***From Father Jim***

**“Peter filled with the Holy Spirit said: ‘Leaders of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done** to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was done in the name of Jesus Christ whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in His name this man stands today before you healed. There is no salvation through anyone else.”

When people inquire where they should begin reading the bible, I suggest a great place is in the Acts of the Apostles and in particular the kerygmatic sermons of St Peter and St Paul. They are clear and concise statements about Jesus, His passion and resurrection, and through the Spirit are the source of the enthusiasm as the two great preachers tell of their reason for preaching.

It was not much earlier that Peter denied and Paul persecuted those who were curious and seeking. That is what we are about as we reflect on His Word Today and every day – we are desirous of knowing and loving Jesus better, and as we do, we serve as His witness.

The great sermons and the proclamation give meaning to our lives as disciples and are the call to others to come to Jesus.

***Congratulations to those recently baptized:***

*Laci Alice Kendrick-Whitlock*

**Fr. Michael Connolly, OSFS returns, May 13th at 1:15pm**

After the Easter Season the Church’s Sunday Eucharist will return to Mark’s Gospel. Having celebrated Christ’s victory over sin and death in his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, we now return to Jesus’ Miracles and Parables-to cherish and practice the lessons He taught by His words and deeds. Come join with fellow parishioners for this presentation on **Sunday, May 13th at 1:15pm in the Chapel.**

**Why Choose ICS?**

“The young men and women from ICS who attend St. Mark's High School tend to be very well-rounded students who are well-prepared for the rigors of high school studies and are actively involved in the life of our school.”

--Rick Bayhan, Principal, St. Mark's High School



**April 23, 2018 St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Martyr**

8:30 am Marie Sullivan

**April 24, 2018 St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr**

8:30 am Verena Dudley

**April 25, 2018 St. Mark, Evangelist**

8:30 am Joseph Amberg

**April 26, 2018**

8:30 am Elizabeth Dudley

**April 27, 2018**

8:30 am Ed Banas

**April 28, 2018 St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest**

8:30 am Nancy J. Murphy

5:00 pm Dorothy and Earl Martin

**April 29, 2018 - *Fifth Sunday of Easter***

7:00 am Joseph and Lena Rettagliata

8:30 am Edward and Patricia McCarthy

9:00 am SJ George Benvegno Sr.

10:15 am People of the Parish

12:00 pm Kevin O’Toole

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**2018 Annual Catholic Appeal**

“*Disciples of Christ, Witnesses of Faith”*

In today’s Gospel Jesus tell us, “I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

Everyone is welcome to the flock by Jesus. As followers of Christ, we too must act faithfully to reach out to others. As Christ committed His life to being the “one shepherd”, we too must commit ourselves to providing service to all.

Thank you to everyone who made a pledge to the diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal. If you have not yet participated, please consider doing so today. Your gift makes a real difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families who reside within our 12-county diocese. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews and can be placed in the offertory basket. Thank you for your generosity and support.

To learn more about the Annual Catholic Appeal, visit [www.cdow.org](http://www.cdow.org); click “Giving” then “Annual Catholic Appeal”.

**Readings for next week: 5th Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading: Acts 9:26-31**

Paul the Apostle came to Jerusalem, where the other disciples were afraid of him. Then they learned that the Lord had spoken to Paul and he had preached openly in Damascus. When they learned that someone wanted to kill him, they protected him because they fully believed he had converted.

**Second Reading: I John 3:18-24**

John clearly states that we must love one another. All people who believe in Jesus Christ can show their faith only through their actions. If people believe in Jesus and love one another as he commanded us, they prove that they are true believers in Christ.

**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

Jesus compares himself to a vine, and compares his father to the vine-grower. He explains how God prunes the barren branches so that the rest might yield more fruit. He reminds them that apart from himself, his followers could not bear fruit.

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**Does your child need to be Baptized?**

The next Baptism Class is **May 14th**, 7:00-8:30 pm 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 the Parish Office to register and arrange the date of Baptism at 410-398-1100.

**2018 VBS PLANNING IS HERE!**

**"Shipwrecked" Totally Catholic VBS is where kids learn that Jesus rescues!** Be on the lookout for the dates of our next planning meeting! If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to be part of this exciting adventure, contact the parish religion office at 410-392-3551or email [donnamichelangelo@yahoo.com](javascript:void(window.open('/cpsess7748102409/horde/imp/dynamic.php?page=compose&to=donnamichelangelo%40yahoo.com&popup=1','','width=820,height=610,status=1,scrollbars=yes,resizable=yes')))

**We need YOU!**

**PLANNING ON ATTENDING VBS?**

**Register Early** so that T-Shirts and supplies can be ordered. VBS is for children ages 4 through the completion of Gr 5

**Online registration available:**

[iccparish.weconnect.com/vbs](http://iccparish.weconnect.com/vbs)

**LIKE us on FACEBOOK:**

[www.facebook.com/immaculateconceptionvbs/](http://www.facebook.com/immaculateconceptionvbs/)

**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 **May 6th**. Contact Dermott Mullan at 410-398-3368.

**Daily Readings:**

***Fourth Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord***

**Sunday** Acts 4:8-12; 1 Jn 3:1-2; Jn 10:11-18

**Monday** Acts 11:1-18; Jn 1-10

**Tuesday** Acts 11:19-26; Jn 10:22-30

**Wednesday** 1 Pt 5:5b-14; Mk 16:15-20

**Thursday** Acts 13:13-25; Jn 13:16-20

**Friday** Acts 13:26-33; Jn 14:1-6

**Saturday** Acts 13:44-52; Jn 14: 7-14

**Liturgical Ministers for Next Week: *April 28-29***

***5:00 pm***

**Altar Servers:** Grace B, Donovan O • **EMs:** Diana B, Mary Anne S, Julie M

• **Lector:** Alison D • **Ushers:** Eileen P, Bill B, Pat C

***7:00 am***

**Altar Servers:** Jacob B • **EM’s:** Frank S, Gerald M, Alan S

• **Lector:** Christopher W • **Ushers:** Charles M, William C

***8:30 am***

**Altar Servers:** Elizabeth R, Layla B • **EMs:** Peter G, Cecilia G, Mary Ann E

• **Lector:** Ronald G • **Ushers:** Anthony D, Anthony M, Wendel S, Steve C

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

**Altar Servers:** Mitchell H • **EM’s:** Cheryl N, Chris H, Tom V, Carol V, Narcy Z • **Lector:** John N • **Ushers:** Jule V, Kevin O, Bill D,

***10:15 am***

**Altar Servers:** Ariane S, Aila S • **EM’s:** Rita M, Ben F, Grace B, James D, Gwen D • **Lector:** Francis C • **Ushers:** Bob W, David B, Steve A

***12:00 noon***

**Altar Servers:** Cecilia G • **EMs:** Kathy C, Corazon S • **Lector:** Frank E

• **Ushers:** Teresa G, Charles C

**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, April 29th is:

**Stacy Coale**

**Inspirational quote of the week:**

“Do as children who with one hand hold fast to the hand of their father and with the other gather strawberries. In the same manner, while gathering and managing the goods of this world with one hand, hold fast with the other to the hand of the Heavenly Father.”

~ Saint Francis de Sales

**Immaculate Conception**

**School News**

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**Alleluia! He is Risen!**

**As we continue to celebrate Easter,** our students and staff celebrated a beautiful Mass last Tuesday. A special ‘thank you’ to our 2nd graders for such a wonderful job preparing and leading us in the liturgy.

**Congratulations to the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society;** Franklin Smithmyer, Payton Hardy, James Paylor, Leo Delboy, and Julia Holmes. The National Junior Honor Society was established to recognize outstanding high school and middle school students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. Congratulations to the new inductees as well as our current members!

**This week, our students will participate in the Door of Hope program** which helps us to celebrate and appreciate life. Our 8th graders will have their retreat on Friday. Please pray for these students as they finish this milestone in their academic life, ready to move on to new challenges and opportunities as they prepare for the move to high school.

**Do you stay at home with the kids** during the day? Has the weather created ‘cabin-fever’ for you and the children? We have an answer for you! Join Gwen Davis for a seasonal activity and story geared to pre-school aged children. Our next Story Time session will be **Tuesday, May 1** at 9:00am. If you have questions about the program or are interested in helping, please contact Emily Murphy at 410-398-2636.

**Applications are being accepted** for next school year. If you missed our open house, don’t worry! Individual tours are available upon request by calling 410-398-2636. Now is the time to consider the benefits of Immaculate Conception’s strong, faith-based, challenging academic program.

**Religious Education & Sacraments**

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

If you want to ensure a place for your child in the religion classes for next year, you must register now!

**You can register either:**

-Online on the parish website under Faith Formation

-By completing a hard copy of the forms from the religion office.

**\*\*Note:** Finances are never a reason not to register! Payment plans / assistance are available if needed.

**Did You Know that…**

-We have a Kindergarten Class that meets on Sunday Morning?

-Children must have attended 1st grade to register for 1st Communion?

-Students must have completed Grades 7 AND 8 to register for Confirmation?

**Questions?** Contact the religion office at 410-392-3551

**FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM:**

**Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers are still needed for the First Communion celebration on Sunday, May 6th** **at 2pm at ICC!!** Contact Sr. Grace at 410-392-3551 **ASAP** if you are able to minister at this Liturgy!!

**1st Communion Celebration & Rehearsal Schedule:**

**TODAY, Apr. 22nd, 9am at St. Jude**

As these young people join us at the Table of the Lord, let us pray that they will always desire to receive the Body and Blood of Christ and to join our faith community regularly at Mass.

**Sat., May 5th, 5pm at ICC**

Rehearsal: Mon., Apr. 30th, 6:30pm ICC

**Sun., May 6th, 2pm at ICC**

Rehearsal: Wed., May 2nd, 6:30pm ICC

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:**

**Confirmation Rehearsal:** This Saturday, **April 28th** from 6 - 7:30pm ICC

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation: Sunday, April 29th** Candidates: arrive at ICS Gym by 12:30pm. Mass at 2:00pm at IC.

**YOUTH GROUP:**

**Tonight, Apr. 22 -** Talent Night: display/share/show what you do best.

**Apr. 29 - no class** (Confirmation)

**May 6 - Confirmation After-Party:** share the experience of receiving the sacrament while feasting on desserts.

**May 13 -** Paint the Walls - literally!

**YOUTH MINISTRY WISH LIST:** paper products, water, pizza gift cards

**Adult Education**

**ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: SYMBOLON**

Adult Classes will be held this week on **Mon, Apr. 23rd** at 6:30pm and **Tues., Apr. 24th** at 9:15am. The topic will be: Why Do I Need the Church? The Mystery of the Catholic Church. Next week’s topic will be: Mary and the Saints: Our Spiritual Mother and the Communion of Saints.

**SOCIAL CONCERNS**

**Outreach**

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

**We are currently in need of:** Cereal, canned fruit, and **chicken noodle soup**

**PARISH & FAMILY LIFE**

**Parish Coffee**

Join us for Parish Coffee: May 6th after the 9:00 am Mass at St. Jude’s.

Join us for Parish Coffee May 13th after 10:15 mass at IC! Hope to see you there.

**PARISH EVENTS/INFORMATION**

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*Thank you so much for your continued*

*generosity and support to your parish!*

**Weekly Church Collections: Week of April 15th**

ICC $9,013.00

St. Jude $2,153.00

Online $4,058.00

Total Offertory $15,224.00

Easter $14,334.00

***We offer electronic giving!***

**How does Online giving benefit you?**

1. It’s easy, convenient, and safe
2. Allows you to give any amount, any time.
3. Puts all offerings at your fingertips to track your giving

**How does Online giving benefit the parish?**

1. Creates consistency of giving to help with financial planning
2. Increases the efficiency of processing regular giving

**How to sign up?**

1. Visit iccparish.weconnect.com
2. Click “Go to Online Giving”
3. Sign up! It’s that easy!

**Support ICC Parish when you shop!**

Go to [smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6015220](http://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6015220) and Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase to Immaculate Conception Parish!

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**Sunday, April 22**

8:20 AM Confessions - SJ

9:00 AM 1st Communion - SJ

1:30 PM Baptisms - IC

6:00 PM HS Gathering - PC

Monday, April 23

9:00 AM Novena – CH

6:30 PM Adult Ed Program - PC

7:00 PM Christian Yoga - gym

8:00 PM AA Mtg – Caf

Tuesday, April 24

9:00 AM Holy Hour – CH

9:15 AM Book Discussion - PC

9:15 AM Adult Ed Program - IC

6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Mtg - PC

7:30 PM Contemporary Rehearsal – IC

Wednesday, April 25

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade/SJ Novena - CH

9:30 AM Cantor Reh - IC

1:00 PM Leisure Club - PC

3:45 PM Children’s Choir Reh - IC

4:00 PM Godspell Reh - Gym

Thursday, April 26

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

3:00 PM Godspell Reh - gym

6:30 PM Boy Scout Meeting - PC

6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Caf

6:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Parish Choir Reh – IC

Friday, April 27

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

9:15 AM 8th Grade Retreat - PC

7:00 PM Movie Night - gym

7:00 PM NA – Caf

**Saturday, April 28**

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

4:15 PM Confessions - IC

6:00 PM Confirmation Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM NA – Caf



**Save the Date!! Our 8th Annual Golf Classic** is going to be held on Monday, **June 11th, 2018 at the Newark Country Club!!** Join us for a fun-filled day of golf, great food, and some amazing auction items and golf prizes; including a hole-in-one car donated by Newark Chrysler Jeep Dodge!

Spaces are limited!! You can sign up and participate by:

* Golfing
* Sponsoring
* Contributing Auction Items
* Volunteering
* Joining us for dinner

Register online at iccparish.weconnect.com or by filling out one of the registrations found in the churches or parish office. We need volunteers on the planning committee and to help the day of. Contact the Parish Office at 410-398-1100 to register, volunteer, or for more information.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN:** Our next Community Kitchen will be held on **April 27th** at the Elkton Presbyterian Church at noon. We will be serving soup, sandwiches, fruit, and desserts. We are asking for donations of any of these items to be delivered to the Presbyterian Church, or the Parish Center. We also need volunteers to help set up, serve, and/or clean up after. Community Kitchen is from 11:00-1:30. Please consider joining us for this worthwhile time of fellowship, not to mention a wonderful lunch! Contact Joyce Speakman at 610-597-3135, or Kathy Chamberlin at 410-398-7299 for more details. Cash donations are also greatly appreciated. If donating by check, please write ‘Community Kitchen’ in the Memo section. We thank you for your support.



**Friday “Knight” at the Movies!!**

**The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring Friday Knight at the Movies** for families and children on **April 27th at 7:00pm** in the ICS Gym. They will be providing Free Hot Dogs, an Ice Cream Sundae Bar, and beverages! Come enjoy the timeless Classic, “The Wizard of Oz!” (Parent or Adult Chaperones are required to attend with children.) Hope to see you there!!

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**Save the date!!!**

The Immaculate Conception School production of “Godspell Jr.” will be performed on **June 2nd and 3rd** at Immaculate Conception School gym. Stay tuned for more details and information on show times, ticket sales, etc! Contact Kathleen Davis at [office@iccparish.org](mailto:office@iccparish.org) for more information.

**Christian Yoga**

All are welcome to join in a Christ-centered meditative and gentle stretching Yoga classes. Classes are: **Mondays** **7 - 8:30pm** in ICS gym. The next class is **tomorrow, April 23rd!** Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat and towel. A $7 per class offering is suggested. Come to one or all classes and feel free to bring a friend!

**ICS is looking for sponsors** for banners to be hung at Little League Baseball fields ASAP!! These are high-visibility areas and the banners would be very effective in promoting enrollment for the school. Please contact Emily Murphy, Advancement Director at ICS, at 410-398-2636 for more information.

**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 7:00 pm at the Parish Center

**The LAOH (The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians)** Meetings will be held the first Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 pm in the ICC Parish Center. Meetings run September - May. We are always looking for new members! The LAOH is a Catholic Action Group. If you are a woman who is Irish, Catholic and wanting to serve your community and learn more about your Irish heritage come join us. Contact Janice White at 410-378-3493.

**May is “Mental Health Awareness Month!”**

*Our Own* of Cecil County and *Cecil County Core Service Agency* are co-sponsoring a free workshop on **May 15th at 9:30am** at the Elk Forge Inn B&B.Breakfast and lunch will be provided. RSVP by May 7th. To register or for more information, please contact Tahia Glanton at [tahia.glanton1@maryland.gov](mailto:tahia.glanton1@maryland.gov) or 410-996-5112.