

# CHURCH of the HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street  
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787  
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street  
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687  
iccmarydel.org



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

April 7, 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday

holy cross

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm  
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am

Wednesday – 8:15 am

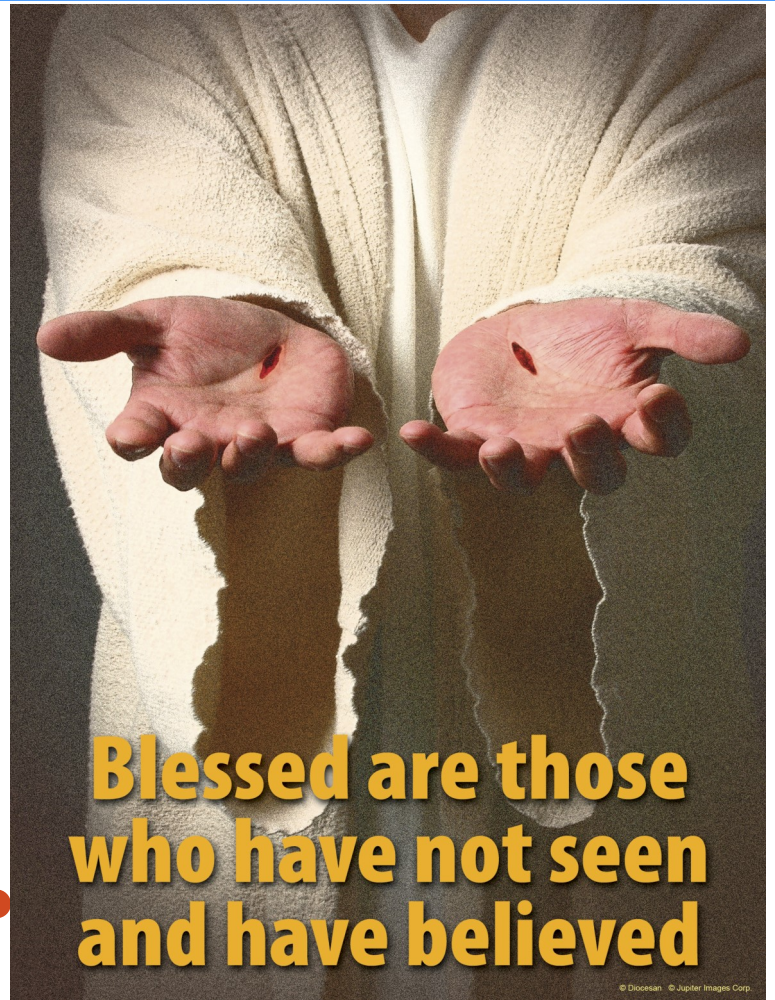
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,  
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



**Blessed are those  
who have not seen  
and have believed**

© Diocesan © Jupiter Images Corp.

icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Closed Wednesday and Friday

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, 8:30, 11 am  
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1

Assumption, August 15

All Saints' Day, November 1

Immaculate Conception, December 8

Christmas, December 25

*Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near*

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

*The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.*

**Sacrament of Baptism.** Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

**Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

**Sacrament of Confirmation.** Young people in our

parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

**Sacrament of Marriage.** Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders.** If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

**Anointing of the Sick.** For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

- School Reopens on April 8
- Knitting Groups meets on Tuesday, April 9, at 10 am on the second floor of the ELC Building
- School Mother/ Son event April 12
- School Father/Daughter event April 13



## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending March 24, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$29,697	\$25,900	\$3,797
YTD	\$1,048,031	\$1,050,980	(\$2,949)
Needs	\$1,989	\$1,712	\$277

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending March 17, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,766
Second Collection	\$522

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.

We appreciate your support!

If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we observe Divine Mercy Sunday, which focuses on the Divine Mercy of God as seen during Holy Week. The devotion built on this concept is called the Chaplet of Divine Mercy – it be can prayed on regular rosary beads. By the goodness of the Hallow app, I am presenting the below a simple guide to praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. If you have never prayed this beautiful devotion, consider trying it and perhaps integrating it into your prayer life. Using regular Rosary beads:

1. **Begin with the sign of the cross.** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. **Prepare your heart and mind.** You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

3. **Pray the prayer of St. Faustina.** On each of the three small beads, pray (three times in succession): O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

4. **Pray one Our Father.** Our Father, Who art in heaven...

5. **Pray one Hail Mary.** Hail Mary, full of grace...

6. **Pray the Apostle's Creed.** I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

7. **First decade** On the first large bead (note: in the traditional Rosary prayer, we say the Our Father for each large bead). In the Divine Mercy Chaplet, we pray the following: Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

8. **Then on the ten small beads:** In a traditional Rosary prayer, we pray the Hail Mary on each small bead, however in the Divine Mercy Chaplet, we pray the following on each of the ten small beads: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

9. **Then Repeat this pattern four times.** For each successive decade: begin with the "Eternal Father" (#7) prayer, and then pray, "For the sake" (#8) ten times.

10. **After completing all five decades, pray for mercy.** Repeat the following prayer three times in succession: Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

11. **Concluding Prayer.** Let us pray: Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion – inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. [Amen].

12. **Conclude with the sign of the cross.** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

—

As TV series begin to go into reruns, I will share a secret – this week's column is a rerun. You see, this past week I have been away for a few days get some down time. Please note, that having given up fast food for Lent, it is likely that I will have been bunking in various McDonald's throughout the mid-Atlantic region during my vacation travels, making up for lost time. Being away, I decided to use a column that I have used once each year over the past few years on the important topic of marriage. And so, on this Divine Mercy Sunday, I want to share God's great mercy and avail folks of the gift and blessing Christian marriage and exhort folks who are perhaps living together or who were perhaps married outside the Church, to consider getting married (or getting their marriage "blessed") in the Church.

**Ratings, Weddings and Genies.** TV lover that I am, I can remember back in 1970, watching the wedding episode of "I Dream of Jeannie" when in a play for better ratings, using wedding-based glitz and glamor, Jeannie and Major Nelson (a lady genie and her astronaut beau) tied the knot. Alas, not even a genie and a wedding could save the show; it was soon cancelled. This episode "I Dream of Jeannie" tell us something about weddings and marriages that life experience confirms. A wedding should not be about show and flash, or glitz and glamour; rather it should solemnly celebrate the first day of a lifetime of a marriage of a man and a woman.

**Wedding Bell Blues?** In our world today, wed-

*(continued on page 10)*

## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Brennan Ferris	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

## HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
----------------------	--------

## HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Church of the Holy Cross*  
631 S. State St.  
Dover, DE 19901

## ICC STAFF

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Immaculate Conception Church*  
P. O. Box 399  
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8  
302 674 5787  
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
---------------	---------------------

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Holy Cross School*  
631 S. State St.  
Dover, DE 19901

## 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER (APRIL 14)

### FIRST READING: ACTS 3:13-15, 17-19

God glorified Jesus by raising him back to life.

### SECOND READING: 1JOHN 2:1-5

True love of Jesus means listening to him and obeying his word.

### GOSPEL: LUKE 24:35-48

Jesus appears to the disciples hiding in the Upper Room and, instead of condemning their Good Friday cowardice, offers a greeting of peace.

## DECEASED MEMBERS

Our condolences to the families of:

- Joseph DeLoreto
- John Foley
- Douglas P. Keddie

May the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest registered members of Holy Cross:

- Miguel and Marcela Ruano

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next week, we will talk with Felix Spittle from the Delaware Knights of Columbus and hear the students present their winning essays in the Annual Knights of Columbus Vocations Essay Contest. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceesofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoons at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum) and [Facebook.com/CatholicForum](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

### MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

Our Mom and Baby Group is intended for mothers with babies ages 0-2 years of age. Siblings are welcome to join! This group is for our mothers to connect with each other and our babies to enjoy themselves. We would love if you join us for prayer, discussion, and play time! If you have any small toys you would like to donate to the group, please contact Megan McCormac. 302 535 9913 or email megs.farl@gmail.com. Our meeting date will be Saturday, April 13, at 10 am in the Early Learning Center building, second floor. Hope to see you there!

### MEN OF MALVERN

#### THIS IS THE TIME OF FULFILLMENT

The Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group invites you to a traditional men's retreat on May 17-19, 2024. Our Retreat Director is Rev. Scott Reilly, Chaplain, Lumen Institute, Philadelphia. Also guest speaker Joe McIlvaine, former professional baseball player and MLB Executive. Bishop Koenig will lead Mass on Friday evening. Throughout the weekend, Marty Rotella will lead our Music Ministry. We invite the men of the parish, their sons, and friends to a weekend encounter with Jesus. You can register at [www.malvernretreat.com/events/mid-may-2024](http://www.malvernretreat.com/events/mid-may-2024). For more information contact Deacon Bob McMullen at 302-697-9714 or [deaconmcmullen@hotmail.com](mailto:deaconmcmullen@hotmail.com) for Holy Cross men. Contact Francesco Cristiano at 302-222-3422 or email [joycenchris@comcaset.net](mailto:joycenchris@comcaset.net) for Immaculate Conception men.

### BLOOD BANK OF DELMARVA

The Blood Bank of Delmarva is pleased to partner with the Central Delaware Interfaith Alliance to provide the Blood Mobile at three host locations. **April 15**, 9 am to 2 pm at Calvary Baptist Church

### MASS INTENTIONS APRIL

<b>8 MONDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Robert Ives
<b>9 TUESDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Robert Gabage
<b>10 WEDNESDAY</b>	
HC 8:15 am	Kevin Fitzgerald
<b>11 THURSDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Kenneth and Lida Smith
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
<b>12 FRIDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Jim Clougherty
<b>13 SATURDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Jen Bowlin
HC 5:00 pm	Greg & Brian Shouldise & Debra Shouldis Petrovich
<b>14 SUNDAY</b>	
HC 7:30 am	Janet Salemi
ICC 8:30 am	
HC 9:30 am	Marianna Dana Lasocha
ICC 11:00 am	
HC 11:30 am	Kathy Bishop
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

**April 30**, 8 am to 1 pm, at Wyoming United Methodist Church.

Please choose your time that is most convenient Give blood, save a life.

To register, go to the Blood Bank of Delmarva website at [www.delmarvablood.org](http://www.delmarvablood.org). You can get the email to register online for each of the above locations.

### RESPECT LIFE GROUP

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of volunteers, will you join us? It involves creating ways to promote a pro-life, pro-love message to the community around events and special days.

If you are creative and have a heart of love, please call me. Let's chat! Donna 862-266-1099 or email me [dlatter86@gmail.com](mailto:dlatter86@gmail.com)

APRIL 13/14, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. Darliong S. Garger N. Klaus  
L. Darling D. Kaltenbaugh Z. Klaus

LECTORS

D. Dixon

7:30 AM

J. Denney S. Gede B. Gyamfi  
R. Fritzsche R. O'Neill E. Gyamfi

LECTORS

A. Wyllie

9:30 AM

D. Banach D. McGinnis K. Fernandez  
F. Hanlin V. Pepper A. Wilk  
B. C. Wilk

LECTORS

S. Creosen  
S. Ford

11:30 AM

C. Garcia A. Luna TBD  
B. Guzman

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

E. Cramer

TBD

11:00 AM

LECTORS

D. King

1:00 PM

TBD



ADORATION CHAPEL

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings. Call or text John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



this & that

SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY 5 pm

WEDNESDAY 4 pm

FRIDAY 6 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm,  
6 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

DELAWARE CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS "A TAPESTRY OF AMERICAN COMPOSERS"

- The Delaware Choral Society returns to the Schwartz Center for the Arts with "A Tapestry of American Composers". The concert will be held Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 4:00 pm under the direction of Rocky F. Tejada and will feature music by American composers such as Aaron Copeland, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Gwyneth Walker, and Randall Thompson.
- Tickets for the concert may be purchased in advance from any DCS member or at the door on the day of the concert. Tickets may also be purchased online at the Delaware Choral Society Facebook page, or on the DCS website, [www.DelawareChoralSociety.org](http://www.DelawareChoralSociety.org).
- How Much: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door (discounted rates available for students and groups of 10 or more)

- Feliz Pascua de Resurrección ¡Si hermanos todavía estamos en Pascua ¡El Señor ha resucitado Aleluya! Pero, este segundo domingo de Pascua. La Iglesia celebra la Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia, cuya imagen es muy famosa y se ha difundido ampliamente en el mundo. En 1931, Jesucristo le mostró su Divina Misericordia a Santa Faustina en una revelación y le pidió que se pintara su imagen; además, le explicó el profundo significado de su misericordia y lo que los fieles devotos alcanzarán a través de ella. En su diario, Santa Faustina escribió que Jesús le dijo: Toda alma que cree y tiene confianza en Mi Misericordia, la obtendrá. La última tabla de salvación es recurrir a Mi misericordia. Yo soy el amor mismo y la misma misericordia. Las almas que veneran Mi misericordia, brillarán con un resplandor especial en la vida futura. Ninguna de ellas irá al fuego del Infierno. Defenderé, de modo especial, a cada una, en la hora de la muerte. A las almas que propagan la devoción a mi Misericordia, las protejo durante toda su vida. A la hora de la muerte, no seré para ellos Juez, sino su Salvador Misericordioso. Que no tema acercarse a Mí el alma débil, pecadora. Aunque tuviera más pecados que granos de arena hay en la tierra, todo desaparecerá en el abismo de Mi Misericordia. No puedo castigar, aún al pecador más grande, si él suplica Mi Compasión; sino que lo justifico en Mi insondable e impenetrable Misericordia. Quien no quiera pasar por la puerta de Mi Misericordia, tendrá que pasar por la puerta de Mi Justicia. Quien rezare la coronilla "una sola vez", tendrá, a la hora de su muerte, Mi Misericordia infinita. Cuando una persona (un alma) exalta Mi Bondad,
- Quiero agradecer a todos los que ayudaron y participaron en la dramatización de la Pasión de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo muy en especial a la Junta Directiva, la Señora Mariana Pitti, y a todos los adultos, jóvenes y adolescentes
- El Foro Cristiano. Las Clases se reanudarán el 12 de abril. Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche hasta el día 2 de junio 2024.
- Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa vayan a la oficina de Educación Religiosa.
- El sábado, 20 de abril se celebrará el Sacramento de la Confirmación de nuestros adolescentes de nuestras parroquias de Holy Cross y La Inmaculada Concepción.

## ICC

### Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

- **Primera Comunión:** Sesión #6 el martes, 12 de abril, a las 6:30pm en el salón. Retiro: Sabado,13 de abril, 9am-12 mediodía en el salón.
- Ensayo: viernes,26 de abril, a las 7pm en la iglesia.
- Recepción del Sacramento de La Primera Comunión: Sábado, 27 de abril a las 10 de la mañana
- **Confirmación:**
- Ensayo: Jueves, 18 de Abril, 6pm en la iglesia de Holy Cross en Dover
- Recepción del Sacramento de la Confirmación: Sábado, 20 de abril a las 10am en Holy Cross, Dover.
- Próximo Año. Las inscripciones para el próximo año escolar 2024-2025 están abiertas, Inscripciones estarán abiertas hasta el 30 de agosto. Puede tomar una aplicación en el salón o en puede bajar la en línea. [www.iccmarydel.org](http://www.iccmarydel.org) o visite la oficina parroquial. Se necesitan Catequistas y voluntarios. Si usted desea ser catequista o ayudar hable con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: April 14 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
For more information contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

## COMING THE 24-25 ADULT EDUCATION STUDY GROUP YEAR!

Stay tuned for these exciting programs!

Schedule to be determined.

### *The Summit of Faith*

“The Eucharist distinguishes Catholic life more than anything else, providing the foundation for sacred worship and belief in Christ’s living presence within the Church. program will outline the teaching of the Catholic Church on the Eucharist and the Mass and how they lead into a robust expression of the Christian life in the world.”

### *Divine Mercy – The Second Greatest Story Ever Told*

“With his characteristic skill and lucid style, Fr. Michael Gaitley interweaves the dramatic history of Poland, the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope Saint John Paul II into a tapestry of wonder and beauty.”

### *Wild Goose Series*

“Unleash the Holy Spirit in Your Life In this professionally filmed and cinematographically stunning series, Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR will lead you on an unforgettable journey around the world and into the very heart of God. Discover the immense power and beauty of the unconditional love of God that is the Holy Spirit.”

Classes will begin again in September of 2024.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

**Youth Group:** Next meeting is April 8 at 6:30 pm in the St. Luke Room in the Early Learning Center building. All high school aged youth are welcome to attend.

**Confirmation Class:** Last Class - Wednesday, April 10 at 6 pm and Sunday, April 14 at 3 pm.

**PLEASE NOTE - the April 14 class was moved from April 7.**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: ALLELUIA! CHRIST HAS RISEN!

Classes resume today, April 7th at 9:40am

### **Sacramental Preparation Classes:**

#### **First Communion:**

**Retreat:** Saturday, April 13th, 9am-12noon in the parish hall.

**Rehearsal:** Friday, April 26th at 7pm in Church

Sacrament of First Eucharist: Saturday, April 27th @10am

#### **Confirmation:**

**Rehearsal:** Thursday, April 18th, 6pm at Holy Cross Church

**Sacrament of Confirmation:** Saturday, April 20th 10am at Holy Cross, Dover

**Next Year: Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is open.** Registrations will be taken from March 1st to August 30th. Registrations available at desk in hall during religious education classes and online. Catechists are always needed and helpers always welcome!!



Antonio Vivaldi. I am currently listening to his most famous composition, The Four Seasons. I have just started listening as I make a vain attempt to surround myself with any sort of reminders or indications that we are indeed in the season of Spring. I am failing. It is 46 degrees out of doors, it is raining buckets of cold rain as I watch my neighbor walk across the street in her winter coat and red woolen hat. The poor daffodils. Mrs. White mentioned to me the words she saw on one of the thousands of roadside message boards that line the roadways. The sign held a simple message of frustration that I think we can all relate to: "Come on Spring...you're not trying hard enough!" Amen to that.

I have often fallen victim to the seasonal malaise known as Spring fever. As a college student it presented quite the hardship for me to get to class during the springtime of the year. All of the walkways on the campus were lined so beautifully with hundreds of sweet-smelling lily-of-the-valley plants, the aroma was nearly intoxicating. Getting to my Ethics class on a fair weather Friday afternoon was a real challenge.

The onset of Spring at Holy Cross is a mixed blessing. Once the consistent warmer weather sets in, the attention span diminishes to that of a gnat, presenting both student and teacher with a challenge. But there is much to look forward to, many events and activities that can only happen during the springtime of the school year.

It's been a long time since preparations were made for one of the most eagerly anticipated spring events involving our seventh and eighth grade Robotics students. Back in the fall of 2023, (it seems like eons have passed since then) the students began working on their Solar Sprint vehicles. The classroom routine consisted of Build, Research, Design, Test,...Repeat. Working in cooperative groups of two, three, or four, the teammates worked together on a simple design before agreeing upon just the right and most snazzy name for their vehicle, not to mention or overlook the all-important vehicular outward appearance. Hours and hours are dedicated the fine tuning of the solar powered motor car fashioning it just so with every eye of every team member on the prize.

It is a tip of the hat and a trunk-load of thanks sent out to our friends from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources for providing the necessary items for the construction and operation of the balsam wood fabrication. What kind of vehicle is it that has the ability to move from point A to point B without a motor, axles, gears, tires, or in this case that single item of supreme importance...the solar panels??!! We are thankful for DNR for their generosity and interest in STEM education. Sadly, the one item they cannot provide us with is sunlight. Without the cooperation of Mother Nature, the car sits idle. Thankfully, there is a battery pack which will provide locomotion in the event that sunlight decides to remain sleeping behind a cloud covered sky.

It just so happens that the pre-race season trials are run right outside of the room where my Math class gathers. Once all the teams have produced their finished product the elimination trials begin. Fishing line is used to define the lane space in the hallway measuring the exact same length as will be found on the raceway location in the spring. Down on all fours, the students hold the fishing line taut while the car races to the other side. Elimination trials can be daunting when a wheel or axle comes off, or wires dislodge from the motor, or something or other happens with the gears. With the compromised car in hand, student racers return to the Robotics lab for some minor adjustments and then its' back to the races. One of the key and critical considerations in the construction of the car is the weight. So, when it comes to fancy, you can just forget it. Even the paint adds weight, and the more weight the slower the vehicle. No stickers or shiny gems to add pizzazz. In the world of solar sprint, pizzazz prohibits propulsion.

After a few weeks of elimination races, HCS will be sending its two fastest cars with their engineers and chief advisor, Mrs. Williams. The brains behind the building of the seventh-grade car belongs to TaiLik W. and Chase B. while the geniuses behind the design of the eighth-grade sprinter are Luke C., Gavin R, Sam S, and Kehllan T. TaiLik and Chase have dubbed their vehicle as the Doritos car while the four eighth grade racers have chosen the Pizza car as their motorcar's moniker.

HC has been an annual participant in this statewide event for many years. We never fail to return home empty handed. The HC racers are awarded first or second place finish for design, or for velocity. Mrs. Williams is proud of her team from last year whose "Cheese Car" is found on the News.DE.gov website. Congratulations to solar sprinters, Andrew R. Lily P, Seyram T, and Favour C for making HC proud in the 2023-2024 S.S. season.

We are all hoping for a sunny day when all will gather at Delaware State University. The outdoor basketball courts will be transformed into a silent raceway for solar vehicles representing schools from north to south and south to north. My friends, on this eagerly anticipated day, there will be no revving of a massive gas-powered engine even though we are but a mere stone's throw away from the rip-roaring and ear-splitting NASCAR monster mile speedway located right across the highway.

dings seem to have taken on a greater importance than the marriage itself. There are wedding TV shows, wedding registries, wedding planners, and a whole host of things that have made weddings the second largest expense in a person's life, after buying a home. The problem with this is that "the wedding" has become the focus of attention, while marriage has become some mere echoed after effect. To make an analogy, it would be like having a child and making the entire focus on the child's birth, and then once he's born, tossing him aside and just looking back on that birth event.

**Gifts and Marriage.** To be clear, in the Catholic Church, there is not a Sacrament of Wedding; there is a Sacrament of Marriage. The focus of that Sacrament is not on the event (the wedding), but on the vocation (married life). Thus, I often tell couples preparing for marriage to stop watching TV wedding shows. Why? Because marriage is not about the "event" of a wedding but, rather, about a life spent together. Thus, while a wedding passes into history in a few hours (after the cutting of the cake and the receiving of some Kenmore blenders, gift cards, and perhaps a set of Ginsu knives), the marriage endures. And marriage in the Church — received as a Sacrament — allows the Baptized parties of the marriage to share in the marital graces, given by God, to bless married life.

**Mission Not Impossible.** To this end, as Pastor of the parish, I want to commend our couples who are not married in the Church, to consider addressing that status. Many folks think that getting your marriage "blessed by the Church" is an arduous or even impossible task; in most cases, it is not. To this end, I would ask men and women, in non-Church marriages, to seek to amend that situation, and come into the fold of those married in Christ.

**How to Get Your Marriage Blessed in the Church:** There are several different situations that entail slightly different actions to address marital status. To list all the possible circumstances would take a book the size of a Herman Wouk novel. So, I will focus on the three most common circumstances below:

**1. If you are married civilly and this is your only marriage:** If you are couple who, for whatever reason, married civilly, but not in Church — and you have only been married once — you can have your married "convalidated" in the Church (a.k.a. "blessed in the Church"). This takes your civil marriage and makes it into a marriage in the Catholic Church.

If you have been civilly married (or married in another faith without Church approval) for over four years, you need only to meet with one of our Priests or Deacons, complete a pre-marital inquiry to determine your marital status, and then a convalidation via the Catholic Rite of Marriage may be scheduled.

If your civil marriage is more recent (four years or less), you may have to do pre-Cana preparation before the Convalidation of your marriage.

**2. If you (or your spouse) are Catholic and had a previous civil marriage before this one:** This is usually fairly simple. Since you (or your spouse) are Catholic and married outside of the proper Catholic form of marriage without permission of the appropriate Church authority, that civil marriage reflects a "lack of canonical form" and can be deemed null. This entails some paperwork. Once I get the approved documentation back from the Diocese (usually, in a week or two), we can get your Convalidation planned (and if married over four years, the simpler process noted above applies)

**3. If you are Catholic and have a previous marriage in the Catholic Church (or married with Church permission in another Christian Church/location):** In this circumstance, you may need an annulment. An annulment speaks to the questions of whether a marriage was validly contracted at the time of consent (i.e., was there duress, were there impediments, etc.). If it is deemed that the circumstances on the day of the marriage were not proper or that informed consent was impeded, an annulment may be issued, freeing you to marry. The good news is, is that process, with emendations put forth by Popes Benedict and more recently Pope Francis, has become much quicker (usually about six months or less).

Please note: For more complicated scenarios you'll need speak to one of our Priests or Deacons. Also, if you are in a marriage currently, and you or your spouse are non-Catholic: If the non-Catholic party had been married previously, that original marriage of theirs is considered valid and thus an annulment process must ensue (as noted in #3 above).

**Marriage in the Church.** And so, I commend you: If you are married outside of the Church, seek to have your marriage convalidated (blessed) in the Church. This is the faith and teaching of your Church, moreover, this is the call of Jesus Christ to a man and a woman in the vocation of married life. Christ is asking: Do you want to do what is necessary to marry according to our faith and the laws of His Church? I hope you say, "I do."

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor