

# Immaculate Conception Parish & St. Jude Mission Church

MARCH 1, 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

## CONFESSIONS

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

## CONFESSIONS

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

## BAPTISMS

3rd Sunday of the  
month, 10:15 am

## Schedule of Liturgies

# LENT



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  
[iccassociate455@gmail.com](mailto:iccassociate455@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  
[reledoff@gmail.com](mailto:reledoff@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  
[iccmanager455@gmail.com](mailto:iccmanager455@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 - March 1, 2026  
Second Sunday in Lent

### In a Pickle...

The checkout line before the pending storm was long, and only the self-scan section was open. I had five items; the woman in front of me was apparently planning on feeding half of Cecil County. And to top it off, she had no idea how to scan her broccoli. I thought I was a patient man until I got behind an unskilled self-scanner.

And yet, because it was Lent, I tried to patiently wait ... and wait ... and offer it up. I think I said a decade of the Rosary (to myself). I hummed along to the song from the '70s that we only ever hear in supermarkets anymore. And still I stood there with my five items.

Then, as if my unspoken prayer was answered, the cashier who oversees the check-out area saw me waiting and offered to ring-up my purchases at her command center register. "Thank You, Lord," I whispered aloud. Taking a step past the woman still trying to scan her broccoli, I watched in horror as the pickle jar I was holding slipped right out of my hand and shattered on the linoleum floor, shards of glass and brine flying everywhere. I literally became the cause of the announcement now heard throughout the market: "Clean-up at the front registers." I was mortified.

But wait, it gets better. As I was attempting to kick the glass shards away from the woman who finally figured out her broccoli conundrum, she looks at me and says (with some sarcasm, I might add): "Well aren't you a butter-fingers." And then she glides her cart past me and through the puddle of pickle juice. Talk about being given an opportunity to stay humble.

We often think that God uses big moments to teach us how to die-to-self and not make our own lives and problems the center of everyone else's world, but in truth, these moments of learning to laugh at oneself and not take everything so seriously happens in these little "butter-finger" moments that happen as we go about our daily lives. The question remains: Do we let them ruin our day, or do we see it as a graced moment of understanding that we need not be perfect or be in absolute control of every moment of our lives?

Sometimes in life, pickle jars break. Sometimes ladies with broccoli make fun of us. And it is all okay. It really is. There are other unbroken pickle jars awaiting us, no matter how many messes we make in the self-checkout line of life.

†††††

**We extend a warm welcome to our newly baptized member(s) and their families.....***Brynlee Nicks, Augustine Gebeh, II*

**We extend a warm welcome to our newly registered members.....***Adam Crouse, Karen Highton, John & Diana Albright*



**Monday, March 2, 2026**

**Weekday – Feast Day of Bl. Charles the Good**

8:30 am --- Frank Feliceli

**Tuesday, March 3, 2026**

**Weekday – Feast Day of St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin**

8:30 am --- Christopher Stumpo

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Weekday – Feast Day of St. Casimir**

8:30 am ---- All Souls in Purgatory

**Thursday, March 5, 2026**

**Weekday – Feast Day of St. John Joseph of the Cross**

8:30 am ----- Conversion & Peace for Families

**Friday, March 6, 2026**

**Weekday – Feast Day of St. Colette**

8:30 am --- Leo Bratkowski

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**Weekday – Feast Day of Sts. Perpetua and Felicity**

8:30 am ----- All Parishioners

5:00 pm ----- Richard R. Mahoney

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

7:00 am ----- Bob Dillon

9:00 am SJ – Thomas Ariemma

11:00 am ----- Randy Cracknell

### Weekly Calendar:

**Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:15 am Lenten Bible Study – IC

6:30 pm Lenten Bible Study - IC

**Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00 pm Contemporary Rehearsal – IC

**Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Cantor Rehearsal - IC

1:00 pm LAOH Group - SJ

6:30 pm Confirmation Class – Youth Room

7:00 pm OCIA meeting - PC

**Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm Divine Mercy Series – PC Library

7:00 pm Cub Scouts – School Cafeteria

**Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - IC

9:00 am Homeschool Group – School Building

6:30 pm Academy Card & Edge Event - IC

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross – IC

**Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am Mass - IC

9:00 am Kids-Friendly Stations of the Cross - SJ

5:00 pm Mass with Coffee Social- IC

**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 am and 11:00 am Masses with Coffee Social - IC

9:00 am Mass – SJ

5:00 pm Life Teen – Youth Room

**Daily Readings:  
Second Sunday in Lent**

**Sunday**

Gn 12:1-4a; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

**Monday**

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday**

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday**

Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday**

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31

**First Friday**

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**First Saturday**

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

**Readings for Next Week:  
Third Sunday of Lent**

**First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7**

This story from Exodus reveals that the Israelites, after their escape from Egypt, cast all blame for their sufferings on Moses. In this instance, they were dying of thirst. When Moses appealed to the Lord, the Lord directed Moses to strike a rock and water would gush forth.

**Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Paul reminds the Romans that because Christ died for all people, they are acceptable in God's sight.

**Gospel: John 4:5-42**

Jesus converses with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. When Jesus indicates that whoever drinks from the water He gives will never be thirsty again, the woman immediately answers, "Give me this water, sir...". Jesus then reveals that she has had five husbands and tells her that He is the Messiah. The woman believes Jesus and proclaims this news to all the townspeople, who believe her and come to see Jesus.

**WEEKLY CHURCH COLLECTIONS:**

**Week of 2/22:**

Sunday Collection...\$ 6,391

Online Donations... \$ 4,130

Mailed In.....\$ 1,520

**TOTAL ..... \$12,041**

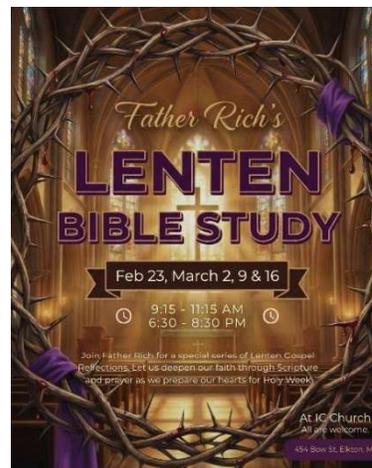
**PARISH INFORMATION**

**Daylight Savings Time** – Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Sunday, March 8th !

Please join us today **March 1<sup>st</sup>** at St. Jude Church in the Praise Room for "**Donut Sunday**" following the 9am Mass.

Please join us at Immaculate Conception Church next weekend of **March 7/8** for "**Coffee Social**" following all the Masses in the vestibule

**The Blue Hen Rosary**, which has been prayed here on Fridays in our chapel, has moved to St. John's on Main Street in Newark to be closer to the campus. Organizer Leo Sticinski thanks all of our parishioners who joined him and his family each week in praying for our young people's return to the Church. The Blue Hen Rosary continues at 5:00 pm on Fridays at St. John's.



Please join Fr. Rich in preparing for Easter by studying the upcoming weekly Lent Gospels in a **3-part Lenten Bible Study**. Starting this Monday, **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** after the 8:30am Mass (9:15am) and again the same evening at 6:30pm. Future dates: March 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Stations of the Cross** is a devotion which follows Jesus' journey from His death sentence under Pilate to His death on the cross and burial in the tomb. Stations of the Cross will be held at ICC at 6:30pm on Fridays during Lent. On **March 13<sup>th</sup>** – *Stations of the Cross will move to St. Jude Mission Church at 6:30pm.* On April 3<sup>rd</sup> (Good Friday) Stations of the Cross will be at 12:30pm at ICC.



Children ages 3 to 10 are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>** starting at **1pm** at Immaculate Conception Church. Bring your own baskets. Pre-registration is required – scan the QR code.

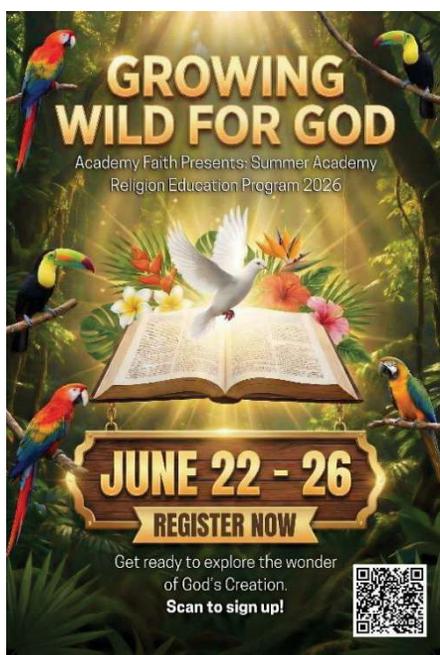
## FAITH FORMATION

**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 and Edge Events:

Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> – Stations of the Cross – 6:30pm; IC  
Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> – Family Service Project/Outreach - 2pm;  
Youth Room

**The Academy of Faith Summer Program** is our religious education program for incoming Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The program is a week-long program starting at 9am and ending at 3pm each day. It is an alternative to the Fall & Winter Sessions. Please scan the QR code to register. We are also looking for adult and teen volunteers to help us bring the Rainforest Alive this summer for the children.



## FAITH FORMATION CONTINUED

### **Catholic Adult Faith Formation:**

**Divine Mercy group:** During the month of March, this group *will be hosting a 5-week Divine Mercy Video Series* on **Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8:30pm** in the Parish Center Library starting March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**“Divine Mercy is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Greatest Story Ever”** is a dramatic video journey featuring best selling author and popular speaker Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. This amazing story comes to life like never before. All are welcome to join us. Please register by scanning the QR Code or contacting Heather Ulmen at 443-889-5039 or Mary Lagarelli at 443-945-7378.



**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 “The Universal Christ” by Richard Rohr on **Tuesday, March 17, 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:

- Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 6:30pm at IC
- 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: Does Your Child Need to be Baptized?**

You can now complete the Baptism Prep Class in the comfort of your own home. Please contact the Faith Formation Office at 410-392-3551 for more information.

**First Communion:** There will be a Parent/Child Meeting today - **Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm** in the school building – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation class will be **Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>** in the Parish Center Youth Room at 6:30pm.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Confirmation Retreat will be on **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. More details coming soon.

### **Adult Confirmation Class**

Adult Confirmation is scheduled for **Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 am at the Cathedral in Wilmington



## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

**Marriage Moments:** “Agree to disagree. Typical couples have 10 irreconcilable differences. When one of those comes up, you won’t have to repeat an old argument.” Choose one difference to make peace with today.

## 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.

### “Your food can be someone’s hope.”

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

**Thank you!**

**Food:** cereal, baked beans, jelly, Jell-O

**Household Items:** dish soap, laundry detergent

**Toiletries:** tooth paste, tooth brushes, toilet paper

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 March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

*We are always 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.

### **Wellness Tip:**

**Drink plenty of water** - Hydration is essential for overall health.

**Take a-break from screens** - Limit your time on social media and electronic devices to reduce stress and improve sleep.

**Engage in hobbies** - Find activities that bring you joy and help you relax.

Remember, wellness is a journey, not a destination. Focus on making small, sustainable changes to your lifestyle to improve your overall health and well-being.

## 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. We meet in the parish center on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday** of each month at **7pm**. If you would like to join today, simply go to [www.KofC.org/joinus](http://www.KofC.org/joinus) and enter our council #2427.

**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. Our next meeting is **March 4<sup>th</sup>** at St. Jude Church from **1pm to 2:30pm**. For more information contact Anne Fazio, President at 443-206-3710.

LAOH is sponsoring a **“40-Days for Life” Diaper Drive** during Lent. Collection boxes are placed at both churches during Lent. Looking for sizes 4, 5, 6 as well as 3-4T and 4-5T pull-ups. This drive will benefit the Cecil County Pregnancy Center and the Heritage Pregnancy Center.

The Cecil County Ladies Ancient Order for Hibernians (LAOH) is once again hosting the **St. Patrick’s Breakfast** featuring live Irish music, silent auction, 50-50, children’s activities and a visit from St. Patrick. **All tickets sold in advance:** \$15 per person; ages 7-11 are \$7; kids under 7 are free. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office. The deadline to register is March 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact Chris Hild at [chrishild7@gmail.com](mailto:chrishild7@gmail.com).

**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, March 18<sup>th</sup>** from **Noon – 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. 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 are held on **Thursdays at 7pm** in the ICS cafeteria. For more information about Pack 444, please contact: [iccpack444@gmail.com](mailto:iccpack444@gmail.com).

Their enthusiasm is high as they look forward to warmer weather and the chance to put their skills into action with upcoming hikes, fishing, and camping adventures.

## DIOCESAN NEWS



The following churches/school are having their **Lenten Fish Meals on Fridays** through April 3<sup>rd</sup>. *Good Shepherd School, Perryville* (410-272-4764); *Holy Angels Church, Newark* (302-731-2436); *St. Joseph Parish in Middletown* (302-378-5800); *St. Joseph*

*Church, French Street, Wilmington* (302-658-4535); *St. Helena Church, Wilmington* (302-598-8685); *St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Hockessin* (302-239-7100); and *St. John the Beloved Church, Wilmington* ([sibkofcde.org](http://sibkofcde.org)) .

Please contact locations for menu selections and prices.

### **2026 Faith and Charity Appeal - Many Hands One**

#### **Mission: A 50 Year Legacy**

This year marks the golden jubilee of the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal – fifty years of carrying faith into the future through ministries that serve the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of God's people across Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are being asked not only to give, but to participate. Every parish has both a financial goal and a participation goal. Bishop Koenig hopes every household will join in – because when every hand is part of the mission, our Church grows stronger for the next generation.

For those participating for the first time, 50% of your gift will stay right here in our parish to support local needs. And once our parish exceeds its goal, a portion of all funds raised above it will remain here as well.

Let us honor the generosity of those who built our Church before us by strengthening it for those who will come after. Together, with many hands and one mission, we can ensure our faith endures for the next fifty years and beyond. To learn more, visit [www.cdown.org/giving](http://www.cdown.org/giving) .

Are you a Catholic man, ages 18 and above, who has ever thought about becoming a priest? Is this path something you're willing to learn more about to see if God may be calling you to do this? You're invited to attend the Diocese of Wilmington's **Priestly Discernment Meetings** for discussions on the priesthood, dinner, fellowship, and Eucharistic Adoration. Meetings will be held on **March 9<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, and May 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm** at The Newman Center (45 Lovett Ave, Newark, DE). If you would like to attend please contact Fr. Gebhart at [father.gebhart@gmail.com](mailto:father.gebhart@gmail.com)

The Little Sisters of the Poor is hosting a wonderful discernment opportunity for young women, ages 18-35. **A Day of Reflection** (*right next door in Newark!*) Have you asked Jesus what His plan is for your life? Come, listen, pray, and see about God's call to be a Consecrated Religious Sister. This event will be held on **Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm** at Jeanne Jugan Residence, 185 Salem Church Rd, Newark, DE. This day is FREE and includes the Rosary, Mass, discussions, Adoration and Lunch! *Please RSVP by March 7<sup>th</sup>* to Sr. Janet Mary at [voenewark@littlesistersofthepoor.org](mailto:voenewark@littlesistersofthepoor.org)

## AROUND THE DEANERY

Resurrection Parish (3000 Videre Dr., Wilmington, DE; Rm 1969) is hosting an **8-week Bible Study Course**; titled **"Opening Your Heart: The Starting Point"** to begin on **Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1:30pm to 3pm**. Please purchase your study book (\$45) at Walking with Purpose: <https://shop.walkingwithpurpose.com/collections/study-guides/products/opening-your-heart-study-guide> or on Amazon. Offering suggested \$20. Register at [www.jesushousecenter.org](http://www.jesushousecenter.org) or call 302-995-6859, leave a message.

This Bible study will take you on an exciting journey closer to the heart of God, help you form a personal relationship with Christ, and help you find answers to life's biggest questions through the context of the Catholic faith.

**Deanery Lenten Morning of Reflection** will be held this **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** starting at 8:00am at St. Margaret of Scotland (2431 Frazer Rd, Glasgow, DE). Fr. Jim Greenfield will speak on the topic of "Living Flexibly in an Anxious World" and use insights from Salesian spirituality and Scripture. Please scan the QR code to register.



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church invites you to a special presentation – **The Illumination of the Original Image of Divine Mercy** on **Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** at 4701 Weldin Road, Wilmington. Author, director, and the world's foremost expert on the image, *Daniel DiSilva*, will give an unforgettable multimedia presentation covering the implausible history & unique significance of St. Faustina's Masterpiece of Mercy. For more information call 302-838-9601 or email [aquinasoffice@aquinasacademy.net](mailto:aquinasoffice@aquinasacademy.net) .

Malvern Retreat House is hosting a **one-day family retreat** on **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 6pm** at 315 S. Warren Avenue, Malvern, PA. Cost is \$75 per family (includes snacks and dinner). The day will include family activities, Confession, Mass, and dinner. We will have a breakout session with incredible guest speakers! If you are interested in attending, please register at this link: <https://www.malvernretreat.com/events/family-day-2026/> .

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is hosting a **Weekend of Hope & Healing Retreat** on **March 20-22, 2026** in Ocean City, MD area offering a beautiful opportunity to any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. *For confidential inquiries and registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry:* at (410) 625-8491 or Text (410) 299-9345 or email [Projectrachel@archbalt.org](mailto:Projectrachel@archbalt.org).

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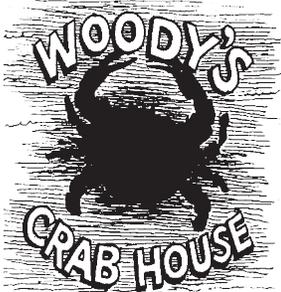
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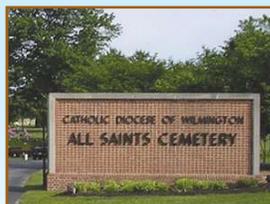
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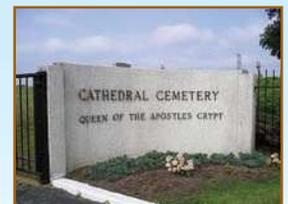
**All Saints Cemetery**  
6001 Kirkwood Highway  
302-737-2524



**Catholic Cemeteries  
Diocese of Wilmington**

*In Sure and Certain Hope*

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