

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

28297 Old Village Road
P. O. Box 166

Mechanicsville, MD 20659

Rectory Office: 301-884-3123

Fax Number: 301-884-7437

Faith Formation Office: 240-230-3167

Parish Email: Immaculateconception.md@adw.org

Parish Website: ICChurchmd.org

Parish Clergy

Rev. Michael Tietjen, Pastor

Deacon William Kyte, D.R.E.



February 17th, 2019
Sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Weekend Masses:

Saturday at 4:00 pm, Sunday at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses:

Monday – Wednesday & Friday at 7:30 am

1st Saturday Mass at 9:00 am (only 1st of the month)

Confessions:

Saturdays at 3:00 – 3:45 pm, and after the vigil Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration:

1st Friday of each month, beginning after the 7:30 am Mass & ending with Benediction at 6:30 pm.

Baptisms

Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Church should contact the rectory so we can explain the process to you. Baptisms are traditionally held on the first Sunday of each month.

Marriages

Active and participating parishioners are welcome to be married at Immaculate Conception! Please contact the rectory *at least 6 months in advance* (preferably a year) so there is time to complete the marriage preparation process and confirm a wedding date.

Please do not reserve a reception hall before scheduling a meeting with the pastor.

Shut-Ins

If you wish to have your homebound loved-ones receive Holy Communion, please call the rectory (301-884-3123).

Catholic Education:

Grades Pre-K-8

Little Flower School – 301-994-0404

Mother Catherine Academy – 301-884-3165

Grades 9-12

Ryken High School – 301-475-2814

God's Little
Lambs



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 16th, 2019

4:00 pm – Sherry Ann Baker

Sunday, February 17th, 2019

7:00 am – Parishioners

9:00 am – Sister Paula

11:00 am – Patrons of the Am. Academy of Sacred Arts

Monday, February 18th, 2019

7:30 am – Steven Alan Cusic, Jr.

Tuesday, February 19th, 2019

7:30 am – Bobby Cusic, Sr.

Wednesday, February 20th, 2019

7:30 am – Mary Virginia Martin

Friday, February 22nd, 2019

7:30 am – Larry Williams

Saturday, February 23rd, 2019

4:00 pm – Wilmer Emanuel Quade, Sr.

Sunday, February 24th, 2019

7:00 am – Dinah K. Miles Somerville & Joseph E. Miles

9:00 am – Frances Greenwell

11:00 am – Parishioners

New to our Parish? We welcome you to Immaculate Conception Church. For new registrations or updates, please visit our website (ICChurchMD.org) or stop by the Rectory Office which is open: **Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

Pray a rosary to put an end to Abortion.

50th Anniversary of the Annual Appeal – A Time for Reflection

The theme of the 2019 Appeal is “*Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission*” and is much different from a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift today, payable over ten months that will help support the ministries and mission of all our faith communities of the Church of Washington.

A gift to the Annual Appeal will touch the lives of thousands of people in a very positive way. As you review the work enabled by your contribution, please reflect on God’s gifts to you. Our combined gifts not only signify our gratitude to God, they glorify Him by enabling the work of our archdiocese and give Him thanks for all He has given us. This year, you can support the Annual Appeal many different ways. Many of you may have received a mailing in January that you can respond to. You can also support the Appeal online at adw.org or text “Give” to 301-231-1816. We will also be providing the opportunity to support the Appeal at Mass over the next couple of weekends.

As in every year, 100% of your contribution to the Annual Appeal will be designated to the ministries and programs supported by the Appeal.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

Rectory Office Closed

The Rectory office will be closed on **Monday, February 18th** in observance of Presidents’ Day.

Altar Flowers

If you’re interested in dedicating altar flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call Clare (301-884-3123) and she will help you schedule an available weekend. The cost is \$47.

Bible Study

Bible study is cancelled for **Monday, February 18th** in observance of Presidents’ Day. However, we will have Bible study in the Parish Center on **Wednesday, February 20th** at 10:00 am as scheduled.

Bulletin Item Deadline

If you have an item for the bulletin, please note that all information needs to be sent to Clare.ImmaculateConception@gmail.com by the close of business on Tuesday. Messages will be edited when necessary.

Intercessory Prayer

Join others for intercessory prayer on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Mass Intentions

Have you ever wanted to do something special for a family member or a friend? Consider having one of our regularly scheduled Masses said for someone, living or deceased. Contact the rectory if you are interested in scheduling a Mass. Typically, a donation goes with the request; many donate \$10 but it is voluntary.

Rosary

The rosary is prayed at the following times:

- **First Sunday of the month** – 30 minutes before each Mass.
- **Every Saturday** – 30 minutes before the 4 pm Mass.
- **First Saturday of the month** – 30 minutes before the 9:00 am Mass.
- **Every Wednesday** – immediately following the 7:30 am Mass.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a program that assists those who want to learn more about the Catholic faith.

If you have any questions, please call Fr. Tietjen (301-884-3123) or Amy Downs (301-904-7439).

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember the sick members of our parish community in your prayers: J. Allan; Sandy Burns; Mary Clancey; Thomas Farrell; Melanie Gibson; Scott Hughes; Meagan Humbert; Jennifer Burroughs Murphy; Lisa Durst Owens; and Betty Williams.

If you would like to add your family member to the sick list, please call the rectory (301-884-3123) or email Clare.ImmaculateConception@gmail.com.

Prayers for our Soldiers

We pray for those soldiers serving our Country – serving away from home. Blake Guy; and Paige Guy. Please feel free to call us or email Clare.ImmaculateConception@gmail.com to add your soldier serving AWAY FROM HOME back on the list.

Immaculate Conception’s 2019 Seafood Dinner and Festival

Our 2019 Seafood Dinner and Festival will be held on **Sunday, May 5th**.

The next Seafood Dinner and Festival meeting will be **Wednesday, February 27th** at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center.

For those who are interested, we still have approximately 2 spots open for those who would like to have their group’s or business’ name printed on the raffle tickets, please contact the Rectory (301-884-3123). *The cost is \$100 and the deadline is Monday, February 18th, to be a sponsor this year.*

We still need volunteers to help with cleaning up after our event is over. Please consider volunteering your time and energy, email Morris.Turtles33@gmail.com soon so we can count you in.

We also need someone to volunteer to be the chairperson for the dining room committee.

FlockNote

FlockNote is a way for us to reach out to all our parishioners, or a single group, at a moment’s notice via text or email. Consider signing up, go to (ICChurchmd.org), click on *Subscribe-Flocknote* and choose the groups you would like to receive information from.

Flight-in-Faith Youth Group Meeting

Flight-in-Faith is our Youth Group for grades 7 – 12. There will be a meeting on **Sunday, February 24th** from 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm in the Parish Center. Contact Tim Steelman (tcsworkplace@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Trivia Night

The Knights of Columbus is having its annual Trivia Night on **Saturday, March 2nd** in the Parish Center following the 4:00 pm Mass. A pizza dinner will be served followed by Team Trivia and lots of fun. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams. This event is open to everyone and is absolutely free. So that we can get a head count, we ask you make reservations. For reservations or any questions, please contact Jim Downey (301-884-5428).

IC Angels

The IC Angels will meet on **Wednesday, February 20th** at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. All Catholic women are invited.

Lenten Fish Fry

The Ladies Auxilliary will be having their Lenten Fish Fry on **Friday, March 8th & Friday March 29th** from 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm. Menu and prices can be found on the bulletin board and online.

Parish Finance Information

The **Regular Collection** last week was \$6,226.50.

Online Giving

For those interested in donating to our parish online, please visit our website and see the online giving tab. If you have any questions, please call Clare on Monday – Wednesday or Fridays, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Schedule for Saturday, February 23rd and Sunday, February 24th, 2019.

Please arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass begins.

	Lectors	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00 pm Saturday	Mary Ellen Evans	Charlie Widmayer	(none)
7:00 am Sunday	Mary Ann Bean	Tim Steelman	Chris Holton & Madison Myers
9:00 am	Terry Casselman	Levi Parker	Joe Davis
11:00 am	Jean Adams	Ann Thomas	Joe Davis

Reflections on the Sixth Commandment

The Sixth Commandment, “You shall not commit adultery,” deals primarily with the fidelity of marital relations, but it also reminds us of the intrinsic dignity of people and the respect we are to have for them. As a result, “the tradition of the Church has understood the sixth commandment as encompassing the whole of human sexuality.” (CCC #2236) So please understand that this is a *huge* topic and cannot be covered in a simple article such as this one.

We live in an age where many people are honestly confused about the true nature of love. There are different types of love (which could be a separate article in its own right), but the highest love is altruistic (or selfless) in nature. We see other people as having a dignity that is part of who they are; therefore, to love someone is to recognize this dignity in all facets of who they are. We are not free to manipulate a person for selfish reasons. Selfless love, then, is *sacrificial* in nature, and demands *self-mastery* over our emotional feelings and innermost thoughts. We must restrain ourselves and focus on what is best for the person before us.

Human sexuality, properly understood, encompasses not just biological issues but the whole nature of the person. Human beings have both bodies and souls. We are called to unify all the powers of our bodies and souls so that all our thoughts and emotions are guided toward selfless love. So the Sixth Commandment reinforces self-restraint in all aspects of our lives, especially in sexual matters. We are called to be chaste (with everyone and ourselves) until we are married. This calling to self-control is a type of “apprenticeship” where we ingrain within ourselves a deep respect for the “moral and spiritual dimensions” of everyone. People are never meant to be seen as instruments for our personal pleasure, and sexual urges are not to be acted on as a means of self-gratification alone. (see CCC #2332, 2338-2345) Acting on sexual urges outside of the marital covenant (with our without consent, with or without others involved) is wrong. (see CCC #2352-2356) Even thinking lustful thoughts of another is condemned by Christ. (see [Matthew 5:27-28](#)) So this Commandment is a calling to total self-mastery as well as faithfulness to our promises to others.

Let me clarify what lust is and is not. It is not mere desire. Sexual attraction, by itself, is an emotion like any other and is morally neutral. It becomes lust when we start to center our thoughts on the pleasure aspect in our minds outside of its proper context of marriage. Lust is “a disordered desire for or inordinate enjoyment of sexual pleasure. Sexual pleasure is morally disordered when sought for itself, isolated from its procreative and unitive purposes.” (see CCC #2351) So the key is taking control over our imaginations. Falling in love with someone? Not a problem. Sexual fantasies? Most likely a problem. So yes, you can look lustfully at your spouse. There's a fine line here. Reflecting on the deeper motivations behind our imaginations is crucial. Everything we think, say, and do must be compatible with the vocation we're living out. No one should be a sexual plaything in our imaginations. Marriage doesn't change that. But not all sexual desires and thoughts are necessarily lustful. Prayerful reflection on this Commandment, and the other teachings of Christ, will help us both to understand the true nature of this Commandment and the larger calling for us to love others as Christ loved us – completely and selflessly.

– *Fr. Tietjen*

FAITH FORMATION INFORMATION

Sunday, February 17th, 2019

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MOMS AND DADS: Please take a minute out of your busy schedule to reexamine the FAITH FORMATION CALENDAR for 2018/2019 on our parish website @ [ICChurchmd.org](#). Parents are the first teachers of the Faith to their children; make sure you are teaching them by your good example and words. Please remember your promise to God at their Baptism. PLEASE, TAKE THEM TO CHURCH.

KIDS OF FAITH FORMATION AND THE PARISH: You are the New and Future Parishioners of our Parish. Learn everything you can about your faith. One day you will see God's face.

KIDS IN GRADES 6, 7, AND 8 – ONLINE FAITH FORMATION CLASSES – Are you maintaining a grade of 70% or better in each chapter. If you need help, please see your teacher. I don't want to have you in my office every Sunday or calling your parents. Trust me, **I can see everyone's scores**, and **I won't let you hide or slip through the door with less than a 70%**.

TEACHERS – Would you like to become a Certified Catechist? Please let me know and I'll be happy to help you begin the process. I believe that all classes are online. Please think about it.

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT STARTING A NEW CAREER – HOW ABOUT TEACHING YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH? – Please call me, stop by and see me, or send me an email. I would love to hear from you. THANKS.

TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND KIDS – Just a little glimpse into the future – The Annual Faith Knowledge Assessment Test will be coming to Immaculate Conception Church between March 31st and April 14th, 2019. I'm waiting on the official date from the Archdiocese of Washington. There will be make-up days scheduled for this exam. Everyone student in Grades 3 through 8 in Faith Formation is required to participate in the Assessment test.

ATTENTION TO ALL PARENTS AND KIDS from IC, MCA, 2ND GRADE – RETREAT SATURDAY, February 23, 2019, starting at 9:00am until 11:00am. Please, don't put sports before God!

LENT IS COMING and so are the RICE BOWLS – Here's a question for you? Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday, March 6th** through what day? Go see the Deacon with your answer. I hope it's the right one.

Deacon Bill

(240-230-3167 or Deacon.Kyte@gmail.com)

Baby Shower

The American Heritage Girls Troop MD 2540 cordially invite you to attend St. John's Church's 10th annual “Baby Shower” to benefit the Care Net Pregnancy Center on **Sunday, February 24th**. It will be held in the **Msgr. Harris Center at St. John's Church in Hollywood, MD** immediately following the 11:30 am Mass. Lunch will be served by the Knights of Columbus Council 7914. Gifts should be unwrapped; all gifts, including cash and gift cards, are tax deductible. Please contact Heather (240-256-0009 or heathercartwright03@gmail.com) to RSVP or for more information.

Scholarship Awards Ceremony & Black History Celebration
The St. Mary's County Black History Coalition, a non-profit 501c3 organization, is honored to hold its **8th Annual Dinah K. Miles Somerville Scholarship Awards Ceremony and Black History Celebration** and will be held **Sunday, February 24th** at

2:00 pm in the Parish Center. There is no charge for this event, but they do accept donations. Donations can be made by visiting their website at <http://smcbhc.wixsite.com>. All are invited to attend. For more information, please contact Francis Bonds (email – Bonds.Francis@md.metrocast.net, call or text – 301-385-2201).



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*Have you prayed
 the Rosary today?*

*Offer it up for
 someone in need.*

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Other Events in Town

- *From Newtown to Georgetown: Connections and Legacies* – a talk given by Dr. Adam Rothman, a Georgetown University professor, will be held at **St. Francis Xavier, Leonardtown, MD on Sunday, February 24th** at 6:30 pm. Desserts and coffee will be served.
- *Fried Shrimp Dinner* will be held at the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall on **Friday, March 8th** from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. The cost is \$13.
- *Catholic College and Vocations Fair* will be held at **St. John's Parish in Hollywood, MD on Saturday, March 9th** from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Eucharistic Adoration and Mass (9:00 am – 11:00 am) will precede the fair. If you have students in high school or you just enjoy listening to great Catholic speakers, this event is for you. A dozen of the top colleges from the Newman Guide to Catholic Colleges will be present along with many religious orders. Dr. John Cuddaback, professor of philosophy at Christendom College and Mr. Brent Johnson, V.P. of Enrollment at Ave Maria University are the keynote speakers this year. The event is open to all and there is no admission charge. Food will be available for purchase. More information can be found online at www.StJohnsSummerProgram.com/CCVF.
- *Purse and Bags Bingo* will be held at the **Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall on Saturday, March 16th**. The doors will open at 5:00 pm and Bingo begins at 6:00 pm. For more information see the flyer on the bulletin board or on ICChurchmd.org. Look under *Get Involved* and click on *Other Events in Town*.
- *Nonsense* is a Cabaret Production presented by Rob Misko and John Baldino and will be held live on stage at **St. Francis Xavier Parish, Leonardtown, MD** in the church hall on **Saturday March 16th** at 7:00 pm and on **Sunday, March 17th** at 2:00 pm. The cost is \$20 per person (in advance) or \$25 per person (at the door). Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4067914>.
- *Lenten Day of Prayer*, titled "*The Lord Hears our Cry*" will be held at Loyola on the Potomac on **Monday, March 18th** and **Monday, April 15th**. Each day will begin at 9:00 am and includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and Mass. The fee is \$40.00. Please call (301-392-0801) to make a reservation or go to www.loyolaonthepotomac.com.
- *Encounter Grace Women's Series – RECLAIM* – Ladies, join the Encounter Grace team at **St. John Vianney Catholic Church and Family Life Center on Saturday, March 23rd** from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm for a day of reflection and sisterhood. Tickets are on sale at EncounterGrace.co. Early bird pricing through February 15th is \$25 and includes breakfast and materials. After February 15th the cost is \$30 per person. Appropriate for ages 16+. For more information please contact St. John Vianney (410-535-0223).
- *The Way Retreat for Survivors of Abuse is being sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington*. A retreat will take place from **April 5th – 7th** for men and **April 12th – 14th** for women. The retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and for healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information and to register, go to adw.org/the-way-retreat or call Deborah McDonald (301-853-4466).