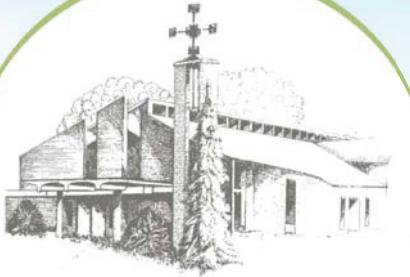


# Immaculate Conception Parish & St. Jude Mission Church

DECEMBER 14, 2025



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

Rev. Richard J. Jasper  
*Pastor*

Rev. James Gebhart  
*Associate Pastor*

Rev. Gerald Dunne, OSFS  
*Priest in Residence*

Mr. Michael Truman  
*Permanent Deacon*

Mr. Ben Feril  
*Permanent Deacon*



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*  
[releddoff@gmail.com](mailto:releddoff@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  
Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025

### A Rose By Any Other Name ...

One of the many things I love about the Catholic faith is that we embrace so many customs and traditions that have such symbolic meaning – things that “say” something sacred to us which then helps us live-out our love for Christ and His Church.

This third week of Advent, it’s the lighting of the rose-colored candle and wearing the rose-colored vestment at Mass: a color that reminds us to be always joyful.

Isaiah tells us in our First Reading that all of nature will bloom and rejoice when they see the glory of God appear, and James writes that patient and firm hearts will rejoice in the presence of God. Even the psalmist tells us that we can rejoice in knowing that our God has indeed come to save us.

But what if you are feeling a little bah-humbug these days? What if you are stressed and anxious or tired and scared? Is it really possible to be joyful at all times?

I believe that the Lord would tell us it is possible. We can be joyful always, even when life doesn’t seem to be going our way and the crosses we carry are heavy. Here’s how: Take a page from John the Baptist’s playbook and keep the focus on Christ as much as possible these remaining days leading-up to Christmas. John’s entire life was attuned to the Savior’s presence and voice, and John knew the Messiah would bring healing and holiness through the forgiveness of our sins (when we come to Him) and the conversion of our hardened hearts. Once we humbly open ourselves to that gift of Jesus’ healing love, then Godly joy will flood the soul, even when the world around us still presents challenges and difficulties.

The Lord will come and save us. He is near. No wonder we light the rose candle to chase away the darkness.

+++++

**We extend a warm welcome to our newly registered members.....**Thomas & Donna Seccamanie, Nickolas Gouveia & Melissa Pileggi, Terry & Sandra Squier, Anthony Muscara, Nicholas & Veronica Schrader

**We extend a warm welcome to our newly baptized member(s) and their families...** Casey Noll, Julien Browne, Zoey Browne

Please join us at SJ today December 14<sup>th</sup> for Donut Sunday or at IC today for “Coffee Social” following all Masses in the vestibule. Social Committee at IC is looking for volunteers to help with the 5pm and 7am coffee socials. If you can help, call Joan at the parish office at 410-398-1100.

## MASS Intentions

Monday, December 15, 2025

Weekday – Feast Day of St. Mary Di Rosa

8:30 am ----- Marie Puchalski

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Weekday – Feast Day of St. Adelaide

8:30 am --- Charles O'Brien (Living Intentions)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

Weekday – Feast Day of Sts. John and Lazarus

8:30 am ---- Isabel Saravia (Living Intentions)

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Weekday – Feast Day of the St. Winebald, Abbot

8:30 am ----- Brother Augustine Paulik

Friday, December 19, 2025

Weekday – Feast Day of Bl. Urban V

8:30 am --- Leo Bratkowski

Saturday, December 20, 2025

Weekday – Feast Day of St. Dominic of Silos

8:30 am ----- All Parishioners

5:00 pm ----- Carmen Lagarelli

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

7:00 am ----- Dolores & Bill Wallace

9:00 am SJ – Warren & Winifred Holmes

11:00 am ----- Mark Guns

### Weekly Calendar:

Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

9:15 am Advent Bible Final Session with Fr. Rich - IC

6:30 pm Advent Bible Final Session with Fr. Rich - IC

Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am Spiritual Book Club - PC

5:00 pm Divine Mercy Group - PC

7:00 pm Contemporary Rehearsal – IC

Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

9:30 am Cantor Rehearsal – IC

12 Noon LAOH Book Club - PC

7:00 pm OCIA - PC

Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>

7:00 pm Cub Scouts – ICS Cafeteria

Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm Blue Hen Rosary Cenacle – IC Chapel

6:30 pm Adoration – IC Chapel

Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am Mass - IC

5:00 pm Mass - IC

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>

7:00 am Mass and 11:00 am Mass - IC

9:00 am Mass – SJ

10:15 am Children’s Pageant & Song Practice – SJ

10:15 am Decorating Church for Christmas Eve - SJ

## Daily Readings: Third Sunday of Advent

### Sunday

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11

### Monday

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday

Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

### Thursday

Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

### Friday

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25

### Saturday

Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

## Readings for Next Week: Fourth Sunday of Advent

### First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Ahaz receives from Isaiah a prophecy that he will be successful in war and is urged to ask for a sign that the prophecy is true. The sign is "The virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

### Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Paul greets the Romans by pointing out that Jesus is the Christ who was promised to them in Scripture. He, Paul, is the apostle favored with the task of spreading the name of Christ to all.

### Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

In a brief, straightforward, simple narrative, Matthew recounts the events leading to Jesus' birth. He details the appearance of the angel in a dream to Joseph and stresses that "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophets."

## WEEKLY CHURCH COLLECTIONS:

### Week of 12/7:

Sunday Collection...\$10,958

Online Donations... \$ 3,451

Mailed In.....\$ 2,071

**TOTAL .....** **\$16,480**

## PARISH INFORMATION



**The Second & Final Advent Talk with Fr. Rich** will be this Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> after the 8:30am Mass and again at 6:30pm at Immaculate Conception Church. Topic – "Reflections of the Advent Gospels".

**Jubilee of Hope:** As we await the celebration of the birth of Jesus, our Savior, may we await conscious of the blessings we have received in our lives, but also remember those who suffer. May we acknowledge and act on our responsibility to care for the least of our brethren.

**2025 Christmas Eve Nativity Pageant** rehearsal practice will be next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> after the 9am Mass at St. Jude Church.

**Song practice** will be next Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> after the 9am Mass at St. Jude Church. Please contact the parish office at 410-398-1100 by December 18<sup>th</sup> if your children are interested in singing.



Please consider making a donation to the parish towards Christmas Flowers. Any amount is appreciated.

### Christmas Masses:

#### Immaculate Conception Church Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2025

4:00pm Mass  
10:00pm Mass (Carol prelude begins at 9:30pm)

#### Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025 10:00am Mass (Carol prelude begins at 9:40am)

#### St. Jude Mission Church Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, 2025 4:00pm Mass (Pageant begins at 3:40pm) – Children's Mass

#### Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025 9:00am Mass (Carol prelude begins at 8:40am)



## FAITH FORMATION

### Primary Faith Formation:

**Religious Education Class:** Family Catechesis (Fall 2025 Program): 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.

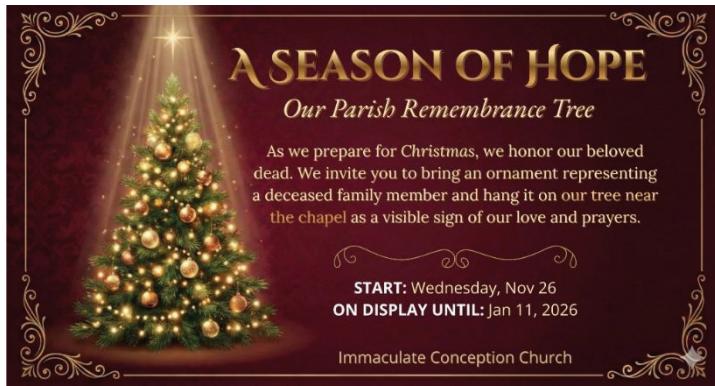
### Upcoming Academy Card Events:

Jan 7, 2026 – 3 Kings and Pizza – 6:30pm; ICS  
Jan 16 – Bring your rosaries & join us for Adoration - 6:30pm

### Edge Event:

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

The Faith Formation Office has 6 boxes of **advent candles** for sale. If your family needs to replace advent wreath candles for this year visit the parish office during business hours. They are only \$5 a box.



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

As we prepare our hearts for the joy of Christmas, we also deeply feel the absence of those we love who have gone before us. In our Catholic faith, we believe that the communion of saints connects us to them in prayer and memory.

To honor our beloved dead during this holy season, Immaculate Conception Church invites all parishioners to participate in our "Tree of Remembrance." We invite you to bring an ornament representing a deceased family member and hang it on this tree (located near the chapel). Let these ornaments serve as visible signs of our love and our prayers for their eternal rest.

The tree will remain on display in the church throughout the entire Christmas season, until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on **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. They will start again on **Monday, January 12, 2026** at 9:15am in the parish center.

**ICC Divine Mercy Group** meets weekly on **Tuesdays** in the Parish Center from **5-6:30pm**. We invite all adult parishioners to join us. **We will not be meeting on Tuesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.** Come learn about the message of divine mercy and pray with us. Members who prefer to continue to join via Zoom may contact Heather Ulmen at [hu\\_ntrptr@outlook.com](mailto:hu_ntrptr@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, December 16<sup>th</sup> 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 IC 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 Reconciliation:** Prep for Reconciliation is now complete. Please attend the Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Confirmation Retreat will be on Saturday, **May 16, 2026**.

### **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. **No classes will be held on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.**

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

**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.

**When you give food to someone in need, you're not just offering a meal; you're offering dignity and hope."**

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

**Thank you!**

**Food:** jelly, jello, tuna, baked beans

**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!

**Thank you** to the parishioners who generously donated gifts for the Angel Tree again this year. Gifts were donated to 90 children from IC and St. Jude Parish to **CASA of Cecil County**. The toys along with many other items for children in foster care, were distributed and received by many smiling faces. Through your generosity, many children will have a "Merry Christmas". A big thank-you to Julie Ma and all who supported her efforts in collecting gifts for the Angel Tree. CASA of Cecil County truly appreciates the contributions. Wishing you peace in the quiet moments of the season and peace through each day in the new year.



**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. *We are always looking for volunteers to donate cold-cut sandwiches, fresh fruit, desserts, and beverages.* If you can help or donate food during this holiday season, 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.

**Save the Date:** The Knights of Columbus are hosting a Mardi Gras Celebration at North East VFW on **Saturday, February 7, 2026 from 6-10pm**. Come out for an evening of food, dancing and fun. More details coming soon.

### **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 the month – 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 "An Irish Country Christmas" written by Patrick Taylor. We will meet on **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 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. *Happy Holidays! We will not be meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> due to the Christmas Holiday.* 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).

In December, the Cub Scouts will be completing their Citizenship requirements and celebrating the holiday season, with plans to bring cheer by caroling at a local assisted living facility. 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.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

**They gave their lives in service – now they need your help.** For decades, women and men religious have cared for others, teaching, praying, and serving those in need. Many now face retirement without sufficient savings. Your support ensures they received the care they deserve. Let us now offer them the dignity they have so selflessly granted to others. Your generosity today is not just a donation – it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service.

Please give to the **Retirement Fund for Religious** during our second collection today.

St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation will host **Come Home Advent Retreat** on **Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** from **11:30am to 5:00pm** at The Daylesford Abbey (220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli, PA).

Do you have relatives or friends who would like to “come home” to the Catholic Church? Join us for an Advent Retreat for anyone but especially for those who may be interested in coming back to the Church. The day’s events will include: talks, a delicious lunch, Confessions, and Mass at 4:00 pm. The cost for this event is \$70.

Please register at: <https://www.nonnatus.org/retreat.html>  
If you have questions email [director.srnf@gmail.com](mailto:director.srnf@gmail.com) .

Holy Cross Parish in Dover, DE is seeking a **Full-Time Receptionist** who is eager to work as the first point of contact for visitors. This role is crucial in creating a positive and professional first impression. Experience with Microsoft Word, Publisher, and Excel and have strong organizational and multi-tasking abilities. Please send your resume to [secretary@holycrossdover.org](mailto:secretary@holycrossdover.org).

**The National Prayer Vigil for Life** will be held from **Thursday afternoon, January 22, through Friday morning, January 23, 2026**, with various prayer events taking place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

The Opening Mass begins Thursday, January 22 at 5pm in the Great Upper Church, followed by a Holy Hour for Life starting at 7pm in the Crypt Church. The Closing Mass begins Friday, January 24 at 8am.

Please visit the website:  
[www.nationalshrine.org/event/2026-national-prayer-vigil-for-life/](http://www.nationalshrine.org/event/2026-national-prayer-vigil-for-life/) for complete information on the schedule and additional details.

## AROUND THE DEANERY

### Grief Support Group

hosted by St. John/Holy Angels

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays**  
**7:00 - 9:00 pm**

No registration necessary.



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June and July will meet in the parish office building instead of the chapel in church.

St. Michael Chapel  
(Use the rear entrance to church.)  
Holy Angels Church Campus  
82 Possum Park Road  
Newark, DE 19711

[www.stjohn-holyangels.com](http://www.stjohn-holyangels.com)  
(302) 731-2435  
[music@holyangels.net](mailto:music@holyangels.net)

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY

The Music Ministry of St. Joseph on the Brandywine Parish is hosting their **Annual Christmas Concert** in the Church at 10 Old Church Road, Greenville tonight - **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**. Highlights include the Cantata “What Sweeter Music” by John Leavitt, and traditional carols accompanied by chamber orchestra and organ. A free will offering will be collected.

The Cathedral of St. Peter is hosting **Lessons and Carols** at Sixth & West Streets, Wilmington tonight - **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**. Music will be presented by the combined choirs of Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Patrick’s Church. The concert will also be livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/DowntownCatholic>

St. Helena’s Church is hosting their **Annual Christmas Spectacular** at 602 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington this **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. This beautiful celebration includes a children’s Christmas pageant, with music of the season from the parish choirs and orchestra. A free will offering will be collected. For more information, go to [sainthelenas.org](http://sainthelenas.org).



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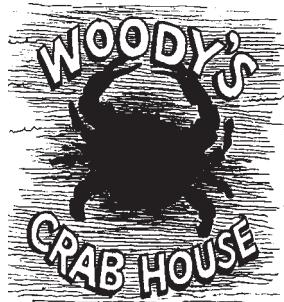


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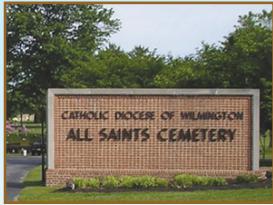
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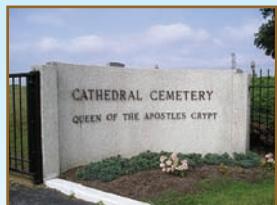
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Visit our Website: [singerly.com](http://singerly.com)



[www.PurnellBodyShop.com](http://www.PurnellBodyShop.com)

**410-398-2010**

211 Blue Ball Ave  
Elkton MD 21921



Cathedral Cemetery  
2400 Lancaster Avenue  
302-656-3323



410-398-1221

Julianne M. Wyman, D.D.S., M.S.  
Parishioner

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