***From Father Jim***

**“All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights... Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls. Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for the orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep yourself unstained by the world.”**

As we reflect on the word each week, we are encouraged to not just hear or read, but to decide how it directs me to live it and put it into practice. From the first page of the bible, care for the oppressed, widows and orphans was a key measure for being a faithful person. The history of the church celebrates the heroes who reached out to the needy, beginning in the Acts of the Apostles. Saints like Vincent de Paul, and Mother Katherine Drexler, saw needs and acted upon them.

In his exhortation ‘Rejoice and Be Glad’ Pope Francis indicates that the Beatitudes are our identity card. So if anyone asks ‘What must I do to be a good Christian?’ the answer is clear. We have to do each in our own way what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. Saint James and Pope Francis tell us ‘we are a people of the beatitudes’.

**If you haven’t heard, there’s a lot going on at ICS this summer!!**

Our new principal, Mr. Bill Schilling, is settling in and has hit the ground running! **He would like to extend an invitation** to all of you to pop your heads into his office. Whether you’re curious, neighborly or have something particular you’d like to share with him, his door is always open. Please take advantage of this sincere invitation! He’s looking forward to meeting you!

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

*Mr. James P. Leary Jr.*

*Mrs. Shannon Valentino*



**September 3, 2018 St. Gregory the Great**

9:00 am Sean Locke

**September 4, 2018**

8:30 am Sally George

**September 5, 2018 St. Teresa of Calcutta**

8:30 am Tom Magner

**September 6, 2018**

8:30 am Alma Jose

**September 7, 2018**

8:30 am Nicholas Coppolino

**September 8 2018 The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:30 am Mary Gosciniak

5:00 pm Dorothy and Earl Martin

**September 9, 2018 *Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time***

7:00 am Kyle Rzucidlo

8:30 am People of the Parish

9:00 am SJ Lisa Gottemoller

10:15 am Albert “Rudy” Vaccarini

12:00 pm Beverley Izzo

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**National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children**

Our annual commemoration of 34 unborn children from an abortion clinic in Elkton will be held this Saturday, **September 8th at 10am** at their burial site at Immaculate Conception Cemetery. Please join us in remembering these children and all others who have suffered abortion.

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**Symbolon –The Catholic Faith Explained–Part 2**

Our Adult Education program, “Symbolon, The Catholic Faith Explained Part 2” is beginning Monday evening Sept. 17th and repeats on Tuesday morning Sept. 18th. Registration forms can be found on the parish website: *iccparish.weconnect.com* under “Faith Formation” or available at the Parish Center. **Registrations due back by Sept. 7th**

**Readings for next week:**

**23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7a**

Isaiah tells the people to be strong and unafraid. God will save his people, and the blind will see, the deaf will hear, and the lame will walk. Streams will come forth in the desert, the sandy ground will become springs of water.

**Second Reading: James 2:1-5**

James encourages the people to never show favoritism. He discusses an usher who escorted a rich man to the best seat, while ignoring a poor man. God chose poor people to be rich in faith, so we should never judge people by their riches.

**Gospel: Mark 7:31-37**

Some people brought a deaf man who could not speak to Jesus and begged him to lay his hand on the man. Jesus opened the man’s ears and cured his speech impediment. He ordered the people not to tell anyone, but they were too amazed to keep this to themselves.

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**Less than 1 month left until the start of RCIA!**

**Are you unbaptized and have a desire to be baptized? Are you a baptized Christian interested in becoming a Catholic? Are you a baptized Catholic who never received the sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation? If you answered yes to any of these questions then RCIA is for you!!**

**A new RCIA program will be starting September 20th.** RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process by which baptized Christians and those who are unbaptized become members of the Catholic Church. It is also the process by which baptized Catholics who never received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation receive those sacraments. Are you being called to have a deeper relationship with God? If so, please call the Parish Office at 410-398-1100 or email rcia@iccparish.org to learn more about RCIA and to register for RCIA. The RCIA process is a wonderful way to have a greater understanding of the Catholic faith and become closer to God in the process.

**Sponsors are also needed to walk with those** who are learning about the Catholic faith through the RCIA process. Do you love your faith? Do you want to share it with others? Please consider being a sponsor for RCIA. Call 410-398-1100 to sign up!

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

The next Baptism Class is **September 17th**, 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.

**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 today, **September 2nd.** Contact Dermott Mullan at 410-398-3368.

**Daily Readings:**

***Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***

**Sunday**..................................Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;

 Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Monday.**.......................................................1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30

**Tuesday**..................................................1 Cor 2:10b-16; Lk 4:31-37

**Wednesday**..................................................1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44

**Thursday.***...................................................*1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11

**Friday .**........................................................1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39

**Saturday** ....................Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23

 **Liturgical Ministers for Next Week: *September 8th & 9th***

***5:00 pm***

**Altar Servers:** Nathan S, Grace B •**EM’s:** Julie M, Carol K, MaryAnne S • **Lector:** Tina B • **Ushers:** Eileen P, Bill B, Pat C, Diana B

***7:00 am***

**Altar Servers:** Sarah B, Jacob B •**EM’s:** Sandra H, Frank S, Gerald M

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

***8:30 am***

**Altar Servers:** Elizabeth R, Jeremy M • **EMs:** Don H, Cecilia G, Peter G

•**Lector:** Mary Ann E •**Ushers:** Anthony D, Wendel S, Anthony M, Stephen C

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

**Altar Servers:** Mitchell H, Alex L • **EM’s:** Chris H, Dorothy D, William C, Carol V, Diane C • **Lector:** Hank C •**Ushers:** Kevin O, Jule V, Bill D

***10:15 am***

**Altar Servers:** Donovan O, Alex F • **EM’s:** Gwen D, James D, Ben F, Rita M, Richard L• **Lector:** Nora W• **Ushers:** Bob W, Steve A, David B

***12:00 noon***

**Altar Servers:** Henry W, Damian W • **EMs:** Pat K, Corazon S, Mary Clarke• **Lector:** Brigid W • **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 week: September 9th is:**

Justine Quirk

**Immaculate Conception**

**School News**

**We hope everyone continues to enjoy a wonderful summer!**

**Our first week of school is right around the corner!** The first day of school is **September 4th**! Immaculate Conception students will be at First Friday Mass on September 7th.

**There are many new and exciting things happening at ICS!**

**Our principal, Mr. Schilling,** is working on new **S.T.E.M. initiatives** that will be implemented throughout this year for our students.

**We have new staff members:**

ICS has hired a new part-time Reading teacher, Ms. Pamela Quarstein, a new part-time Spanish teacher, Ms. Helen Flaherty, and a new 4th grade teacher, Ms. Lynn Huston!

**We are still enrolling!**

If you are interested in learning more about ICS or would like to enroll your child in school, call the school office and ask to speak to Emily Murphy, the Advancement Director. The office will be open from 8:00 to 3:00 Monday - Friday. Take advantage of our Tuition Transfer and Protect & Serve grants! Call the Advancement Director for details!

**faith formation**

**Education & Sacraments**

**Religion Classes for Grades K-8**

**start Sunday, Sept. 9th and Wednesday, Sept. 12th.**

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

To ensure a place for your child in the religion classes for next year, **you must register now!**

**You can register either:**

- On the Parish Website under Faith Formation

- By completing a hard copy of the forms

**\*\*Note:** Finances are never to be a reason not to register! Payment plans or 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 2nd grade and/or 1st Communion.

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

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

**HELP US SUCCEED!**

**WANTED:** Adult volunteers to teach small groups, and Teen or Adult volunteers to serve as Assistants.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Willingness to communicate about our faith, a love of young people, and a desire to be more involved. Experience is not necessary-training provided!

**ASSISTANTS ARE NEEDED FOR:**

Gr. 3 & 4: Sunday Mornings

Gr. 6: Wednesday Evenings

**CATECHISTS ARE NEEDED FOR**

Grades 7 & 8 on Sundays

Confirmation Classes on Sunday Mornings

**Contact 410-392-3551 or** **re@iccparish.org** **to volunteer.**

**Youth Ministry & Confirmation**

**CONFIRMATION**

**9th graders Confirmation preparation begins in September. Register now!** Once registered, you will receive information on service opportunities.

**YOUTH GROUP:**

Next Meeting: September 9th at 6:00pm.

**YOUTH MINISTRY WISH LIST:** BOTTLED WATER, plastic ware.

**Young Adults Group:**

Attention Young Adults (ages 18-30): As of the 1st week of Oct. there will be a “Connections” Group meeting for 6 weeks. “Connections” is an adult faith formation program. It consists of short seminars taking place over the course of the church year. Each seminar has 4 parts: weekly meetings, daily activities, group activities and one-on-one discussions with the group leader. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, ‘Connections’ helps you realize your God-given spiritual potential. Contact Maddie Reese by Sept 26th at YoungAdultGroupicc@gmail.com.

**Adult Education**

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

**Parish Book Study:** Our parish book study will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 18 in the Parish Center 9:15-11:15. Our book will be The Shattered Lantern by Ronald Rolheiser. If you are interested, please contact Mary Ann Hopkins at 443-553-4604.

**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!!

**Outreach is** **in dire need** of all types of canned vegetables, spaghetti, and spaghetti sauce! Thank you for your generosity!

**PARISH & FAMILY LIFE**

**Parish Coffee**

Join us for Parish Coffee, **today,** **September 2nd** after 9:00 am Mass at St. Jude’s.

Join us for Parish Coffee, next Sunday, **September 9th** after 10:15 mass at IC! 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 Aug. 26th**

 ICC $6,637.00

 St. Jude--------------------- $1,663.00

Online $2,708.00

 Total Offertory $11,008.00

***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 the 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**

** School Supply Shelf**

Many thanks to the Immaculate Conception School families who volunteered with the 2018 School Supply Shelf!  We were able to help so many families in our community by providing backpacks loaded with grade-specific supplies.  Have a great school year!

**Christmas Bazaar Needs:**

The Christmas Bazaar Committee is looking for business(es) or patron(s) to sponsor the printing of the money raffle tickets for the Christmas Bazaar. Any contributing business or patron will receive recognition for their sponsorship. Also, if your business, family, or group would like to assemble and donate a basket for the theme basket raffle, please contact us. The points of contact for the Christmas Bazaar are Lisa Kaminski at 410-392-9558 or Jackie Gedz at 410-392-0396.

**Fire and Grace Concert**

**Join us on Saturday, September 15th at 7pm** at Immaculate Conception for a concert of contemporary Christian music by Fire and Grace, featuring our own cantor, Marierose Bartosh! Admission is free, and a free will offering will be gratefully accepted.

**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

**Parishioners!** Work will begin shortly on a new chapel prayer garden at Immaculate Conception Church! Please save and drop off your old newspapers! These will be used as a base mulch layer! There will be a plastic container in which to deposit your newspapers in the vestibule of the church. Thank you!

**Inspirational Quote of the Week:**

“Arm yourself with prayer rather than a sword; wear humility rather than fine clothes.” -- Saint Dominic



**Sunday, September 2**

8:20 AM Confessions - SJ

1:30 PM Adorations for Vocations - CH

6:00 PM HS Gathering - PC

Monday, September 3 Labor Day - ICS and Parish Offices Closed

9:30 AM - Novena - CH

6:00 PM - Volleyball - gym

8:00 PM - AA Mtg - Caf

Tuesday, September 4 ICS 1st Day!

 ½ Day, no aftercare

9:00 AM - Holy Hour – CH

6:00 PM - Volleyball - gym

7:00 PM - Parish Council Mtg - PC

7:30 PM - Contemp Rehearsal - IC

Wednesday, September 5 ICS ½ day, no aftercare

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

9:30 AM - Cantor Rehearsal - IC

1:00 PM - LAOH Mtg - PC

Thursday, September 6

9:00 AM - Rosary Crusade - CH

6:00 PM - Volleyball - gym

6:30 PM - Boy Scout Meeting - PC

6:30 PM - Cub Scout Meeting - PC

6:30 PM - Cantor Rehearsal - IC

7:00 PM - Parish Choir Rehearsal - IC

Friday, September 7

9:00 AM - Rosary Crusade - CH

7:00 PM - NA – Caf

**Saturday, September 8**

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)**

**LAOH Meetings are starting up again this Wednesday, September 5th!** Meetings are held in the Parish Center at 1:00pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in joining or if you have questions, please contact Janice White at 410-378-3493

**Help the LAOH feed the hungry!**

Your $5.00 donation will help support Immaculate Conception Church Outreach and Good Shepherd Church St. Vincent de Paul Society. In return, you get a **Boscov’s 25% shopping pass to be used on October 16** for “Friends Helping Friends” Day. Your donation gives you the opportunity to use your 25% discount shopping pass on October 16 at all Boscov’s locations (not valid online). In addition, you are eligible to register to win fabulous prizes; including shopping sprees and more! You can contact a LAOH member or pick up a pass at the parish office.

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**Support ICC when you shop!**

**Have you finished your back-to-school shopping yet?!** Amazon has some amazing deals! Make sure to visit [smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6015220](http://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6015220)! When you shop at Amazon Smile, Amazon donates a percentage of your purchase to Immaculate Conception Parish!

**Heritage Pregnancy and Family Health Center White Harvest Banquet: Sunday, September 23rd, from 2:00 - 4:00pm Mr. Glessner will be the guest speaker at Heritage Pregnancy and Family Health’s Center, Inc.’s White Harvest Banquet. This free event is hosted by the Five Rivers Church located at 290 Whitehall Rd., Elkton, MD for the benefit of The Heritage Pregnancy and Family Health Center, Inc. You will have the opportunity to hear first-hand how your investment is changing lives. Your attendance and support will be greatly appreciated. A light dinner will be served and a silent auction to participate in. RSVP is required to reserve your place as seating is limited! Simply call Heritage PFHC office at 667-215-0143, or RSVP online at** [**www.HeritagePFHC.com**](http://www.HeritagePFHC.com)**.**