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| ***From Father Jim*****Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**Dear Parishioners,Your faithful generosity to our parish enables the continuation of ministry and outreach to people in our faith community and beyond. To all parishioners who have completed a commitment card, thank you. If you have not already done so, please return your response card as soon as possible.Sincerely in St. Francis de Sales,Fr. Jim Yeakel, OSFS |

**Join us for our Parish Concert!**

Please join us **TODAY** at our Parish Concert **January 28, 2018 at 3:00pm** at Immaculate Conception Church. Grant Us Peace! This concert will be featuring the Parish Choir, Contemporary Ensemble, Children’s Choir, and instrumentalists. The program will be focused around our need for God’s peace in our world, and our prayer for peace through music. A free will offering will be taken and a reception will follow the concert

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**Cemetery Notice**: All Christmas decorations may remain on the graves at both cemeteries until the end of January. If you have any decorations that you wish to keep, you **must remove them by January 31, 2018.** Please remember that with the exception of flowers in memorial marker vases, no decorations of any type, (wind chimes, statues, fencing, flags, potted plants, etc.) are permitted on the graves during the mowing season – April 15 to October 30. Thank you for your cooperation.

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

Mr. Edward Fischer

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**Ash Wednesday is February 14!**

Please bring in your last year's palms for us to turn into this year's ashes. Palms may be deposited in the baskets at the entrances to our churches.

**Our 11th annual ICS Waffles and Raffles is TODAY, Sunday, January 28th** from 8:00am-12:00pm. Make sure to “Follow The Yellow Brick Road” after mass to our Wizard of OZ themed event and enjoy fun, friendship, food, and possible prizes! Don’t miss the silent auction and raffle! Cost is $7 for adults, $6 for seniors and children (4-12 yrs), and kids 3 and under are free! ICS Students will receive a Jeans pass and Raffle ticket with the purchase of a meal ticket! Proceeds benefit ICS.

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

**Here is a perfect way to celebrate Valentine’s Day!** The Parish and Family Life Committee will be sponsoring an evening of fun, laughter, and good food on **Saturday, February 10** beginning at 6:15. The evening will consist of a 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. Tickets will be sold after Masses **TODAY** and next weekend. You may also purchase tickets at the parish office. Tickets are $45 per couple or $150 for a table reservation (4 couples). The ticket includes one complementary bar beverage, water, tea, coffee, a buffet dinner, dessert, and the game. Cash bar will be available for wine and beer.

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**January 29, 2018**

8:30 AM Catharine Stevens

**January 30, 2018**

8:30 AM Francis J. Tierney

**January 31, 2018 St. John Bosco, Priest**

8:30 AM Dr. Rolando Najera

**February 1, 2018**

8:30 AM Glenn Reese (Living Intention)

**February 2, 2018 The Presentation of the Lord**

8:30 AM Dorothy Lillian Ashbridge

**February 3, 2018 St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr and St. Ansgar, Bishop**

8:30 AM Dr. Rolando Najera

5:00 PM Ignatius Steinert

**February 4, 2018 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

7:00 AM People of the Parish

8:30 AM Michael Blendy

9:00 AM SJ Deceased members of the Holst Family

10:15 AM Hugh, Eleanor, and Christopher Reilly

12:00 PM James Loftus

**Liturgy**

**Readings for next week: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7**

In this passage, Job laments the drudgery and pain all people sometimes experience in life. He talks of troubled days and restless nights. But he does mention that the days move along swiftly, which can remind us that our time here on earth is quite limited and should be well spent.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23**

Paul explains to the Corinthians that he has no choice, but must preach the gospel. He tells of making himself all things to all people, in order to save some of them. He reminds them that he does this willingly, in the hope of sharing in the blessings of the gospel.

**Gospel: Mark 1:29-39**

Jesus cured Simon and Andrew’s mother of a fever, then others with illnesses or demons came to see him. He cured those who were ill, and cast out the demons of the others. Then he went off and prayed alone until his followers sought him out. Jesus and his disciples then moved on to other villages to proclaim the good news.

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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) if you would like more information or to get involved!

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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 through 19th.** Many volunteers are needed to help with this mission. Many thanks for all the help you have provided in past years. Look forward to meeting anyone interested in helping this year. For additional information or questions, please call Carol and Bill Dale, 410-287-9548 or email dales7@comcast.net.

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**Cecil County Pregnancy Center** is dedicated to helping mothers and babies in Cecil County before and after birth. The Center relies entirely on donations. Our parish will sponsor a Baby Bottle campaign to support the Center, starting on the weekend of **February 3/4.** Empty bottles will be provided in baskets in the vestibules of the Church that weekend. Please consider picking one up after Mass, so that you can bring it home to collect loose change, dollar bills, or a check. After 3 weeks, please return the baby bottle plus its contents to the baskets in the Church on February 24/25. Thank you for your generosity.

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

**Sunday**

Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

**Monday**

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30, 16:5-13; Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday**

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday**

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday**

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; Mk 6:7-13

**First Friday**

Mal 3:1-4; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**First Saturday**

1 Kgs 3:4-13; Mk 6:30-34

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

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**Liturgical Ministers for Next Week: February 3-4**

***5:00pm***

**Altar Servers:** Mark B, Mason H **EM’s** Cheryl N, Gina L, Madison L **Lector:** Edward R **Ushers:** Eileen P, Bill B, Pat C

***7:00am***

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

***8:30am***

**Altar Servers:** Henry W, Alex L **EMs:** Peter G, Cecilia G, Mary Ann H **Lector:** Brigid W **Ushers:** Anthony D, Steve C, Wendel S, Anthony M, David D

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

**Altar Servers:** Robert H, Joseph H **EM’s:** Helen B, Carol V, Chris H, Larry B, Pat D **Lector:** Monica V **Ushers:** Kevin O, Bill D, Jule V, Jake S

***10:15am***

**Altar Servers:** Justin M, Donovan O **EM’s:** James D, Gwen D, David L \*Unfilled\* **Lector:** Francis C **Ushers:** Steve A

***12:00noon***

**Altar Servers:** Gabriel O **EM’s:** Corazon S, Cynthia J, Grace B **Lector:** Mary 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 remain in church.

**The catechist for next Sunday, Feb 4th is:**

**Justine Quirk**

**Faith Formation**

**Immaculate Conception School News**

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**Welcome to Catholic Schools Week!** The weekend, we kick off our celebration of Catholic education here at ICS and across the country. Our theme this year is “Believe. Learn. Serve. Lead. Succeed”, and it will be the focus of our activities throughout the next week. Today, we begin our celebration with our annual Waffles & Raffles. Stop down to the cafeteria to enjoy a delicious breakfast and shop at our raffle and silent auction. Here is a summary of our week’s activities:

**Monday**: We celebrate community with some buddy activities and PJ dress down. Join us between 5:30 and 7:30 at Chick-fil-A on Rt. 40 for a nice dinner and support of our school.

**Tuesday:** We celebrate our students with a special assembly by Justin Berk - Faith in the Flakes, our Open House sessions, and special treats for students.

**Wednesday:** We celebrate our nation and vocations. Join us for our school Mass at 10:00. Later, our students will compete in a geography bee to see who qualifies to move on to the district competition.

**Thursday:** We celebrate our families with No HW, No Backpack, No Problem!, our Challenge Cup games that pit our 8th graders against staff, and then hold our annual Talent Show that evening.

**Friday:** We celebrate our faculty, staff, & volunteers. We will start our day off at 1st Friday Mass and finish our week with our Blue & White Rally.

**If you are curious about our school,** now is a perfect time to explore. We are holding our winter Open House which will be in three phases on Tuesday. 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, Feb. 6 at 9:00. If you have questions about the program or are interested in helping, please contact Emily Murphy at 410-398-2636.

**Faith Formation**

**Religious Education & Sacraments**

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

**Sunday:** Classes for Gr. K-8 will be held today, Jan. 28th at 8:30am

**Wednesday:** Classes for Gr. 1-8 will be held this Wednesday, Jan. 31st at 6:15pm.

**CATECHIST MEETING: GR. K-8** will be held during Religion Classes on Wed., Jan. 31st and Sun., Feb. 4th

**First Communion Program:**

**The Parent Orientation Meeting will be held Tomorrow Evening, Monday, January** **29th at 6:30pm in Church**. At least one parent must be in attendance at this meeting and bring with them the form for the chosen celebration date for First Communion. Call the parish religion office with any questions or concerns.

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**Youth Ministry & Confirmation**

**CONFIRMATION PROGRAM:**

Regular Schedule- Sun. Class 4pm, Wed. Class 6:15pm; next whole group candidates’ gathering is Sunday, **February 4, 4-5:30 at St. Jude’s.** Candidates are to turn in their choice of Confirmation Saint at this gathering. This form is in the packet you received at our first meeting. Extra copies available. Contact Cheryl Nickle.

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

**YOUTH GROUP: TONIGHT: 6-8pm**, bring a friend! MOVIE NIGHT! Pizza night!

**NO MEETING SUPERBOWL WEEKEND.**

**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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**Adult Education**

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

Sessions will be held Mon., Jan. 29th at 6:30pm and Tues., Jan. 30th at 9:15am Topic: The Apostolic Fathers

**This is the last session** in this program. Participants are reminded to turn in their evaluation form.

**\*\*Beginning Feb. 19th & 20th we will offer a program entitled: Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained.**

Whether you are looking to grow in your faith or just learning about the Catholic Church, Symbolon will take you through a journey into the timeless beauty and truths of the Catholic faith and reveal God’s incredible love for us-the story of our salvation. All who want to learn more about their faith are welcome. This 10 week course costs $25.00 to cover the workbook. Registration forms are available in the vestibules of Church, the Parish Center, and on the Parish Website. \*\*NOTE: In order to have the needed books here on time, registrations are due by the end of this week.

**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.

**Thank you to** Acme Markets of Elkton and Pat Charshee for donating meals for 32 families in need during Christmas and Thanksgiving! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**Parish and Family Life**

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

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

**Parish Events / Information**



**Offertory Week of: January 21 Fiscal Budget**

Immaculate Conception $7,727.35 $8,940.75

St. Jude’s $2,016.00 $1,771.25

Online $2,775.00 $2,690.50

Christmas Offertory: $23,676.45 $19,000.00

Total: $36,194.80 $32,402.50

**2017-2018 Fiscal YTD Offertory short fall** ($3,773.41)

**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

**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\



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**The LAOH (The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians)** Meetings will be held the first Wednesdays of the month at 1:00p.m. 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, President at 410-378-3493

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**Amazon Smile:** Shop with a smile at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Immaculate Conception, Elkton, MD as the charity of your choice and Amazon will donate 10% of your purchase to Immaculate Conception!



**Sunday, January 28**

8:00 AM Waffles and Raffles - Caf

8:20 AM Confessions - SJ

8:30 AM Religious Ed

1:30 PM Baptisms - IC

3:00 PM Parish Concert - IC

4:00 PM Confirmation Class - PC

6:00 PM HS Gathering - PC

Monday, January 29 Catholic Schools Week

9:00 AM Novena – CH

6:30 PM Adult Ed Program - PC

6:30 PM First Communion Parent Meeting -IC

8:00 PM AA Mtg - Caf

Tuesday, January 30 Catholic Schools Week

9:00 AM Holy Hour – CH

9:15 AM Adult Ed Program - PC

9:15 AM Book Discussion - PC

2:30 PM ICS Talent Show Reh - gym

6:00 PM Basketball - gym

6:00 PM ICS Open House - ICS

6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Mtg - PC

7:30 PM Contemporary Rehearsal - IC

Wednesday, January 31 Catholic Schools Week

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade/SJ Novena - CH

9:30 AM Cantor Reh - IC

10:00 AM ICS Catholic Schools Week Mass

3:45 PM Children’s Choir Reh - IC

6:00 PM Basketball - gym

6:15 PM Religious Ed/Confirmation Class

Thursday, February 1

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

3:00 PM Godspell Rehearsal - gym

6:00 PM ICS Talent Show - 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, February 2

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

7:00 PM NA - Caf

**Saturday, January 27**

9:00 AM Rosary Crusade - CH

4:15 PM Confessions - IC

7:00 PM NA - gym

**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 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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**Mount Aviat’s Annual Cream Puff Day** – **February 9** Delicious, homemade cream puffs —a specialty of the Oblate Sisters — are available for pre-order only until February 2nd. Pricing is $2.75 each or $33/dozen. Pick up is Friday, February 9th at the MAA gym between the hours of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. MAA is located at 399 Childs Road, Childs, MD 21916. Delivery is available for large orders in Elkton and Newark. Order forms are available on the MAA website at [www.MountAviat.org](http://www.MountAviat.org).



***S.A.C.R.E.D. - Salesianum Adult Christian Religious Education Day:*** This year S.A.C.R.E.D. will be hosted by Salesianum in Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday, **February 24th** from 8am-3pm. Celebrate our Catholic Faith with a day of spiritual renewal. The price includes coffee, light breakfast, a hot lunch and all day beverages with over 15 courses in adult religious education. Reconciliation is offered at 8am, noon, and 3pm. Cost is $45, or $40 if paid by Tuesday, January, 31st online. <http://sacred.salesianum.org>. Don’t miss out on a fun filled and informative way to celebrate our Catholic Faith and to enter the season of Lent as Salesianum offers SACRED for the 18th time. We expect over 200 people, don’t miss your chance!

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**Rachel’s Vineyard Catholic Retreat** for post-abortion healing will be held at Jesus House, Wilmington, DE April 6-8. The retreat weekend is a beautiful opportunity for any person who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion to heal. For more information contact Nan Freeman at 302-333-1904 or visit [www.rachelsvineyard.org](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).