

# 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](http://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.*

**November 27, 2016 – First Week of Advent**

## 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

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,

Different things begin anew at all different times of the year. The new TV season begins in September. The fiscal year for many companies begins on July 1. The school year, which used to begin after Labor Day, now begins at the end of August. As for the Church year, well, that begins anew this weekend with the start of the Season of Advent. For our Church this is a very special season that prepares us spiritually, eschatologically and logically for Christ. Spiritually, it focuses us on God coming into world in the flesh (incarnate) at Christmas in the person of Jesus Christ. Eschatologically (meaning looking towards the end-times), it prepares us for the Second Coming of Christ, when he will come not as Savior of mankind, but as its judge. Logistically, it revs up the engine of the new Church year during which we worship and celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ – the first Sunday of Advent is our New Year's Day.

But what is Advent specifically? Let's start with some basic background: The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is the name of the four week period of preparation leading up to the birth of the Lord on Christmas. Advent always begins on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) and it continues through four consecutive Sundays until the start of the first Mass of Christmas celebrated in the evening on December 24th. With the start of that December 24th evening Mass, the Christmas Season begins... but that's a topic for another column!

**The Waiting is the Hardest Part.** Singer Tom Petty told us in his 1979 hit that "The waiting is the hardest part... you take it on faith and you take it to the heart, but yeah the waiting is the hardest part." And -- "petty" distinctions aside -- Advent is a season of waiting; hopeful waiting, but waiting nonetheless. While the world outside is seemingly already celebrating Christmas, the Church tells us to wait, to pray, and to prepare. Thus the Catechism (CCC 524) teaches us:

*"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'"*

In addition to being a time of waiting, the Season of Advent, by tradition, is both penitential and preparatory. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, and a joyful spirit of preparation for the birth of Christ on December 25th. The penitential aspect, which is primarily noted during the first two weeks of Advent, calls us to reflect on our relationship with God as we look toward judgment at the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. This is a good time for the faithful to get to confession, to prepare the way of the Lord in their hearts.

The preparatory aspect kicks in very directly in the last two weeks of the season; the readings and prayers at Mass focus our eyes on the impending birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is during this time we are called to identify how we can get our hearts and homes ready to welcome our Savior – Jesus Christ – as God becomes man on that Christmas night!

**Purple Reign?** To give us a visual on the tone of the season of Advent, the Church denotes the color purple (violet) – just as with Lent – as the color of the season. In Advent, purple serves to symbolize both the penitential spirit and the time of anxious preparation for the coming of our King. Thus, during Advent, the color of the vestments worn by the Priest at Mass is violet (a.k.a. purple). There is one variant to this color designation: On the third Sunday of Advent (known as Gaudete Sunday) the option is given for the Priest to wear rose-colored (not pink) vestments; more information on that in a few weeks.

**Opening Act.** In the world of concerts, there is nothing like a good opening act. In 1975, the Eagles, the Commodores and the Atlanta Rhythm Section served as opening acts to the Rolling Stones of their North American tour. But as good as those opening acts were – and they were good – they were not the reason concert-goers bought their tickets. They bought their tickets for the main act: The Rolling Stones. So, too, with Advent – Advent is the opening act, and its purpose is to prepare us for the headline act: Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior

being born into this world (with an encore, later, as our judge).

And so, I commend you: This Advent Season, do what Catholics have done for centuries and centuries: *Prepare ye the way of the Lord*. Examine your conscience, and your faith life, and prepare yourself to be ready for the coming of the Lord. Get to confession during Advent, at our upcoming Penance service on December 9. Use the Season of Advent well; don't celebrate Christmas before Christmas – but rather prayerfully anticipate the Birth of Christ! The wonderful aspect of Advent as a period of preparation is that as Catholics, our celebration of Christmas begins December 25th, and then continues for three more weeks. For the secular world, Christmas ends on December 25th. The Season of Advent allows us to prepare for Christ thoughtfully, prayerfully, and reflectively. What a wonderful gift of the Holy Church to us all! Yes, in Advent, the waiting is the hardest part, but on December 25th, you'll see that it was worth the wait.

**A Note about Advent Wreaths!** One of the great ways that the Season of Advent is made visible to the faithful is by the presence in both Churches and homes of an Advent Wreath. You will probably see this holy symbol in many places in the weeks leading up to Christmas. The Advent wreath is a circular wreath decorated by the presence of four candles, three purple and one rose-colored. On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit; on the second, third and fourth Sundays additional candles are lit (with the rose-colored candle being lit on the third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday).

Is the Advent Wreath merely just a pretty decoration for the season? No. The Advent Wreath carries a beautiful symbolism which, in the era of electric lights, is lost or muddied. You see, back in the era before electricity in homes, the Advent wreath provided – just as any candle would – light for a household. As the season of Advent progressed towards Christmas and additional candles on the wreath were lit, the wreath provided more and more light to that home. By the fourth week of Advent – with all four candles blazing – the wreath gave abundant light. This reminded the family in that home that as Christmas drew nearer, so to, did the coming of Christ, the light of world – lighting our darkness.

Yours in Christ, Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

### MASS INTENTIONS:

**Sun., Nov. 27** 8:30am: Messner Family  
11:00am: Mary Gehringer

Misa en Español 7:00pm: For the People

**Thu., Dec. 1** 7pm: For the People

**Sun., Dec. 4** 8:30am: Anna & Louis Adam  
11:00am: Edward Rice

Misa en Español 7:00pm: For the People

**The Mass book for the 2017 year  
is now open.**

### COLLECTION TOTALS:

**Regular Offertory:** \$ 3241.10  
**Catholic Campaign for Human Development** \$ 597.00

**Second Collection Today: Supplementary**

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



## STEWARSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

### Collection Counters

**Nov 27** Vicky Strauss & Karen Cabaud

**Dec 4** Vicky Strauss & Karen Cabaud

**Dec 11** Vicky Strauss & Karen Cabaud

### Church Cleaning Crew

**Diciembre 3, 2016 Grupo #2 Rectoría-Oficina**

**Alfonso Perez**, Oscas Roblero, Orelia Berdugo,  
Carmen Gabriel, Susana Ortiz Morales

**Diciembre 3, 2016 Grupo #2**

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

**Diciembre 10, 2016 Grupo #3**

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

### Altar Servers

**Dec 4**

8:30am Mass – Anna Clancy

11:00am Mass – Meg & Vince Haass & Sherlin Santizo

**Spanish Misa 7pm** – Emily Escalante & Jeffrey Gabriel

*If you are interested in being an altar server, please let us know.  
You may talk to the Deacons or another Altar server for  
instructions for training.*

### Lectors

**Dec 4**

8:30am Mass – Barbara Thompson

11:00am Mass – Laura Schlaupitz

**7pm Misa** - Fausto Ortiz, Brenda Morales

### Eucharistic Ministers

**Dec 4**

8:30am Mass – Deacon Tormey, Marilyn Dixon, Gerry Godfrey

**11:00am Mass** – Deacon Mitchell, Judy Carrow, Geri Garvin

**7pm Misa** - Flora Pérez, Salome Morales, Miguel López,  
Alberto Morales, Carlos Miguel

### Happy Helpers:

Will be here at ICC to assist those in need for the Christmas Holiday on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm.

Please come early to get what you need for Christmas.



### LAST MINUTE WISHES

Join us for a Holiday Celebration to kick off the Christmas Season!! ~  
Trivia and Carol Sing-along, Cookies and Cocoa



Fun for the whole family~ December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm

St. Thomas More Academy  
\$8-students/\$10-adults

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Sun, Nov 27 NO SRE CLASSES**

**Sun, Nov 27 1-3:30pm RICA**

**Mon, Nov 28 & Wed Nov 30 7pm ESL**

**Tue, Nov 29 6:30-7:30 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Prep**

**Tue, Nov 29 7pm RCIA**



**Feast Day Celebration Dinner Dance:  
Sat, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 6pm in the hall.**



### **Knights of Columbus:**

Meet every 2nd & 4th Tues. at 6:30pm.  
For more info, contact Grand Knight,  
Harry Brown 302-233-8336 or  
daddyofone12307@gmail.com

**Follow us on Facebook @**

**Knights of Columbus Council 12509**

## Marriage & Family Life Corner

### Marriage Moment –

**Feast then famine. The feast of Thanksgiving is quickly followed by Advent - a season of waiting and preparation. Our culture hurries Christmas by trying to get us to fill Advent with buying and busyness. Don't let yourself be robbed of this holy time of reflection. Simplify.**

### Parenting Pointer –

**Your Thanksgiving meal is probably over, but you may have leftovers. May it prompt you to reflect on your abundance. Consult your family about one way during Advent that you can use extras around your home (food, toys, tools...) to ease the lives of those who don't have as much.**

**Catholic Forum** is a half-hour program heard each Sunday morning at 10:05 on 101.7 FM and 1150 AM WDEL in Wilmington, Delaware and on www.wdel.com. It has been on WDEL since 1939, making Catholic Forum the longest-running non-liturgical Catholic radio program in the United States – maybe even the world. Catholic Forum is also heard every Sunday morning at 9:05 on 100.9 FM WAAI in Hurlock/Cambridge, Maryland. Catholic Forum features a brief reflection on and introduction of the Sunday Gospel, a proclamation of the Gospel by one of our Diocesan Deacons, a selection or two of inspirational music and an interview segment.

## **FROM THE DRE'S DESK**

### **School of Religious Education**

NO CLASSES THIS WEEKEND

Classes will resume next week, December 4<sup>th</sup>

#### **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION:**

**First Reconciliation Preparation – Session #5, Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-7:30pm in the hall.**

#### **ADULT FORMATION:**

- **Psalms II: “Praying with Jesus”** Will start up after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. If you are interested, please contact the office.
- **ROSARY:** if you have an interest in joining in a Rosary group, please contact the office, be sure to leave your name and number and day best suited for you.



**St. Thomas More Academy**

**133 Thomas More Drive, Magnolia, DE 19962**

St. Thomas More Academy is a Catholic College Preparatory School located in Kent County. St. Thomas More is Faith Focused, Teacher Connected,

Arts Inspired, College Centered and Honor Guided.

#### **STMA will be hosting the High School Placement Test**

- Saturday, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30am or Sunday, Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 12pm
- Must pre-register at: <http://wilmington.stsusers.com>
- Results will be used to:
  - Make Admissions Decisions
  - Award Merit Scholarships
  - Freshman Course Placement

If you are interested in spending a day at STMA or learning more about STMA, please call our Admissions office at 302-697-8100 ext 2 or email us at: [moreadmissions@saintmore.org](mailto:moreadmissions@saintmore.org)

## **QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

### **First Sunday of Advent**

**Theme:** Waiting, hoping, and preparing.

**Question for Children:** What can you do to be ready for God to come into your heart and your life?

**Question for Youth:** The Gospel tells us we don't know when the Son of Man will return. If he were to arrive today, would you be ready for him? What is one thing you can do during Advent to prepare for his coming?

**Question for Adults:** **Question for Adults:** As you prepare to re-welcome Christ into your heart while you prepare for Christmas, what does Isaiah call you to do? What does Isaiah call us as a people to do?

### **1er domingo de Adviento**

**Tema:** Espera, esperanza y preparación.

**Pregunta para los niños:** ¿Qué puedes hacer para estar listo para que Dios llegue a tu corazón y a tu vida?

**Pregunta para los jóvenes:** El Evangelio nos dice que no sabremos cuando el Hijo del Hombre va a regresar. Si él fuera a llegar hoy, estaríamos listos para él? ¿Cuál sería la única cosa que harías durante el Adviento para prepararte para su llegada?

**Pregunta para los adultos:** Al prepararse para volver a dar la bienvenida a Cristo en su corazón al prepararse para la Navidad, ¿qué le pide Isaías que haga? ¿Qué nos pide Isaías a las personas que hagamos?

**Are you being called to the priesthood or religious life?**

**27 November - 1st Sunday of Advent**

In today's second reading, St. Paul reminds us that we are called to "throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light." Some are called to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" in a way that serves the rest of the Body of Christ: as priests, deacons, religious sisters or religious brothers. Could God be calling you to one of these vocations? If you'd like to pursue that possibility, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113, [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)). And don't forget to visit our website: [www.cdow.org/vocations](http://www.cdow.org/vocations)!

- Find out more about the priesthood: [diocesanpriest.com](http://diocesanpriest.com)
- Find out more about the religious life: [religiouslife.com](http://religiouslife.com)
- Let us help you to discover God's plan for your life.

**COLUMNÁ DEL PÁRROCO PADRE  
JAMES LENTINI 27 DE NOVIEMBRE,  
2016.**

Estimados feligreses,

Diferentes cosas comienzan de nuevo en todas las diferentes épocas del año. La nueva temporada de televisión comienza en septiembre. El año fiscal para muchas empresas comienza el 1 de julio. El año escolar, que solía comenzar después del Día del Trabajo, comienza a finales de agosto. En cuanto al año de la Iglesia, bueno, eso empieza de nuevo este fin de semana con el inicio del Tiempo de Adviento. Para nuestra Iglesia esta es una época muy especial que nos prepara espiritualmente, escatológicamente y logísticamente para Cristo. Espiritualmente, nos enfoca en la venida de Dios al mundo en la carne (encarnado) en Navidad en la persona de Jesucristo. Escatológicamente (es decir, mirando hacia los últimos tiempos), nos prepara para la Segunda Venida de Cristo, cuando no vendrá como el Salvador de la humanidad, sino como su juez. Logísticamente, revive el motor del nuevo año de la Iglesia durante el cual adoramos y celebramos a nuestro Salvador, Jesucristo - el primer domingo de Adviento es nuestro Día de Año Nuevo.

Pero, ¿qué es Adviento específicamente? Empecemos con algunos antecedentes básicos: La palabra Adviento es del latín *adventus* que significa "venida" y es el nombre de un período de cuatro semanas de preparación que conduce al nacimiento del Señor en Navidad. El Adviento comienza siempre el domingo más cercano a la fiesta de San Andrés Apóstol (30 de noviembre) y continúa a través de cuatro domingos consecutivos hasta el comienzo de la primera Misa de Navidad celebrada en Nochebuena, la noche del 24 de diciembre. Con el comienzo de la misa de la Nochebuena del 24 de diciembre, comienza el tiempo navideño... ipero eso es un tema para otra columna!

**La Espera es la Parte más Difícil.** El cantante Tom Petty nos dijo en su éxito de

1979 que "La espera es la parte más difícil... la tomas en la fe y la llevas al corazón, pero sí la espera es la parte más difícil". Y - - Adviento es una tiempo de espera; Esperar esperanzado, pero esperando no obstante. Mientras el mundo exterior parece estar celebrando la Navidad, la Iglesia nos dice que esperemos, oremos y nos preparemos. Así, el Catecismo (CIC 524) nos enseña:

*"Cuando la Iglesia celebra la liturgia del Adviento cada año, hace presente esta antigua esperanza del Mesías, pues al compartir la larga preparación para la primera venida del Salvador, los fieles renuevan su ardiente deseo de su segunda venida. Al celebrar el nacimiento y el martirio del precursor, la Iglesia se une a su deseo: "Él debe aumentar, pero yo debo disminuir".*

Además de ser un tiempo de espera, el Tiempo de Adviento, por tradición, es penitencial y preparatoria. Combina un espíritu penitencial, muy parecido a la

Cuaresma, y un alegre espíritu de preparación para el nacimiento de Cristo el 25 de diciembre. El aspecto penitencial, que se observa principalmente durante las primeras dos semanas del Adviento, nos llama a reflexionar sobre nuestra relación con Dios mientras miramos hacia el juicio en la Segunda Venida de Cristo al final de los tiempos. Este es un buen momento para que los fieles lleguen a la confesión, para preparar el camino del Señor en sus corazones.

El aspecto preparatorio se inicia muy directamente en las dos últimas semanas del tiempo; Las lecturas y las oraciones en la Misa centran nuestros ojos en el inminente nacimiento de nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Es durante este tiempo que estamos llamados a identificar cómo podemos preparar nuestros corazones y hogares listos para dar la bienvenida a nuestro Salvador - Jesucristo - como Dios se hace hombre en esa noche de Navidad!

**¿Reinado púrpura?** Para darnos una imagen visual sobre el tono del Tiempo del Adviento, la Iglesia denota el color púrpura (violeta) – al igual que la Cuaresma- como el color del tiempo. En Adviento, el color morado sirve para simbolizar tanto el espíritu penitencial como el tiempo de preparación ansiosa para la venida de nuestro Rey. Así, durante el Adviento, el color de las vestiduras usadas por el Sacerdote en la Misa es violeta (a.k.a morado). Hay una variante a esta designación del color: En el tercer domingo de Adviento (conocido como el domingo de Gaudete) se da la opción para que el sacerdote use las vestimenta rosa (no rosadas); Más información sobre eso en unas pocas semanas.

**Acto de Apertura.** En el mundo de los conciertos, no hay nada como un buen acto de apertura. En 2016, Alejandro Sanz, Don Omar, Daddy Yankee , Wisin y Marco Antonio Solis sirvieron como actos de apertura en el concierto de Viña del Mar en Chile. Pero tan buenos como esos actos de apertura fueron - y fueron buenos - no fueron la razón por la que los espectadores compraron sus boletos. Compraron sus boletos para el acto principal Juanes. Así, también, con Adviento - Adviento es el acto de apertura, y su propósito es prepararnos para el acto de titular: Jesucristo nuestro Señor y Salvador naciendo en este mundo (con un bis, más tarde, como nuestro juez).

Y así, te invito: Este Tiempo de Adviento, haz lo que los católicos han hecho por siglos: Prepara el camino del Señor. Examina tu conciencia y tu vida de fe, y prepárate para estar preparado para la venida del Señor. Vaya a la Confesión durante el Adviento, en nuestro próximo servicio de Penitencial el 9 de diciembre en Santa Cruz y el 15 de diciembre en la Inmaculada Concepción. Haga provecho de este Tiempo del Adviento utilícelo bien; No celebre la Navidad antes de la Navidad - sino más bien con anticipación perseverar con oración el nacimiento de Cristo! El maravilloso aspecto del Adviento es como un período de preparación, como católicos, nuestra celebración de la Navidad comienza el 25 de diciembre, y luego continúa durante tres semanas más. Para el

mundo secular, la Navidad termina el 25 de diciembre. El Tiempo de Adviento nos permite prepararnos para Cristo meditando, orante y reflexionando. ¡Qué maravilloso regalo de la Santa Iglesia a todos nosotros! Sí, en Adviento, la espera es la parte más difícil, pero el 25 de diciembre, verás que valió la pena la espera.

### **iUna nota sobre coronas de Adviento!**

Una de las grandes maneras en que el Tiempo de Adviento se hace visible a los fieles es por la presencia en ambas Iglesias y casas de una Corona de Adviento. Usted probablemente verá este santo símbolo en muchos lugares en las semanas que conducen a la Navidad. La corona de Adviento es una corona circular decorada por la presencia de cuatro velas, tres púrpuras y una rosa. El primer domingo de Adviento, la primera vela púrpura se enciende; En el segundo, tercero y cuarto domingos se encienden las velas adicionales (con la vela de color rosa encendida el tercer domingo de Adviento - Domingo Gaudete).

¿Es la Corona de Adviento simplemente una bonita decoración para el tiempo? No. La corona de Adviento lleva un simbolismo hermoso que, en la era de las luces eléctricas, se pierde o se enloda. ves, en la época anterior a la electricidad en los hogares, la corona de Adviento proporcionó - al igual que cualquier vela - luz para una casa. A medida que el Tiempo de Adviento progresó hacia la Navidad y velas adicionales en la corona fueron encendidas, la corona proporcionó más y más luz a esa casa. A la cuarta semana de Adviento - con las cuatro velas encendidas - la corona dio una luz abundante. Esto recordó a la familia en ese hogar que a medida que la Navidad se acercaba, así, la venida de Cristo, la luz del mundo, iluminando nuestra oscuridad.

Suyo en Cristo,

Fr. James Lentini,

Pastor