***From Father Jim***

**“When Saul arrived in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing he was a disciple.** Then Barnabas took charge of him and brought him to the apostles, and he reported to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus… The church throughout all Judea, Galilee and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers.”

We are familiar with the conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus. This passage tells us something of the struggle for acceptance by Christians in Jerusalem. Barnabas spoke in his behalf to the disciples, and then to the apostles. Paul presented his credentials. The Holy Spirit was at work.

What a great lesson for us today, to be sure that we are welcoming to others! Most likely on a weekly basis people visit our parish church for the first time. Some have recently moved into the community, some perhaps have been away from the church for some time. Others say now is the time for me and my family to become active. How can we to reach out, invite, and support those who come to our community? Pope Francis is constantly teaching us to go out, take a risk, and feel the bruises like Paul.

***We extend our condolences and prayers to the families of those who recently died:***

*Mrs. Eleanor Fritz*

*Mrs. Elizabeth Mackie*

*Mr. Salvatore Piacentini*

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

*Dyllen Preston Taylor*

*Logan Alexander Taylor*

***We extend a warm welcome to our new Parishioners:***

*Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Biko and Family*

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Spry and Family*

*Ms. Rosanna Uranachek*

**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?**

“Immaculate Conception School graduates flourish at Padua Academy. The strong spiritual and academic foundation provided by ICS empowers students to excel in high school.”

--Cindy Mann, Head of School, Padua Academy



**April 30, 2018 Saint Pius V, Pope**

8:30 am John Compardo

**May 1, 2018 St. Joseph the Worker**

8:30 am Joseph Amberg

**May 2, 2018 St. Athanasius, Bishop and Dr. of the Church**

8:30 am Marylyn Almarez

**May 3, 2018 Sts. Philip and James, Apostles**

8:30 am The Ambata Family

**May 4, 2018**

8:30 am Socorro Rodriguez

**May 5, 2018**

8:30 am Mathilde Seaman

5:00 pm People of the Parish

**May 6, 2018 *Sixth Sunday of Easter***

7:00 am Alfred Caldwell

8:30 am Ann and Edward Weber

9:00 am SJ The Schweizer Family

10:15 am Alma Jose

12:00 pm Hugh, Eleanor, and Christopher Reilly

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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 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48**

Peter preaches to the Gentiles for the first time in the house of Cornelius. Peter realized that God would accept any person who acted uprightly, regardless of his or her heritage. Then the Holy Spirit descended on the Gentiles and Peter allowed them to be baptized in the name of Jesus.

**Second Reading: I John 4:7-10**

John advises all believers to love one another, for love is a gift from God. The person without love does not know God, whose love for us is so great he sent his only son so that we might have life through him.

**Gospel: John 15:9-17**

Jesus asks his disciples to live on in his love and to “Love one another as I have loved you.” He explains that he chose them to follow him, and promises if they keep his commandments they will have anything that they ask for in his name.

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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! Our next planning meeting will be held on **Monday, May 14th at 6pm** in the parish center. If you cannot attend the meeting, but would like to be part of this exciting adventure, contact the religion office at 410-392-3551 or 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 many volunteers, adults and teens, to make this happen!

**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 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24; Jn 15: 1-8

**Monday** Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

**Tuesday** Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a or, for the Memorial,

Gn 1:26-2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24; Mt 13:54-58

**Wednesday** Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15: 1-8

**Thursday** 1 Cor 15: 1-8; Jn 14:6-14

**Friday** Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

**Saturday** Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

**Liturgical Ministers for Next Week: *May 5-6***

***5:00 pm***

**Altar Servers:** Mark B, Benedict J • **EMs:** Gina L, Madison L, Carol K

• **Lector:** Kathleen W • **Ushers:** Eileen P, Bill B, Pat C

***7:00 am***

**Altar Servers:** Ashley D • **EM’s:** Sandra H, Alan S, Gerald M

• **Lector:** William K • **Ushers:** Charles M, William C

***8:30 am***

**Altar Servers:** Elizabeth R, Layla B • **EMs:** Don H, Mary Ann H, Frank S

• **Lector:** Louis N • **Ushers:** Anthony D, Steve C, Wendel S, Anthony M

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

**Altar Servers:** Robert H, Joseph H • **EM’s:** Chris H, Pat D, William C, Peggy O, Diane C • **Lector:** Hank C • **Ushers:** Kevin O, Bill D, Jule V, Jake S

***10:15 am***

**Altar Servers:** Chloe B, Mason H • **EM’s:** Elizabeth B, Richard B, Helen B, David L, Gwen D •**Lector:** Tina B •**Ushers:** Bob W, David B, Steve A, Jim D

***12:00 noon***

**Altar Servers:** Claudia G, Carolena G • **EMs:** Pat K, Corazon S, Charles C

• **Lector:** Roberto O • **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, May 6th is:

**Francis Capparuccini**

**Inspirational quote of the week:**

“It is not how much we do that is pleasing to God, but how much love we put into the doing.” ~ Saint Teresa of Calcutta

**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 to 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:**

**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:**

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

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

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

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

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:**

**Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

**TODAY, Sunday, April 29th** Candidates: MUST arrive at ICS Gym by 12:30pm. Mass at 2:00pm at IC.

**YOUTH GROUP:**

**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, plastic-ware, bottled water, pizza gift cards

**Young Adults Group:**

This June there will be a Connections group for young adults (ages 18-30.) Connections is an adult faith formation program that inspires Catholics to pursue their spiritual transformation and equips them to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus. Each Connections seminar involves a weekly meeting, personal and group activities, and a discussion with the leader. Contact Maddie Reese at mem.[reese1010@gmail.com](mailto:reese1010@gmail.com)

**Adult Education**

**ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: SYMBOLON**

Adult Classes will be held this week on **Mon., Apr. 30th** at 6:30pm and **Tues., May 1st** at 9:15am.The topic will be: Mary and the Saints: Our Spiritual Mother and the Communion of Saints. Next Week is the last session in this series. The topic will be: The Last Things: What Happens After We Die? Participants, please turn in your evaluation form.

**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 29**

8:20 AM Confessions - SJ

11:30 AM Confirmation Meet and Greet - Gym

2:00 PM Confirmation Mass - IC

Monday, April 30

9:00 AM Novena – CH

6:30 PM Adult Ed Program - PC

6:30 PM First Communion Rehearsal - IC

8:00 PM AA Mtg – Caf

Tuesday, May 1

9:00 AM Holy Hour – CH

9:15 AM Adult Ed Program - IC

6:00 PM Liturgy Committee Mtg - PC

7:00 PM Boy Scout Leader Mtg - PC

7:00 PM Parish Council Mtg - PC

7:30 PM Contemporary Rehearsal – IC

Wednesday, May2

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade/SJ Novena - CH

9:30 AM LAOH - PC

4:00 PM Godspell Reh - Gym

6:30 PM Communion Rehearsal - IC

Thursday, May 3

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 ICS PSO Executive Mtg - ICS

6:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Parish Choir Reh – IC

Friday, May 4

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

7:00 PM NA – Caf

**Saturday, May 5**

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

4:15 PM Confessions - IC

5:00 PM First Communion Mass - 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.

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**Save the date!!!**

The ICS 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 30th!** 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. For more information, please contact Emily Murphy at 410-398-2636.

**4th annual ICAA Wine and Beer Tasting!!**

Come on out and support the Immaculate Conception Athletic Association while enjoying finger foods, appetizers, and taste wines and beers. You can also participate in a 50/50 drawing! Tickets are $25 per person and they can be purchased from Angela Maxwell, Michelle Riddle, and the Parish Center. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

**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.

**Garage Sale at Saint Mark's**

The Saint Mark's Parent Association will be holding a Garage Sale on **Saturday, May 5** from 7:30 am-1:00 pm in the gym. Item needs include small household items, electronics, music, sports equip, books, baby items, toys, quality clothing, decorative items, outdoor items, and more. Bring your gently used items and support our school. For inquiries or to volunteer contact [302-757-8732](mailto:302-757-8732) or [garagesale@stmarkshs.net](mailto:garagesale@stmarkshs.net) Thank you for supporting SMH!

**Immaculate Conception is an affiliate Partner of The Franklin Institute**

As a parishioner, you get discount pricing for admission and exhibits!! Go to [www.fi.edu/affiliates](http://www.fi.edu/affiliates) and enter our organization code: ICCPMGRP. Check out some of the awesome exhibits they are running:

**Game Masters: The Exhibition, March 31-September 3:** This exhibit is a history of the science and graphic design that goes into creating video games. It’s fun and interactive!

**Vikings: Beyond the Legend, October 13-March 2, 2019:** Voyage back to the times when Vikings ruled the North Atlantic and sailed the seas for treasure. Come see how the Vikings lived, changed the world, and how their influence continues today!

**RESOURCES FOR THE EASTER SEASON:**

-Go to the Parish Website at [www.icc.weconnect.com](http://www.icc.weconnect.com) and looked under Resources to find Resources for Prayer, Scripture, etc.

-The weekly Scripture puzzles for children continue to be posted on our Parish Website under Children’s Corner.

**Holy Heroes Free Mass Prep Resources available:** Sign up at HolyHeroesFun.com

**Weekly Family Video Reflection From Strong Catholic Families:** Every Wednesday a video link and reflection question will be posted on the Strong Catholic Families Facebook page for families to watch, reflect, and discuss. This Facebook page is updated daily with articles, resources, videos and family-related informationaimed at Catholic parents. For more family friendly resources, visit [www.strongcatholicfamilies.org](http://www.strongcatholicfamilies.org)