



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

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday Advent

holycross

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

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

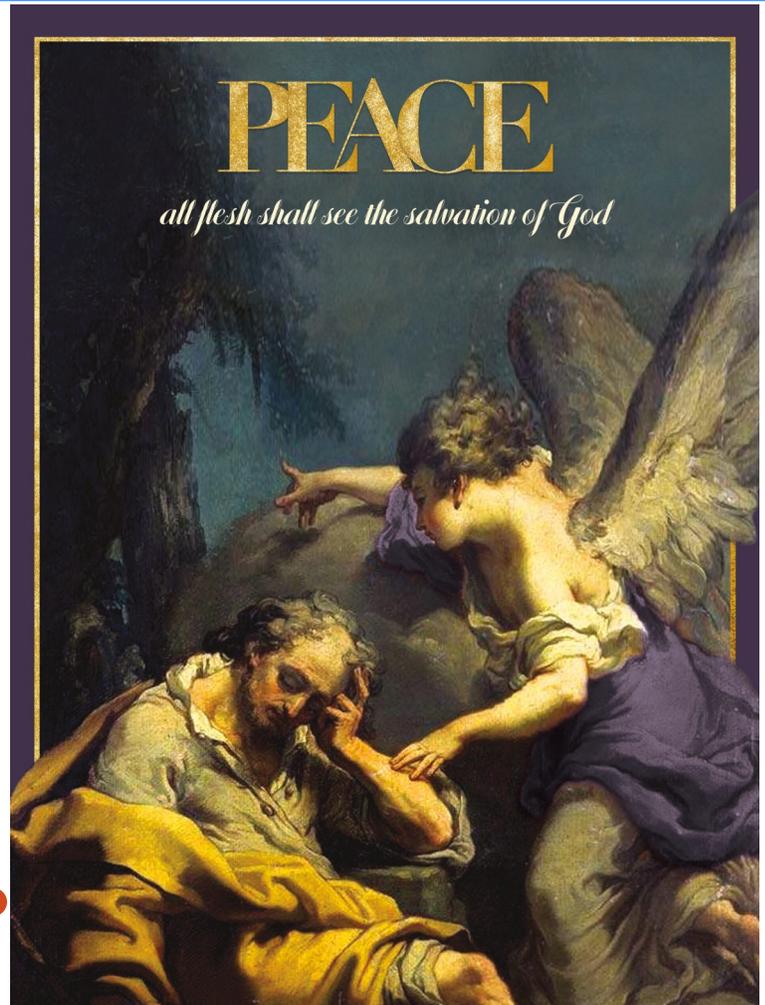
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

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.

Advent Reconciliation Service
Join us Thursday,
December 14, at 7 pm
for Reconciliation to prepare yourself
for Christmas.

We will have several visiting priests available with our priests to hear confessions.

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Christmas Schedule at Holy Cross

December 24

4:00 pm

6:30 pm

9:00 pm (Hispanic)

Midnight

December 25

8:00 am

10:00 am

Christmas Schedule at ICC

December 24

5:00 pm

7:00 pm (Hispanic)

Midnight

December 25

9:00 am

**Remember On Dec. 23/24 we also have our Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

HC: Dec 23: 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Hispanic)
Dec. 24: 7:30 and 9:30 am

ICC: Dec. 23: 5:00 pm (Hispanic)
Dec. 24: 8:30 am and 11:00 am

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending November 26, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$37,782	\$27,650	\$10,132
YTD	\$566,666	\$590,100	(\$23,434)
Needs	\$2,409	\$1,712	\$697

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending November 26, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,139
Second Collection	\$206

Thank you to all our 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,

A few year's ago in a homily, reflecting on Mary's place in our faith, I noted how a person once said that we were "lucky" to have Mary as our Mother in faith. That term "lucky" didn't sit well with me. I noted how Frank Sinatra once crooned the words, "luck be a lady tonight." He did that in the 1940s movie "Guys and Dolls," in which the character that sings those words is a gambler who hopes that he will win a bet, because the outcome of that gamble will decide whether or not he is able to save his relationship with the girl he loves.

There is a lady whom we as Catholics love, but our relationship to her, as our Mother, was not granted by a roll of the dice or by some form of luck; rather, it was granted to us by the love of Christ. Thus, the grand and vast difference between "luck" and a blessing: Luck is just that — it is a chance happening, a flip of a coin, a role of the dice. A blessing is not luck — it is done with intention. And, so Mary's presence in our faith is not the result of a gamble or luck, but rather a certainty of God's blessings to us. And that Mother with whom we are blessed is Mary — our most Blessed Mother. We are not lucky to have our Mother in faith; we are blessed to have her.

Mary is the Mother of God — the primary title by which she is known, a title that speaks to her essential role in salvation history. But she also has many other titles: Queen of all saints, Mother and Model of the Church, Mother of Divine Grace, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mirror of Justice, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cause of our Joy, Gate of Heaven, and many others. Mary is also the one who we call on in prayer to "pray for us sinners; now and at the hour of our death."

Because of the profound and special role of Mary in our faith, in addition to the many titles with which she is adorned, she is also honored with many holy days every year. Each year, as we make our way through the Season of Advent, we come upon two important Marian days (holy days related to Mary). One of those days was observed this past week, namely: The Immaculate Conception (December 8) and, this coming week, on December 12, landing on this second week of Advent, is the Feast of our Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In this week column, I will focus on our Blessed Mother Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. So, let's take a trip back in time to learn the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and see how devotion to her, and liturgical recognition of her has grown over the centuries, especially in the past 100 years.

Now, let us step into the wayback machine. Let us

set the dial to the year 1531 (way back)! On December 9, 1531, in what its now Mexico, a young convert to Catholicism named Juan Diego was on his way to Mass. As he was passing a location called Tepeyac Hill, he saw a brilliant light at the peak. Much like any of us going through Camden-Wyoming in the 25MPH speed zone, Juan Diego slowed down, and looked around. He heard a woman calling him to the top of the hill; and after climbing to the peak, he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary standing amidst divine illumination.

Mary spoke to Juan Diego, identifying herself and saying,

"I am your merciful Mother, to you and to all mankind who love me and trust in me and invoke my help. Therefore, go to the dwelling of the Bishop in Mexico City and say that the Virgin Mary sent you to make known to him her great desire."

Juan Diego went to the Bishop who didn't believe his story; he asked Juan to seek a sign to bear out his claim. On December 12, Juan Diego encountered our Blessed Mother on a road near Tepeyac Hill. He asked her for a sign he could take to the Bishop. Mary told him to climb to the hilltop, pick the flowers there and bring them to her. This seemed odd to him, as no flowers bloomed at this time of the year, and certainly not on a stony summit. But more stunned than a vegetarian at a pig roast, Juan Diego did find flowers there. He cut them, put them in his tilma (cloak) and brought them to Mary who arranged them; she then sent Juan Diego to the Bishop with this sign to persuade him.

Juan Diego made the assumption that the "sign" that Mary put forth was these beautiful flowers found at a place and in a season when they shouldn't be blooming. So, he went to the Bishop, and opened his tilma to show forth the sign. The flowers fell onto the floor. But to the amazement of Juan Diego and the Bishop, the inside of the tilma now bore an intricate colored portrait of the Blessed Virgin, just as Juan Diego had previously described her. In a later apparition Mary made known that the image on that tilma was be known as "Santa Maria de Guadalupe" (or in common parlance, Our Lady of Guadalupe). Thus, on December 12, 1531, the Church confirmed Mary's first apparition in the New World. Soon thereafter, 8,000,000 natives converted to Catholicism, and from then on, the Church in Mexico thrived and grew. Today Mexico boasts a Catholic population of over 100,000,000, and is the second largest Catholic country in the world (second only to Brazil, with approximately

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Brennan Ferris	Parochial Vicar

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
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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
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of those who recently passed:

- Ann Burke
- Patricia P. Scabla
- M. Dana LaSocha

May their soul and souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

BAPTISMS

Welcome to our newly registered baptized:

- Mia Victoria Calix Sanchez

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered members:

- Andrew and Maria Forger
- Frank, Frank and Charlotte Grosso

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Christmas decorations (such as wreaths, poinsettias, blankets, etc.) are permitted from December 1st until March 1st. As always, thank you for your understanding and cooperation in maintaining our sacred grounds. For more information, contact Len Dornberger at 674-5787 x135.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is having a membership drive. Men of both ICC and Holy Cross are welcome and invited to join the K of C. Contact people are: Francesco "Chris" Cristiano for ICC at 302-653-9004 and Dr. Wayne Thomas for Holy Cross at 302-697-1152

3RD SUNDAY ADVENT (DEC 17)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-2, 10-11

This radiant song of praise reminds us that our experience of human love is a foretaste of the joy promised to those who open their hearts to God.

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

We are reminded that we can trust God to be alive and active in our world and in our lives, come what may.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

The story of John the Baptist reminds us that we also are called to give witness to Jesus and prepare a way for him wherever we are.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 1:00PM at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Reservations are required by February 2, 2024.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by email- ingOMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – <https://cdowcym.wufoo.com/forms/k1uxe9k20m649mn/>

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 will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

December 12 is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. One thing that is important about Mary's appearance is that she took on the look of a Mexican peasant. What is your beloved's national heritage? How do you think Mary would look in that culture? How might she look if she appeared to you today?

PARENT POINTERS

Are your children getting tired of wait-

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER

11 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Jim Clougherty
12 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	George & Joey O'Brien
HC 7:00 pm	Angela Dosman
13 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Sue Gede
14 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	John Rigo
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
15 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Anna Grady
16 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Mark Kropiewnicki
HC 5:00 pm	Frank & Gertrude Trojan
17 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Doris Tate
ICC 8:30 am	William F. & Ann R. Sullivan
HC 9:30 am	Ludwik Kosior
ICC 11:00 am	Nellie Taraila
HC 11:30 am	Olga & Normadela Rocha
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

*(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)*

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHAPEL FOR
12/10-12/16 IS FOR DM DEIGHTON FAMILY.*

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHURCH FOR
12/10-12/16 IS FOR BILL THOMAS.*

ing...for Christmas? Our human personalities aren't geared to wait happily. Instant gratification seems more attractive. But learning to wait for treats is a good habit to cultivate in your child. If every day was your birthday, your birthday would not feel very special.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, December 16th, pastor, author and speaker, Father Dwight Longenecker, will discuss his book, "The Secret of the Bethlehem Shepherds." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640.

DEC. 16/17, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM D. Field P. Gerard C. Helgiw F. Hettinger G. Coyle M. Coyle

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
F. Urick

7:30 AM S. Gede P. Jackson L. Lockett R. O'Neill B. Gyamfi E. Gyamfi

LECTORS

A. Wyllie

9:30 AM K. Boyer S. Cordie P. Ford S. Ford V. Beugre C. Beugre J. Seeney

LECTORS

T. Baurys
J. Coffield

11:30 AM C. Garcia B. Guzman A. Luna TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

D. King

1:00 PM

TBD

S. TUCKER

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

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 John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5 pm
 MONDAY 5 pm
 WEDNESDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5 pm
 THURSDAY 4 pm
 FRIDAY 6 am
 SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival. What better time is there to select an open hour in our Adoration Chapel and spend some time with Jesus weekly. Please consider taking some time each week out of your busy schedule to sit in silence and prayer before Our Lord. Call today to reserve your hour. You will be so blessed and glad you did.

OLOG

Join us for the 7 pm Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12. A fiesta will follow in the gym. All are welcome!!

SAMARITANS

The Samaritan Pantry is now accepting Hams or Turkeys and the accompanying Christmas Dinner foods. They can be dropped off in the building behind the Rectory in the door with the new green donations sign.

KNITTING GROUP

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and fellowship, join the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 10 am to Noon in the St. Luke Room of the Early Learning Center Building. Please come join us to see what we are all about.



FROM THE DIALOG...

The Dec. 15 edition of The Dialog will be the final edition of 2023. We will have no print edition of The Dialog on Dec. 30. We return to print Jan. 12 with our first edition

- Preparémonos para el Adviento- Segunda vela / Domingo: LA PAZ (La vela de Belén) -Tercera vela / Domingo: ALEGRÍA (Vela del Pastor)- Llamado «Domingo de Gaudete», que significa alégrate, una vela rosa en la corona de Adviento representa este domingo. En la misa, también verás a sacerdotes y diáconos con vestiduras rosas, que nos llevan a esperar con alegría el nacimiento de Jesús. Cuarta vela / Domingo: AMOR (Vela del Ángel). Vivamos el Adviento.
- La Misa del Cuarto Domingo de Adviento de 11:30 AM del día 24 de diciembre de 2023 se transfiere al sábado, 23 de diciembre a las 7:00PM. MISA DE NOCHEBUENA domingo 24 de diciembre a las 9:00 PM.
- Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: Ya se aproxima la celebración en honor a nuestra Señora de Guadalupe los días 11 y 12 de diciembre. Si usted desea cantarle a la Virgen por favor de comunicarse con el Señor Horacio Pérez. O con el Señor Genaro Pérez para coordinar el ensayo. El día 11 de diciembre las mañanitas a las 10:00pm el día 12 La santa Misa a las 7:00PM seguida por la gran fiesta en el gimnasio. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados.
- Todos es los viernes de 6-8 Foro Cristiano con el padre Brennan Ferris: Todos los viernes, de 6:00PM hasta las 8:00PM. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” donde todo el año las clases se centrará en la EUCARISTIA y la PRESENCIA REAL en la Eucaristía Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024
- POSADAS: Ya está tomadas todas las Posadas 2023. Puede unirse a la que le quede más cerca o unirse a la Posada del Fr. Ferris, que es la Primera.
- Sábado 16, 7:00PM En la iglesia.
- Domingo 17, 7:00PM. Dirección 2411 White Oak Rd. Dover, DE 19901
- Lunes 18, 7:00PM. Dirección 139 Carnation Dr. Magnolia, DE 19962
- Martes 19, 7:00PM. Dirección 42 S. Edgehill Ave. Dover, DE
- Miércoles 20, 7:00PM: Dirección 389 Mannering Dr. Dover, DE 19901
- Jueves 21, 7:00 PM Dirección 35 Hickory Dale Dr. Dover, DE 19901
- Viernes 22, 1635 Nathaniel Mitchell Rd. Dover, DE 19904
- Sábado, 23 Dirección: 8:30PM 66 Roberts Dr. Dover DE 19901
- Domingo 24, de Diciembre: 8:45 PM Misa de Nochebuena La Iglesia

ICC

Las clases el domingo 3 de diciembre.

Formación de Adultos. Lunes 6:30 – 8:30PM Los lunes, en el salón de reuniones de la oficina parroquial. .

Preparación Sacramental para la Primera Reconciliación Sesión #4 el martes, 19 de diciembre a las 6:30 – 7:30 pm en el salón.

Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión # 3 el domingo 17, de diciembre de 3:00 – 5:30 en el salón.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: December 17th 3:00pm-5:00pm

Please be mindful when dropping and picking up students. Keep our parking lot safe by parking your car and walking your student up to the building. When picking up your student, park your car and walk to the cones by the exit ramp.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next LAFF class is December 10 at 10:30 am.. December 10th and then on January 14t. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences.

Is your family interested in joining the Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis with Deacon Vince? Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

Advent is here! Holy Cross Church and Deacon Bob are pleased to offer the class Advent: Preparing for Christ Cycle B. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at 9:00 am or 7:00 pm; it began November 28th in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Office. The class is free, there will not be a workbook provided. If you are interested in attending and have not already signed up, please register either by email- ing tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or calling Tammy Korosec at (302) 674-5787 X 122.

Online Opportunities for Adult Ed:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration>

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Retreat: Our candidates will be attending retreat this weekend. Please keep our teens, peer leaders and adult leaders in your prayers.

Purse Bingo:

Mark your calendars! Our annual purse bingo to raise money to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer will take place on Saturday, **March 9**. Tickets will go on sale after Christmas - \$35 per ticket. Please plan on joining us for a fun evening.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Coffee and donuts next week during Religious Education classes

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

Confirmation session #3: Sunday, December 17th @ 3pm-5:30pm in hall.

First Reconciliation session #3: Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30pm- 7:30pm in Hall

Holy Cross School is blessed in any number of ways. I can only report from my perspective, but each and every single day of the five-day school week, I am blessed by the children. They touch my heart in ways that no one can conceive. Their cheerful greetings as our paths cross throughout the day, the spontaneous hugs, the conversations with our students of all ages are so important to me, the hallway displays of their work show their creativity in both written expression and artistic talent. Our teachers are a godsend to their students, their parents, their colleagues, and to me. Their dedication and rooted loyalty in our school and community is beyond admirable. Our substitute teachers are amazing in their willingness to change plans and drop everything to come in to the rescue. Especially at those times when the need is right now! Our untiring efforts of the HSA, all for the benefit of the faculty and students are a tremendous blessing.

Our school and students are also blessed in the opportunities afforded them to showcase their achievement and abilities in extra-curricular activities. I am always looking for more of those opportunities, but for now I am grateful for the parents and teachers who volunteer after-school hours for the benefit of the students. We teach our students to strive for achievement, to always give their best effort and to take pride in their work. If you have offered your level best, no one can ask for more. But, we do insist that an effort be put forth. I have watched our students in the athletic arena giving all, I have watched them work in the classroom, I have watched them devote their best to helping teachers after school, I have been blessed by our student lectors at our weekly Mass. Their clarity and outstanding skill in their delivery of the Word warms my heart. I have seen our teachers offering extra instruction after school for students who need a little extra. I have witnessed excellence. I have witnessed dedication.

As a manifestation of that excellence and dedication, three different Honor Society induction ceremonies were held in the first trimester. We have concluded our first trimester (don't ask me where that time went!) and it was during that time that middle school students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society, the National Junior Art Honor Society, and the Tri-M Music Honor Society. They, each, lovely ceremonies held in the evening hour when proud parents, siblings and extended family might attend to celebrate achievement and talent. As you may expect, membership is not open to everyone. Qualifications must be fulfilled; chief among them is academics, along with a demonstration of aptitude. I am grateful to members of our faculty who moderate these Honor Society chapters, Mrs. Benini, our Art teacher, Mrs. Peek our middle school ELA teacher, Mrs. Beth Riecks, our middle school Science teacher both of whom moderate the NJHS chapter, and Mrs. Heather Swartzentruber, our Music teacher.

I would like to recognize the members of our National Junior Art Honor Society for their extraordinary talent in all media using a variety of materials and producing superior pieces of Art under Mrs. Benini's instruction.

Mia A., Fine Arts & Visual Journaling 2022-2023, Visual Journaling 2023-2024; **Alejandra A.**, Fine Arts 2023-2024
Kristina C., NJAHS Vice President 2023-2024, Fine Art 2022-2023; **Lily C.**, NJAHS Secretary 2023-2024, Fine Arts 2022-2023, Scholastic Art 2023-24; **Sarah C.**, Fine Arts 2023-2024; **Macie E.**, NJAHS Secretary 2022-2024, President 2023-2024, Fine Arts 2021-2022, Independent Art 2022-2023, Scholastic Art 2023-2024; **Makenzie F.**, Fine Arts 2023-2024; **Zachary K.**, Fine Arts 2022-2023, Scholastic Art 2023-2024; **Makenzie L.**, Fine Arts 2022-2023, Scholastic Art 2023-2024; **Lakshya P.**, Visual Journaling 2022-2023, Scholastic Art 2023-2024; **Emma R.**, NJAHS Historian 2023-2024, Fine Arts 2023-2024; **Leah R.**, Fine Arts 2023-2024; **Andrew R.**, Visual Journaling 2022-2023, Scholastic Art 2023-2024; **Alaina T.**, Fine Arts 2021-2022, Scholastic Art 2022-2024; **Andrea V.**, Fine Arts 2021-2022, Independent Art 2022-2023, Visual Journaling 2023-2024; **Ava Z.**, Fine Arts 2023-2024.

Recognition of excellence in musical talent and induction into the Tri-M Music Honor Society is given to the following middle school students. Our Music program consists of choral music as well as band. We are very proud of our Drum Line who will lead our Marching Band students in the Dover Annual Christmas Parade. Once again there are academic and service qualifications that must be met prior to induction over and above music ability.

Rian A. , Choir	Macie E. , Band	Charlotte E. , Choir
Brooke G. , Choir	Olivia G. , Choir	Cydney J. , Band
Gianna M. , Choir	Myla O. , Band	Lakshya P. , Choir
Gavin R. , Band	Kehllan T. , Band	Adrianna V. , Band
Carly W. , Band	Kaley W. , Band	

Our NJHS members are strictly held to maintaining academic standards, community service fulfillment, and adherence to discipline policies. Academic probation is instituted should a member receive more than one B on the report card in addition to all other grades of an A. Applications for induction must be approved by the Faculty Council. It has been remarked by one of the FC members that HC requirements for induction are more strict than high school. I make no apologies for that. We laud and recognize the following students of the Alpha and Omega Chapter of the HCS National Junior Honor Society.

Avery B.	Favour C.	Kristina C.
Lily C.	Macie E.	Charlotte E.
Brooke G.	Olivia G.	Carter H.
Cydney J.	Mackenzie L.	Gianna M.
Florence M.	Lilly M.	Myla O.
Lakshya P.	Owen R.	Andrew R.
Samuel S.	Adrianna V.	Carly W.

It might be a mundane Monday or a tumultuous Tuesday, a wacky Wednesday.... Who knows what any day might bring. Not to worry. I've said it a million times; every day is a good day at Holy Cross!!

It's where the blessings abound.

140,000,000).

Looking Sharp. Probably the most identifiable aspect of Our Lady of Guadalupe is that beautiful, glorious image of her that is so very famous. The original image is still around and enshrined in Mexico. And you know what? Much like Ginsu Knives advertised on TV infomercials, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has never dulled or faded. As a matter of fact, in defiance of science and age, the image of Our Lady on that cloak has miraculously remained crisp, sharp, and brilliant for over 490 years. The cloak and its image are on display at Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City where it hangs reverently behind the main altar.

Meanwhile at the Vatican. Over the centuries, many of our Pope have expounded on Mary, as Our Lady of Guadalupe, and have expanded the franchise of her honor in this regard. Here are some key dates in the evolution of this important Holy Day.

- **Pope Benedict XIV**, on May 25, 1754, declared Our Lady of Guadalupe patroness of what was then named New Spain (Spanish Central and Northern America) and approved liturgical texts for the Mass in her honor.
- **Pope Leo XIII**, on February 8, 1887 authorized the canonical coronation (and now famous) of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- **Pope St. Pius X**, in 1910, proclaimed her patron saint of Latin America.
- **Pope Pius XI**, on July 16, 1935, declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the "Heavenly Patroness of the Philippines" (though in 1942, this was changed to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, instead).
- **Pope Pius XII**, in 1945, accorded her the title "Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas," and "Patroness of the Americas" in 1946.
- **Pope St. John XXIII**, in 1961, invoked her as "Mother of the Americas." In his prayer to her, under this title, he said: *Hail, Mother of the Americas, Heavenly Missionary of the New World! From the Sanctuary of Tepeyac you have been for more than four centuries the Mother and Teacher of the Faith to the peoples of the Americas. Be also our protection and save us.*
- **Pope St. John Paul II**, on January 22, 1999, reiterated her title of Patroness of the Americas and granted the rank of solemnity in parts of that region. He also added this holy day, worldwide, to the Church Calendar, as an optional memorial outside of the America. He said of Our Lady of Guadalupe, reflecting on place in the history of the Americas: *The first missionaries who reached America from lands of eminent Marian tradition taught the rudiments of Christian faith, they also taught love for you, the Mother of Jesus and of all people. And ever since the time that the Indian Juan Diego spoke of the sweet Lady of Tepeyac, you, Mother of Guadalupe, have entered decisively into the Christian life of the people of Mexico. No less has been [Mary's] presence in other places... in [people's] pilgrimage of faith.*
- **From Pope Benedict.** About ten years ago, Pope Benedict XVI expressed the significance of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during a visit to Mexico, by speaking about how Mary made Jesus known to Juan Diego. He said: *This was how Our Lady of Guadalupe showed her divine Son to Saint Juan Diego, not as a powerful legendary hero but as the very God of the living, by whom all live, the Creator of persons, of closeness and immediacy, of heaven and earth. At that moment she did what she had done previously at the wedding feast of Cana. Faced with the embarrassment caused by the lack of wine, she told the servants clearly that the path to follow was her Son: "Do whatever he tells you."*

During that same visit, he spoke of the effect of devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe on our faith in Christ. He said: *Do not forget that true devotion to the Virgin Mary always takes us to Jesus,... [it] proceeds from true faith... To love her means being committed to listening to her Son, to venerate the Guadalupeana means living in accordance with the words of the blessed fruit of her womb.*

- **From Pope Francis.** Last year on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pope Francis said, regarding Mary, that: *[She] wants to meet us, too, as she one day met Juan Diego on the Hill of Tepeyac, Mexico, and "she begs us to allow her to be our mother, to open our lives to her son Jesus and to welcome his message so as to learn to love like him,"*

In this Holy Season of Advent in which we prepare for the Birth of our Savior, it is right and just that we pause to remember his Mother, and our Mother, Mary most holy. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor