**Mark your calendars! Advent Services:**

**Christmas Masses:**

**Immaculate Conception Church**

**Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24**

**4:00pm Mass with Christmas Pageant**

Pageant begins at 3:40pm

**7:00pm Mass**

Carol prelude begins at 6:40pm with Contemporary Ensemble

**12:00 Midnight Mass**

Carol prelude begins at 11:30pm with the Parish Choir & Instrumentalists

**Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25**

10:15am Mass

**St. Jude Mission Church**

**Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24**

**4:00pm Mass with Christmas Pageant**

Pageant begins at 3:40pm with Junior Choir singing

**10:00pm Mass**

Carol prelude begins at 9:40pm

**Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25**

9:00am Mass

**Masses for the Solemnity of Mary**

Monday, December 31st 7:00pm Vigil - IC

Tuesday, January 1st 9:00am Mass - SJ



**We need help decorating for Christmas!** We will be decorating for Christmas at ICC **TODAY**, Sunday, December 23rd following the 12:00 Mass. Decorating at St. Jude will be **TODAY**, December 23rd after 9:00 mass. We need everyone to come join in! Please plan to stay and help! Thank you!

***Congratulations to our candidate Nina Bowser*** *who made a profession of faith and received the sacrament of Eucharist and Confirmation and now joins us as a fully initiated Catholic. We welcome her to our Parish!*

**The Parish office will be closed Monday, December 24th, Tuesday, December 25th, and Wednesday, December 26th. Merry Christmas!!**



**December 24, 2018**

8:30 am IC Ahiles Ganes

4:00 pm IC Joseph Kosman

4:00 pm SJ Patsy Rush

7:00 pm IC Sarah Smith

10:00pm SJ Ed Banas

12:00am IC Tony Sniadowski

**December 25, 2018 The Nativity of the Lord**

9:00am SJ George Benvegno Sr.

10:15am IC David Hepner

**December 26, 2018 St. Stephen, the First Martyr**

8:30 am George & Mary Wessel and Audrey

Podlesak

**December 27, 2018 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

8:30 am Kenneth Blase (Living Intention)

**December 28, 2018 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

8:30 am Jose Goveya

**December 29, 2018**

8:30 am Ahiles Gnanes

5:00 pm People of the Parish

**December 30, 2018 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary,***

***and Joseph***

7:00 am Ross and Hazel Patterson

8:30 am Jackie and Bobby Kutchi

9:00 am SJ The Dudley Family

10:15 am Mario and Rose Capparuccini

12:00 pm Harry Albert Jr.



**Knights of Columbus ‘Giving Tree’ Fundraiser!**

Make sure to stop by the entrances of the churches at all masses this weekend to purchase a raffle ticket for your chance to win one of three Christmas trees full of ‘Scratch Off’ Lottery tickets! **Raffle tickets are $5 each or $20 for 5.**

1st Prize: $1,000 in Scratch-Off Tickets

2nd Prize: $750 in Scratch-Off Tickets

3rd Prize: $500 in Scratch-Off Tickets

Drawing to be held by the Knights on Christmas Day. All Proceeds will be going to ICC, ICS, and the Knights of Columbus. This raffle is not affiliated with the Maryland Lottery and/or the State of Maryland.

**Readings for next week:**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14**

Sirach emphasizes the importance of honoring one’s parents. He explains that spiritual riches will come to those who are kind to their mother and father.

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21**

Paul advises us to treat each other with kindness and mercy and to forgive as God forgives us. His words remind families to always love and respect one another and let Christ’s peace reign in their hearts and in their homes.

**Gospel: Luke 2:41-52**

When Jesus was twelve years old, the Holy Family traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. Jesus did not return with the company. Instead, he stayed in Jerusalem, sitting among the teachers while amazing them with his understanding and questions. When found by his concerned parents, Jesus reminded them that he must be in the house of his Father. Returning together, Mary kept these things in her heart.

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

**Inspirational Quote of the Week:**

“God desires that graces must come to us from the hands of Christ, through His most sacred humanity, in which God takes delight. “ -- Saint Teresa of Avila

**Blessing of a Child in the Womb**

On November 11, 2008, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops canonically approved for use the *Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb*. This blessing may occur within Mass or outside of Mass. In the Rite’s instructions: "The Church welcomes with joy and compassion the mothers who, recognizing that all life is a gift from God, come to the Church seeking a blessing for their unborn child." If you would like to receive this blessing for your child, please contact Fr. Jim, Fr. Gerry, or Deacon Mike.

**ROTATING SHELTER:**

We will participate in the rotating Shelter for the homeless again this year. We will be partnering with Truth and Life Church (1924 W. Pulaski Highway, Elkton) during the week of Jan 7-14. We will also host the Shelter the week of March 4-11 at Five Rivers Church (290 Whitehall Road, Elkton.)

Many volunteers are needed! For information or to volunteer you can contact Carol and Bill Dale, 410-287-9548, or email [dales7@comcast.net](mailto:dales7@comcast.net).

Our parish has participated in this mission for the past 13 years with overwhelming support. We touch many lives performing this service to the neediest in our community. God bless and thanks to everyone!

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

The next Baptism Class is **January 7th**, 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 at 410-398-1100.

**Daily Readings:**

***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

**Sunday**...................................Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

**Monday**.............Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79

**Tuesday**......Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

........................................................Night: Is 9:1-6; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14.

...................................................Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20.

...............................Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-16; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

**Wednesday**.............................Acts 6:8-10, 7”54-59, Mt 10:17-22

**Thursday.***.................................................*1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

**Friday**......................................................1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

**Saturday**....................................................1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

**Liturgical Ministers Next Week: *December 29th & 30th***

***5:00 pm***

**Altar Servers:** Mason H, Grace B •**EM’s:** Mary Anne S, Carol K, Cheryl N • **Lector:** John N • **Ushers:** Eileen P, Pat C, Bill B

***7:00 am***

**Altar Servers:** \*Unfilled\* • **EM’s:** Alan S, Gerald M, Sandra H

• **Lector:** Ron G • **Ushers:** Charles M, William C

***8:30 am***

**Altar Servers:** Henry W, Damian W • **EMs:** Peter G, Cecilia G, Don H •**Lector:** Nora W •**Ushers:** Anthony D Wendel S Anthony M, Steve C

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

**Altar Servers:** Matthew T, Luke T • **EM’s:** Dorothy F, Les F, Diane C, Pat D, Carol V • **Lector:** Hank C • **Ushers:** Kevin O, Bill D, Jule V

***10:15 am***

**Altar Servers:** Justin M, Donovan O • **EM’s:** Grace B, Helen B, \*UNFILLED\* • **Lector:** Francis C •**Ushers:** Bob W, Steve A

***12:00 noon***

**Altar Servers:** Adam M, David M • **EMs:** Mary C, Kathy C, Corazon S • **Lector:** Pat K • **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 stay in church.

**The catechist for Next week, December 30th is:**

Grace Amoretti

**Immaculate Conception**

**School News**

**Walk-In Wednesdays** areevery Wednesday from 9:00am–11am. Spread the news! Tours are offered to those who wish to see the school in action!

**Story Time** is on Wednesday, **January 9th** at 10am in the PreK Room. Visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/icschoolmd](http://www.facebook.com/icschoolmd) and mark “Going” if you plan on attending. Space is limited, but all are welcome!

**In the spirit of Giving:** The 3rd and 4th grades did a great job heading up our outreach food donations throughout the month of December!

**Last Week…**

**The Secret Santa Shop for students** was on **December 19th and 20th.** Students will had the opportunity to purchase small gifts throughout the school day. Younger students shopped with the help of their older student “buddies”, and together we all got even more into the spirit of giving!!

**Fifth grade hosted** Special Persons’ Lunch on **Thursday, December 20th.**

**On Thursday, December 20th**, first grade and kindergarten continued their tradition of watching “Polar Express”. Students wore bathrobes and brought fuzzy blankets and enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate while watching the movie together.

**This Week...**

**Immaculate Conception School will be closed** from **Friday, December 21st** (thank you for the Pastoral Holiday, Father Jim!) through and including January 1st. School will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd. On behalf of the faculty and staff of ICS, we would like to wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Faith Formation**

**Religious Education & Sacraments**

**Religion Classes:** There are no **classes today Sunday, December 23rd or Wednesday, December 26th.** There will be no classes Sunday, **December 30th or Wednesday, January 2nd.**

**First Communion:** Parent orientation meeting is Monday, **January 28th.**

**Outreach Donations**: Please bring in your Outreach donations!

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation**

#### whats-your-story

**CONFIRMATION**

Next class will be on:

**Sunday, January 6th and Wednesday, January 9th.**

**PAST DUE** – Sponsor Name, Sponsor Eligibility Form and Confirmation Saints Name.

**YOUTH GROUP**

**Youth Group has also been asked to** **help decorate** ICC after 12:00pm mass on December 23rd or St. Jude’s after the 9:00am mass on December 23rd.

Youth Group will meet again on **Sunday, January 6th.**

**YOUTH MINISTRY WISH LIST:**

Bottled water and sodas

**YOUNG ADULTS**

Contact Maddie Reese at [memreese1010@gmail.com](mailto:memreese1010@gmail.com) for updates.

**ADULT EDUCATION**

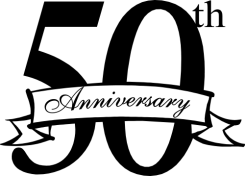
**Interested in a study group?** Many opportunities are available. Call the Parish Office at 410-392-3551.

**“Mary, a Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother”** will be the next adult education class will begin on Monday, January 14th and repeat on Tuesday, January 15th.More information to follow.

**RESOURCES FOR THE SEASON:**

Visit the Parish Website at [iccparish.weconnect.com](http://www.iccparish.weconnect.com) and look under Resources to find Resources for Prayer, Scripture, etc.

**SOCIAL CONCERNS**

**Outreach**

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

**We are in need of Food items such as: canned fruits and vegetables, soup, baked beans, and cans of chef Boyardee pasta meals.**

**We are in need of personal hygiene items such as: toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and deodorant.**

**Thank you!**

**PARISH & FAMILY LIFE**

**Parish Coffee**

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

Join us for Parish Coffee **January 13th** after 10:15am Mass at ICC!

**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 Dec. 16th**

ICC $9,740.00

St. Jude--------------------- $1,749.00

Online $3,784.00

Total Offertory $15,273.00

***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. Allows you to track your giving

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

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

**How to sign up?**

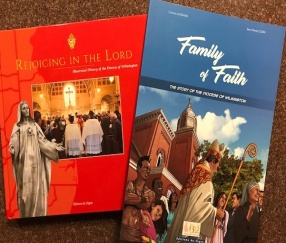
1. Visit iccparish.weconnect.com
2. Click “Go to Online Giving”
3. Sign up! It’s that easy!

**PARISH EVENTS/INFORMATION**

**St. Jude’s 50th Anniversary:**

Our parish will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of St. Jude Church in 2019! The committee will be collecting pictures and stories to share. There will be a box at the entrance to the church where you can leave items you would like to share or you can drop them off at the parish center. Don’t forget to put include your contact information so that the items can be returned to you! Please contact Cheryl Nickle at [youthministry@iccparish.org](mailto:youthministry@iccparish.org) with ideas or for more information about planning this celebration!

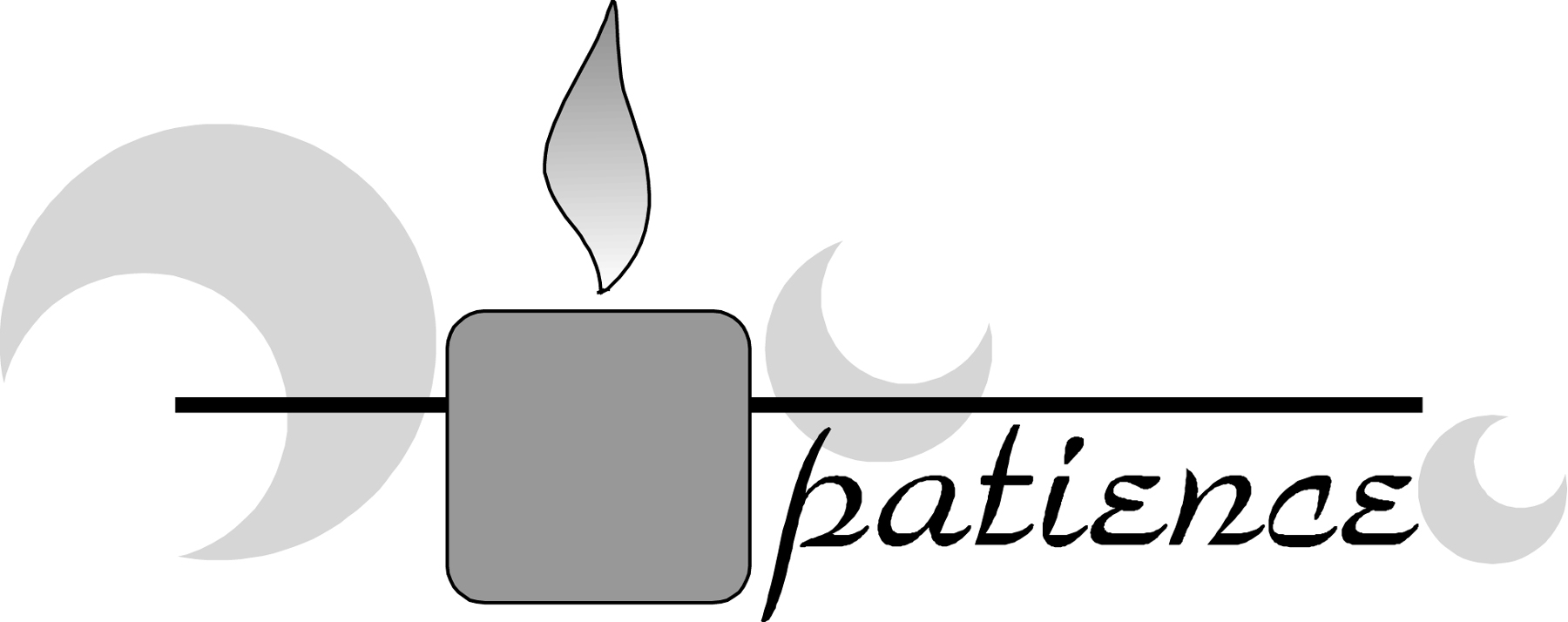
**limited supply!! Makes for the perfect Christmas Gift!!**

We have **a limited supply** of two history books, “Rejoicing in the Lord,” and “Family of Faith” published by the Diocese to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington. “Rejoicing in the Lord” is a hard-cover, full-color coffee table book that features histories and never-before-seen photographs of all Catholic churches in Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore, plus biographies of all nine Wilmington bishops, with important ministries and events highlights. “Family of Faith” is a 35-page, color diocesan history done in the comic book or graphic novel style.

**“Rejoicing in the Lord” is available for $30 each, and “Family of Faith” is sold for $12.** To purchase one or both books, please contact or visit the parish office Make sure to **purchase yours today!!**

**Year-End Donations:**

**I**n the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering extra donations. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep Immaculate Conception/St. Jude Parish in mind. We welcome your donations through the giving page on the church website at iccparish.org. or in the Parish office. Your generosity will be a great help to the parish and may benefit you as you prepare your taxes!





**Sunday, December 23**

8:20 AM - Confessions - SJ

8:30 AM - Religious Ed

6:00 PM - HS Gathering - PC

Monday, December 24 - ICS & Parish Closed

8:30 AM - Mass - IC

4:00 PM - Mass - IC

4:00 PM - Mass - SJ

7:00 PM - Mass - IC

8:00 PM - AA Mtg - Caf

10:00 PM - Mass - SJ

Midnight - Mass - IC

Tuesday, December 25 - ICS & Parish Closed

9:00 AM - Mass - SJ

10:15 AM - Mass - IC

Wednesday, December 26 - ICS & Parish Closed

9:00 AM - Rosary Crusade/SJ Novena-CH

Thursday, December 27 - ICS Closed

9:00 AM - Rosary Crusade - CH

6:30 PM - Varsity Girls Basketball - gym

6:30 PM - Cantor Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM - Parish Choir Rehearsal - IC

Friday, December 28 - ICS Closed

9:00 AM - Rosary Crusade - CH

5:30 PM - Pre- JV Basketball - gym

7:00 PM - NA – Caf

**Saturday, December 29**

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 7:00 pm at the Parish Center

**LAOH (The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians)**

We wish you a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! Thank you for all of your support! The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc. Cecil County Division 1, an Irish Catholic Action group has meetings on the first Wednesdays of the month at 1:00pm in the ICC Parish Center. Meetings run September through May. We are always looking for new members! If you are an Irish Catholic woman and want to serve your community, and learn more about your Irish heritage come join us! Contact Janice White, President at 410-378-3493

***Worldwide Marriage Encounter*** - It has been said that the greatest gift you can give your children is two parents very much in love with each other. Polish up this gift and put a bow on it at a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The next Marriage Encounter weekend with be March 1-3, 2019 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For information, visit our website at [www.me-delmar.org](http://www.me-delmar.org) or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-220-9833. Don’t Delay! Your marriage deserves this *gift*!

**Make sure to check out the Dialog!!**

Make sure to look for the Christmas Edition of The Dialog. In it you will find Bishop Malooly’s annual Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore, plus a special 150th anniversary tribute to priests in service to our diocese and parishes.

**Prayers for Vocations:**

John the Baptist went through the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming “Prepare the way of the Lord!” Is God calling *you* to help prepare His way by serving as a priest or as a religious brother or sister? Contact Fr. Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations at 302-573-3113 or [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:jcocucci@cdow.org) And check out our website: [www.cdow.org/vocations](http://www.cdow.org/vocations)! “For faithful and generous servant-leaders to prepare the way of the Lord through lives of priestly and religious ministry in the Church, we pray to the Lord!”