

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., Friday 9:30-12noon, Closed Wednesdays

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

May 5, 2019 – Third Sunday of Easter

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
Rev. Mano Salla, 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 month our Parishes will celebrate First Communion with a large number of our young people. Next Saturday (May 11), teens from Holy Cross, Immaculate Conception, St. Polycarp (Smyrna), St. Dennis (Galena), St. John the Apostle (Milford) and St. Bernadette (Harrington), will gather at Holy Cross to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. With this flurry of sacramental activity abounding, I thought that this would be a good time to spend a column about the Sacraments -- the seven sacraments instituted by Christ to confer grace on his faithful.

None in a Habit? There was a book published in 1989 entitled "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People." It was one of those self-help books, and it was wildly popular. I just checked Amazon.com today and noticed that that book -- after 30 years on the market -- is still ranked among

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**.

the top 200 sellers in America and ranked #12 in one of Amazon's business categories. The book invites its reader to adopt seven habits -- seven behaviors -- that allow people to transform their lives and achieve greatness; it calls them to develop some of these habits where, in fact, they may have none. I am not a big fan of self-help books, as the persons they mainly serve to help are the authors, the publishers and Amazon. However, this "Seven Habits" book did something at the time, that many other self-help books did not do: It invoked God. It juxtaposed the low-expectations and cultural tendencies of the day against principles based in natural law (i.e., the moral meaning of humanity -- who we are, why we exist, etc.). It posited that if a person engages, or at least recognizes the importance of, the seven habits, he will be a better person.

The Seven. The Church likewise puts forth a list of seven items that can lead to personal change; we call them the seven Sacraments. These are seven encounters with Christ

that change us to be in communion with, and at one with, the God who gave us life. They are: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of Sick (sometimes called Extreme Unction or Last Rites), Holy Orders and Marriage. Each of these Sacraments, though distinct, give a share in God's Divine Life which we commonly call Sanctifying Grace. In each of these sacraments, those willingly receiving the Sacrament have an encounter with Christ that affects them on the ontic level of their soul. While there are other ways of receiving grace, Sacraments provide the faithful with a guarantee, a promise, of an encounter with Christ.

Of Sacraments, UPS and Logistics. The United Parcel Service (UPS) had a recent ad campaign focusing on "logistics" – namely how the company gets a product from here to there through the mechanism of its delivery service. There is an analogy to be made here, that Sacraments are perhaps a form of Divine logistics. How is that? Well, the Sacraments, as the Church has taught consistently over its life, are outward signs instituted by Christ to confer grace. That is to say, Christ designated key visible symbols (which the Church identifies as "matter") and a method or structure in which to use them (which the Church identifies as "form") as ways of receiving His grace. For lack of better term, and perhaps being a bit flip, I would say that Sacraments are grace delivery systems – they provide logistics for Sanctifying Grace. They are guaranteed ways of receiving God's grace for specific purposes. And they are even delivered on Sunday! Take that UPS!

Meta-physical Education. Okay, so sacraments confer grace... but how? Well, to understand the Sacraments one first must understand a little about metaphysics. Metaphysics is the study of the science (knowledge) of the world unseen, or as might be more traditionally put, the supernatural realm. When we speak of angels, heaven, purgatory, hell, etc., we are speaking of that realm beyond the natural, and we dub it "super" natural. You might be asking yourself, "Hey, what on earth, do sacraments – which we can see – have to do with the supernatural realm?" Good question! And the good answer is that Sacraments have everything to do with the supernatural realm (the world unseen).

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, May 5

8:30am Tommy Smith
11:00am Jack Deighton
Misa en Español 1pm For the People

Thursday, May 9

7pm Misa For the People

Sunday, May 12

8:30am Ed & Delores McGowan
11:00am Chuck Beck
Misa en Español 1pm For the People

Merge Ahead. When a sacrament is conferred (made present), the proper minister must be present, the appropriate "matter" must be at hand, and the appropriate "form" must be used. When all of those elements are in place, combined with the intention of the Church, the natural realm (visible) and the supernatural realm (invisible) converge – the presence of Christ is made manifest. Because these seven Sacraments, as mentioned, were instituted by Christ, they are repeated by the Church and its ministers today, just as they were carried out by Christ himself.

Sign Here? What about the recipient of a Sacrament? What exactly occurs when a person receives a Sacrament? Well, there is – from time-to-time, in heretical circles – a fashionable, but a wrong, consensus that Sacraments are merely a sign of Christ's presence. It further holds that that "sign" of Christ's presence brings calm, happiness and an Oprah-esque peace to the person, thus making them feel all good, warm and fuzzy inside. And, hey, isn't that what it's all about? Well, no, that is not what it is all about!

Close Encounters. The person who receives a Sacrament receives more than the simple sign. The person receiving a Sacrament is receiving an encounter with Christ, our Lord and our God. In that encounter, one receives Sanctifying Grace – a prescient share in God's Divine life -- and it will make him holy and pleasing to God. For this to occur propitiously, a person must be in a state of grace when receiving a Sacrament (except for Baptism and Penance); that Sanctifying Grace abides within us unless we lose it by placing ourselves in mortal sin.

Of Death and Taxes and... It is said that in life we can only be sure of death and taxes. However as Catholics, we have a third item even more certain than death and taxes: Christ's presence to us in the Sacraments. It can be said that certitude – that is, the certainty of God's presence – is both the joy and the burden of being Catholic. Knowing that God is with us and that he allows us to be able to share in his Divine Life, makes the Good News of Jesus Christ more than just a nice sounding story. It makes it part of our lives. Christ is risen, and Christ is with us! What a blessing!

Yours in Christ, Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Offertory: \$ 3661.96

Supplementary: \$ 396.00

Second Collection Today: Supplementary

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

**Join our Parish Family...Registration Forms are
Available at the front vestibule or the Parish Office.**

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Altar Servers

May 12

8:30am Mass –Averi Locke, Mike Dixon
11am Mass –Sherlin Santizo, Isaac Meyer
Spanish Misa 1pm – Yareli & Jose Ortiz

Lectors

May 12

8:30am Mass – Deacon Jim Tormey
11am Mass – Laura Schlaupitz
Spanish Misa 1pm – Rubelio Velásquez, Lorena Ortiz

Eucharistic Ministers

May 12

8:30am Mass – Sarah Bell, Karen Durham
11am Mass – Joan Stewart, Bob Vanvessan
Spanish Misa 1pm – Lucia Tomas, Hilario Macario, Flora Pérez, Román Cuin, Salome Morales

Collection Counters

May 5 Ann Lawson & Julia Moore

May 12 Paul & Robin Engstenberg

May 19 Frank & Joyce Cristiano

Church Cleaning Crew

Mayo 10, 2019 Grupo # 8

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

Mayo 17, 2019 Grupo #9

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

2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

If you have not yet participated, please consider doing so today. Our Goal is \$24,000.00, Thank you!

100th Anniversary Books: 100th Anniversary Books- we have 10 left in the office for 10. When they are gone, you will only be able to purchase from the link on the website www.iccmarydel.org



SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, May 5 9:40am – SRE – May Crowning

Sun, May 5 2:30pm –Bautizo

Mon, May 6 6pm – St. Vincent de Paul

Mon, May 6 7pm – Catholicism Series-hall

Tues, May 7 1pm Exercise class in hall

Thur, May 9 1pm Exercise class in hall

Fri, May 10 7pm Band Practice

Sat, May 11, 10am – Confirmation – Holy Cross

Delaware Right to Life is pleased to invite you to our first Victorian Tea for Life on Sat, June 22

from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Holy Angels Parish Hall.

Ladies! Bring your mum, your auntie, your

daughter, or a friend for a delightful outing to benefit Delaware Right to Life. Experience an

authentic British Tea with tea sandwiches,

scones, and dainties, as well as heaps of lovely

teas. Gift baskets will be raffled off and we will

tour the Memorial Garden of the Unborn. Tickets

are \$25 per person and are available through our

website, www.derighttolife.org, or by mailing a

check to DRTL Education Fund, P.O. Box 1222,

Wilmington, DE 19899. Seating is limited, so

please purchase tickets in advance!

Knights of Columbus



Next meeting Tues, May 14,

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

Marriage & Family Life Corner

Parenting Pointer –

As we remember Jesus ascending into heaven, perhaps you and your child could "lift up" in prayer the memory of deceased relatives who have gone to be with God. Even though we don't know where "heaven" is, children can watch a balloon or kite ascend toward the heavens - and pray.

Marriage Moment –

Good communication is essential in healthy marriages. Whether you are an extrovert or an introvert, why not try to communicate mostly non-verbally for one hour or so this week. It might just cause some silly fun - or it might give you some insight into each other. Talk about it afterwards.

FROM THE DRE'S DESK

**May Crowning is today, May 4 at 9:45am.
Please join us for our last day of SRE.**



Please get registrations in as soon as possible for next year SRE, so we can plan for classroom space and teachers. **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 \$40 por cada niño, y no más de \$150 cada familia.**



Sacramental Prep:

Yesterday, 15 of our Parish children received First Communion! Please pray for: Adelaide, Adrianna, Aiden, Alexis, Anderson, Anthony, Freddy, Haidy, Jhonaton, Larry, Lauren, Madelyn, Sheyri, Thania, Uriber

Confirmation: Rehearsal-Friday, May 10 at 6pm at Holy Cross.

Sacrament- Sat, May 11 10AM at Holy Cross



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

We will need teachers for religious education on Sunday mornings from September to May.

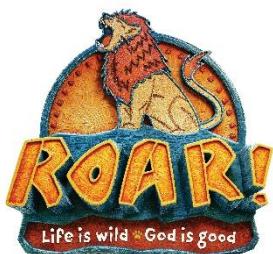
If you see this, and are wondering "is this me?", inquire.

Vacation Bible School

August 5-9th

**Yes, the planning is underway!
If you are interested in helping out this year,**

please inquire with Alicia Poppiti or Meg Haass.



Registration is available now, online and at SRE desk.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Third Sunday of Easter

Theme: Jesus feeds us so that we can feed and serve others.

Question for Children: Jesus asks Peter three times if Peter loves Jesus. What one thing can you do this week to show Jesus your love?

Question for Youth: Jesus asked Peter three times to "feed my sheep." Who are you being called to help in your life right now?

Question for Adults: Christ continues to feed us as his disciples, even after his death and resurrection. How does the Eucharist feed your faith?

3º domingo de Resurrección

Tema: Jesús nos alimenta para que podamos alimentar y servir a los demás.

Pregunta para los niños: Jesús le pregunta a Pedro tres veces si Pedro lo ama. ¿Qué cosa pueden hacer esta semana para mostrar que aman a Jesús?

Pregunta para los jóvenes: Jesús le pidió tres veces a Pedro: "alimenta mis ovejas". ¿A quién se te llama a ayudar en estos momentos?

Pregunta para los adultos: Cristo sigue alimentándonos como sus discípulos, aún después de su muerte y resurrección. ¿Cómo alimenta su fe la Eucaristía?

Saint Paul Catholic Church in Wilmington, Delaware is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. The first celebration is a Mass commemorating the actual ground breaking of our church on May 24, 1869. We are inviting all former and current parishioners, alumni, teachers, staff, priests, deacons, and anyone with a connection to our parish history. The Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Bishop Francis Malooly on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 10:30am, at Saint Paul Church, 4th and Jackson Street, Wilmington, Delaware. A fellowship gathering with light refreshments will follow immediately after Mass.

La Iglesia Católica San Pablo en Wilmington, Delaware, celebra este año su 150mo Aniversario. La primera celebración será una Misa commemorando el esfuerzo de más de 200 feligreses y vecinos, unidos para inaugurar y dar comienzo a la construcción de nuestra Iglesia el 24 de mayo de 1869. Estamos invitando a todos los pasados y presentes feligreses, ex-alumnos, maestros, empleados, sacerdotes, diáconos y a todas aquellas personas con alguna conexión a nuestra historia parroquial a compartir con nosotros en este evento. La Misa será celebrada por el Reverendísimo Obispo Francis Malooly el domingo, 19 de mayo de 2019 a las 10:30am, en la Iglesia Católica San Pablo, en las Calles 4 y Jackson, Wilmington, Delaware. Inmediatamente después de la Misa habrá una pequeña recepción de compañerismo con refrigerios ligeros.

COLUMNÁ DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 5 DE MAYO, 2019.

Queridos feligreses,

Este mes nuestras parroquias celebrarán la Primera Comunión con un gran número de nuestros niños. El próximo sábado (11 de mayo), los jóvenes de Holy Cross, Inmaculada Concepción, San Policarpo (Smyrna), San. Denis (Galena), San Juan el Apóstol (Milford) y Santa Bernardita (Harrington) se reunirán en Holy Cross. Para recibir el Sacramento de la Confirmación. Con esta gran cantidad de actividades sacramentales abundando, pensé que sería un buen momento para dedicar una columna sobre los Sacramentos: los siete sacramentos instituidos por Cristo para conferir gracia a sus fieles.

¿Ninguno en un Hábito? En 1989 se publicó un libro titulado "Los siete hábitos de la gente altamente efectivas". Era uno de esos libros de autoayuda, y era muy popular. Acabo de revisar Amazon.com hoy y me di cuenta de que ese libro, después de 30 años en el mercado, aún se encuentra entre los 200 mejores vendedores en Estados Unidos y ocupa el puesto número 12 en una de las categorías de negocios de Amazon. El libro invita a su lector a adoptar siete hábitos, siete comportamientos, que permiten a las personas transformar sus vidas y alcanzar la grandeza; los llama a desarrollar algunos de estos hábitos donde, de hecho, pueden no tener ninguno. No soy un gran fanático de los libros de autoayuda, ya que las personas a quienes sirven principalmente para ayudar son los autores, los editores y Amazon. Sin embargo, este libro de "Los siete hábitos" hizo algo en ese momento, que muchos otros libros de autoayuda no hicieron: invocó a Dios. Yuxtapone las bajas expectativas y las tendencias culturales del día contra los principios basados en la ley natural (es decir, el significado moral de la humanidad: quiénes somos, por qué existimos, etc.). Se planteó que si una persona se compromete, o al menos reconoce la importancia de los siete hábitos, será una mejor persona.

Los Siete. La Iglesia también presenta una lista de siete elementos que pueden llevar a un cambio personal; Los llamamos los siete Sacramentos. Estos son siete encuentros con Cristo que nos cambian para estar en comunión con el Dios que nos dio vida. Estos son: Bautismo, Confirmación, Eucaristía, Penitencia, Unción de los Enfermos (a veces llamados Extremaunción o Últimos ritos), Orden Sagrada y Matrimonio. Cada uno de estos Sacramentos, aunque distintos, da una parte de la Vida Divina de Dios que comúnmente llamamos Gracia Santificante. En cada uno de estos Sacramentos, aquellos que voluntariamente reciben el Sacramento tienen un encuentro con Cristo que los afecta en el nivel real de su alma. Si bien hay otras formas de recibir la gracia, los Sacramentos brindan a los fieles una garantía, una promesa, de un encuentro con Cristo.

De Sacramentos, UPS y Logística. United Parcel Service (UPS) recientemente realizó una campaña publicitaria centrada en la "logística", es decir, cómo la empresa hace que un producto vaya de aquí para allá a través del mecanismo de su servicio de entrega. Hay una analogía que se debe hacer aquí, que los Sacramentos son quizás una forma de logística divina. ¿Cómo es eso? Bueno, los Sacramentos, como la Iglesia ha enseñado consistentemente sobre su vida, son signos externos instituidos por Cristo para conferir la gracia. Es decir, Cristo designó símbolos visibles clave (que la Iglesia identifica como "materia") y un método o estructura para usarlos (que la Iglesia identifica como "forma") como formas de recibir Su gracia. Por falta de un término mejor, y quizás por ser un poco temeroso, diría que los Sacramentos son sistemas de entrega de gracia, que proporcionan logística para la gracia santificante. Son formas garantizadas de recibir la gracia de Dios para propósitos específicos. ¡Y hasta se entregan los domingos! ¡Toma ese UPS!

Educación Metafísica. Bien, entonces los Sacramentos confieren gracia ... pero ¿cómo? Bueno, para entender los Sacramentos primero hay que entender un poco sobre la metafísica. La metafísica es el estudio de la ciencia (conocimiento) del mundo que no se ve, o como podría decirse más tradicionalmente, el reino sobrenatural. Cuando hablamos de ángeles, cielo, purgatorio, infierno, etc., estamos hablando de ese reino más allá de lo natural, y lo llamamos "súper" natural. Puede que se esté preguntando: "Oye, ¿qué hacen los Sacramentos, que podemos ver, tienen que ver con el reino sobrenatural?" ¡Buena pregunta! Y la buena respuesta es que los Sacramentos tienen todo que ver con el reino sobrenatural (el mundo invisible).

Fusión por Delante. Cuando un sacramento es conferido (hecho presente), el ministro apropiado debe estar presente, la "materia" apropiada debe estar a la mano, y la "forma" apropiada debe ser utilizada. Cuando todos esos elementos están en su lugar, combinados con la intención de la Iglesia, el reino natural (visible) y el reino sobrenatural (invisible) convergen, la presencia de Cristo se manifiesta. Debido a que estos siete Sacramentos, como se mencionó, fueron instituidos por Cristo, son repetidos por la Iglesia y sus ministros hoy, tal como fueron realizados por Cristo mismo.

¿Signos Aquí? ¿Qué pasa con el que recibe un Sacramento? ¿Qué ocurre exactamente cuando una persona recibe un Sacramento? Bueno, hay, de vez en cuando, en círculos heréticos, un consenso a la moda, pero equivocado, de que los Sacramentos son simplemente un signo de la presencia de Cristo. También sostiene que esa "señal" de la presencia de Cristo trae calma, felicidad y una paz al estilo de la persona, lo que hace que se sientan bien, calmados y paz por dentro. Y, oye, ¿no es de eso de lo que se trata? Bueno, no, de eso no se trata!

Encuentros Cercanos. La persona que recibe un Sacramento recibe más que el simple signo. La persona que recibe un Sacramento está recibiendo un encuentro con Cristo, nuestro Señor y nuestro Dios. En ese encuentro, uno recibe la Gracia Santificante, una participación profética en la vida divina de Dios, y eso lo hará santo y agradable a Dios. Para que esto ocurra de manera propicia, una persona debe estar en estado de gracia cuando recibe un Sacramento (*excepto el Bautismo y la Penitencia*); esa Gracia Santificante permanece dentro de nosotros a menos que la perdamos al ponernos en pecado mortal.

De la Muerte e Impuestos y ... Se dice que en la vida solo podemos estar seguros de la muerte y los impuestos. Sin embargo, como católicos, tenemos un tercer elemento incluso más cierto que la muerte y los impuestos: la presencia de Cristo en los Sacramentos. Se puede decir que con certeza, es decir, la certeza de la presencia de Dios, es tanto la alegría como la carga de ser católico. Sabiendo que Dios está con nosotros y que nos permite compartir su Vida Divina, hace que la Buena Nueva de Jesucristo sea algo más que una historia que suene bien. Lo hace parte de nuestras vidas. ¡Cristo ha resucitado, y Cristo está con nosotros! ¡Que bendición!

Tuyo en Cristo

P. James Lentini

Párroco