



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 CHURCH

March 1, 2020

First Sunday of Lent

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-2 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-2 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:15, 11:00 am, 6 pm
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish
First Saturday, 5 pm, Children's Choir
Fourth Saturday, 5 pm, Gospel Choir
Alternate Sundays, 6 pm, Youth Choir

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Tuesday, Thursday-Friday, 6:30, 8 am
Wednesday, 8:15 am, Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday-Friday, 12:10 pm also
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day,
MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 4 pm, First Friday, 8:30 am
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am-Midnight

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 7 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Sunday, after 8:30 am Mass
Thursday, 6:30 pm

At that time Jesus
was led by the
Spirit into the
desert to be tempted
by the devil.



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 parish 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.

THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

1 SUNDAY *1st Sunday Lent*

HC 9 am, RCIA, MT/MK
 ICC 9 am, K of C Breakfast, hall
 ICC 9:40 am SRE classes
 HC Noon, LAFF, LK
 ICC 2:30 pm, Adolescentes, CC
 ICC 3:30 pm Jovenes,, Basement
 HC 3:30 pm, Confirmation Class, MT/MK

2 MONDAY

HC 8:45 am, Spirituality Group, LK

3 TUESDAY *St. Katharine Drexel*

HC 8:45 am, Science of Sainthood, MT
 HC 9 am, Focolare, LK
 ICC 1 pm, Exercise, hall
 ICC 6:30 pm, Juan XXIII, cc

4 WEDNESDAY *St. Casimir*

HC 9 am, Business Mgr. meeting, MT?MK
 ICC 10 am, SVDP, office
 ICC, Stations rehearsal, hall
 ICC 7 pm, Directiva, basement

5 THURSDAY

ICC, 1 pm, Exercise, Hall
 HC 7 pm, Columbiette State Mtg., LK

6 FRIDAY *First Friday*

HC 8:30 am, First Friday Devotions, CH
 HC 4 pm, Fish Dinner, PH
 HC 5:30 pm, Confessions, CH
 HC & ICC 7 pm, Stations, CH
 HC 7 pm, Foro Cristiano, LK

7 SATURDAY *St. Perpetua and Felicity*

HC 9 and Noon, 1st comm Retreat, PH

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

ending February 16

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$27,351	\$28,100	(\$749)
YTD	\$947,656	\$939,300	\$8,356
Needs	\$1,610	\$1,586	\$24

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending February 16

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,768
Second	\$448

Thank you for your offering. It is with your continued support and the sharing of your time and talent that the ministries, programs, and activities of Holy Cross and ICC are made possible.

“Whatever you give to the Lord, He will return to you a hundred fold.”

We have emailed contribution letters for 2019 to your email(s) on we have on file. If you do not receive one and would like it mailed to you, please contact Michele Dornberger at mdornberger@holycrossdover.org or call the Parish Office at 674 5787 ext 116.

Dear Parishioners,

About St. Thomas More Academy. It is with heavy heart and immense sadness that I have to inform you that due to financial circumstances created by lower than expected enrollment, and financial burdens beyond our ability to bear, St. Thomas More Academy (STMA) cease operations at the end of this school year. For many, this might not be too much of a surprise; it is not a mystery that a high school with only 48 students could not continue to operate indefinitely.

Holy Cross took over STMA in 2017 when the Diocese of Wilmington was planning to close it due to low enrollment. The idea was that a closer connection to the Parish would change trajectory of the school. This past year, it was my intention that if STMA could get to anywhere near 70 students and pick up a few significant benefactors, we could continue. But as of mid-February 2020, we had nowhere near 70 students lined up for next year; we looked on track to having only 35-or-less students for next year. And, while some financial generosity did pour forth, it was nowhere near the amount of what was needed to keep the school in operation.

Thus, I have the heartbreaking —but proper— decision to make to close the high school. As a former Principal of the high school, back in its hey-day when it had some 230 students, this is an especially painful announcement for me; I feel like the Tin Man in *The Wizard of Oz* when he said, “Now I know I have a heart because it’s breaking.”

For further reflection and information about this closure, I direct you to the column by Ms Rachael Caesey, on the St. Thomas More page elsewhere in this bulletin.

Baseball, Lent and Sacrifices. In baseball, a “sacrifice” (or “sacrifice bunt”) is defined as: a batter’s act of deliberately bunting the ball in a manner that allows a runner on base to advance to another base, while the batter himself doesn’t reach first base. In this course of action, the batter is almost always sacrificed. So, what exactly does he sacrifice? Many things: himself, his chance to get on base, his chance at a single, double, triple or homer, his stats, his time on the field of play, etc. But, in truth, he knows that when he commits to that sacrifice, he is doing a good thing, and the best thing for advancement to victory. He gains far more from that sacrifice than he loses.

Of Loss and Gain. The season of Lent, which began this past week on Ash Wednesday, is a time when we, as Catholics, are called to sacrifice in several ways. And just like a well-played sacrifice in the game of baseball, we, too, gain far more than we what we give up.

Benefits of Sacrifice. The sacrificial aspect of Lent, combined with almsgiving and prayer, allows us to properly prepare for that repentance and reflection and to be drawn closer to God. This is the season of Church year in which we take 40 days to pause, reflect, and prepare to turn back to the Lord – and repent from ways that have distanced us from God. Lent calls on us to abstain or sacrifice from things that might naturally be a predilection or temptation for us. Sacrifice during Lent occurs in

several ways:

- **Fasting.** We fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday; this means reducing our consumption of food and drink.
- **Abstinence.** On all Fridays in Lent, we abstain from meat, which, and yes, that includes my favorite McDonald’s burgers – though whether that truly qualifies as a meat, well the jury is out.
- **Personal Sacrifice.** There long-standing tradition in our faith of finding something during Lent to sacrifice – a small of way of showing God that you love Him so much and wish to share in his Son’s sacrifice so much, that you make your own sacrifice.

Why Sacrifice? Why do we Catholics sacrifice and fast during Lent? When did God ask anyone to sacrifice? And in scripture, didn’t God say he desires mercy and not sacrifice? Three great Lent related questions... and there is a simple answer, direct answer to all of them.

In the Beginning. There is a good basis for our sacrificial sense during Lent, and it is bound up in Scripture and Tradition, which teaches us that fasting assists us in avoiding the near occasion of sin. Where did this all begin? Well, it goes back to the very beginning of man. One of the very first commands that God gave to man was in the Garden of Eden when he told Adam and Eve to abstain for eating one specific fruit: “The LORD God gave the man this order: ‘You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil.’”

As St. Basil the Great said: “fasting was ordained in Paradise.” Now, we are all aware that the “Adam and Eve No Forbidden Fruit Diet Plan” didn’t work out for them... or us. We all suffer the affect of that original sin of man. Thus, fasting can be seen as a manner in which we work to restore friendship with God. Similarly, our Lenten sacrifices can be understood as a way of trying to overcome the temptation that felled Adam and Eve.

The New Covenant. In light of the New Testament and the New Covenant sealed in the Blood of Christ, we also, and more profoundly, understand that our sacrifices as a form of sharing in the sacrifice of Christ, who died that we might live. Christ shows us the value of sacrifice every time we gaze upon the crucifix. And so, as you commit to your Lenten sacrifices, meditate upon the depth of Christ’s sacrifice; in doing so, you will celebrate his victory over sin and death all the more when Easter arrives.

This Lent, as you sacrifice (fasting, abstinence, and personal sacrifice), don’t feel



that you are losing out on anything, but rather, like the bunting batter I spoke of, realize that you are gaining far more than you are giving up.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor
 Rev. Idongesit Etim Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Mano Salla Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn Pastor Emeritus
 Mr. Philip Belt Deacon
 Mr. John Harvey Deacon
 Mr. Robert McMullen Deacon
 Mr. Scott Peterson Deacon
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon
 Mr. James Tormey Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787
 Jane Green/Susan Cutrona 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
 Maryland, 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

ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

Catholic Education Grades 9 to 12
 302 697 8100
 saintmore.org

Rachael Casey Principal

MAILING ADDRESS

St. Thomas More Academy
 133 Thomas More Dr.
 Magnolia, DE 19962

PRO LIFE CORNER

- Help save lives of the unborn in Dover. Join Holy Cross and other local church groups in prayer each Friday morning from 9 AM – noon at Planned Parenthood of Dover.
- The **second trimester** -- Fetal development begins soon after conception. During the second trimester of pregnancy — from months four to six — you might feel better than you did at first. Now's the time to enjoy your pregnancy! During the second trimester, your baby might begin to seem more real. Second trimester signs and symptoms might include larger breasts, a growing belly and skin changes. For your baby, the second trimester often marks the ability to move and hear. By week 20, you'll be halfway into your pregnancy. Regular visits to your health care provider remain important during the second trimester. Tell your health care provider what's on your mind, even if it seems silly or unimportant.
- **Childfree people aren't the only ones getting abortions. Fifty-nine percent of women who have abortions have already given birth.**
- **About 40 Days for Life:** The 40 Days for Life Campaign is in progress, continuing through April 5th. Join us at Planned Parenthood to pray for an end to abortion whenever you are available. Sign up online at www.40daysforlife.com/dover or www.40daysdover.com.

RECENTLY DECEASED (HC)

Condolences to the families of our recently deceased: *Shelia M. Hickey, Robert J. Dunn, Constance Dougherty, James Dougherty, Mark Tigani, and David Baszkowski*

May the Souls of the Faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Lent would be the PERFECT time to start visiting the Adoration Chapel. Stop by to spend some time with our Lord. Visitors are always welcome.

READINGS FOR MARCH 8 2ND SUNDAY LENT

FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4

Abraham is called by the Lord to leave his home and travel to a new land where he and his descendants will be blessed.

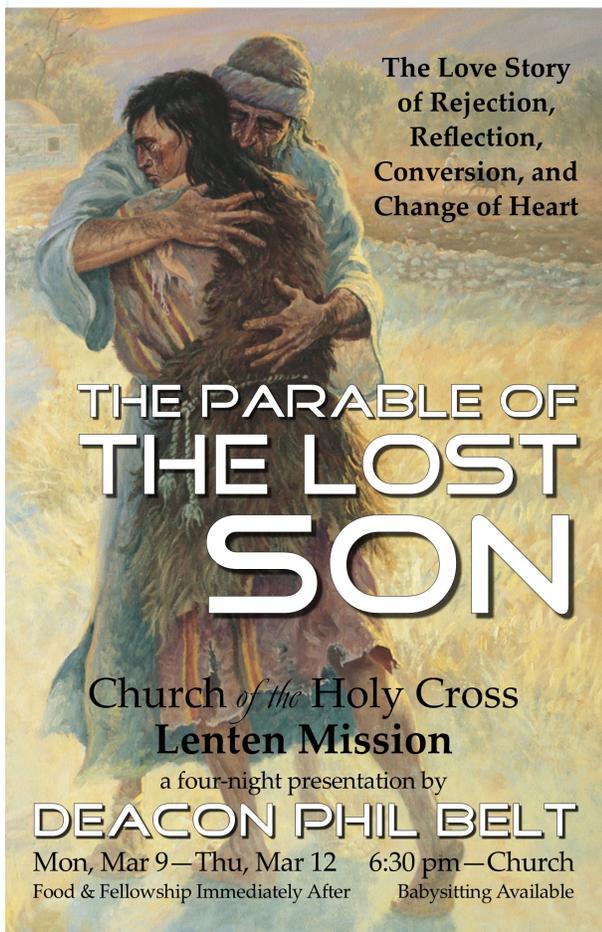
SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-10

St. Paul had to bear hardships for the sake of the Gospel, relying on the power of God, and invites us to be willing to do the same.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured in heavenly glory, along with the prophets Moses and Elijah.

PARISH MISSION : MARCH 9 - 12



The Love Story of Rejection, Reflection, Conversion, and Change of Heart

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

Church of the Holy Cross
Lenten Mission
a four-night presentation by
DEACON PHIL BELT
Mon, Mar 9—Thu, Mar 12 6:30 pm—Church
Food & Fellowship Immediately After Babysitting Available

MEN'S CONFERENCE (HC)

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP OF DEL-MARVA'S 1st ANNUAL MEN'S CONFERENCE
Theme: "The Holy Family – Your Holy Family"
Register now for the Catholic Men's Fellowship 1st ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Saturday, March 21, 2020, 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM at The Church of the Holy Cross, Dover, De. Speakers are Jesse Romero*, Father Ed Meeks*, Kevin Wells speaking live in Dover. Breakfast and Lunch included. For details, call 302-331-6935, e-mail CMFDelmarva@gmail.com. To Register go on line to Eventbright.com – tickets \$35.00/p or \$65.00 Father and Son (one ticket admits both) *indicates speaker livestreamed from Baltimore Conference

LAYMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND

In this day of frantic hustling, when the pace can be almost too much to bear, there is a place where a weekend can be quiet, peaceful, rich, and fulfilling. Think about it. The annual Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group weekend retreat is April 24-26, 2020 at beautiful St Joseph's-in-the-Hills, Malvern, Pa. For more information, please visit our web site at www.malvernretreat.com or call Deacon Bob McMullen@ 697-9714 or Don Crews@674-0944.

MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY/MARCH

2 MONDAY	
HC 6:30 am	Matthew & Mary Seben
HC 8:00 am	Msgr. Lloyd Aiken
12:10 pm	Dec. Members Vidmar Family
3 TUESDAY	
HC 6:30 am	Margie Musselman
HC 8:00 am	Marian Tamburello
HC 12:10 pm	Catherine Burke
4 WEDNESDAY	
HC 6:30 am	Steven Peer
HC 8:15 am	Louis V. Jara
HC 12:10 pm	Elpidio Unlayao Lescano
5 THURSDAY	
HC 6:30 am	Rose Gabing
HC 8:00 am	Charles Pitts
HC 12:10 pm	Kim Naylor
ICC 7 pm	For the People
6 FRIDAY	
HC 6:30 am	Robert Dunn
HC 8:00 am	Elizabeth D'Aguiello
HC 12:10 pm	Gloria Hernandez
7 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Robert Byres (LI)
HC 5 pm	John Bell, Jr.
8 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Joseph & Venturine Davino
ICC 8:30 am	William F. & Ann R. Sullivan
HC 9:15 am	Bob Kriss
HC 11 am	Bob & BeB Bresnahan (LI)
ICC 11 am	Margaret Clifford
HC 1 pm	John McGlynn
ICC 1 pm	For the People
HC 6 pm	Robert J. Gore

(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

TABERNACLE & SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS (MAR 1—MAR 7)

HC Adoration Chapel
HC Church

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION HOURS AVAILABLE (HC)

Our Lord is waiting for YOU to come spend an hour each week with Him. Please help us to fill some of the available hours. Contact JoAnn Pate 302-674-4496 for one of the hours listed below.

SUNDAY	11 am, 11 pm
MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	5 am, 5 pm, 11 pm
THURSDAY	7 am, 11 pm
FRIDAY	6 am, 10 pm
SATURDAY	5 am, Noon, 4 pm, 8 pm, 9 pm, 10 pm, 11 pm

faith in action

MASS MINISTERS

MAR 7/8

HOLY CROSS				
EMHC		SERVERS		
5:00 PM	D. DeVigili	J. Killman	A. Granitto	
	J. Clendaniel	K O'Neill	V. Granitto	
	J. Davis	M. Casey	J. Konrad	
	B. Holmes	R. Finsen	LECTORS	
	C. Helwig	F. Hettinger	R. Alderman	
	D. King		J. Cuyjet	
7:30 AM	H. Speed	A. Fischer	N. Umobi	
	K. Speed	M. Bailey	C. Umobi	
	J. Fischer	B. Fritzsche	E. Wadhams	
				LECTORS
			M. Cordalis	
			C. Cuffee	
9:15 AM	J. Chandler	G. Yourek	R. Gamsey	
	D. Diaz	C. Bugglin	D. Taniform	
	L. Stiller	D. Guido	K Taniform	
	K Kelly	K Coyle	LECTORS	
	V. Pepper	C. Jones	M. Sossich	
		T. Staniszewski	M. Sherlock	
11:00 AM	W. Aschenberg	D. Petka	M. Costa	
	R. Aschenberg	T. Petka	M Arranguez	
	P. Keller	R. Bratz	A. Costa	
	C. Robinson	R. Bratz	LECTORS	
	D. Lyons	C. Barnes	V. Viddy	
	K. Maddalena		J. Amoako	
1:00 PM	E. Pastoriza	T. Hernandez	J. Cortes	
	M. Richard	C. Valdes	E. Cortes	
	M. Pitti	LECTORS		
			D. Runzer	
			N. Almengor	
6:00 PM	D. Balcerak	M. Ratbun	A. Blackwell	
	R. Bracy	A. Wyllie	J. Blackwell	
	R. Katcher	M. Cacesse	K. Ford	
	R. Katcher	D. Novak	LECTORS	
	K. O'Neill	J. Zajac	TBD	
	T. Steir			
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION				
8:30 AM	B. Casey	M. Dixon	A. Clancy	
	LECTORS			
			Gerry Godfrey	
11:00 AM	L. Schlaupitz	P. Lardizzone	I. Meyer	
			S. Santizo	
	LECTORS			
			A. Poppiti	
1:00 PM	O. Roblero	R. Morales	B. Cuin	
	N. Capistran	D. Cuin	D. DeLeon	
	S. Morales	LECTORS		
			L. Ortiz	
			R. Cuin	

YOUNG AT HEART (HC)

Young at Heart Seniors will meet March 9 at the Early Learning Center in the Matthew/Mark room. Mr. Thomas Summers from the Delaware Archives will be our speaker. The topic is "More Treasures of the Delaware Public Archives. Featuring an array of unique documents and photographs that provide a look at life in Delaware from the 17th century to the present". These images tell the story of the First State and the people who have made Delaware their home. All seniors are welcome. Speaker begins at 11. Lunch is \$5.00. If the school is closed due to inclement weather we will not meet. If school is delayed we will still meet.

SOCCER COORDINATOR NEEDED

The CYM Spring Soccer program at Holy Cross is in need of a volunteer coordinator to run the spring program. We will not be able to offer this soccer program until we have a coordinator. Please contact the Athletic Director, Vincent Ortolani, at 410-585-7016 for more information and/or to volunteer.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday morning at 11:00 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, March 7th, we reach into the Catholic Forum archives and hear Lenten reflections from Father Joseph Cocucci, Pastor of Saint John Neumann Church in Berlin, Maryland; Father Michael Murray, Assistant Provincial for the Oblates of Saint Francis de Sales; Father Joseph McQuaide, Chancellor for the Diocese of Wilmington; and Monsignor J. Thomas Cini, retired Vicar General for the Diocese of Wilmington. After it airs, listen online anytime at www.cdow.org/CatholicForum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts.

COLLECTION COUNTERS (ICC)

- Mar 8 Elisa & Tom Costello
- Mar 15 Marilyn Dixon & Maurilio Gabriel
- Mar 22 Ann Lawson & Lulia Moore

CHURCH CLEANING CREW (ICC)

- MARZO 5 2020 GRUPO #3
Natalia Domingo, Victoriano Perez, Americo Garcia, Maria Garcia, Julio Hernandez, **Hayde Fuentes**
- MARZO 12, 2020 GRUPO #4
Marinda Escalante, Elias Gonzalez, Alfonso Perez, Oscar Roblero, Edgar Velasquez, Rubelina Ortiz

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT (ICC)

Saturday, March 28, 2020

11 AM – 5 PM

Immaculate Conception Church Hall

Cost \$20 per team (2 players per team)

1st & 2nd place prizes

Food and Beverages will be on sale.

Signups 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM in the Church Hall

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Any questions please contact Keith DeFrancesco at 302-382-9878.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Important notices:

ENGRAVED PAVERS. Orders for engraved pavers are due to the parish office no later than March 4th. Order forms are available on the table in the Gathering Space and at the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP. The clean-up is scheduled for March 9th and includes ALL Christmas decorations. Please remove items you wish to retain. Your cooperation is appreciated.

SAMARITAN NEEDS (HC)

The Samaritan Food Pantry is collecting items to help with our Easter Baskets that will be given away to needy families this Easter. The items

that are being requested are:

- HAMS 6, 8, 10, or 12 pounds
- Whole Chickens
- Pineapple Rings, Sweet Potatoes/Yams
- Canned Fruit
- Peas, Corn Green Beans, Mac and Cheese
- Rice, 1-2 pound bags
- Desert (Brownies)

Please leave perishable items in the freezer by the Samaritan pick up door and non perishable items can be left in the bins in the lobby of the Gathering Space. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

HOLY CROSS VOLLEYBALL (HC)

Tryouts: March 3, 2020

Time: 6 pm for 2nd grade thru 5th grade

Time : 6:45 pm for 6th grade thru 12th grade

Cost \$70 first child; \$40 each additional child in the same family. This is a Coed League; all games will be held at Holy Cross Gym. Games will be held on Saturday mornings. For additional information please call 302-270-9408.

SODALITY (HC)

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, March 8, at 12:30 pm on the second floor of the ELC building.

- La Parábola del Hijo Prodigio; La historia de Amor, Rechazo, Reflexión, Conversión y Cambio de corazón. Misión Parroquial en Holy Cross. Cuatro noches de presentaciones y crecimiento espiritual presentado por el Diácono Phil Belt. Comenzando el Lunes, 9 de marzo al jueves 12 de marzo a las 6:30PM en el Templo. Las presentaciones son en inglés. Habrá cuidado de niños y refrigerio después de las charlas.
- Vivamos nuestra Cuaresma como un Tiempo de renovación espiritual. Les invito a que hagan el compromiso de asistir los cuatro días a nuestra Misión Parroquial. Venga, ore, escuche, aprenda y viva el poder del perdón. Al igual que al hijo prodigo, Nuestro Padre celestial siempre nos perdona. Mandó a su Hijo a dar la vida por Ti y por Mí no porque lo merezcamos, sino simplemente por su infinito amor y misericordia, nos promete vida y vida en abundancia aceptas la invitación?
- Conozca su Fe católica venga todos los viernes al el Foro Cristiano comenzando el viernes, viernes 3 de enero, 2020, a las 6:30 de la tarde en el ELC la nueva serie " Symbolon. Más de 2000 años de enseñanza de la Fe católica explicada sistemáticamente y presentada en video.
- Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para la peregrinación con el Señor Obispo el sábado, 4 de abril, 2020 en Wilmington. La inscripción es \$15.00 y la transportación es \$10.00 si desea ir en el bus que saldrá a las 8:00de la mañana hasta las 8:00PM estaremos de regreso. Si usted desea participar en la Vía Crucis que muy pronto comenzaremos los ensayos para la ese día. Todos los jóvenes están invitados.
- Se necesita jóvenes para que se inscriban para la escenificación de la Vía Crucis. Los ensayos comenzaran el miércoles 4 de marzo, a las 7:00pm en el salón de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel. Si desea participar hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Directora del Ministerio Hispano de Holy Cross y la Inmaculada Concepción.
- Los Bautismos son los primeros domingos de cada mes, después de la Santa Misa en Español 2:30 pm. La clase pre-bautismales son los segundos domingos de cada mes. Los requisitos para ser padrinos tienen que ser Católicos practicante, y en comunión con la iglesia.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

REGULAR CCD CLASSES

Wednesday Classes

- Next Class March 4th.

Sunday Classes

- Next Class March 8th at 3:30pm-5:30pm

CONFIRMATION CLASS (HC)

Final Confirmation Class

Sunday, March 8 at 3:30 pm or Wednesday, March 11 at 6 pm

YOUTH CHOIR (HC)

If you would like to join the youth choir at 6 pm Mass twice monthly, please call the Parish office. In need of singers, piano, drums and guitar players. Please consider using your gifts and talents to share at Mass.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH (HC)

Meeting Saturday morning, March 14 in the school cafeteria to make Easter candy to place in the Samaritan Food Pantry baskets. Help needed - bring a friend 6 - 8 pm.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS (HC)

Join the Knights as we begin our Annual Fish Fry dinners in the Parish Hall every Friday during Lent. Meals begin at 4 pm and run through 7 pm. Please see the insert for more information.

RECONCILIATION (HC)

Holy Cross will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation every Friday during Lent starting at 5:30 pm. Use this time to prepare yourself for Lent.

SCIENCE OF SAINTHOOD (HC)

Do you want to get to heaven? The souls in heaven are saints and we are all called to sainthood. Join us Tuesday mornings during Lent, from 3/3 through 4/14, for Matthew Leonard's "The Science of Sainthood." We will meet from 8:45-9:45 am in the Luke room in the ELC. Great also for those seeking spiritual direction. For more information, you can contact Carol Bugglin at 674-3525.

SPIRITUALITY GROUP (HC)

Our regular ongoing Spiritual Support Group will be streaming Scott Hahn's *The Bible and the Church Fathers* Monday mornings during Lent at 9 a.m. in the ELC. All are welcome. Any questions, please contact Carol Bugglin at 674-3525.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

- Classes for Religious Ed are from 9:40 am to 10:50 am in classrooms.

SACRAMENTAL PREP (ICC)

First Communion: Tuesday, March 10, at 6:30-7:30 in the Hall.

Confirmation Prep: Next preparation class to be held on March 15, 2:30 to 5:00 pm.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED (ICC)

We need you. Have you been wondering how you can serve your parish? Call the office today, or ask Marilyn Dixon or Alicia Poppiti.

- Immaculate Conception is in need of Altar Servers, especially for the 8:30am Sunday Mass.
- Immaculate Conception is in need of Collection Counters.

ANSWER THE BISHOP'S CALL (ICO)

Bishop Malooly invites youth, young adults, and families from all parishes and schools to join him as we come together for the eleventh annual Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 4, 2020. Pilgrims from across the diocese will carry the diocesan pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wilmington with the Bishop as a representation of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and His journey on Good Friday to Calvary. The day begins at St. Elizabeth parish with opening prayer and a concert featuring *Out of Darkness* at 10:30 am. We conclude with the 5pm Mass at St. Elizabeth. Don't miss this great opportunity to wrap up your Lenten journey with hundreds of your peers. Cost for the day is \$15 per person or \$45 max per family (bring your own lunch). To register, please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939. Bus transportation is available on first come basis, and registration is due with Pilgrimage. Registration is available through Mrs. Poppiti and deadline is March 22, 2020.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS (ICC)

The next meeting Tues, March 10, at 7pm in the Knights Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. Membership is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practicing Catholics. For more info, contact Grand Knight, Keith DeFrancesco at weldaway@msn.com.



Join us for our next breakfast on March 1

Remember to change clocks AHEAD one hour on March 8.

Daylight Savings Time Begins!!

It is no secret that I possess a true fancy for structure and routine. Ironically, in my current occupation I experience anything but structure and routine. No one can possibly predict a day's events despite a meticulously maintained daily calendar. (Thank you, Mrs. Stant)

There is one sort of routine that Holy Cross has settled into, however. One that I particularly enjoy, and one that I hope the students eagerly anticipate; is where we recognize excellence and achievement by one of our own following weekly Mass. There is always an individual or group of students that have performed remarkably in one fashion or another bearing celebration.

This past week was no exception. We had much to yahoouoo about! We are so proud of Samuel S. for his award winning essay written in defense of the Pro-Life movement. Mrs. Bolton's fourth graders wrote essays for submission into a contest sponsored by the Culture of Life Studies with the contest theme being The Visitation. Of the five hundred or so third-fourth grade submissions, Samuel's essay was awarded a third place ribbon. It is a beautifully crafted essay much worthy of sharing. I hope you find the same expressiveness and conviction in his tender words that I found.

Pre-born babies should have the right to life. My religion book tells us that life is not a gift we keep for ourselves because it always belongs to God. Every person belongs to God. God created all life out of love, so ALL life is precious to God, even tiny babies still inside their mothers. Their life belongs to God too. God tells us in the Fifth Commandment to respect life and protect it: you shall not kill.

Once, I was a pre-born baby and so was anyone who is reading this article. It makes me sad that a lot of babies didn't get to see the beauty of this wonderful world. God made this beautiful world for everyone, even pre-born babies. Some of my favorite things in the world are books, writing comics, and playing football. When I grow up, I hope to be a professional football player. Every human should have the right to have favorite things and grow up to be who they want to be. Those pre-born babies could have been a librarian who helps people in the library, or an EMS responder who helps people in need, or a construction worker who builds our towns and houses? The world would be cheated without them. In the Gospel of Luke, Luke 1:41 tells about Mary visiting Elizabeth. He says, "During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greet-

ing, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit... As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy." Elizabeth's unborn baby, John the Baptist felt the presence of Jesus in Mary's womb. This means that pre-born babies are alive too. They can sense the world around them. Could you imagine if Mary had said no to the Angel Gabriel? Jesus would not have been born. I can help to build a culture that respects life by learning and teaching others about following the Fifth Commandment. At my school, Holy Cross School, we have a cross garden to remember pre-born babies who have died in Delaware. We also marched down to Delaware's capital, Dover, to celebrate Pro-Life month in October. Plus, when I get to eighth grade I hope to go to Washington D.C. with my classmates to participate in the March for Life to speak out in support of pre-born babies. I can participate in building a culture by taking an active leadership role in these events.

Samuel S.
Grade 4, Holy Cross School

Following Samuel's essay reading I invited Mr. Seams to the podium. Mr. Seams, our Gym teacher and AD extraordinaire began by telling everyone he had a little bragging to do. He did say that we are taught to be humble, but that he was very proud of the boys and girls basketball team performances at the most recent Capital Classic. Despite the girl's stellar season and admirable court performance, they did not enjoy the same success as our boys' team. Our boys' team, coached by Mr. Bieker and Mr. Pate walked away from the annual tournament undefeated!! In a nail biting third game coming down to the final buzzer, our boys showed grit and determination—working the court as the team they've been trained to be—in overtime with the ball in the possession of Holy Cross School.....Quentin A. sunk a three point shot and that was ALL she wrote!!!

Man!! Put the humility in a sack! We are some proud Crusaders!!! Pierce C. and Mark B. received extra special recognition for their amazing play and (naturally) Quentin A. was voted MVP. As I told everyone before we went back to class, "Last weekend, the word hero began with a "Q".

#crusaderproud

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you to share news I very much wish I didn't have to share. Saint Thomas More Academy, after educating more than 800 students since 1998, will be permanently closing its doors at the conclusion of the school year. The Class of 2020 will be its final graduating class.

As sad as it makes me to share this news, it is undoubtedly sadder news to receive. I regret that the Class of 2020, during a time of celebration and moving forward to the next stage of life will also have to reconcile with the fact that they, along with the 19 classes of graduates before them, will not be able to return to STMA for future musical productions, sports games, or alumni events. I regret that our underclassmen, my freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, cannot reach the culmination of their high school career here at STMA. To be the one to shake their hands and turn their tassels as they receive their diplomas will be a great honor I'm sad to pass on to another principal at a different school. I regret that their parents, who make sacrifices to pay tuition and who have been immense cheerleaders for our school, will not be able to partner with STMA for their children's education any longer. I regret that the promising young elementary and junior high school students we'd gladly welcome into the classes of future Ravens will not have the opportunity to share in our special school community. I regret that we cannot continue the good work of the founders of Saint Thomas More Academy, which we have been so proud to build on with our students every day. I regret that my dedicated and caring staff will have to move on to new jobs in new schools.

I am consoled by the fact that my soon-to-be graduates in the Class of 2020 are going to thrive in the larger world beyond our walls. I am heartened by the fact that so many of our alumni keep close ties to their friends and their values from their days at STMA, trusting that the Class of 2020 will continue in that tradition. I am consoled by the fact that the 34 students currently enrolled in grades 9-11 at STMA have the character to face challenges with Christian confidence. I have watched them mature academically, socially, and spiritually during their time at STMA, and if any group can face a transition such as this, it is this group. I know they will find success. I am consoled by the fact that God rewards faithful stewards; he will bless the founders, sup-

porters, and staff of this school for their love of him and this, his school.

I am grateful for the time we have had to offer Catholic high school education in the southern part of our state. I am grateful for our founders, who made significant personal sacrifices of time and funds to see that our children had a local option for Catholic high school. Their vision was not achieved easily, and I pray that God pours out his blessings upon them for their faith. I am grateful for those who have stepped forward to volunteer as part of our most recent campaign to raise funds and increase enrollment, notably Mr. and Mrs. Brian Lessard and their family. The school has not had longer-standing friends than it has in the Lessards. I am grateful for the full and generous support of our shepherd, Bishop Malooly, and his staff and our educational leader, Superintendent Dr. De Angelo, and his staff. I am distinctly grateful to our Pastor, Father Lentini, who has served as chaplain, teacher, principal, and now pastor of STMA. His efforts to see our school through periods of change in administration, enrollment, and financial hardship were herculean. He has been a true champion for Saint Thomas More Academy, especially in our most challenging times.

I am grateful for the gifts Saint Thomas More Academy has given to me. I am sad to move on. I grieve that I was unable to steer our school toward a long and prosperous future. I am proud to have been a part of such a caring and inspiring community. Thank you to all who have given me guidance, support, and trust. I am forever grateful.

I have one request of you: please, as you process this news, also commit to helping me seek out ways to honor our school, to celebrate what we've experienced together, and to bring this school year to its best conclusion. As a Catholic people of hope, we must cherish what STMA has been, and the future our students will find. Our patron Saint Thomas More professed, "I am the king's good servant - but God's first." Let's remember that we can be God's servants no matter in what situation or where we may find ourselves. We will rely on your prayers.

Yours in Christ

Rachael A. Casey
Principal

