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| ***From Father Jim***  **The Epiphany of the Lord**  Dear Parishioners,  It has been four years since the Lord called me to serve at Immaculate Conception Parish / St. Jude Mission. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve in this parish. As your pastor, I am privileged to witness to your faith, goodness, and generosity as we together strive to grow in the Spirit of Jesus and witness to God’s love to those around us.  As a parish family, we are about to undertake a concerted effort to raise our Sunday Offertory collection to support the many important, ongoing ministries in the parish without continuing to operate at a deficit. Recent economic difficulties have affected many households, and the household of the church is no different. I realize that some of our families and individuals are experiencing challenging financial times, but I am counting on you who are able to make a sacrifice and increase your weekly offering.  Our goal through this program is to increase offertory contributions by 20 percent or more. An increase in income will allow us to continue to invest in the future of our school, expand our ministries, continue capital improvements in our parish campus, and balance our budget.  During the weeks ahead you will receive information – through the parish bulletin, the mail, our website and from the pulpit – explaining the purpose and need for this effort. You will be asked to take a candid look at what we are doing as a parish to serve our members and the local community. Look, also, if you will at your weekly offering. If you believe it represents a good return to Almighty God for all that He has given you, then you need to do nothing more. But if you believe there is room for increase then I ask that you consider doing so.  Please pray that God may grant us a successful program. I thank you for your support knowing that we will receive 100% cooperation from all members of our faith community.  Sincerely in St. Francis de Sales,    Fr. Jim Yeakel, OSFS |

**Parish Concert**

Please join us for a parish Concert on **Sunday, January 28th** at 3pm at Immaculate Conception Church. All the parish ensembles will be participating in this celebration of the music of the Christmas season. A reception will follow the concert.

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**The Parish Music Ministry** **is looking for new members!** We would love to have you join us during this joyous season! See the bulletin for the schedule of rehearsals for our hand bell, contemporary, children's, and parish choirs. We’re also looking for cantors and accompanists, who play and sing on an alternating schedule. For more information, contact Dana Brehany, Director of Music Ministry at 410-398-1100 or [icsjmusic@gmail.com](mailto:icsjmusic@gmail.com).

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**Does your child need to be Baptized? The next Baptism Class is Monday, January 8th.** 7:00-8:30pm in the Parish Center. It’s never too early to prepare for the Baptism of your child. Parents are required and Godparents are encouraged to attend. Contact us to register and arrange the Baptism date at 410-398-1100.

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**January 8, 2018**

8:30 AM Joseph Cao Tse Dung

**January 9, 2018**

8:30 AM Ed Banas

**January 10, 2018**

8:30 AM Carmela Calvarese

**January 11, 2018**

8:30 AM Christine McDonald

**January 12, 2018**

8:30 AM Ken Kan

**January 13, 2018**

8:30 AM All The Souls in Purgatory

5:00 PM Salvador Panes

**January 14, 2018 Epiphany of the Lord**

7:00 AM Edward Fischer

8:30 AM Ann & Edward Weber

9:00 AM SJ Vanessa Blankenship

10:15 AM People of the Parish

12:00 PM George Benvegno Sr.

**Liturgy**

**Readings for next week: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19**

This powerful story describes Samuel, who at the time was the servant of the high priest. The Lord called out to Samuel, who twice thought Eli had called him. They gradually realized that it was the Lord who called for him. So the third time Samuel answered and the Lord remained with Samuel as he grew.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20**

Paul explains to the Corinthians that their body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. He tells them to avoid lewd conduct, and glorify God by keeping their bodies pure.

**Gospel: John 1:35-42**

John told two of his disciples that Jesus is the Lamb of God. They turned and followed him, immediately curious and attracted to him. Andrew told his brother Simon about Jesus. Simon also came to meet Jesus, who renamed him Cephas, or Peter.

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**Attention young adults in the parish:** coming in 2018 there will be a ministry in the parish specifically for you! Stay tuned to the bulletin and parish website for upcoming events. Feel free to reach out to Madison Reese ([mem.reese1010@gmail.com](mailto:mem.reese1010@gmail.com)) if you would like more information or to get involved!

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 21, 2018.** Join fellow young adults from around the Diocese of Wilmington to celebrate Mass with Bishop Malooly at St. Mary of the Assumption in Hockessin, DE. Mass starts at 11:30am followed by lunch and fellowship with the Bishop.

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**COMMUNITY KITCHEN:** Our next Community Kitchen will be **Friday, January 26th** at the Elkton Presbyterian Church at noon. We make and serve sandwiches, homemade soup, fruit, and dessert to anyone needing a good, hearty meal. If you would like to help by providing ready-made sandwiches, and/or can help serve or clean up after, we would love to have you join us! We generally meet at the Church dining room around 11:00, and are finished by 1:30. Please contact Joyce Speakman at 610-597-3135, or Kathy Chamberlin at 410-398-7299 for more information, or if you can help us in any capacity. We also would be glad to receive monetary donations. If donating by check, please make it out to Immaculate Conception Church, and write Community Kitchen in the memo section. We have a wonderful group of faithful volunteers and would welcome anyone who can spare a couple of hours in this very worthwhile and enjoyable effort.

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**Daily Readings: The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Sunday**

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

**Monday**

Is 55:1-11 or 1 Jn 5:1-9; Mk 1:7-11

**Tuesday**

1 Sm 1:9-20; Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday**

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday**

1 Sm 4:1-11; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday**

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday**

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19, 10:1; Mk 2:13-17

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**Adoration for Vocations:** On the 1st Sunday of each month, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament occurs from 1pm-3pm in IC Chapel. Join us to pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life. The next opportunity is today, January 7th. Contact Dermott Mullan at 410-398-3368

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**Liturgical Ministers for Next Week: January 13-14**

***5:00pm***

**Altar Servers:** Henry W, Damian W **EM’s** Diana B, Gina L, Madison L **Lector:** Rachel W **Ushers:** Eileen P, Bill B, Pat C

***7:00am***

**Altar Servers:** Jacob B, Sarah B **EM’s**: Sandra H, Alan S, Gerald M **Lector:** James B **Ushers:** Charles M, William C

***8:30am***

**Altar Servers:** Layla B, Alex L **EMs:** Don H, Mary Ann H, Mary Ann E **Lector:** Francis C **Ushers:** Anthony D, Steve C, Wendel S, Anthony M

***9:00am (SJ)***

**Altar Servers:** Mitchell H, Jakob H **EM’s:** Helen B, Dotty F, Diane C, Bill C, Tom V **Lector:** Michele C **Ushers:** Jule V, Kevin O, Bill D

***10:15am***

**Altar Servers:** Justin M, Donovan O **EM’s:** James D, Gwen D, Rita M, David L **Lector:** Ben F **Ushers:** Bob W, Steve A

***12:00noon***

**Altar Servers:** Gabriel O **EM’s:** Kathy C, Charles C, Corazon S **Lector:** Pat K **Ushers:** Teresa G

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word**

Children’s Liturgy is for children ages 5-8 ONLY. Children who are not in this category are asked to remain in church.

**The catechist for next Sunday, Jan 14th is:**

**Donna Mulkern**

**Faith Formation**

**Immaculate Conception School News**

**Time has flown past, and it is hard to believe** that we are beginning 2018! The students and staff have all returned after a wonderful Christmas break, and we’re gearing up to tackle the work ahead. This week, the Catholic Schools Office will visit ICS to observe first-hand all the wonderful activities our teachers have planned for each class.

**The New Year is a wonderful time for new beginnings,** and ICS is proud to announce their new logo and tagline. After much discussion and work, the rebranding committee provided several options to the school community who then voted and ultimately selected the image that will represent the school. Be on the lookout for this image as we continue to get the word out about our wonderful school!



We are very excited to announce that ICS will have a spring musical, Godspell Jr! Try-outs were held this week, and we will begin rehearsals immediately. We are looking forward to the production in April! Stay tuned for more details and your opportunity to get tickets to the show!

**If you are curious about our school,** now is a perfect time to explore. We are planning our winter Open House which will be in three phases on Jan. 30. The first phase is during the school day when parents and potential students can get a feel for what a typical ICS day is like. Then in the evening, there will be two sessions; one for preschool families to focus on the benefits we provide for 3- and 4-year olds, and a second session which will be focused on students transferring in from other schools with an explanation of our new Tuition Transfer Grant program and the availability of tuition assistance. We still have “Walk-in Wednesday” when we will are prepared to have student ambassador tour guides as well as our advancement director available for any questions. You may also schedule a school tour at any time by calling Emily Murphy at 410-398-2636. If you are considering applying for tuition assistance, now is the perfect time to come visit ICS.

**Do you have a young child at home?** Are you looking for ideas to help you foster a love of reading for your child? Do you home school your child, and you want fresh ways to encourage reading? We may have an answer for you. Our next Story Time session will be this Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 9:00. If you have questions about the program or are interested in helping, please contact Emily Murphy at the school (410-398-2636).

**Religious Education & Sacraments**

**Religion Classes for Grades K-8:**

**Sunday Program:** Classes for Gr. K-8 will be held today, Jan. 7th at 8:30am

**Wednesday Program:** Classes for Gr. 1-8 will be held this Wednesday, Jan.10th at 6:15pm.

**FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM:**

Parents of children who are eligible to enroll in this year’s First Communion Program should have received an invitation. MARK YOUR CALENDAR for **The Parent Orientation Meeting that will be held on Monday, January** **29th at 6:30pm in Church**. At least one parent must be in attendance at this meeting. Call the parish religion office with any questions or concerns.

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#### Youth Ministry & Confirmation

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**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:**

Regular Schedule- Sun. Class 4pm,

Wed. Class 6:15pm. We resume class today, January 7 & Wed. class meets Jan. 10.

**YOUTH GROUP: TONIGHT: GAME NIGHT-Come and Compete for prizes.**

**YOUTH MINISTRY WISH LIST:**  Mac n’ cheese kits, popcorn, bottled water, cocoa.

**Are you being called to serve the parish youth?** If interested in serving our parish youth even once a month, contact Cheryl Nickle in the religion office. We’re forming a Core Team of adults to help 7th-12th grade youth groups. Thanks to those who have volunteered so far. We will be to calling on you soon.

**YOUNG ADULTS**

We’re forming a young adults group. Please contact Cheryl Nickle in the Rel. Ed. Office for more information.

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**Adult Education**

**Interested in a study group?** Many opportunities are available. Call the Parish Office at 410-398-1100.

**ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

The next meeting will be held this Thursday, January 11th at 10am.

**Adult Enrichment Program: Footprints of God:**

Sessions resume this week on Monday, Jan. 8th at 6:30pm and Tuesday, Jan. 9th at 9:15am

The Topic will be: Peter: Keeper of the Keys

**CHRISTMAS RESOURCES:**

Scripture and other resources for the Christmas Season can be found on our parish website at[**iccparish.weconnect.com**](http://www.iccparish.weconnect.com)**.** The Christmas Season ends with the Baptism of Our Lord on Mon, January 8th

**Social Concerns**

**Outreach:**

**Please consider donating non-perishable foods to the Outreach! Thank you for your** help, prayers, & donations to this essential ministry!!

**Thank you for generously donating to the "The Giving Tree!”** We were able to replenish the Outreach Food Pantry with countless supplies. We collected two boxes of unwrapped toys for "Toys for Tots". These toys will be distributed to children in need in Cecil County that apply to the "Toys for Tots" program. Please consistently support our Outreach Program. Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year, Joan D

**Parish and Family Life**

**Parish Coffee**: Join us for Parish Coffee, **today,** **January 7th** after the 9 AM Mass at St. Jude’s.

**Join us for Parish Coffee January 14th after 10:15 mass at IC!** Hope to see you there

**Parish Events / Information**



**The New- and Not-so- Newlywed Game Night!**

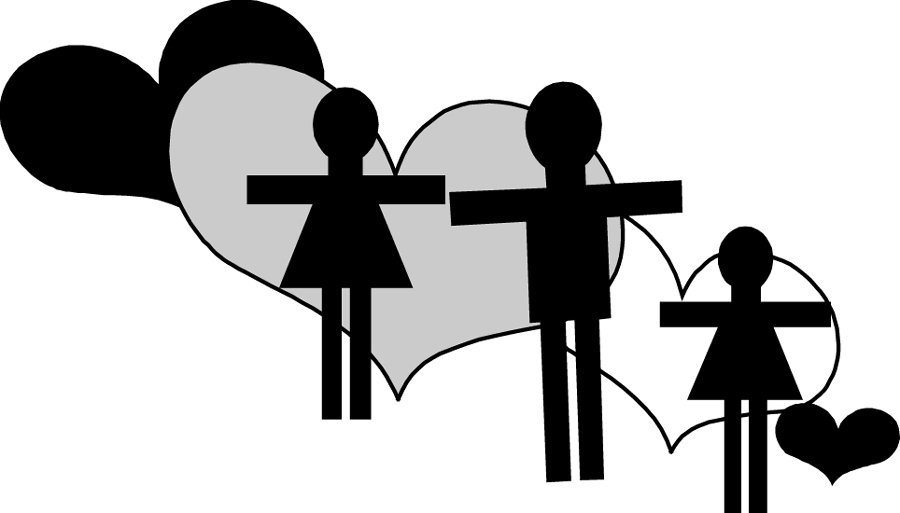
**SAVE THE DATE!** The Parish and Family Life Committee will be sponsoring this 2nd Annual event on Saturday, February 10 beginning at 6:30. Come join us for dinner and a game for new, and not-so-new-lyweds! Modeled after the TV show, couples will compare answers to some intriguing and comical questions. If you attended last year, we hope you come back for more fun, laughs, and good food; and bring some friends! If you missed out last year, here’s your chance to enjoy an evening out.

Here is a perfect way to celebrate Valentine’s Day!

Tickets will be sold after Masses later this month

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**During this season of giving, Immaculate Conception School asks for your contribution**, to keep the mission of the school going strong. Any type of donation will be greatly appreciated and put to good use by marketing the school, increasing enrollment, strengthening programs and repairing the building. We need your help! Please deposit your donations in the church vestibule or make a stock transfer by contacting Peggy O’Donnell at 410-398-1100. **Emily Murphy, the Advancement Director** at Immaculate Conception School needs your help! If you would like to help the school in other ways, she would like to meet you! Please contact her any time at 410-398-2636 or [emurphy@icschoolweb.org\](mailto:emurphy@icschoolweb.org\)





**Offertory Week of: December 17 Fiscal Budget**

Immaculate Conception $10,479.00 $9,700.20

St. Jude’s $1,911.00 $1,921.80

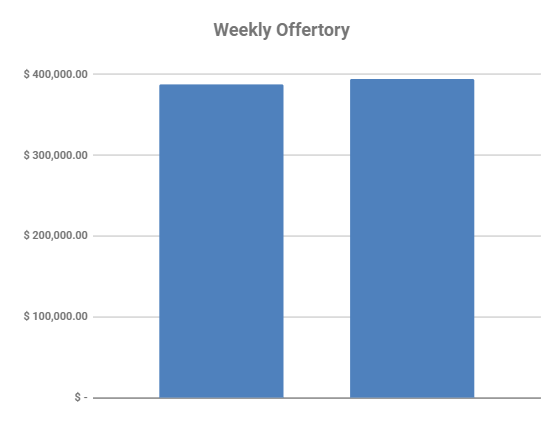
Online $2,473.00 $2,919.00

Christmas Offertory: $23,076.45 $18,315.00

Total: $37,939.45 $32,856.00

**2017-2018 Fiscal YTD Offertory short fall** ($7,561.11)

**Consider switching to Electronic Giving**. It's easy, convenient, & consistent. Visit iccparish.webconnect.com, click “GO TO ONLINE GIVING” and sign up. It's that easy

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**Sunday, January 7**

8:20 AM Confessions - SJ

8:30 AM Religious Ed

1:30 PM Adoration for Vocation - CH

4:00 PM Confirmation Class - PC

6:00 PM HS Gathering - PC

Monday, January 8

9:00 AM Novena – CH

6:30 PM Adult Ed Program - PC

7:00 PM Baptism Class - PC

7:00 PM Fundraising Mtg - PC

8:00 PM AA Mtg - Caf

Tuesday, January 9

9:00 AM Holy Hour – CH

9:15 AM Adult Ed Program - PC

9:15 AM Book Discussion - PC

6:30 PM ICS PSO General Mtg - gym

6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Boy Scouts - PC

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Mtg - PC

7:30 PM Contemporary Rehearsal - IC

Wednesday, January 10

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade/SJ Novena - CH

9:30 AM Cantor Reh - IC

10:00 AM Adult Ed Committee Mtg - PC

1:00 PM Leisure Club - PC

3:45 PM Children’s Choir Reh - IC

6:00 PM Basketball - gym

6:15 PM Religious Ed/Confirmation Class

Thursday, January 11

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

6:00 PM Basketball - gym

6:30 PM Boy Scout Mtg - PC

6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Caf

6:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Parish Choir Reh - IC

Friday, January 12

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

7:00 PM NA - Caf

**Saturday, January 13**

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

4:15 PM Confessions - IC

7:00 PM NA - caf

**Community Events / Information**

**Knights of Columbus**

**Bishop Becker Council 2427**

**443-616-5370 or** [**www.kofc2427.org**](http://www.kofc2427.org)

**Meetings:** 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Parish Center

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**Faith & Family Night at the University of Delaware** is just around the corner! On Feb. 16 at 7:00 pm our Women’s Basketball team will be taking on James Madison University. Tickets are just $4 with the promo code below! If you would like to bring a group out for a night of fun and faith, please contact Brandon Crist at [bcrist@udel.edu](mailto:bcrist@udel.edu) or 302-831-4493 or reserve your seats at [www.bluehens.com/promocode](http://www.bluehens.com/promocode) and enter **promo code: FAITH17.**

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**Happy New Year from Catholic Forum!** Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM,1150 AM and [www.wdel.com](http://www.wdel.com).    Next Sunday, January 7th, tune in to hear an interview with Deacon Hal Jopp, recently retired Director of the Office for Deacons for the Diocese of Wilmington. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, “Like” us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicforum](http://www.facebook.com/catholicforum). Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at cdow.org/communications or search “Catholic Forum” on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

***Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!***

**Is your marriage going down the right road or is it a little off track?** **Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage.**

Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? ***Retrouvaille*** *can help and offers hope for a better relationship.* Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples that can help you to learn the tools of healthy communication, build intimacy, and heal, just as they have done in their own marriages. Retrouvaille is Christian-based, and Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths as well as non-religious couples. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. **The next program begins February 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Additional weekends will be held in April and August.** For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

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**As we celebrate Holy Family Sunday,** let us remember that God’s love for us is reflected in the love for each other in our family. Why not celebrate and encourage that love by giving your spouse the gift of a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend? The next weekends are March 2-4 and November 2-4 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more information and to apply visit [wwmw-delmar.org](http://welovematrimony.org/), or call Tony & Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.