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 19, 2017 – Third 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,

In early 1979, I remember going to a New York City club and hearing an amazing rock band. They rocked with amazing guitar work, and rhythm. The name of the band – which was relatively unknown in the U.S. at that point – was Dire Straits. Within a few years, they would be major players in America's pantheon of rock'n'roll bands, reaching their apex in 1985 with their quasi-homage to MTV entitled, "Money for Nothing." But back in early 1979, they were relatively unheard of. I remember my friends and I really enjoyed their set, and the crowd (a fairly small one) raved at the end of the show. Their repertoire was so small back then that their third set was a repeat of their first set (with their soon-to-be first-hit "Sultans of Swing" as a centerpiece).

Band Aid? In any event, I told everyone and anyone who would listen, that this was an amazing band and that when their first album arrives, it would be worth a listen. I am sure other people who experienced that evening's performance did likewise. The good news of this great band was spread and much interest was generated. And by the end of 1979, Dire Straits became a well-known band who first album sold over 2,000,000 copies. I'd like to think that my friends and I (and others who saw that first American appearance of the band) each had some small part in Dire Straits ensuing success. In some little way, our word-of-mouth praise, and our spreading interest and curiosity helped, perhaps, to create a buzz that made this unknown quantity, a known quantity.

A 40 Day Make Over. During this season of Lent, I would suggest that we need to create a buzz, not for some band, but rather for Jesus Christ; we need to make him known to others. But sometimes we can inadvertently stand in the way of that. How? You see, in Lent, there is often a tendency to re-enkindle our faith, to draw ourselves closer to Lord and to turn back to God, seek his mercy and know his forgiveness. To borrow from Reality TV – in Lent we undergo a 40-day soul makeover. And that is a wonderful thing. As it says in Acts of the Apostles (3:19-20a), *"Repent, therefore, and be converted, that*

your sins may be wiped away, and that the Lord may grant you times of refreshment[.]" What's the problem with that, you may wonder? Nothing, unless we start to think of this conversion as just a matter between "me and God." But it cannot be that way with us; our personal spiritual renewal cannot be where the train stops.

Be Sunny and Share. Once we experience a strengthening in our Catholic faith and a renewal in Jesus Christ and his mercy and forgiveness, we can't just say "well, that's it I'm done." To put it back to my Dire Straits moment, if I had heard a wonderful band and not shared that with others, how selfish I would have been. It is a million times more selfish when the matter at hand is not a band, but rather our Lord, who gave us life and salvation. When we experience the goodness of God, learn of the power of forgiveness, and hear of the fullness of the truth that resides in the Catholic Church, how selfish it would be not to share that and make it known to others.

Charge! That is the call we each have this Lent: to not only recharge our spiritual batteries but also to recharge the spiritual batteries of others, so that all of us will be – dare I say – "ever-ready" to serve the Lord and love him more fully. St. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross said it well, "On the question of relating to our fellowman – our neighbor's spiritual need transcends every commandment." And my personal favorite saint, St. Thomas Aquinas, put it in even more clear and instructive terms: "To convert someone, go and take them by the hand and guide them."

Forward March! And so, as we continue our march through March in our journey of Lent, let us commit ourselves to making known to others, God's all-powerful presence in our world and our lives, and his great power of forgiveness and redemption, most especially through the awareness of Christ's Passion. To that end, our faith cannot be something we hide in the privacy of our home, or merely observe within the walls of a Church; rather it is something that we practice, live, and experience in our daily lives. Our Catholic faith is something that we are obliged to share and spread, according to Christ's command: *"Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15). We need to let those who walk in darkness, see the light of Christ and know the goodness of the Lord.

Keeping the Faith by Sharing It. St. Paul wrote, "*God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So, we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."* (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). The word "ambassador" comes from the Latin, *ambactus*, meaning a servant or a messenger. We are Christ's ambassadors; we are the ones who serve God and make His message known to others. And so, this Lent, live your faith, strengthen your faith, and share your faith with those who don't know (or have forgotten) the Faith. This Lent, let *"your light… shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."* (Matthew 5:16).

Let me end on a cautionary note: If all we do in our faith life is limit our faith to "me and Thee," then we are not only distorting the call of our faith, but we are also limiting the reach of Christ in the world, and in our community, and in our families. And if that is how we dare choose to live our faith, then we are placing our souls in… dire straits.

So, this Lent, don't let your soul-makeover, be a sole makeover; help others to open their hearts and souls to Christ. Doing that will make this a most spiritually profitable season for our one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church, and make you a true ambassador for Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sun., Mar., 19
8:30: Michael Comegys
11:00: Alexis DeFrancesco
Misa en Español **7pm** For the People
Thur. Mar., 23 Misa **7pm** For the People

Sun., Mar., 26
8:30: Edward McGowan
11:00: Sachiko Saus
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: **$3410.51**
Supplementary: **$597.95**

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

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Collection Counters

Mar 19 Julia Moore & Paul McQuaide
Mar 26 Elisa & Tom Costello
Apr 2 Marilyn Dixon & Maurilio Gabriel

Church Cleaning Crew

March 24, 2017 Grupo # 8
Reynaldo Pérez, Maribel Ortiz, Juventino López, **Isenia Escalante**, Clemente Escalante

Marzo 31, 2017 Grupo #9
Marcos Domingo, **Orelia Berdugo, Carmen Gabriel, Susana Ortiz Morales,** Alberto Morales

Altar Servers

Mar 26
8:30am Mass – Mike Dixon & Anna Clancy
11:00am Mass – Vince Haass & Savannah Strauss
Spanish Misa 7pm – Jose and Yareli Ortiz

Lectors

Mar 26
8:30am Mass – Catherine Beck
11:00am Mass – Alicia Poppiti
Spanish Misa 7pm – Clara Bamaca, Román Cuin

Eucharistic Ministers

Mar 26
8:30am Mass – Deacon & Charlotte Tormey, Marilyn Dixon
11:00am Mass – Deacon Mitchell, Frank & Joyce Cristiano
Spanish Misa 7pm – Adelaida Velásquez, Epifanio Morales, Guadalupe Morales, Adrián Miranda, Simón De Jesús Quevedo

CONGRATULATIONS to our catechumens, **Horacia and Ana,** who were chosen in the Rite of Election, to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation in the coming Easter Vigil.

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.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Mar 19 9:40am SRE Classes
Sun, Mar 19 1pm RICA
Mon, Mar 20 & Wed Mar 22 7pm ESL
Tue, Mar 21 6:30pm Communion Prep
Tue, Mar 21 7pm RCIA
Wed, Mar 22 6:30pm 6 Weeks with the Bible
Fri, Mar 17 7pm Stations of the Cross

THE CHRISM MASS, or Mass for the Blessing of Sacred Oils and Consecration of Chrism, will be celebrated Monday April 10 at Holy Cross Church in Dover. This Mass is celebrated once a year in each diocese in the world. Every priest who can get out of bed gathers with the Bishop for the occasion. We are blessed to have it so close to us, and your pastor urges you to consider participating this year.

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

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 spluttering 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:

First Communion Preparation – Session #5, Tuesday, March 21, 6:30-7:30pm in the hall.
Confirmation Preparation-
Pilgrimage- Saturday, April 8: All day, be sure to register with Alicia Poppiti

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.***

In John's gospel this week we are presented with the account of the Samarian woman at the well. From this one encounter with Christ this woman became a believer. She not only became a believer herself she also brought many to Christ because of her words about this experience. As Catholics we encounter Christ at every Mass and should be moved to spread this experience to others. When was the last time you spoke to someone about your experience with the Lord? In this age, this joyful task is wrought with stress and in many cases responded with anger or ridicule. This should not prevent us from spreading this truth and living our faith. This week I encourage you to speak about your experience with Christ to your family at the dinner table. Take five minutes and go around the table to tell each other about one joyful or meaningful experience you had. The more you speak of Christ the easier it becomes, and the more you live your faith, the more experiences you will have to draw upon.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Lent

Theme: Jesus is the Living Water
Question for Children: How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you?
Question for Youth: Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be "living water" to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world?
Question for Adults: When you are tempted to try to satisfy your "thirst for meaning" through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?

3er domingo de cuaresma

Tema: Jesús es el Agua de Vida
Pregunta para los niños: ¿Cómo experimentas a Jesús ayudándote y amándote?
Pregunta para los jóvenes: Comparte un tiempo en tu propia vida cuando experimentaste el poder de Cristo guiándote y fortaleciéndote, especialmente al crecer en tu juventud, enfrentando el rango de opciones frente a ti en tu vida.
Pregunta para los adultos: ¿Cuándo siente la tentación de tratar de satisfacer su "sed por significados" mediante otros medios que evitan que regrese al agua de la vida de la intimidad con Cristo? ¿A través de qué medios experimenta el poder de Cristo en su vida: Sacramentos? ¿Escrituras? ¿Oración? ¿Otros?

Operation Rice Bowl:

CRS RICE BOWL
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

ENCOUNTER OPPORTUNITY

We encounter Fernando in El Salvador where, despite a lack of economic opportunity, youth are pursuing their dreams of building businesses to better the lives of their families. How have you worked to better the lives of others this Lent? Visit **crsricebowl.org** for more.

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

To make an online monetary donation, visit Catholic Charities' website, www.cdow.org/charities. Designate your gift to Food Assistance

COLUMNA DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 19 DE MARZO, 2017.

Estimados feligreses,

A principios de 1979, recuerdo haber ido a un club nocturno de Nueva York y escuchar una banda de Rock fenomenal. Se movían con un ritmo y un toque de guitarra increíble. El nombre de la banda era Los Dire Straits. -que era relativamente desconocido en los Estados Unidos en ese tiempo- Dentro de unos cuantos años, su popularidad creció en el galardón de las bandas de Rock de Los Estados Unidos, llegando a su cima en 1985 con su homenaje a MTV titulado "Money for Nothing". Pero a principios de 1979 eran relativamente desconocidos. Recuerdo que mis amigos y yo realmente disfrutamos de su presentación, (una pequeña audiencia) elogiaron al final del espectáculo. Su repertorio era tan pequeño en ese entonces que su tercera presentación era una repetición de su primera (con su pronto-a-ser primer hit "Sultans of Swing" como pieza central).

¿ Banda Aid ? En cualquier evento, les dije a todos y a cualquiera que quisiera escuchar, que esta era una banda increíble y que cuando llegue su primer álbum, valdría la pena escucharlo. Estoy seguro de que otras personas que experimentaron el rendimiento de esa noche hicieron lo mismo. La buena noticia de esta gran banda se difundió y generó mucho interés. Y a finales de 1979, Dire Straits se convirtió en una banda muy conocida banda cuyo primer álbum vendió más de 2,000,000 de copias. Me gustaría pensar que mis amigos y yo (y otros que vieron esa primera aparición americana de la banda) cada uno tuvo una pequeña parte en Dire Straits éxito. De alguna manera, nuestro elogio de boca en boca, y nuestro creciente interés y curiosidad ayudaron, tal vez, a crear un zumbido que hizo esta cantidad desconocida, a una cantidad conocida

40 Días de Cambio. Durante este Tiempo de Cuaresma, sugeriría que necesitamos crear un zumbido, no para alguna banda, sino más bien para Jesucristo; Tenemos que darle a conocer a los demás. Pero a veces nos quedamos inadvertidamente cortos, y nos ponemos en el camino de eso. ¿Cómo? Ves, en Cuaresma, a menudo hay una tendencia a volver a encender la llama de nuestra fe, a acercarnos al Señor y a volvernos a Dios, buscar su misericordia y conocer su perdón. Para tomar prestado de Reality TV - en Cuaresma hacemos un cambio de imagen de 40 días. Y eso es algo maravilloso. Como dice en Hechos de los Apóstoles (3: 19-20a): *" Arrepiéntanse, pues, y conviértanse, para que les sean borrados sus pecados. Así el Señor hará llegar el tiempo del alivio"*. Puede preguntarse ¿Cuál es el problema? Con eso, Nada, a menos que comencemos a pensar en esta conversión como un asunto entre " Dios y yo ". Pero no puede ser así con nosotros; Nuestra renovación espiritual como persona no puede ser donde el tren se detiene.

Brilla y Comparta. Una vez que experimentamos un fortalecimiento en nuestra fe Católica y una renovación en Jesucristo, su misericordia y su perdón, no podemos simplemente decir "bien, esto es todo ya terminé." Para ponerlo de nuevo en mi momento de Dire Straits, si yo hubiera oído una banda maravillosa y no lo hubiera compartido con los demás, hubiera sido bien egoísta. Es un millón de veces más egoísta cuando el asunto que nos ocupa no es una banda, sino más bien nuestro Señor, que nos dio la vida y la salvación. Cuando experimentamos la bondad de Dios, aprendemos del poder del perdón y escuchamos de la plenitud de la verdad que reside en la Iglesia Católica, cuán egoísta sería no compartirla y darlo a conocer a otros.

¡Cargar! Esto es el llamado que cada uno de nosotros tiene esta Cuaresma: no sólo para recargar nuestras baterías espirituales, sino también para recargar las baterías espirituales de los demás, para que todos nosotros - me atrevo a decir –estemos "siempre listo" para servir al Señor y amarlo plenamente. Santa Teresa Benedicta de la Cruz lo decía muy bien: "Sobre la pregunta que tiene que ver con nuestra relación con nuestro prójimo -la necesidad espiritual de nuestro prójimo trasciende todo mandamiento". Y mi santo favorito, Santo Tomás de Aquino, lo puso en términos aún más claros e instructivos: " "Para convertir a alguien, ve y tómalo por la mano y guíalo."

¡ Marzo Avanza! Y así, a medida que continuamos nuestra marcha por el mes de marzo en nuestra jornada Cuaresmal, nos comprometemos de dar a conocer a otros, la presencia omnipotente de Dios en nuestro mundo y en nuestras vidas, y su gran poder de perdón y redención, La conciencia de la Pasión de Cristo. Para ello, nuestra fe no puede ser algo que escondemos en la intimidad de nuestra casa, o simplemente observamos dentro de los muros de una Iglesia; Sino que es algo que practicamos, vivimos y experimentamos en nuestra vida cotidiana. Nuestra fe católica es algo que estamos obligados a compartir y difundir, según el mandato de Cristo: "Vayan por todo el mundo y proclamen el Evangelio a toda criatura" (Marcos 16:15). Necesitamos dejar que los que andan en tinieblas, ven la luz de Cristo y conozcan la bondad del Señor.

Mantener la Fe Compartiéndola. San Pablo escribió: " Pues en Cristo Dios estaba reconciliando el mundo con él; ya no tomaba en cuenta los pecados de los hombres, sino que a nosotros nos entregaba el mensaje de la reconciliación. Nos presentamos, pues, como embajadores de Cristo, como si Dios mismo les exhortara por nuestra boca. En nombre de Cristo les rogamos: ¡déjense reconciliar con Dios! Dios hizo cargar con nuestro pecado al que no cometió pecado, para que así nosotros participáramos en él de la justicia y perfección de Dios."(2 Corintios 5: 20-21). La palabra "embajador" viene del latín, ambactus, que significa siervo o mensajero. Somos embajadores de Cristo; Nosotros somos los que servimos a Dios y hacemos conocer su mensaje a los demás. Por lo tanto, esta Cuaresma, vive tu fe, fortalece tu fe y comparte tu fe con aquellos que no la conocen (o han olvidado) la Fe. Esta Cuaresma, " Hagan, pues, que brille su luz ante los hombres; que

vean estas buenas obras, y por ello den gloria al Padre de ustedes que está en los Cielos." (Mateo 5:16).

Permítanme terminar con una nota de advertencia: Si todo lo que hacemos en nuestra vida de fe, es limitarnos nuestra fe a " Tú y yo ", entonces no sólo estamos distorsionando el llamado de nuestra fe, sino que también estamos limitando el alcance de Cristo en la Mundo, en nuestra comunidad, y en nuestras familias. Y si es así como nos atrevemos a decidir vivir nuestra fe, entonces estamos poniendo nuestras almas en... apuros.

Por lo tanto, esta Cuaresma, no deje que tu cambio del alma, sea solo un cambio de imagen; Ayuda a otros a abrir sus corazones y almas a Cristo. Al hacer esto hará que este tiempo sea un tiempo espiritualmente más provechosa para nuestra santa iglesia, católica y apostólica, y que seas un verdadero embajador para Cristo.

Suyo en Cristo,
Fr. James Lentini
Párroco