

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

January 7, 2024

Epiphany

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

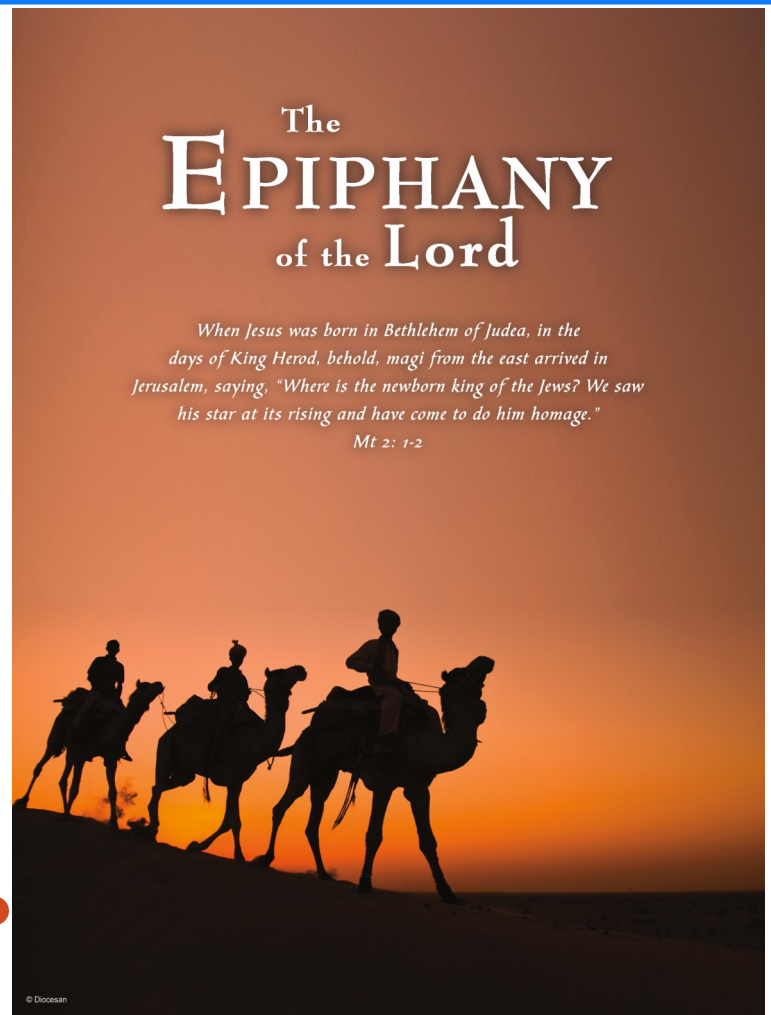
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



The EPIPHANY of the Lord

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Mt 2: 1-2

© Diocesan

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.

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.

Monday, January 15, 2023 is Martin Luther King Holiday.

Offices will be closed that day.

Mass will be held at 9 am only on the 15th.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending December 24, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$36,008	\$27,440	\$8,568
YTD	\$685,794	\$699,860	(\$14,066)
Needs	\$1,851	\$1,712	\$139
Christmas	\$32,758	\$27,500	\$5,258

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending December 24,, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,881
Second Collection	\$508
Christmas	\$5,200

Dear Parishioners,

Remember the Christmas song, *"We need a little Christmas right this very minute"*? I thought of that song the other day, as I saw the staff in a store taking down their Christmas decorations already. I have also seen some trees on the sidewalks for the garbage pick up. And yes, Valentine's cards and candy will soon replace their Christmas counterparts from Walgreen to Walmart, and from CVS to Sears.

We Need a Little (More) Christmas. It seems that the world outside these doors has returned to its normal routines. It would appear that Christmas is over. We're little older, it's a little colder (well it is January, so it stands to reason that we should be a little colder). But, we do need a little Christmas right this very minute. And, it's there for taking.

Minimum Order: A Dozen. I don't know what has happened to this season in our world today, but:

- In historical tradition Christmas season continues all the way to February 2nd, ending on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.
- By current Church practice it ends on the Baptism of the Lord, which this year is on this Monday.
- But even in the very tightest view of Christmas, we are to at least have 12 days of Christmas. We all know the song!

Grinches Short Change Us! And in this year of 2024, we have that twelfth day of Christmas on a Saturday, January 6! And we get to celebrate it this weekend. My brothers and sisters, boo-hiss unto the grinches and the nattering nabobs of negativism who short change us! Make no mistake: we are still in the midst of the Christmas season.

Marvelous Exchange. And the one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church is still celebrating that season. I mean, God has become man, or as they say in the Divine Office which we priests and deacons pray, *"O Marvelous Exchange / our maker has become man."* And ding-dong, that is a pretty darn big event. It certainly is deserving of more than a one-day or one-week celebration. And so, in our faith, and like our faith, the Christmas season builds:

- In the season of Advent, we prepared ourselves for four weeks for the coming of Christmas.
- On Christmas day, we celebrated our Savior being born as man, as a weary world rejoiced. It was joy to our world.
- On Holy Family Sunday, last week, we cele-

brate Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior being part of a family of man.

- And now on this Sunday, we celebrate the high feast, the solemnity that we call the Epiphany.

Meanwhile in the Rest of the World. Now just to clarify: this feast is official celebrated on the second Sunday after Christmas, but that is true only in the United States and Canada. In the rest of the world, the Epiphany -- the twelfth day of Christmas -- is celebrated on January 6th -- which is the actual twelfth day. But that discrepancy is a topic for a whole 'nother Pastor's Column.

A Point of Wonder. All of this being said, I think a legitimate question that one may think to ask is this: Why 12 days? Why not the seven days of Christmas? Why not the 10 days of Christmas? Why not the 14 days (two weeks) of Christmas?

The Other Eleven. Well, we know that Christ is the Messiah, and but to whom was he sent? He was sent to the people of Israel. He was their Messiah. And Israel, by tradition, is made up of twelve tribes, which in turn were given, by God, twelve pieces of land inside Israel. And so, where does Christ first appears at his birth? In Bethlehem, in the Kingdom of Judah -- one of the tribes and one of the lands of Israel. Then, eleven more days pass, each representing Christ being made known to each of the remaining eleven tribes, in each of the eleven other lands in Israel.

Wise Guys. But, then, on the twelfth day after Christmas (13 days since Christ's birth), this is where the big shift of focus occurs. Christ, now, at least symbolically, known to all of Israel, moves to the world outside of Israel. Three wise men come; they come not from Israel, they come not from one of the tribes, but rather they come from the Gentile world. They come from the non-Jewish world. They come from the East, and they come to see the Christ.

Star Struck. These wise men follow His star, and they follow it to that stable. And these kings -- Caspar, king of Tarsus, Melchior, king of Arabia and Balthazar, king of Saba -- represent the various corners of the known world. It is for this reason that one often sees statues of the kings representing or portraying different races of the world.

Manifest Destiny! And so, for us, this day is our Epiphany -- it is the day when Christ became

(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. I18
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:

- John McCloskey
Bernard ay their soul and souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.
Amen.

VOCATIONS

Did you Know ... we all have a “vocation”? The way we live our life is our vocation— Marriage, Priesthood Religious life or the Single life! It is how **YOU** are meant to live and contribute to the Body of Christ? Pray for discernment of your call.

2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JAN 14)

FIRST READING: 1 SAMUEL 3:3-10, 19
God called Samuel and he responded in freedom.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:13-15, 17-20

Anyone who follows the Lord shares his Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:35-42

Andrew, John, and Simon Peter came to learn about Jess through spending time with him.



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. . Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing OMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – <https://cdowcym.wufoo.com/forms/k1uxe9k20m649mn/>

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT HOLY CROSS

LADIES: Would you like to give a gift of prayer for our Priest? We are still in need of additional sisters to give:

- One Holy Hour
- One Day a Week
- One Priest
- One Heart of Prayer

MEN are welcome and encouraged to join this ministry as substitutes.

PICK UP A PAMPHLET IN THE GATHERING SPACE AND contact: Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez -- email: 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

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

MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY

8 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	K. Smith
9 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Louise & Edward Quinn
10 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	DM Antonio Corniti Family
11 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Courtney Grantom-Couls
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
12 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	LI Deborah Ann Sacranio
13 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Theodore Morris
HC 5:00 pm	DM Casey Family
14 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Earl Francis
ICC 8:30 am	Ana Adam
HC 9:30 am	Adolf Korosec
ICC 11:00 am	Richard Mitchler
HC 11:30 am	Patricia Nemith
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHAPEL FOR 1/7–1/13 IS ROSEMARIE NATALIE (LI)

THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHURCH FOR 1/7–1/13 IS FELIX TROMBA

strictly confidential.

FAMILY TIPS

EASY: Layer Up – During cold months wear an extra layer around your home thus allowing you to lower the setting on your thermostat.
CHALLENGING: Install a programmable thermostat which allows you to automatically reduce heating at night or when no one is home.

JAN 13/14, 2024

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM C. Bugglin J. Clendaniel S. Mjrawski
M. Casey F. Ernst N. Klaus
Z. Klaus

LECTORS

D. Kilby
F. Urick

7:30 AM J. Denney .R. O'Neill A. Costa
T. Dinan A. Wyllie E. Costa
M. Cposta

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM D. Martinez S. Ford K. Fernandez
P. Ford K. Kelly H. Louissaint
C. Imhof

LECTORS

S. Crossen
C. Parks

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

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

E. Cramer

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00 PM TBD

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.



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.

- SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
- 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

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.

- Hoy 7 de enero, 2024 es la Solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor y celebraremos el día de Reyes con la llegada de nuestros Reyes del Oriente que vendrán a adorar al niño Dios y nos acompañarán después de la Santa Misa en nuestra tradicional Rosca de Reyes y traerán regalos para nuestros niños a ver si los niños se forman para saludar a los reyes y recibir su regalito.
- El Foro Cristiano se reanuda el día 5 de enero a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche con el padre Brennan Ferris. 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
- **Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria:** el domingo, 4 de febrero celebraremos la fiesta de la Candelaria. Es una fiesta popular celebrada por los católicos, que celebra la Presentación de Jesús en el Templo, la Purificación de la Virgen después del parto y la Virgen de la Candelaria, advocación mariana aparecida en Tenerife (Islas Canarias) en el siglo XV. Generalmente se celebra el primer fin de semana de febrero. La fiesta de la Presentación se celebra el día dos de febrero, el mismo día la Purificación de la Virgen, llamada también fiesta de las Candelas o de las luces. "Y como se cumplieron los días de la purificación de ella, conforme a la ley de Moisés, le trajeron a Jerusalén para presentarle al Señor". (Lucas 2:22)
- En el templo se encontraba Simeón que tenía fama de ser un hombre justo. Al verlos tuvo la convicción de que actuaba impulsado por el Espíritu, le tomó en brazos y bendijo a Dios diciendo el. Las escrituras lo narran así: "Y los bendijo Simeón, y dijo a su madre María: " He aquí, éste es puesto para caída y para levantamiento de muchos en Israel;". (Lucas 2:34). La profetisa Ana vivía en el templo y al presenciar aquellos acontecimientos comenzó a hablar del Niño a todo aquel que esperaba la redención de Jerusalén:



- **Conquistando Las Naciones para Cristo:** Retiro de Sanación Interior, febrero 9-11 del 2024 para Hombres y Mujeres en la parroquia de Holy Cross. Inscripción el viernes, 9 a las 6:30pm. Donación es de \$125. Para más información llame al 302-442-5887 - 302-415-5036 – 302- 685-8192

ICC

Las clases se reanudan de Educación Religiosa se re el domingo, 7 de enero, 2024

Clases de Preparacion Sacramental:

Retiro de Primera Reconciliación: sábado, 13 de enero de 9am a 12mediodia en el salón.

Primera Reconciliación: sábado, 27 de enero, al12 meridiano en la Santa Cruz, Dover

Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión # 4 el domingo 14, de enero de 3:00 – 5:30 en el salón.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: January 7th at 3:00pm-5:00pm

Save the Date!

February 28th at 7pm in the Parish Hall
 “Mark’s Gospel” presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

“The one-person performance is not a “reading” or a “talk” but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It’s fast paced, energetic, up close and personal.”

All are welcome!

The families of all Holy Cross students LAFF, and Religious Education Students are encouraged to attend.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next LAFF class is January 14 at 10:30 am. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. See above for a special Lent formation opportunity.

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)

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming formation opportunities!

Tuesday offerings: Note new start date January 16th-February 6th **Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession**

“Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bout of God’s love.

February 13th-March 19th **No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ’s Passion.** “Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ’s amazing love for us. Best selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ’s life.”

Special Lent offering:

February 28th at 7pm in the Parish Hall
 “Mark’s Gospel” presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

“The one-person performance is not a “reading” or a “talk” but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It’s fast paced, energetic, up close and personal.”

For more information, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call Tammy Korosec at (302) 674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Classes: Sunday, January 7 at 3 pm and Wednesday, January 10 at 6 pm

Confirmation Retreat: For those teens unable to attend the December retreat, please put January 27 at 8 am on your calendar.

MOUNT 2000:

We have two spots open - please let Mrs. Darling know if you would like to attend - February 2-4, 2024 cost is \$100 for the weekend.

Youth Formation Group: Come be a part of a **new group** forming for high school teens. Meetings will take place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Luke room of the ELC building. The first meeting will be a planning meeting, so bring your thoughts. Music, faith, fellowship and food - a great place to meet some great people! **First Meeting - Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm**

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

First Reconciliation Retreat: Reconciliation retreat: Saturday, January 13, 9am-12noon in the hall

Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation: Saturday, January 27th, 12noon at Holy Cross, Dover

Confirmation Session #4: Sunday, January 14th, 3-5:30pm in the Parish hall.

There are effectively six months left in the school year. We open the second half of the 2023-2024 school year with a few hopes and daydreams conjured up in my thoughts during my daily commute.

One of my “hopes” has already been fulfilled. For quite some time Mrs. Williams and I have expressed mutual concern over the quality of children’s literature made available to us by the Scholastic Book Fair Company. Book Fair weeks have always been a tremendous hit with our students. They love buying not just the books, but also the trinkets that Scholastic sends along with the shipment of books. The posters, pencils, erasers, and bookmarks all make for an exciting shopping experience. It is with great excitement that we look forward to the Spring BOGO event. TWO books for the price of one! You won’t find a better deal anywhere else on State Street!!

The sad truth is the content of children’s literature has changed. Mrs. Williams has had to be very careful in the vetting process for each shipment delivered by Scholastic. Several boxes of books can be found stacked against the wall, never to be shelved at a HCS Book Fair. Despite her fervent efforts to communicate to the company our desire for a more wholesome selection of books because we are a Catholic school; her pleas appear to have fallen on deaf ears. They are looking for sales, but those sales won’t be made at the cost of sending inappropriate books home. It has already happened to us. It was quite awkward when we learned from the parent of a four-year-old who purchased a book containing a distasteful message that was cleverly veiled between the lines. The plain truth is current day children’s book authors have gone by way of favoring modern day societal mores that conflict with the lessons and messages we convey as a Catholic school.

We were looking to make a change, without sacrificing the perks offered by Scholastic. At one point we thought we had found a company that might more favorably align with our core values, only to learn of their demise at the hands of the pandemic as we attempted to engage their services. Mrs. Williams found herself back at the proverbial drawing board in her dogged attempt to find another service enabling us to bid farewell to Scholastic. We did not want to disappoint the children by not offering any more book fairs, but we would have made that decision for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, if we had to.

In her research attempts Mrs. Williams found two other companies who touted their abilities to provide schools with wholesome, and more appropriate reading for school children. There was a downside, however. Neither one of the two companies were located near Delaware hence their ability to reach potential clientele on the East Coast was limited. Ah ha! Limited doesn’t necessarily mean impossible. It was now time for a live, real-time conversation. Enough of the cloud-based communication.

Ave Maria Press has partnered with Ignatius Press to offer Book Fairs to schools across the continental United States. I have taken the liberty of pasting from their website a few FAQ’s in advance of inquiries from our parent community. Take advantage of their very informative website regarding school book fairs. www.ignatiusbookfairs.com

Do you send only Christian books?

No, about 70% of the books we send will be wholesome, nonreligious books, such as fiction, inspiring biographies, fairytales, and classic children’s books. We also include books about sports, history, arts and crafts, and more. All these books have been fully vetted to ensure that the content is safe for children and will nourish their imaginations. We believe that children deserve to read great books!

But you will have Catholic books, right?

Definitely! About 30% of the books will be Catholic—stories about the saints, Bible stories, books that explain the faith in an engaging way, and more. Many of our Catholic children’s books are the beautiful books co-published by Magnificat and Ignatius Press, including our popular religious books by Tomie de Paola.

Will the Ignatius Book Fairs include toys and trinkets?

We will be offering an optional, add-on package of carefully curated toys and other small items that complement our mission. These will include saint dolls, puzzles, games, keychains, stickers, bracelets, bookmarks, pencils, and more.

In the spirit of full transparency, the conversation regarding maintaining student’s interest level and risking losing sales in favor of changing from Scholastic to another book fair company has been had. But a change-over is an appropriate risk to take in favor of our attempt to provide our students with literature in keeping with our faith and values. Honestly, the books the children bring from home falls into the same category as the video games and music permitted as entertainment in the home. In that, as a school we have no control. No misunderstanding, please. This is not meant as criticism. However, as a Catholic school we feel a strong responsibility to shield the children from some of the more liberal agenda items that are pervading schools across the country. We look for your support.

In closing, we will honor our contract with Scholastic through the end of this year. However, a change for the good is in the wind.

known to world outside of Israel. The word Epiphany means manifestation, and so this is when Christ was made manifest, when he was made known to the world. This was the sign that God sent the Messiah to save not just Israel, but all the world.

One Way or Another. The Three wise men came from the East, followed a star to find God, and Christ made himself known to them. And scripture tells us that they came to Christ one way, and went back a different way. Well, on a spiritual level, that may well speak the effect Christ has on each of us. Like the kings, we come to Christ one way, we follow his light, and then after receiving him, we leave and go back a different way, we walk a different road, we walk a better road. The Kings came to Christ THEIR way, but went back HIS way. And today these Three Kings — their remains — rest in a shrine in Cologne Germany, in the presence of Christ in the blessed Sacrament.

Wonder Bread. Like the Kings we, too, follow the light of Christ and yearn to be in his presence. He is our daystar, our star of Divine Guidance. Just as that Star of Bethlehem led the three wise men to Bethlehem, so too, it leads us. Please note that the word "Bethlehem" means house of bread, and Jesus Christ, our guiding light, leads us to THIS house of bread that is, the house of the Holy Eucharist. The bread that becomes the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ present to us: the Christ whom we adore just as did the Three Kings.

Continue the Epiphany. After we receive that sacred host, which looks like bread but is in truth the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity Christ, we then leave the Church to bring that news, that good news, that salvific news, that Gospel truth, to the world that Jesus Christ is with us, that our Lord, and our God, has come into our midst. This is just what the Kings did. This is just what the Apostles did. This is what our Holy Father, the Pope, and the Bishops do. This is what we are called to do: To receive Christ, to make him known to the world, and to continue the Epiphany, the manifestation, of the Lord in the world.

A New Way. When the wise men finished their worship of the new king, they were changed men because of their meeting the child Jesus and they would live new lives and travel new roads back to their people.

A Revelation. As I mentioned earlier, the word "Epiphany" means manifestation. Today Christ will manifest himself to us. He will reveal himself to us in the Holy Eucharist. After meeting Christ made manifest in the Eucharist, we need to do what those wise men did: We need leave here and go back a different way. We need to be open to God's grace, and to his most sacred will, We need to be strengthened by Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. And we need to, and we need to want to, shout to the ends of the earth that our Savior is among us.

MC not HH. It is Christ's Epiphany that must be the Epiphany of our Faith... as we make him known to the world. And this is why for us, Happy Holidays must never take the place of Merry Christmas -- the phrase Merry Christmas is a small way of making Christ known to others. It is an Epiphany statement. It is part of our Christian call to spread the good news.

Christmas, Unplugged? So, as we see signs of Christmas coming to an end: the trees in the trash, the unplugged lights, the wilting flowers and decorations, don't forget our Christian heritage, don't forget our Christmas heritage. Unplug your lights, but don't unplug your faith. Remember always, that Christmas isn't one day or one week for us. It is a whole season. It is time of rejoicing for the coming of our Savior as man, made manifest to us. It is a time of rejoicing His coming to Mary, His coming to Joseph, His coming as Israel's Messiah, and on this day, His manifesting himself to the Three Kings as the Savior of the World.

Epiphany Then and Now. On this Epiphany, and in the days ahead, make a point to pause from your daily busy-ness and stop and praise God, praise him in mighty kingdom, praise in his highest heaven, and praise him in the joy of your soul, that Jesus Christ's Epiphany wasn't a private matter for the tribes of Israel, but was rather, and amazingly, an Epiphany for all of us, and for all the world. In life and in faith, it is a truth that without the quest, without the journey, there can be no Epiphany. But more importantly, I tell you that the Truth, by which the world is held together, has sprung from the womb, in order to be carried in a mother's arms and made manifest to our world, for our salvation. Whether it is for just Three Kings in 1 A.D. or billions of Christians in 2024, today is the Epiphany of our Salvation.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor