

# Immaculate Conception Parish & St. Jude Mission Church

JANUARY 4, 2026



454 Bow Street  
Elkton, MD 21921

## MASSES

Saturday Evening: 5:00 pm  
Sundays: 7:00 & 11:00 am  
Holy Days: As announced  
Weekdays: Mon. - Sat., 8:30 am

## CONFESIONS

Saturday, 9:15 - 10:15 am

## BAPTISMS

2nd & 4th Sundays of  
the month, 12:15 pm



928 Turkey Point Rd.  
North East, MD

## MASSES

Sundays: 9:00 am  
Holy Days: As announced

## CONFESIONS

Before Sunday Mass,  
8:20 - 8:50 am

## BAPTISMS

3rd Sunday of the  
month, 10:15 am



Parish Office: 410-398-1100  
455 Bow Street, Elkton, MD 21921  
**Monday - Friday:** 8:30 am - 4:00 pm  
Fax: 410-398-1175  
Email: [iccoffice455@gmail.com](mailto:iccoffice455@gmail.com)  
Web: <http://iccelkton.org>  
**Rev. Richard J. Jasper**  
[iccpastor455@gmail.com](mailto:iccpastor455@gmail.com)  
**Rev. James Gebhart**  
[Father.Gebhart@gmail.com](mailto:Father.Gebhart@gmail.com)  
**Rev. Gerald Dunne, OSFS**  
[iccaassociate455@gmail.com](mailto:iccaassociate455@gmail.com)  
**Registration:** Please call the Parish Office for a registration form, or register online.  
**Office of Faith Formation**  
Vickie Eichler / 410-392-3551  
*Coord. of Primary Faith Formation*  
[releodoff@gmail.com](mailto:releodoff@gmail.com)

**Marriages**  
Please contact a priest one year in advance.  
**Ministry to the Sick and Homebound**  
Deacon Michael Truman / 410-398-0009  
Call Parish Office whenever you or a family member are hospitalized or needs a visit.  
**Parish Outreach** / 410-398-2110  
Open Mon, Wed., & Fri. from 9:30 am - 11:30 am  
**Coordinator of Music & Liturgy**  
George I. Gregory / 410-398-3244  
[icsjmusic@gmail.com](mailto:icsjmusic@gmail.com)  
**Contemporary Ensemble Rehearsal**  
Tuesday at 7:00 pm (*Sept. to May*)  
**Cantor Rehearsal**  
Wednesday at 9:30 am

**Immaculate Conception Cemetery**  
Our cemetery is conveniently located off of Rt. 213 and Childs Road, Elkton, MD 21921. For current availability and pricing, contact Peggy O'Donnell in the Parish Office at 410-398-1100 or [icccmanager455@gmail.com](mailto:icccmanager455@gmail.com).  
**Baptisms: Pregnant? Have a newborn? Does your child need to be Baptized? You are invited!** Classes are on Monday evenings, 6:30 - 7:30 pm in the Parish Center. Please contact the Parish Office in advance to register for the Baptism Preparation Class or to arrange the date of Baptism. Call 410-398-1100 for information or to register.  
**Pastoral Council Meeting**  
3rd Wednesday of the month (*Sept. - June*) at 5:00 pm in the Parish Center.  
**Parish Liturgy & Finance Committees**  
Meets monthly

## REFLECTION

By Fr. Rich Jasper  
The Epiphany of the Lord  
January 4, 2026

### Chalk It Up...

I recently visited a parishioner's home in which I was so happy to see the following description placed above their front door: 20+C+M+B+25. Although it is rare to come across this pattern of numbers, letters and symbols in Christian homes today, it is a powerful tradition that was once quite commonly used to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany (or Three Kings Day).

If you have done this in your own homes, you will remember that the numbers at the beginning and the end represent the year; the crosses stand for Christ; and the letters have a two-fold significance: C, M and B are the initials of the traditional names of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar), but they are also an abbreviation of the Latin blessing *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means: "May Christ bless this house." Some believe the Christian custom came from the Biblical precedent of the Israelites marking their doors to be kept safe from the Angel of Death.

Yet, there is also another beautiful meaning behind the chalk inscription as well. Just as the Holy Family showed loving hospitality to the Magi who had traveled from Gentile lands to honor the Christ Child, it also demonstrates a family's willingness to welcome all who come to visit as if that visitor were Christ Himself. By blessing our home, we are inviting God to enter and remain with us.

If you feel so led this Epiphany weekend, why not pick up a packet prepared by our Faith Formation Committee and inscribe in small characters above your front or back door: 20+C+M+B+26. In the New year, let Christ enter your home and your heart: He is the King of Glory.

\*\*\*\*\*

On behalf of Fr. Dunne and Fr. Gebhart, Deacons Ben and Mike and our entire Immaculate Conception/St. Jude parish team, I wish you and your family a joy-filled and healthy 2026. May God be good to you.

+++++



**We extend a warm welcome to our newly registered members.....Tamicka Meade, Robert & Jaclyn Creswell and family, Christopher & Sheila Kennedy**

## MASS Intentions

Monday, January 5, 2026

Weekday – Feast Day of St. John Neumann  
8:30 am ----- Mary Murphy

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Weekday – Feast Day of St. Andre Bessette  
8:30 am --- Kaye Stevens

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Weekday – Feast Day of St. Raymond of Penyafort  
8:30 am -----Thomas Stevens

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Weekday – Feast Day of St. Thorfinn  
8:30 am ----- All Parishioners

Friday, January 9, 2026

Weekday – Feast Day of St. Adrian, Abbot  
8:30 am --- Sr. Marie Noel Nguyen, IHM

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Weekday – Feast Day of St. William of Bourges  
8:30 am ----- John & Maureen Taylor  
(Living Intentions)  
5:00 pm ----- Leo Bratkowski

Sunday, January 11, 2026

**The Baptism of the Lord**

7:00 am ----- Keith Eurenus  
9:00 am SJ – Suzanne Dorrell (Living Intention)  
11:00 am ----- Richard R. Mahoney

### Weekly Calendar:

Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

9:30 – 11:30 am Outreach Office Open – PC Lower Level

Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm Contemporary Rehearsal – IC

Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

9:30 – 11:30am Outreach Office Open - PC Lower Level

9:30 am Cantor Rehearsal - IC

1:00 pm LAOH Meeting – SJ

7:00 pm OCIA - PC

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm Cub Scouts – School Cafeteria

Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

9:30 -11:30 am Outreach Office Open - PC Lower Level

5:00 pm Blue Hen Rosary – IC Chapel

6:30 pm Adoration – IC Chapel

Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am Mass - IC

5:00 pm Mass - IC

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

7:00 am Mass - IC

9:00 am Mass – SJ

11:00 am Mass with Contemporary Choir - IC

5:00 pm Life Teen – PC Youth Room

## Daily Readings: The Epiphany of the Lord

### Sunday

Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3:5-6; Mt 2:1-12

### Monday

1 Jn 3:22-4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

### Tuesday

1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 6:34-44

### Wednesday

1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52

### Thursday

1 Jn 4:19-5:4; Lk 4:14-22

### Friday

1 Jn 5:5-13; Lk 5:12-16

### Saturday

1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30

## Readings for Next Week: The Baptism of the Lord

### First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

This reading is a brief passage from the Songs of the Suffering Servant. The Servant will establish justice on the earth and open the eyes of those who live in darkness.

### Second Reading: Acts 10:34-38

In this reading, Peter gives his first sermon to pagans. Asked by a Roman centurion to preach the Gospel to his household, Peter is initially astounded by the request, but after a dream, Peter preaches and baptizes the entire household.

### Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

After initially protesting his unworthiness, John baptizes Jesus. After the baptism, the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him."

## WEEKLY CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

### Week of 12/21:

Sunday Collection...\$ 9,633

Online Donations....\$ 4,742

Mailed In .....\$ 2,545

**TOTAL .....\$ 16,920**

## PARISH INFORMATION

**Jubilee of Hope:** On this feast of the Epiphany, the end of the Jubilee of Hope Pilgrimage year, may we bring our gifts, not gold, frankincense, and myrrh as the wise men brought, but our commitment to live our faith fully by living our lives committed to loving one another as we are loved by our God.



Please join us next **Sunday, January 10/11** at Immaculate Conception for Coffee Social following all the Masses in the vestibule.

**Would you like to get more involved at Mass?** There are many opportunities for members of our parish family to share their time and talents to assist in our liturgical celebrations. We invite you to consider volunteering in one or more of the following ministries: Eucharistic Minister, Altar Server, Usher, Sacristan, Readers. For more information, contact the parish office at 410-398-1100.



**The gift of generosity:** In the course of year-end tax planning, you may find yourself considering special one-time donations. Many donors opt to make contributions to their favorite organizations during the final weeks of the year. As you contemplate year-end gifts, please keep **Immaculate Conception/St. Jude Church** in mind. We welcome your donations and are happy to offer our giving option which allows you to securely donate online. Visit our website: [iccelkton.org](http://iccelkton.org)

**Want to know how the weather is affecting parish events and services?** We have a service provided by **Flocknote** as a way of communicating that will make it much simpler for you to get the information you want from us! It is a parish communication tool to send information via emails and text messages all from one easy place. You can quickly sign up by going to:

<https://icc.flocknote.com>, scan the QR Code here, or go to our website and click on the Flocknote icon.



**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, 2026**. Please remember that with the exception of flowers in memorial marker vases, no decorations of any type, (wind chimes, statues, fencing, garden flags, potted plants, etc.) are permitted on the graves. Thank you for your cooperation.

## FAITH FORMATION

### Primary Faith Formation:

**Family Catechesis In-person class:** In-person classes are held on the **second Wednesday at 6:15pm each month** through April in the school building – second floor. If you have questions, please contact the Faith Formation office at 410-392-3551.

### Upcoming Academy Card Events:

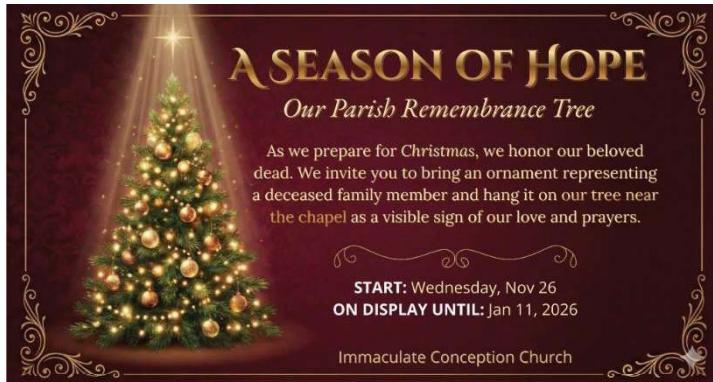
Jan 7, 2026 – 3 Kings and Pizza – 6:30pm; ICS  
Jan 16 – Adoration - 6:30pm; ICC

### Upcoming Edge Events:

Jan 7 – Time Warp (learn about parts of the Mass & why they are important) - 6:30pm; Youth Room  
Jan 16 – Adoration - 6:30pm; ICC

**Life Teen:** Come one, come all – bring a friend and join us for our Life Teen – Road Trip next **Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30 to 7:30pm in the youth room at the parish center.

Please make sure you are signed up for **Flocknote**, as this is our method of communicating and keeping you up to date with information, cancelations, or any other needs that arise. If you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Office at 410-392-3551 or email Vickie Eichler at [releoff@gmail.com](mailto:releoff@gmail.com) .



### A Season of Hope: Our Parish Remembrance Tree

The tree will remain on display in the church throughout the entire Christmas season, until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is next **Sunday, January 11, 2026**. We kindly ask that you retrieve your ornaments after this date to preserve them for next year. We hope this tree brings comfort to our parish family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

## FAITH FORMATION CONTINUED

### Catholic Adult Faith Formation:

**Adult Faith Formation Classes:** Our Adult Faith Formation classes are on a break through the Advent & Christmas Seasons. The class will start next **Monday, January 12, 2026 at 9:15am** in the parish center.

**ICC Divine Mercy group** - The Divine Mercy group will resume meetings on January 6th. Meetings are every Tuesday, 5pm-6:30pm, in the ICC parish center. All adults in the parish are invited to come learn about the message of divine mercy and pray with us! Members who wish to join via zoom may contact Heather Ulmen at [hu\\_ntrprtr@outlook.com](mailto:hu_ntrprtr@outlook.com) for the link.

**Spiritual Book Club** is open to all parishioners. The club meets via Zoom every Tuesday, except the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, which is in person. We will be discussing our next book entitled "Choosing Forgiveness" by Thomas Berg on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 9:30am** in the Parish Center. If you are interested in joining, please email Mary Ann Hopkins at: [mah106@verizon.net](mailto:mah106@verizon.net) .

### Opportunities for personal devotion:

- Blue Hen Rosary Cenacle: Fridays from 5-6pm in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.
- Holy Hour: Fridays from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.
- Pray the Rosary: Saturday mornings after 8:30am Mass in the IC Chapel
- Pray the Rosary Virtually: Sunday afternoons at 3pm, contact Maureen Whelan for the link at ([fordewhelan@yahoo.com](mailto:fordewhelan@yahoo.com)).

### Sacraments:

#### **Baptism: Pregnant? Have a newborn? Does Your Child Need to be Baptized?**

You are invited to attend the next Baptism Class which will be on **Monday, January 12, 2026**, from 6:30-8pm in the Parish Center. Please contact the Parish Office in advance to register for the Baptism Preparation Class. Call 410-398-1100 by **January 5, 2026**.

**First Communion:** Prep for Reconciliation is now complete see you on **Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>** for the First Communion Parent Orientation meeting at **6:30pm** in the school library.

### Confirmation:

Confirmation classes are on the **second Wednesday of each month** through June at **6:30pm** in the Parish Center Youth Room.

The Confirmation Retreat will be on Saturday, May 16, 2026 at St. John Neumann Shrine.

### **OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults):**

Classes are every **Wednesday at 7:00pm** at the Parish Center and continue through the Easter Vigil Mass. Our next class will be **January 7, 2026**.

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

### Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises.

The next program begins the weekend of **February 6-8, 2026** at the Family Life Center, Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit [www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org](http://www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org).

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass 2026** with Bishop Koenig at St. Margaret of Scotland Church (2431 Frazer Road, Newark, DE) will be on **February 8, 2026 at 1:00pm**. Bishop William E. Koenig invites all married couples in the Diocese of Wilmington to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on World Marriage Sunday. Reservations are needed by February 4<sup>th</sup> , no matter the anniversary year.

Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing [OMFL@cdow.org](mailto:OMFL@cdow.org).

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

**ICC OUTREACH:** Outreach is open every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:30am - 11:30am located in rear of the Parish Center.

**"Give a meal. Share a smile."**

If you can donate any of the items below, please drop them off at the Parish Office during business hours.

**Thank you!**

**Household Items:** dish soap

**Toiletries:** tooth paste, shampoo, bars of soap

Please bring in your **Redner's receipts** for Outreach! Check with Redner's courtesy desk to see how ICC Outreach can get credit for your purchase!

**The Paris Foundation** provides meals to those in need at 200 Road B, Hollingsworth Manor in Elkton 365 days per year. We, as a parish, help support this program.

**ICC/SJ help facilitate dinner on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Our next date is this Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to donate cold-cut sandwiches, fresh fruit, desserts, and beverages.** If you can help or donate food, please contact the Paris Foundation at 484-645-1880 or Patricia Gibson at 443-907-7529 or email her at: [pag1974@yahoo.com](mailto:pag1974@yahoo.com). Thank you for your continued support.

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

### Knights of Columbus - Bishop Becker Council 2427:



The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others, and defend values in a busy changing world. If you would like to join today, simply use the QR code or go to [www.KofC.org/joinus](http://www.KofC.org/joinus) and enter our council #2427 for local information. We meet in the Parish Center on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Mardi Gras Celebration at North East VFW on **Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-10pm** (doors open at 5:30pm). Come out for an evening of food, live music, dancing and fun. Tickets are \$55 a person. You may purchase tickets by calling Gene at 443-807-7220, scanning the QR Code or go online to: [koc-mardi-gras.square.site](http://koc-mardi-gras.square.site) .



**Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians:** Friendship, Unity, and Christian Charity is our motto. So, if you want to surround yourself with a dynamic and interesting group of local Irish women who enjoy their heritage and are committed to serving the community.



We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is **January 7, 2026** at St. Jude Church from 1pm to 2:30pm. For more information contact Anne Fazio, President at 443-206-3710 if you are interested in joining.

**LAOH Book Club** is open to any book lover. We focus on Irish authors' novels, non-Irish writers' works set in Ireland, or nonfiction related to Ireland. Our next book selection is "The Green Road" written by Anne Enright. We will meet on **Wednesday, January 21, 2026 from Noon to 2pm** in the parish center. For additional information, please text Cheryl at 443-553-5625.

**ICC/SJ Leisure Club** is open to all parishioners who are 50 years old and above. We play cards and board games. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 1-3pm in the Parish Center Library. **Please come on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.** For more information, please contact Bette Green at 443-553-9129.

**Cub Scouting** is for boys and girls from kindergarten to 5th grade. Regular weekly meetings will be on **Thursdays at 7:00 pm** in the ICS cafeteria. For more information about Pack 444, please contact: [iccpack444@gmail.com](mailto:iccpack444@gmail.com).

As we move into January, the Scouts will be preparing their cars for the Pinewood Derby and learning valuable skills in First Aid and Personal Safety.

# KID'S KORNER



## Gospel Today

### Epiphany of the Lord | Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men follow a star to the place where Mary and Jesus are and offer the Child gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They do not return to Herod but follow another route to their own country.

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Find and write the missing letters not listed (from A to Z).

F U M Z  
X C J P N V  
E L W H  
O D I Y Q  
K G B

Unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks to complete the sentence below.

When they saw the

\_\_\_\_\_ ,

they were overjoyed.

Matthew 2:10



answer: star

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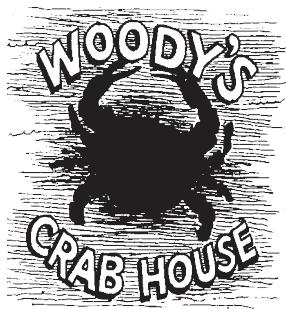


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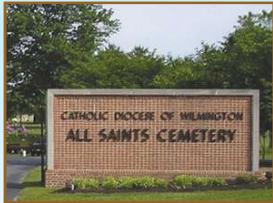
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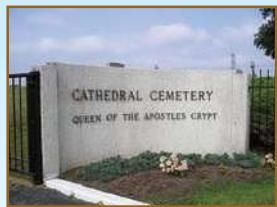
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