:30 am and the

fashion show will begin at

noon. The cost is \$20 which

includes lunch. RSVP to Joyce Cristiano at [302-653-9004](tel:302-653-9004)



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 –

If you don't do regular maintenance on your car, it may start sputtering and clanking. If your spouse is making noises (complaining, nagging etc.), maybe it's time to look under the hood. You may find that neglect is the culprit. Perhaps you haven't listened closely to what your beloved needs. Maybe work or the kids have become a priority. Ask.

Parenting Pointer –

"The people grumbled against Moses" (Ex 17: 3) It's normal in any family to grumble occasionally. Parents grumble about their kids and vice-versa. But what happens after the grumbling? Model apologizing for your child. "I'm sorry. I'll try to do better."

FROM THE DRE'S DESK
School of Religious Education

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

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:

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

First Communion Preparation – Session #5, Tuesday, March 21, 6:30-7:30pm in the hall.

ADULT FORMATION:

Six Weeks with the Bible: Join us for Lent on **Wednesday's at 6:30pm-8pm in the office meeting room.** **Luke: The Good News of God's Mercy.** If you know you will be joining us or are interested, please contact the office so we may have enough materials for all to attend.

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, registration due to me by March 26.**



This week in Matthew's gospel we are presented with the Transfiguration. This event took place to strengthen the faith of the apostles before they were confronted with the many challenges they would face. The appearance of Moses and Elijah, the giver of the law and the greatest prophet, reassured them that Christ was truly the Messiah. The one verse that sticks out most for me is when Jesus says, "Rise, and do not be afraid." Why do you think the disciples were afraid? Was it because they finally realized that Jesus was truly God? Do you fully grasp the Divine nature of Christ? This week I encourage you to spend some time in prayer contemplating this truth, maybe during Adoration. Being in the presence of Christ is a great way to allow Him to enter your heart and open it to the truth.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Second Sunday of Lent

Theme: Transfiguration - with the Spirit of Jesus living within us, we will be transformed.

Question for Children: Share about a time when you felt especially close to God or Jesus.

Question for Youth: Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience where you felt exceptionally close to God? How was your life changed by that experience?

Question for Adults: Perhaps this reading calls us, not to cling to the familiar, but to leave the comforts of the parish and reach out to the world around us. In your neighborhood or community, who is waiting to hear the Good News?

20 domingo de cuaresma

Tema: Transfiguración, con el Espíritu de Jesús viviendo entre nosotros, seremos transformados.

Pregunta para los niños: Comenta acerca de un tiempo cuando te sentiste especialmente cerca de Dios o Jesús.

Pregunta para los jóvenes: ¿En qué formas particulares colocas tu propia confianza en Jesús? ¿Cuándo sus palabras "no temas" se convierte en una realidad para ti?

Pregunta para los adultos: Quizás esta lectura nos llama, a no apegarnos a lo conocido, sino a dejar el confort de la parroquia y alcanzar el mundo a nuestro alrededor. En nuestro vecindario o comunidad, ¿quién está esperando escuchar las Buenas Nuevas?

Operation Rice Bowl:

2nd WEEK OF LENT - ENCOUNTER NUTRITION



who are hungry have not only food
Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

We encounter Evelina in Zambia as she and other mothers in her community learn new ways to provide nutritious meals for their growing children and families. How do we ensure that those but true nourishment?

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. "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 2099 S DuPont Highway Dover, DE 19901 (302) 674-1600	Seton Center 30632 Hampden Avenue Princess Ann, MD 21853 410-651-9608
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To make an online monetary donation, visit Catholic Charities' website, www.cdow.org/charities. Designate your gift to Food Assistance

COLUMNÁ DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 12 DE MARZO, 2017.

Estimados feligreses,

Al estar escribiendo esta columna, el Equipo de Baloncesto Masculino de nuestra escuela secundaria, de la Academia St. Thomas More, acaba de ganar ell cuarto de finales y avanzan a los finales del estado. El año pasado, llegaron a cuartos de finales y perdieron, este año derrotaron a Appoquinimink 48-40, y ahora pasan a la siguiente meseta. No podría estar más orgulloso de estos jóvenes; es el único equipo que representan las escuelas católicas que están todavía en la carrera. Las grandes escuelas del norte, como La Salle, San Marcos y Santa Isabel, están fuera de la competencia, pero nuestra pequeña escuela secundaria está luchando, representando a nuestras escuelas católicas luchando por la victoria.

Para cuando leas esta columna, los Ravens de St. Thomas More probablemente habrán ganado las semifinales y el campeonato estatal. Y será el párroco más feliz en la Diócesis, si no del mundo. Pero el hecho de que lleguen a las semifinales llena de alegría en mi corazón. Nuestra escuela secundaria parroquial está poniendo el nombre de la Santa Cruz con en alto, y lo hacen todos los días, en la corte y fuera. Go Ravens!

De Virtudes y Vicios. "Los Siete Magníficos" es una de esas películas que tiene un lugar en el canon del cinematografía americano. La película cuenta la historia de un pueblo mexicano que contrata a siete pistoleros para defenderlos. Con un reparto de estrellas, los "Siete Magníficos" a los que hace referencia el título con súper estrellas como los actores Charles Bronson, Yul Brynner, Horst Buchholz, James Coburn, Brad Dexter, Steve McQueen y Robert Vaughn. Estos siete estaban en oposición a Eli Wallach, que hizo el papel de Calvera un bandido mexicano, que con sus secuaces, que le quitan a los labradores el fruto de sus cosechas, saquean a este pueblo pobre una y otra vez. Aunque originalmente no se consideró una película particularmente buena, los críticos durante los años han revisado sus versiones iniciales de esta película; Ahora se considera un clásico.

"Los Siete Magníficos" presenta una batalla entre el bien y el mal, los hacedores de la virtud vs. los hacedores del vicio. En la fe católica, tenemos una batalla similar de vicio y virtud. Todo el mundo ha oído hablar de los "Siete Pecados Capitales" - soberbia, avaricia, lujuria, ira, gula, envidia y pereza; Estos son vicios bien conocidos. Sin embargo, para contrarrestar estos vicios, hay siete virtudes (mucho más grandes y piadosas) opuestas a estos vicios.

Durante este Tiempo de Cuaresma, a menudo se nos dice que "evitemos el pecado", "arrepíéntanse del pecado" y "rechacen el pecado". El vicio es el ingrediente clave de la masa del pastel del pecado, y así para evitar, arrepentirse y Rechazar el pecado, uno tiene que vencer al vicio. Y el vicio sólo puede ser superado abrazando una virtud opuesta. Por lo tanto, quería usar esta columna para comparar siete vicios

(los llamaré "Los siete repugnantes") a sus virtudes opuestas (verdaderamente, "Los siete magníficos").

Vicio de la Soberbia. Es frecuentemente conocido como el vicio del hombre favorito del diablo, ya que permite al hombre ser atraído a la tentación por su vanidad personal y poniéndose a sí mismo y sus necesidades por encima de Dios y el prójimo. **La virtud contraria de la humildad** es la conciencia de nuestra abyecta dependencia de Dios y de la pequeñez humana comparada con El. Nos da una disposición a servir a los demás de varias maneras - no importa lo pequeño, mundano, reconocer que de nosotros mismos solo tenemos la nada y el pecado.

Vicio de la Envidia. La envidia es un deseo desordenado del éxito, la propiedad, las habilidades o los logros de otra persona. Es la envidia lo que nos hace no estar plenamente contentos por el éxito de otra persona o por envidiar las bendiciones de otra persona. La envidia es tal vez el más feo de los vicios, ya que enfrenta al hermano contra el hermano, por así decirlo. **La virtud contraria del contentamiento** nos permite estar satisfechos con nuestra apariencia, dones, talentos, relaciones, estatus, posesiones y cualidades. Permite apreciar que es "suficiente" porque él es quien Dios lo hizo ser.

Vicio de la Lujuria. La lujuria es el abandono del libre albedrío como se relaciona con el control y restricción de nuestros impulsos y gobernar nuestros deseos. La lujuria es donde las tentaciones de la carne se enfrentan al llamado cristiano a la santidad. **La virtud contraria del autocontrol** nos permite ser capaces de restringir nuestros deseos y acciones lujuriosas, en lugar de ser esclavos de ellos. El autocontrol pone la luz roja, que nos dice que nos dice para.

Vicio de la Pereza. De la práctica de crucigramas, he aprendido que un perezoso de tres dedos se llama un "aí" - palabra de dos letras! Pero el perezoso es una bestia letárgico, y la pereza para el hombre en términos de hecho, pero más aún, una tibieza o falta de formalismo en la fe. Esto es la pereza religiosa que aflige a nuestro mundo hoy. **La virtud contraria de la vigilancia** (piensa en términos de Marcos 13:33, en lo que respecta a los últimos tiempos, "¡Estén vigilantes, alertos, porque no saben cuándo llegará el momento") nos permite estar preparados, mantener al Señor en la vanguardia de nuestra mente.

Vicio de la Ira. Como sabemos por la tradición católica, está bien estar indignados, pero no está bien estar enojados. La ira es lo que el diablo quiere explotar para hacernos odiar. Él susurra en tu oído: "Enójate, te sentirás mejor! Véngate, estás justificado. Odiar a esa otra persona, que va a enseñar. "Es decepción, es desengaño, y no hay duda, nos separa de Dios. La ira también es el mal resultado de la

impaciencia - la incapacidad de tocar el botón de pausa en la vida o esperar las cosas de acuerdo con el tiempo de Dios no sólo de tu horario. **La virtud**

contraria de la paciencia nos permite esperar con paz y serenidad todas las adversidades, y soportar circunstancias difíciles tales como el dolor, problemas, retrasos o molestias con gracia. Nos permite ser perseverantes en el sufrimiento.

Vicio de la Codicia. La codicia es el valor erróneo de acumular cosas para nosotros mismos, a menudo excluyendo a otros, en la falsa creencia de que Dios no provee nuestras necesidades. Ganar dinero no es codicia, jugando en La bolsa de valores no es codicia, deseando mejorar su condición en la vida no es codicia. La avaricia es cuando haces esas cosas el foco de tu vida. Del mismo modo, el sentido de " Yo lo merezco" puede ser una forma de codicia. **La virtud contraria de la generosidad** es la disposición a dar libremente a otro de lo que uno tiene sin la expectativa de reciprocidad. También en

esta categoría hay humildad (ya que nadie piensa que es avaricioso, uno necesita tener humildad para admitirlo) fe, esperanza, satisfacción y compasión.

Vicio de la Gula. Muchas personas asocian la gula, con el consumo de alimentos y bebidas en exceso y con razón. Pero, como una buena recapitulación de los siete pecados capitales (vicios), consideremos que también podemos ser glotones con el dinero (codicia), los deseos extraviados (lujuria), auto-aprecio personal (orgullo), la propia comodidad personal (Pereza), reclamando nuestra parte (ira) y el resentimiento (envidía). La virtud contraria de la templanza (moderación), cuando se combina con el autocontrol y la satisfacción nos ayuda a superar la gula.

Ruego para que todos tengamos una Cuaresma fortalecida espiritualmente, lo que nos permite pasar del vicio a la virtud y acercarnos al Señor nuestro Dios.

Suyo en Cristo,

Fr. James Lentini