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| ***From Father Jim***  **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  **Parish Lenten Opportunities:**  Lent begins **this Wednesday** - Ash Wednesday, **February 14th.** We invite you to come join us in any and all of our of our many Lenten opportunities:   * **Ash Wednesday Masses: February 14th**    + **Immaculate Conception Church:** Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am, 12:15pm, and 6:30pm   + **St. Jude:** Mass 7:00pm * **Stations of the Cross:** Friday nights in Immaculate Conception Church at 7:00pm, February 16th, 23rd; March 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd. * **Shadow Stations of the Cross:** in ICS Gym on March 25th at 8:45am and March 28th at 6:30pm. * **Good Friday Stations of the Cross:** Immaculate Conception Church on March 30th at 3:00pm. * **Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance:**   + Saturdays 4:00-4:50pm - IC individual confessions   + Sundays 8:20-8:50am - SJ individual confessions   + Tuesday, February 20 10:00am: ICC - ICS Reconciliation (open to all)   + Wednesday, March 7 6:30pm: ICC - Rel Ed. Reconciliation (open to all)   + Monday, March 19 7:00pm: ICC - Parish Mission Reconciliation/Taize Service (open to all)   + Any time by appointment * **Taize Prayer:** March 19, 7:00pm at IC Church * **Parish Lenten Mission with Msgr Daniel McGlynn, “Repent and Believe the Good News! Mark 1:15”** March 18-20th - ICC * **First Sunday for Adoration:** March 2nd 1:30-3:00pm in IC Chapel |

**Fasting and Abstinence:** On Ash Wednesday, we will enter into our Lenten Season. During this Season, we are to fast and abstain, pray and practice charity. The questions many of us have are:

What is the difference between fasting and abstinence? **Fasting** has to do with the *quantity* of food eaten. We may eat very little or nothing at all. When fasting, you are permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two small meals. **Abstinence** refers to the *kind of food* denied oneself, for example, meat. So, we are not to eat meat on Ash Wednesday or on all Fridays of Lent. We are also to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Who?: The Law of Abstinence binds those who are over 14 years old. Fasting is for those who are 18-59 years old.

Why?: Fasting and abstinence prepares us for a feast: The Easter Celebration! It also promotes self-discipline. It supports one’s prayers and cleanses oneself of previous abuses and sin. All of these have been motives for the Lenten tradition of fasting and abstinence.

**Ash Wednesday Masses**

**Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, February 14th!** Please join us at any of the following masses:

**Immaculate Conception Mass Times:**

8:30am, 10:00am, 12:15pm, and 6:30pm

**St. Jude Mass Time:**

7:00pm

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**Our first Rollover Raffle was a HUGE success!** A HUGE thank you to the Knights of Columbus and to all who purchased Raffle tickets! Not only was our parish able to raise over $7000, but we also had 28 winners! 11 $25 winners, 9 $50 winners, 4 $75 winners, 3 $100 winners, & 1 $200 winner!! Congratulations and thank you!

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**Lenten Fish Fry & Connections:**

**During the season of Lent, we will host** **bi-weekly fish fry dinners** and small group session at the parish center on Fridays: February 16th, March 2nd, and March 16th following Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Conception Church. ‘Connections’ is a parish-based adult faith formation program. ‘Connections’ inspires Catholics to pursue their spiritual transformation and equips them to be fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. The program is made up of short independent seminars that take place over the course of the liturgical year. The Connections program provides a workbook for each participant and a website. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, Connections helps people realize their God given spiritual potential. If you are interested, contact Maddie at [mem.reese1010@gmail.com](mailto:mem.reese1010@gmail.com) so we can plan accordingly!

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**February 12, 2018**

8:30 AM Catharine Stevens

**February 13, 2018**

8:30 AM Tony Sniadowski

**February 14, 2018 Ash Wednesday**

8:30 AM John “Leo” Williams

10:00 AM Thomas V. Griffin

12:15 PM Doris Burns

6:30 PM Ann Botsford (Living Intention)

7:00 PM SJ Nancy J. Murphy

**February 15, 2018**

8:30 AM Allen Wilkinson

**February 16, 2018**

8:30 AM Mimo Calvarese

**February 17, 2018**

8:30 AM Dorothy Kretschmann

5:00 PM Rebecca Harris

**February 18, 2018 First Sunday of Lent**

7:00 AM People of the Parish

8:30 AM Laura and Earl Kock

9:00 AM SJ George Benvegno Sr.

10:15 AM John ‘Leo’ Williams

12:00 PM Catharine Stevens

**Liturgy**

**Readings for next week: First Sunday of Lent**

**First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15**

God made a promise to Noah that he would never again devastate the entire planet with a flood and that the symbol of this promise would be a rainbow in the clouds.

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22**

This letter from Peter reminds all people that Christ died for us so that we might be led to God. We have been saved by our baptism; not a physical cleansing, but a promise to continually strive to obey God.

**Gospel: Mark 1:12-15**

Mark briefly tells of Jesus’ stay in the desert, where he was tested by Satan. He did not give in to temptation, but reappeared in Galilee to proclaim the good news.

**~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ ADULT ENRICHMENT PROGRAM: \*Next week on Monday, Feb. 19th & Tuesday, Feb. 20th a new program will begin: Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained.** Whether you are looking to grow in faith or just learn about the Catholic Church, Symbolon will take you through a journey into the timeless beauty of the Catholic faith and reveal God’s incredible love for us. **All who want to learn more about their faith are welcome.** It will be conducted for 10 weeks. The cost is $25.00 to cover the workbook. **Registrations are still being accepted;** however, the workbook will not be available for the first class. Call the religion office with any questions. Explore the richness of what it means to be Catholic.

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**The Cecil County Pregnancy Center banquet** is coming up on March 22nd at 6:30pm at the Singerly Fire Hall in Elkton. The cost is $25 at the door. There will be a great meal and speakers with client stories. Please call 410-398-7888 to RSVP. You will be glad you came!

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**Does your child need to be Baptized? The next Baptism Class is Monday, March 19th.** 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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**Emergency Rotating Shelter for 2018.** Immaculate Conception/St. Jude will host the shelter this year from **February 5th - 19th.** Many volunteers are needed to help with this mission. For more information, please contact Carol & Bill Dale, 410-287-9548 or [dales7@comcast.net](mailto:dales7@comcast.net).

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**Pregnancy Center Baby Bottle Campaign:** I wonder if Betty Green and others who started CCPC had any idea of the impact this center would have had on Cecil County when they started it so many years ago? It is Baby Bottle time when we ask you to continue the great work you started! **Empty bottles are provided** in the vestibules of the Church. Please consider picking one up after Mass, so that you can bring it home to collect loose change, dollar bills, or a check. Please return the baby bottle to the baskets in Church on **February 24/25**. Thank you!

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**Daily Readings: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday**

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mk 1:40-45

**Monday**

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday**

Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

**Wednesday**

Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday**

Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25

**Friday**

Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday**

Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

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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 **March 4th**. Contact Dermott Mullan at 410-398-3368

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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 for upcoming events. Contact Madison Reese [mem.reese1010@gmail.com](mailto:mem.reese1010@gmail.com) if you would like more information or to get involved!

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**Liturgical Ministers for Next Week: February 17-18**

***5:00pm***

**Altar Servers:** Thomas L, Mason H **EM’s** Madison L, Gina L **Lector:** Mary Ann E **Ushers:** Eileen P, Bill B, Pat C

***7:00am***

**Altar Servers:** Ashley D **EM’s**: Frank S, Gerald M, Alan S **Lector:** Christopher W **Ushers:** Charles M, William C

***8:30am***

**Altar Servers:** Elizabeth R, Alex L **EMs:** Peter G, Cecilia G, Mary Ann H **Lector:** Ron G **Ushers:** Anthony D, Steve C, Wendel S, Anthony M

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

**Altar Servers:** Matthew T, Luke T **EM’s:** Diane C, William C, Thomas V, Narcy Z, Pat D **Lector:** Hank C **Ushers:** Kevin O, Bill D, Jule V, Jake S

***10:15am***

**Altar Servers:** Hans S, Ariane S **EM’s:** Richard L, Gwen D, James D **Lector:** Paula G **Ushers:** Steve A, Bob W

***12:00noon***

**Altar Servers:** Carolena G, Benedict J **EM’s:** Corazon S, Pat K, Kathy C **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, Feb 18th is:**

**Francis Capparuccini**

**Faith Formation**

**Immaculate Conception School News**

**Our students and staff are preparing** **to enter the season of Lent.** We will celebrate Mardi Gras and Valentine’s Eve on Tuesday with class parties. On Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate our school Mass at 10:00. We invite you to join us as our 2nd and 3rd graders lead us in the liturgy. The students will begin Mass with the traditional burial of the Alleluia. On Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent, our school community will observe the tradition of abstinence.

**Thursday will be a busy day** as the Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Wilmington will be visiting us, our 3rd graders will welcome their special guests for lunch, we will hold our spelling bee, and our 7th graders will host their science fair! Friday is a half day for students so that our teachers can participate in staff development. Aftercare will be available. School will be closed next Monday in observance of Presidents’ Day.

**If you missed the Open Houses** that we had this week, it’s not too late to come and see some of the amazing activities and academics that ICS provides. You may also schedule a 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 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, Feb. 20 at 9:00.** If you have questions about the program or are interested in helping, contact Emily Murphy at 410-398-2636.

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**Faith Formation**

**Religious Education & Sacraments**

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

**Sunday Program:** Classes for Gr. K-8 will be held today, Feb. 11th at 8:30am

**Wednesday Program:** Classes for Gr. 1-8 will be held this Wednesday, Feb. 14th at 6:15pm.

**\*All Classes this Wednesday** will be joining the Ash Wednesday Mass at 6:30pm in ICC. Students will be taken to church and dismissed from school.

**FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAM:**

The next meeting for those who attended an Orientation meeting for First Communion will be a parent/child meeting scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 25th from 4-5:30pm in church. Call the religion office with any questions.

**Religious Ed/Youth Ministry Registration:**

Registration is open for our religious education/youth ministry and sacrament programs for next year! Religion Classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30-10am and Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:45pm.

**You can register either:**

* -On line by looking under Faith Formation on the Parish Website
* -By completing a hard copy of the forms obtained from the parish religion office.

**\*It is important to register now** to reserve your child’s place in our programs **and to avoid a late fee!!**

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

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

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**Youth Ministry & Confirmation**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:**

**Whole group gathering today Sun. Feb. 11** **at St. Jude’s, 4pm.** Bring Confirmation saint name paper. **Wed., Feb. 14,** attend Ash Wed. mass either with your class at 6:30 or at your Catholic high school.

**DONATIONS NEEDED:** clip boards- used are fine! Drop off at parish center/Cheryl Nickle.

**YOUTH GROUP: NO MEETING due to Confirmation gathering at St. Jude’s.** We will meet next Sunday.

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

**Are you being called to serve the Parish Youth?** If interested in serving our parish youth, contact Cheryl Nickle in the religion office. We’re forming a Core Team of adults to help 7th-12th grade youth groups.

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**YOUNG ADULTS**

Thank you to Maddie Reese for spearheading the creation of our Young Adult’s Group. **Theology on** **Tap** scheduled for **Wed. Feb. 21** at **Minihane’s** in Elkton, **seating starts at 6:30 pm**, **Join us!!**

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**2018 VBS PLANNING IS HERE!!**

"Shipwrecked" Totally Catholic VBS is where kids learn that Jesus rescues! Our first planning meeting will be Monday, Feb. 12 at 6pm in the Parish Center. Please join us on this amazing adventure that will help kids (and adults) begin or deepen their faith by discovering that Jesus cares about them personally and rescues in life's toughest circumstances. **We need YOU!**

**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:** canned fruit, baked beans, pancake mix, Jello, instant pudding, spaghetti-o’s, pasta, toilet paper, toothpaste, and tooth brushes.

**Parish and Family Life**

**Parish Coffee**: Join us for Parish Coffee **March 4th** after the 9 AM Mass at St. Jude’s.

**Join us for Parish Coffee today, February 11th after 10:15 mass at IC!** Hope to see you there

**Parish Events / Information**



**Offertory Week of: February 4 Fiscal Budget**

Immaculate Conception $11,380.97 $9,217.00

St. Jude’s $2,283.00 $1,826.00

Online $2,020.00 $2,773.50

Total: $15,683.97 $13,816.50

**2017-2018 Fiscal YTD Offertory Surplus** $2,355.78

**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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**SAVE THE DATE:** It’s time to get your Shamrock on!! Our annual St. Patrick’s Dinner is going to be taking place on Saturday, March 10th! Join us for great food, live music, raffles and more! Tickets are on sale now! More information to follow!



**Sunday, February 11**

8:20 AM Confessions - SJ

8:30 AM Religious Ed

1:30 PM Baptisms - IC

4:00 PM Confirmation Whole group - SJ

Monday, February 12

9:00 AM Novena – CH

6:30 PM VBS Planning Meeting - PC

8:00 PM AA Mtg - Caf

Tuesday, February 13

9:00 AM Holy Hour – CH

9:15 AM Book Discussion - PC

6:00 PM Basketball - gym

6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Mtg - PC

7:30 PM Contemporary Rehearsal - IC

Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade/SJ Novena - CH

9:30 AM Cantor Reh - IC

10:00 AM ICS Ash Wed Mass - IC

12:15 PM Ash Wed Mass - IC

1:00 PM Leisure Club - PC

3:45 PM Children’s Choir Reh - IC

6:00 PM Basketball - gym

6:15 PM Religious Ed

6:30 PM Ash Wed Mass - IC

7:00 PM Ash Wed Mass - SJ

Thursday, February 15

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

3:00 PM Godspell Rehearsal - gym

6:30 PM Boy Scout Mtg - PC

6:30 PM Cub Scouts - Caf

6:30 PM ICS 7th Grade Science Fair - gym

6:30 PM Cantor Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Parish Choir Reh - IC

Friday, February 15 ICS ½ Day

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

6:00 PM Young Adult Mtg - PC

7:00 PM NA - Caf

**Saturday, February 16**

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

10:00 AM NA Speaker ‘Jam’ -Caf

4:15 PM Confessions - IC

**Available Parish Lent Resources: The Season of Lent begins this Wed., Feb. 14th.** Prepare to enter this time of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving by:

* Taking the black Lent Book provided by the Parish that is available in the vestibules of Church
* Go to the Parish Website: [iccparish.weconnect.com](http://www.icc.weconnect.com) and look under Faith Formation, click on Seasonal where you will find Lent Resources for prayer, Scripture reflections and other links to enrich your faith journey during this holy season.
* Go to BestLentEver.com to receive videos/ reflections.
* Weekly Scripture puzzles for children are posted on our Parish Website under Children’s Corner.

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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. If you would like to help the school in other ways, contact **Emily Murphy,** at ICS at 410-398-2636 or [emurphy@icschoolweb.org](mailto:emurphy@icschoolweb.org).

**Help Wanted! Volunteer Fundraising Coordinator:** The volunteer fundraising coordinator acts as a liason between the four parish fundraising committees, the parish council, and the parish staff; attends fundraiser committee meetings to provide insight and coordination with other events; coordinates scheduling in advance with committees and parish staff in regards to advertising and room reservations; drafts announcements, mailings, scheduling of speakers, etc; assists in creating and scheduling advertising notices and communications while utilizing established means of advertising as well as seeking new advertising opportunities. If you are interested, please contact Mark Guns at [Mguns@live.com](mailto:Mguns@live.com) or 443-309-0616. Thank you!

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**ICS Paint Nite!!** Come together for a fun evening with your friends, or to meet new ones as you help raise money to support enrichment activities for the children at ICS. Get tickets today!!

<https://www.paintnite.com/events/sunset-by-the-dock-at-immaculate-conception-school-10027062>

**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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**Mardi Gras Party:** Come experience Mardi Gras right in Delaware! **February 13, 6-9pm**. Holy Angels (in Fremont Hall), 82 Possum Park Road, Newark. Family friendly. Free admission. Drinks and food available to purchase at the event. Raffle drawing at 8:30pm. Current prize pot is up to $15,000. That’s $3,000 for each of 5 winners! Contact 302-731-8016 or [Phyllis510@comcast.net](mailto:Phyllis510@comcast.net) for more information. RSVP encouraged. “Laissez le bon temps rouler!”

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**Middle School Band Camp:** Band camp for students in grades 6, 7, & 8 will take place at St. Mark’s High School June 18-22 from 9am-12pm. Cost is $110.00 per camper. This camp keeps students playing during the summer months to build on the skills they have learned throughout the year. Students will work on technical exercises, rehearsal techniques, and chorale styles and will have a concert for at the end of the week. For more info, contact Art Bookout at 302-757-8781 or [abookout@stmarkshs.net](mailto:abookout@stmarkshs.net). Visit <https://www.stmarkshs.net/page/news--events/summer-band-camp> to register!

**Theology on Tap! "Christian in Today's World: How to be Catholic in a post-Christian Society" presented by Michael Gokie**

When: Wednesday, February 21st

Where: Minihane's Irish Pub & Restaurant 101 West Main Street Elkton, MD 21921

Seating begins at 6:30pm and the presentation at 7pm. There is no fee for the event but please consider patronizing the establishment kind enough to host us! Michael Gokie is a member of the Sodality of Christian Life, a lay Society of Apostolic Life, and serves as the Associate Director of the Drexel Newman Catholic Community at Drexel University.

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**Help kick off a year to remember! Diocesan 150th anniversary to begin March 3rd.** You are cordially invited to join Bishop Malooly at the Diocese of Wilmington’s Sesquicentennial Kick-off Mass on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 12:00 pm at the Cathedral of Saint Peter, Sixth and West Streets in Wilmington. Gather and pray with Catholics from across Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Wilmington by Blessed Pope Pius IX on March 3, 1868.