



CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmaryl.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

December 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

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

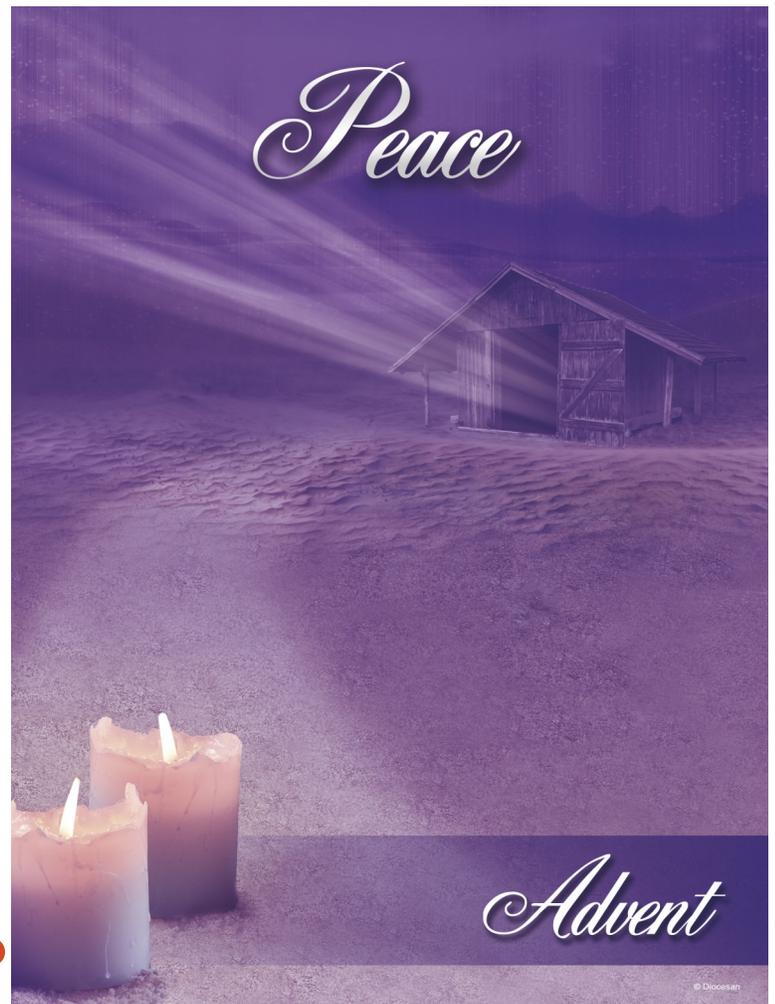
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 7 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



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)

8 SUNDAY

HC 9 am, RCIA, MT/MK
 ICC 9:40 am, SRE, classrooms
 ICC 9 am, K of C breakfast, hall
 HC 12:30 pm, Sodality, LK
 ICC 2:30 pm, Adolescentes, CC
 HC 3:30 pm, Confirmation Class, MT/MK
 ICC 3:30 pm, Jovenes, Church Basement

9 MONDAY

Immaculate Conception

HC 8:45 am, Spirituality Group, LK
 HC 11 am, Young at Heart, MT/MK
 HC, 7 pm, Deanery Penance Service, CH

10 TUESDAY

ICC 1 pm, Exercise Class, Hall
 ICC 6:30 pm, 1st Prep, hall
 ICC 7 pm, Juan XXIII, cc
 HC 7 pm, Adult Ed, MT/MK

11 WEDNESDAY

St. Damasus I

HC 9 am, Adult Ed, LK
 HC 6 pm, Confirmation Class, MT/MK
 HC 11 pm, Mananitas, CH

12 THURSDAY

Our Lady of Guadalupe

ICC 1 pm, Exercise Class, Hall
 HC 7 pm, Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Fiesta

13 FRIDAY

St. Lucy

HC 8:45 am, School confessions, CH
 CC 7 pm, band practice

14 SATURDAY

St. John of the Cross

ICC 9 am, 1st Reconciliation Retreat, Hall
 HC 4 pm, Lock In, MT/MK

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

ending November 24

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$31,812	\$28,200	\$3,612
YTD	\$589,631	\$591,880	(\$2,249)
Needs	\$1,939	\$1,586	\$353

Please Note: In a cost savings effort we have stopped envelope delivery for inactive envelope users. This will be effective January 2020.

If your envelopes stopped being delivered but you would like to use them, please contact the Parish Office or email mdornberger@holycrossover.org.

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

ending November 24

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,958
Second	\$379

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.”

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend the Church observes the Second Sunday of Advent on December 8 – which is also the designated date of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. However, due to the protected nature of Sundays in Advent (i.e., they can't be superseded), the Immaculate Conception is bumped to Monday, and thus, loses its Obligatory status this year.

Basic Theology. That being said, the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a hugely important event in salvation history, and so, while we won't be observing it as a Holy Day of Obligation, the story of that day and what it recounts is important. The Immaculate Conception celebrates the conception of Mary in the womb of St. Ann, wherein by God's prevenient grace, Mary was preserved from the stain of original sin which was handed down to us from our Adam and Eve by their disobedience to God. This made Mary the perfect one to bear the Christ child, as Jesus would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary – no sin from, if you would, either side of the family!

The Blessed Mother's Mother and Father. You may wonder, "Well, that's the theological premise of this Holy Day, but is there a human story that goes with this?" And the answer is "Yes!" And in this column, I will share the back story to this special day. The story of the Immaculate Conception is bound up in the story of Ss. Ann and Joachim, the grandmother and grandfather of Jesus, and the parents of Mary. Their story is drawn from the Sacred Tradition of the Church, and from the ancient texts called the Proto Evangelium of St. James and the Gospel of Pseudo Matthew; these tell the story of the events that led to Mary's Immaculate Conception in the womb of St. Ann.

Ann-*other* Story. As they say at the start of The Brady Bunch, "Here's the story of a lovely lady." In our case the lovely lady is Ann; she was born in Bethlehem (where our Lord would be born). Ann was faithful to God and raised in the morals and the faith of Judaism ... and in that faith children were considered very important. In the first century B.C. Joachim, a shepherd, was a faithful Jew and a member of the tribe of Judah. He was born in Nazareth (where our Lord would be raised) and was faithful to God and famously generous to the poor. Because of this God always blessed him with a healthy flock. Yadda, yadda, yadda, Ann and Joachim met, and at the age of twenty Joachim took Ann as his wife. Both were members of the tribe of Judah, of the family of David.

Meanwhile, 20 Years Later. After twenty years of marriage, Ann and Joachim had not had any children. They prayed and prayed and vowed to dedicate to God's service any child they would have. Year upon year, they went to the Temple to plead with God for help. But no child came. This was a great trouble for people of this era, as children were a sign of a blessing from God (and this was even before they became tax deductions).

On the Lamb. Once during the holy festival period,

Joachim went to the Temple so that he could be there as incense was offered to the Lord. But one of the priests of the Temple, Ruben, told Joachim he could not stay in the temple for this rite, because God had not blessed him with children -- and therefore was not favored by God. Joachim felt crushed and fled from the Temple, weeping. He was so embarrassed and crestfallen that he didn't go home to his wife, but rather gathered up the flock and fled to the countryside for months (I guess you could say he was on the "lamb").

Angel of the Morning. Ann didn't hear from her husband for five long months and was distressed. She lamented, "Lord, why have you who haven't given me children, taken my husband from me also. It is five months, Lord, and I don't know where he is." One morning she ran weeping to the Temple courtyard and threw herself on the ground and prayed. As she arose, she saw a sparrow's nest, and then looked up to God and said, "The birds build nests for their young, yet I have no child of my own. You know that when I married Joachim, I promised you that should I have a child I would offer them to you and give them to the service of the Temple." As Ann said these words, an Angel of the Lord appeared unto her, and said: "Be not afraid, Ann, the Lord has heard your prayer. You shall conceive a child whom the whole world will praise... all generations shall be in wonder of your blessed child. Go to the Golden Gate [city gate] in Jerusalem and meet your husband there." Ann speedily ran to the city Gate.

Go Tell It on the Mountain. Meanwhile, the same Angel appeared to Joachim on the mountainside and told him, "Don't be afraid. I have come to tell you the Lord has heard your prayers. God will give your wife a child just as he did Sarah, the wife of Abraham... Your wife Ann will bear you a daughter. You shall call her Mary and dedicate her to God, for she will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the moment of her conception in her mother's womb... So, go [and] meet your wife at the Golden Gate of the City." Joachim gathered the flock, and speedily made his way to the city Gate.

Nine Months Later. At the city gate Ann waited, and when she caught sight of Joachim, she ran to him and hugged him and exclaimed: "I was a widow, and now behold I am not so. I was barren and behold I may have a child." And so, Ann and Joachim, embraced and returned home, and nine months later the child Mary was born, on September 8, born without the taint of original sin, having been immaculately conceived in the womb of St. Ann. The dawn of our redemption was at hand.

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
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

ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

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

Rachael Casey	Principal
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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.
- What does your baby look like now? Follow your baby's development week by week, from conception to labor. Labor and Delivery: Meeting your baby for the first time is so exciting – but exactly what will lead up to that moment is unpredictable, and it's natural to feel nervous. Here's some help as you prepare for the big day. Find out how you'll know you're in labor and what to expect from delivery, understand your childbirth choices, and more.
- About 40 Days for Life: Father we pray, throughout the 40 Days campaign, we have done battle with the power of evil, and therefore we can have compassion on those still within its grip. We have been freed from the kingdom of darkness, and therefore we can bear witness to your Kingdom of Light. May the witness of all your people through the 40 Days for Life campaigns bear abundant fruit.

"It seems to me clear as daylight that abortion would be a crime." – Gandhi

SAMARITAN FOOD BASKETS

Thank you to all who contributed for our Thanksgiving Basket. Now it is time to start collecting for our Christmas Baskets to help the needy. We will be accepting turkeys (which can be left in the freezer in the Samaritan room), and all the canned goods to go with it to make a great Christmas dinner (instant potatoes, beans, corn, pudding, cranberry sauce, gravy, etc.). Canned items can be left in the bin off the Gathering Space of the church. Thank you again for your help.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 15

THIRD SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-6, 10

The prophet looks forward to a day when those who are blind will see, those who are deaf will hear and those who are lame will "leap like a deer."

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

Be patient, says the writer. Take the example of a farmer waiting for the crop to ripen. Impatience will not hasten the Lord's return.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

In prison and nearing death, John sends messengers to ask who Jesus is; Jesus replies that John must read the signs for himself.

YOUNG AT HEART (HC)

Our Young at Heart will meet on December 9, at 11:00 a.m. in the Early Learning Center in the Matthew/Mark room. This is the annual Christmas cover dish luncheon and there is **no charge**. Deacon Vince will be our speaker and Christmas music will be provided by Mr. & Mrs. James Frazier. Thank you to all who made our Thanksgiving luncheon a success. Should school be delayed opening we will still meet but if school is closed because of the weather we will not be meeting.

MEN OF HOLY CROSS (HC)

Are you a male between the ages of 18 and 99? Do you wish to learn more about prayer, faith and your vocation? Do you want to become a stronger father, husband or son? Do you want to build lasting friendships with like-minded men?

Join the Men of Holy Cross for our weekly meetings: Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM at the Early Learning Center in the Luke Room (second floor) for prayer, timely discussions on current events, Church teachings and good fellowship. We are looking forward to welcoming all new members. For more information contact call 302-313-6935 or e-mail MenOfHolyCross@gmail.com.

CAPITAL RINGERS

The Presbyterian Church of Dover is hosting the ringers on December 8 at 4 pm. for a Christmas concert of favorites and new songs. They have the largest set of handbells and chimes in Delmarva.. \$15 per person, free under 18.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Warm the longer nights with candlelight. For some couples, however, dark nights bring depression. If you are among those who are currently struggling in your marriage, turn to the power of prayer as one resource.

PARENTING POINTERS

As Christmas approaches help your children prepare by urging them to choose at least one of their possessions to give away to someone who needs it more than they do.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER—MARRIED COUPLES

Want to give a gift that keeps on giving? A gift filled with Romance and Excitement? Enrich your relationship by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend on March 6-8, 2020 in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more information visit our website at www.wwme-delmar.org or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302 220 9833.

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER

9 MONDAY

HC 6:30 am Carlos F. Reyes
HC 8 am Mike Belcastro

10 TUESDAY

HC 6:30 am Alice McGlynn
HC 8 am Doris Tate

11 WEDNESDAY

HC 6:30 am Gumersindo Torres Figueroa
HC 8:15 am Gabrielle Maddalena

12 THURSDAY

HC 6:30 am Denis J. O'Brien
HC 8:00 am Claudia Zuchowski

13 FRIDAY

HC 6:30 am Therese M. Stump
HC 8 am Stanley Evans

14 SATURDAY

HC 8 am James T. Bowers
HC 5 pm John Rigo

15 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am William J. & H. Virginia Miller
ICC 8:30 am James and Elizabeth Griffith
HC 9:15 am Ed Furjanic
HC 11 am Dorothy Lan
ICC 11 am Elizabeth Leister
HC 1 pm For the People
ICC 1 pm For the People
HC 6 pm Eileen Martin

(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

TABERNACLE & SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS (DEC 8—DEC 14)

HC Adoration Chapel Claudia Zuchowski
HC Church Dorothy Lanaras

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, 4 pm, 11 pm
MONDAY
TUESDAY None
WEDNESDAY 5 am, 5 pm, 11 pm
THURSDAY 7 am, 4pm, 8 pm
FRIDAY 10 pm
SATURDAY Noon, 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm, 9 pm, 10 pm, 11 pm

MASS MINISTERS DEC 14/15

HOLY CROSS

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM	F. Ernst	T. Dupuis	G. Coyle
	S. Coghlan	C. O'Donnell	J. Tinger
	L. Accalagoon	M. Casey	D. Song
	M. Hitch	R. Coppadge	LECTORS
	A. Hunter	V. Pearl	
	F. Hettinger	H. Showell	
		L. Christiansen	

7:30 AM	S. Hands	J. Salamone	A. Szell
	P. Sheldodn	M. Bailey	R. Kovaric
	D. Marthaler	T. Walsh	S. Kovaric

LECTORS

F. Spartz
E. Outten

9:15 AM	B. Holmes	G. Wessel	K. Gardnet
	S. Lascano	A. Hlafka	R. Poliquin
	S. Ford	T. Arndt	E. Wadhams
	P. Ford	R. Wiley	LECTORS
	M. MacLeish	M. Malloy	
	L. Olmsted	K. Meire	
		P. Jones	

11:00 AM	P. Johnson	P. Huffman	C. Cannon
	N. West	M. Rogerts	J. Novak
	B. Whitworth	R. Seiga	J. Novak
	A. Marano	B. Richards	LECTORS
	F. Deeney	G. Richards	
	M. Miller		
		C. Barnes	
		P. McCall	

1:00 PM	M. Ramirez	R. Dosman	F. Rangel
	C. Valdes	E. Pastorize	J. Cortes
	A. Luna		LECTORS
		F. Mendoza	
		M. Neyra	

6:00 PM	V. Balcerak	R. Kosier	A. Payus
	D. Balcerak	K. Boyer	L. Payus
	L. Darling	R. Bracy	C. Darline
	D. Darling	R. Katcher	LECTORS
	T. Steir	R. Katcher	
		K. O'Neill	

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	K. Durham	S. Bell	A. Clancy
			LECTORS
		T. Thompson	

11:00 AM	G. Taraila	L. Schlaupitz	I. Meyer
			J. Santizo
			LECTORS
		L. Soule	

1:00 PM	A. Escalante	F. Perez	J. Ortiz
	A. Velasquez	A. Perez	S. Ramirez
	M. Lopez		LECTORS
		H. Fuentes	
		J. Diaz	

GIVING TREE (HC)

Help those in need this Christmas by taking a tag from our tree. **Items must be returned to the Gathering Space, Christmas wrapped, with the tag taped to the front of the package by Sunday, December 15,**



so they can be sorted and prepared to distribute to the proper families. If you buy clothing, please insert a gift receipt with it in case it does not fit the person. Thank you for your generosity during this blessed holiday season.

SAMARITAN TREE (HC)

If you don't want to buy presents but still wish to donate something to help those in need, you can take an envelope from our Samaritan Tree. It will contain envelopes to make a donation for the Samaritan Food Pantry. These envelopes can be put into the collection basket, mailed to the Parish Office, or handed directly to the priest at mass. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday morning at 11:00 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, December 14th, Sharon Ward, coordinator of Native American Ministry for the Diocese of Wilmington, will discuss here new children's Christmas book, "All the Animals Gave Their Gifts." After it airs, listen online anytime at www.cdow.org/CatholicForum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Catholicforum.

NEWLY BAPTIZED (HC)

Welcome to our newly baptized members:

- Jack Parker Harvey
- Alexander Betancourt Alcantara

COLLECTION COUNTERS (ICC)

December 15, Robin & Paul Engstenberg
December 22, Tom and Mary McGowan
December 29, Elisa and Tom Costello

CHURCH CLEANING CREW (ICC)

DICIEMBRE 12 GRUPO #6

Santos Juarez, Arturo Ramirez, Eva Bravo, Hermina Bravo, Paulina Morales, Silvia Ramirez
 DICIEMBRE 19 GRUPO #7

Fausto Ortiz, Everilda Perez, Jose Luis Ortiz, Idonlina Perez, Guillermo Ortiz, Bersy Perez

PARISH DIRECTORY ORDERS (HC)

If you didn't have your picture taken for the directory but would like a copy, you can purchase one for \$15.00. We will only order additional directories if they are prepaid. You can come by the Parish Office to leave your name and payment, and we will be happy to order a directory for you. This is the LAST week you can order a directory.

RETROUVAILLE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriage through Retrouvaille (Retro-VIE). If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program please pass it on. Couples learn to build communications skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program in your area begins on the weekend of February 21-23 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Another weekend will be held in April. For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our web site at: www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215 766 3944. All inquiries are confidential.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA (HC)

Holy Cross will host its annual breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 15 after the 7:30 and 9:15 am Masses. Cost is only \$2 for children, ages 2-12 and \$5 for adults; \$15 family. Come enjoy!!



USHERS (HC)

All current ushers are asked to attend a meeting on **Monday, December 16, at 7 pm**, on the second floor of the Early Learning Center Building. We will be discussing the Christmas Schedule a where we will need much help and other important issues. Anyone interested in joining our team of ushers is also welcome to attend. We can certainly use your help at our Masses.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Join us at Holy Cross on Thursday, December 12, at 7 pm for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass. Following Mass, there will be a Fiesta held in the Gymnasium with music, food, and great entertainment. All are invited and encouraged to come.

- La Fiesta en honor a nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe comenzará el día miércoles, 11 de diciembre a las 10:00 de la noche con el rezo del santo Rosario y las mañanitas. El día jueves, 12 de diciembre, la santa Misa seguido por la procesión al Tatman gimnasio para la gran fiesta, Todos están invitados.
- Queremos agradecer a los padrinos de la Fiesta en honor a Nuestra Sra. de Guadalupe 2019; Familia Cortes-Betancourt, Familia Betancourt-Alcántara Familia Betancourt- Mejía Familia González-Benítez, López-Rivera, Familia Cárdenas-Sarabia, Familia Aguayo-De La Paz.
- Las Posadas comienzan el lunes, 16 de diciembre con la primera posada en la iglesia de Holy Cross después continuaremos en la cafetería. Nuestro sincero agradecimiento a las familias que nos acogen en sus hogares.

Lunes 16, de Diciembre: Nombre: La Parroquia, Padre Etim Iglesia/Cafetería, 631 South State St. Dover DE 19901

Martes 17, de Diciembre: Nombre :Familia Gerónimo-Ramírez- Dirección: 139 Carnation Dr. Magnolia DE

Miércoles 18, de Diciembre: Nombre: : Gómez, González, Guzmán, Pitti 5792 West Denney Rd. Dover, DE 19904

Jueves 19, de Diciembre: Nombre: Sol Ruiz, María Martínez 105 Holstein Dr, Clayton, DE 19938

Viernes 20, de Diciembre: Nombre: :Mary Atilano y Mireya Rodríguez Dirección:7 Saxton Rd. Dover, DE 19901

Sábado 21, de Diciembre: Nombre: Familias Cortes,

Betancourt, Benítez Dirección 2381 White Oak Rd. Dover DE 19901

Domíngo 22, de Diciembre: Nombre: Familia Morales Dirección: 5 Pinewood Acres Ave., Dover, DE 19901

Lunes 23, de Diciembre: Nombre: Familia Serrano Dirección: 66 Roberts Dr. Dover DE 19901

Martes 24, de Diciembre: Iglesia La Santa Misa de Nochebuena 8:45 PM

- Conozca su Fe católica venga todos los viernes al el Foro Cristiano comenzando el viernes, 4 de octubre, 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. Empezaremos con los Sacramentos, Bautismo y Confirmación.
- Después de las clases compartiremos algo ligero de comer y pasar un momento en comunidad familia. Venga y únete a nosotros traiga toda la familia.
- Confirmación de Adultos será el 15 de diciembre, durante la misa en español, si usted no está confirmado, llame a la oficina del Ministerio Hispano, para anotarse para las clases.
- 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

Wednesdays– December 11, 6–7:30 pm (no CCD December 18 or 25)

Sundays – Class December 15, 3:30 –5:30 pm.;
Next class will be January 12)

Reminder: Parents are to walk their children to the classroom and pick them up from the classroom. Please do not drop children at the door.

ADULT FORMATION (HC)

Advent is here! Holy Cross is currently holding the class Advent: Preparing for Christ Cycle A. Classes are held on Tuesdays at 7pm or Wednesdays at 9:30am in the Matthew/Mark room in the Early Learning Center upstairs. The upcoming dates are:

- Tuesday evenings: December 10th, 17th
 - Wednesday mornings: December 11th, 18th
- If you are interested in attending, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or calling (302) 6745787 X 122.

CONFIRMATION CLASS (HC)

Sunday, December 8, at 3:30 pm

Wednesday, December 11, at 6 pm

Classes will resume January 5 and January 8.

Please have your Sponsor Form signed and returned at the first class in January.

MOUNT 2000 RETREAT (HC)

February 7-9, 2020 at Mt. St. Mary's University. All high school

teens are welcome to join

us on this awesome weekend retreat with teens from Delaware, Maryland and surrounding states. Cost is \$100. Please contact

Mrs. Darling for instructions on registering.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH (HC)

Lock In: December 14 from 6 pm - fun night of service and comradery. We will assist with the Giving Tree gifts, have food, games and movie. In the morning, we host Breakfast with Santa - your help is needed in decorating, serving and hosting our young people who come to visit Santa. PLEASE let Mrs. Darling know you plan to attend.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

- Classes run from 9:40-10:50 am on Sunday
- Parent Reminder: Parents are to walk their children to the classroom and pick them up from the class-room. Please do not drop children in parking lot or at the door.

SACRAMENTAL PREP (ICC)

Confirmation: Sponsor/Padrinos Meeting is Noon on Sunday, December 15 in the Hall. Next session for youth is Sunday, December 15, beginning at 2:30 in the hall.

Registration needed for Mount! Please contact Mrs. Poppiti at the office and come into register! Do this as soon as possible

First Reconciliation Prep: Next session is on Tuesday, December 10, from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Retreat will be on Saturday, December 14 from 9 to Noon in the hall.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY (ICC)

The ICC Prayer Shawl Ministry will be meeting between the 8:30 am and 11 am Masses in the church hall on the following dates: December 8 and 22. We are currently making hat and scarf sets for boys and girls, women and men. You are welcome to join us! If you can't attend our meetings, but would like to donate hat and scarf sets, you can drop them off to us by our deadline on December 8.

ATTENTION LECTORS (ICC)

Lector Books are in the office. Please pick up your copy today.

K OF C (ICC)

The date for the next K of C breakfast is on December 8.



WANTED (ICC)

Person or persons to coordinate the Annual Penny Party at Immaculate Conception. All information will be given to you, and you will be "trained". Many hands work this event and they are in need of a new leader. Please contact ICC office at 410 482 7687 if interested. Thank you.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE (HC & ICC)

Make plans now to attend our Deanery Advent Reconciliation Service to be held at Holy Cross on **Monday, December 9, beginning at 7 pm.** Many visiting priests will join our parish priests to hear confessions that evening. Make yourself ready for Christmas by going to reconciliation.



MRS. POLLITT'S PONDERINGS

"If I am nothing in this world, I am a creature of routine. I get up every morning of the school week at the same time; my morning routine prior to my departure for school is the same, my route to and from school never changes; I go to bed at the same time every night. There is inner peace when a body settles into a routine.

I have had the same hair dresser for over twenty years. Her name is Tracey. She knows me rather well, she knows my husband....she used to cut his hair (when he still had some); and her father-in-law buys summer produce from my father-in-law's produce stand! Talk about your six degrees of separation! Now, Tracey knows that I always prefer the first appointment of the day. It's early in the morning when I walk in the salon, but it's just she and I. It's quiet. No beauty shop chatter...I really have little to no tolerance for it. She knows and respects that. However, in the past few months I have opted for a slightly later appointment in favor of a few more minutes of sleepy time on Saturday morning.

This past Saturday morning my appointment was scheduled for 8:45. That's too late for me to avoid the chatter. And chatter there was...I can tell you how many vehicles one of the stylists has in her yard (6); all with high mileage and most in need of repair. I can also tell you where she and her husband are looking to purchase their seventh vehicle! I can tell you where her client will be having her holiday dinner, and that she will NOT be traveling over Christmas. Really, can't people just speak in hushed tones? Another client went on to tell her stylist that she had just suffered through a tough week and she was there to be pampered. *Pampered!* Really!? As far as I'm concerned I'm there for *maintenance*. Let's get this done; I've got things to do!

Well, somewhere along the line I heard someone across the room ask "Has the elf made its appearance yet?" There came a quick response..."NO! Not yet." I knew exactly what they were talking about. I'm not sure I get the whole concept of the Elf on the Shelf...but I know it's all part of the Christmas fun. As the conversation continued the stylist and her client enthusiastically discussed not only the elf and all the highjinx she had planned for it, but also to the child's belief in Santa Claus. The child is eleven years old. I can tell you what her Christmas dress looks like, (blue, with a frilly skirt) and I can also relate that her mother is going to have to be particularly vigilant this year because the child has a cousin who is a "non-believer"

and she really wants her daughter to have at least one more Christmas where she believes in Santa Claus, so she is going to have to keep them apart from one another. As Tracey was running a very soothing hot water rinse through my few thin hairs, I was nothing but a captive audience before these two silly women who were in complete agreement with one another that memories for a lifetime were being created by perpetuating a belief in Santa Claus and the daily elf ritual.

When I returned to Tracey's station for more "pampering", I asked her if I had missed it, or was there not one single reference to the birth of the Christ Child; to the holiness of the season? There is a definite sadness when a child equates the days prior to the Christmas season with the mischievousness of a small elf and not the coming of our Savior. What happened to the tradition of the Advent Calendar? What about a simple Advent wreath? How much more meaningful the season could be by starting a simple family tradition of lighting a candle during the weeks prior to the birth of the Christ child. Please don't misunderstand, I'm no scrooge. But it's wrong not to include the "reason for the season" while celebrating the magic of Christmas with your children.

Thankfully, in our Catholic schools we are able to observe the season of Advent and its full meaning as well as marking the "reason for the season." Our classroom prayer tables are adorned with advent wreaths; you will also see Jesse Trees. We will celebrate the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas. And, at the appropriate time in some of our classes we will have a birthday party for Jesus. Keep the glitz under-wraps if you can;I challenge you to find the purple!

It was time for me to leave as the happy chatter ensued. I made my next appointment. My options? "6:45 or 9:00?" Tracey asked. Glumly, I responded; "I'll take the 9." I'm going to regret it, I know.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Winter sports season is here! STMA invites you to cheer on our Boys' and Girls' Basketball Teams alongside the Ravens Cheerleaders. The very first home games take place this Wednesday, December 11 against fellow Eastern Shore Independent Athletic Conference member, The Gunston School. The Girls' Team starts off the night at 4:00 pm, and the Boys' Team plays at 5:30 pm.

STMA has been a member of The Eastern Shore Independent Athletic Conference (ESIAC) since last school year. It was at that time that we determined playing as a non-conference school no longer served our needs. Given our location, similar size, and general philosophy of integrity and sportsmanship in athletics, we knew that joining the ESIAC would prove a great fit. Fellow ESIAC member schools include: Delmarva Christian High School, The Gunston School, Holy Grove Christian School, Saints Peter & Paul High School, The Salisbury School, and Salisbury Christian School. Some benefits of belonging to this conference include simplicity of scheduling and transportation as well as competitive contests in alignment with school size and sports offerings. This current 2019-20 school year is the first time our teams and athletes are eligible to compete in ESIAC conference championships and post-season tournaments. (STMA teams continue to schedule additional games out of conference when appropriate to complete a schedule and to maintain eligibility for DIAA tournaments.)

We're proud of STMA's sports philosophy: sport provides important learning opportunities for student athletes, and serves as a key part of a holistic education. We encourage all of our students to participate in sports as a show of commitment to school and peers, as an opportunity to develop individual skills, and as a way to earn Ravens Credits, a non-academic graduation requirement.

You see, at STMA, students are engaged in and dedicated to student programs. Clubs, sports, and fine arts programs are student-driven. Fifty Ravens Credits are required of all enrolled students each school year, totaling 200 by the time of graduation. Ravens Credits can be earned through community service, club participation and leadership, sports team participation and leadership, and drama production participation and leadership, but cannot be earned through

one avenue alone. We believe that the Ravens Credits embody and solidify the school's mission, help students to serve the school and surrounding communities, and develop new interests and skills among the student body which may also serve to create strong student resumes. Our students truly have access to a rich social experience and emerge from high school as well-rounded citizens for their participation in our extracurricular programs.

Students joining the STMA community in the next school year can look forward to active engagement in their school experience, designing programs that suit their interests, and gaining leadership experience along the way. All student-athletes looking to build new skills by joining new teams, to play with sportsmanship as a key priority, and to help determine the direction of growth in sports programs at our school are welcome!

We can't wait for you to join us in the stands this winter! See our full schedule at www.ravenssports.com.

Yours in Christ,



Rachael A. Casey
Principal



JOIN US!

ONE FOR THE TEAM



Show your team spirit by joining us for a fundraiser to support Saint Thomas More Academy Athletics. Come in to the Chipotle at 1141 N Dupont Hwy Ste 101 in Dover on **Saturday, December 14th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in this flyer, show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 33% of the proceeds will be donated to Saint Thomas More Academy Athletics.



Online orders will not be included in the fundraiser total. To ensure your purchase is counted in the fundraiser, be sure to order and pay in-restaurant. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.