



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

December 15, 2019

Third 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

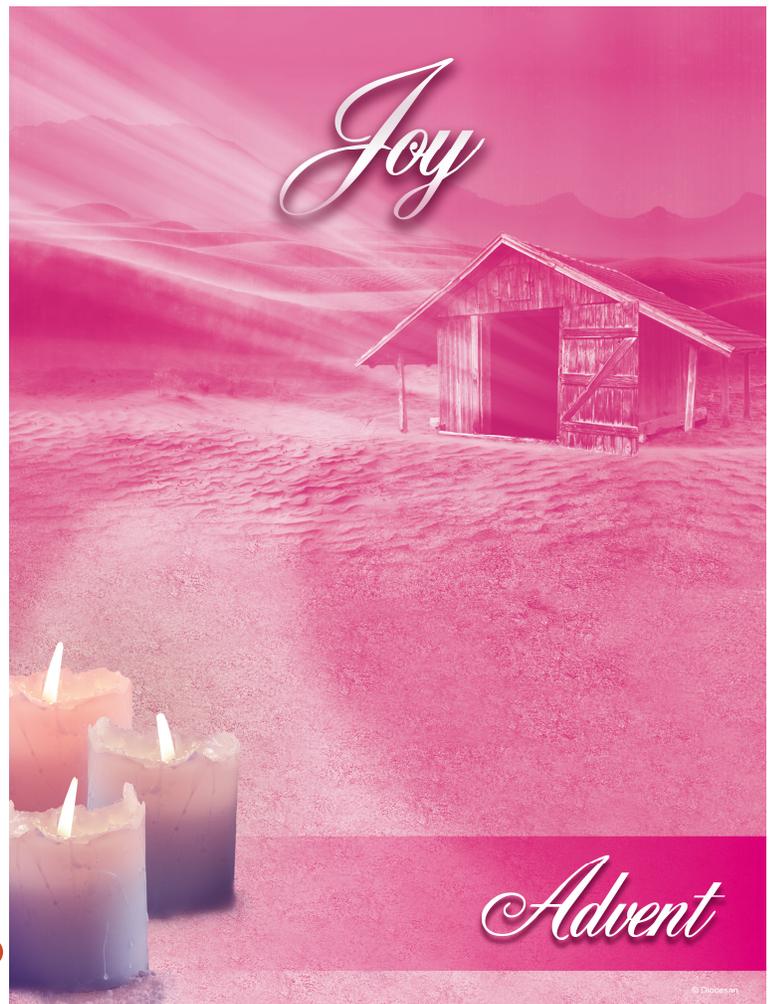
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

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)

15 SUNDAY

HC 7 am , Breakfast with Santa, CA
 HC 9 am, RCIA, MT/MK
 ICC 9:40 am, SRE, classrooms
 ICC, Noon, Conf. sponsor mtg., hall
 HC 1 pm , Diocesan Hispanic Confirmation
 ICC 2:30 pm, Confirmation Prep, hall
 ICC 2:30 pm, Adolescentes, CC
 HC 3:30 pm, CCD, SCH
 ICC 3:30 pm, Jovenes, Church Basement

16 MONDAY

HC 8:45 am, Spirituality Group, LK
 HC 5 pm, Cemetery Mtg., LK
 HC, 7 pm, Posada, CH
 ICC 7 pm, Posadas begin at chosen homes
 HC 7 pm, Usher Mtg., MT/MK

17 TUESDAY

ICC 1 pm, Exercise Class, Hall
 ICC 7 pm, Juan XXIII, cc
 HC 7 pm, Adult Ed, MT/MK
 HC 7pm, Baptismal Prep Class, LK

18 WEDNESDAY

HC 9 am, Adult Ed, LK

19 THURSDAY

ICC 1 pm, Exercise Class, Hall
 ICC 7 pm, Misa

20 FRIDAY

ICC 7 pm, Band Practice

21 SATURDAY

HC 8:45 am, Choir Rehearsal, CH
 ICC 1 pm, Asuncion de Gracias, hall

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

ending December 1

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$29,057	\$30,000	(\$943)
YTD	\$618,608	\$621,800	(\$3,192)
Needs	\$1,389	\$1,586	(\$197)

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@holycrossdover.org.

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 1

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,634
Second	\$677

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 past Thursday, our Parish and the Catholic Church throughout North and South America celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary, under that title, is the Patroness of the Americas; moreover that feast day marks the historical first known appearance of our Blessed Mother, Mary, in the new world. Over the years, this feast has grown in significance and in place on the Church calendar. So, what's the story of this holy day dedicated to Mary?

Here's the Story of a Lovely Lady. Picture it, Mexico, as we jump back to the year 1531! That was so long ago that Betty White was still in High School and the "7-11" was only called the "2-5." In any event, on December 9, 1531, in what is now Mexico, a young convert to Catholicism named Juan Diego was on his way to Mass. As he was passing a location called Tepeyac Hill, he saw a brilliant light at the peak. Much like any of us going through Camden-Wyoming in the 25MPH speed zone, Juan Diego slowed down, and looked around. He heard a woman calling him to the top of the hill; and after climbing to the peak, he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary standing amidst divine illumination. Mary spoke to Juan Diego, identifying herself and saying: *"I am your merciful Mother, to you and to all mankind who love me and trust in me and invoke my help. Therefore, go to the dwelling of the Bishop in Mexico City and say that the Virgin Mary sent you to make known to him her great desire."*

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

Cloak and Stagger. Juan Diego assumed that the "sign" that Mary put forth was these beautiful roses he found at a place and in a season when they shouldn't be blooming. So, he went to the Bishop, and opened his tilma to show forth the sign. Then, as the roses fell onto the floor, the two men saw a staggering sight. To the amazement of Juan Diego and the Bishop, the inside of the tilma now bore an intricate colored portrait of the Blessed Virgin, just as Juan Diego had previously described her. In a later apparition Mary made known that the image on that tilma was to be known as "Santa Maria de Guadalupe" (or in common parlance, Our Lady of Guadalupe). Thus, on December 12, 1531, the Church confirmed Mary's first apparition in the New World. Soon thereafter, 8,000,000 natives converted to Catholicism, and from then on, the Church in Mexico thrived and grew.

Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, was declared Patroness of the America by Pope Pius XII; her feast day is December 12 (with St. Juan Diego's feast day on December 9).

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

- Pope Benedict XIV, on May 25, 1754, declared Our Lady of Guadalupe patroness of what was then named New Spain (Spanish Central and Northern America) and approved liturgical texts for the Mass in her honor.
- Pope Leo XIII, on February 8, 1887 authorized the canonical coronation (and now famous) of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Pope St. Pius X, in 1910, proclaimed her patron saint of Latin America.
- Pope Pius XI, on July 16, 1935, declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the "Heavenly Patroness of the Philippines" (though in 1942, this was changed to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, instead).
- Pope Pius XII, in 1945, accorded her the title "Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas," and "Patroness of the Americas" in 1946.
- Pope St. John XXIII, in 1961, invoked her as "Mother of the Americas."
- Pope St. John Paul II, on January 22, 1999, reiterated her title of Patroness of the Americas and granted the rank of solemnity in parts of that region. He also added this holy day, worldwide, to the Church Calendar, as an optional memorial outside of the America.

Looking Sharp. Probably the most identifiable aspect of Our Lady of Guadalupe is that beautiful, glorious image of her that is so very famous. The original image is still around and enshrined in Mexico. And you know what? Much like Ginsu Knives advertised on TV infomercials, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has never dulled or faded. As a matter of fact, in defiance of science and age, the image of Our Lady on that cloak has miraculously remained crisp, sharp, and brilliant for 488 years. The cloak and its image are on display at Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City where it hangs reverently behind the main altar.

And so, let us rejoice with Mary, by reflecting on the words of the first reading from Our Lady of Guadalupe: *"Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the LORD. Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day, and they shall be his people, and he will dwell among you, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you."* (Zec. 2:14-15).



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 1st trimester -- Fetal development begins soon after conception. Weeks 1 and 2: Getting ready --- It might seem strange, but you're not actually pregnant the first week or two of the time allotted to your pregnancy. Yes, you read that correctly! Conception typically occurs about two weeks after your last period begins. To calculate your due date, your health care provider will count ahead 40 weeks from the start of your last period. This means your period is counted as part of your pregnancy – even though you weren't pregnant at the time.
- About 40 Days for Life: 16,742 lives have been saved!

“You can’t reconcile being pro-life on abortion and pro-death on the death penalty” ~N. T. Wright

THE LONGEST NIGHT OR BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

For those experiencing grief, loss or hardship, the Christmas season is far from the most wonderful time of the year. The music and other holiday traditions associated with the Christmas season may be painful for those suffering the pain of loss and grief. Loss comes in many forms, it may be the death of a loved one, the loss of a marriage or relationship, a job or a home. Any loss that causes us pain and sorrow. To assist people who may have difficulty coping with the season, the Modern Maturity Center is offering a Longest Night or Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 18, at 1:00 p.m. and again in the evening at 6:00 p.m. in the East Conference Room of the Modern Maturity Center. Deacon Vince Pisano of Holy Cross Church will be the leader for the service. We allow each participant to focus on their personal needs in an atmosphere of quiet mediation and contemplation. This is an ecumenical service and it is FREE . Refreshments will be provided by VI-TAS Healthcare.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 22 FOURTH SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-14

The Lord gives a sign of his presence with his people: the maiden is with child.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7

Jesus was proclaimed Son of God through his resurrection from the dead.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-24

Joseph’s dream and God’s dream.

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.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

As we approach Christmas, it's easy to become "busy-holics" and race to prepare decorations, presents, and food. When feeling stressed with yourself or your beloved pause and take a deep breath and be patient with yourself and your spouse.

PARENTING POINTERS

Children benefit from our 'presence' more than our 'presents'. Ponder the tone that your presence with your family will take during this time before Christmas.

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.

SAMARITAN FOOD BASKETS

Thank you to all who contributed for our Thanksgiving Baskets. Your generosity helped us feed over 75 families.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER

16 MONDAY

HC 6:30 am Mildred Byers
HC 8 am Mark Kropiewnicki

17 TUESDAY

HC 6:30 am Donnatien Family
HC 8 am Ludwik Kosior

18 WEDNESDAY

HC 6:30 am Matthew & Mary Seben
HC 8:15 am Brendan P. Ryan

19 THURSDAY

HC 6:30 am Joyce M. Smith
HC 8:00 am Amy Heusser
ICC 7 pm For the People

20 FRIDAY

HC 6:30 am James & Elizabeth Sinclair
HC 8 am Maria a. Maddalena

21 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Denis J. O'Brien
HC 5 pm Philip Glick

22 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Donicia Trazona
ICC 8:30 am William and Ann Sullivan
HC 9:15 am Margaret Bernadette Miriello
HC 11 am Michael Caperiono
ICC 11 am Richard Greene Sr.
HC 1 pm Esther Pura
ICC 1 pm For the People
HC 6 pm Robert Gore, Jr.

(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

TABERNACLE & SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS (DEC 15—DEC 21)

HC Adoration Chapel Dorothy Hopko
HC Church Jose Lascano

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 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 21/22

HOLY CROSS

	EMHC		SERVERS
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5:00 PM	D. DeVigili	C. Helwig	K. Bradley
	J. Clendaniel	J. Killman	V. Pate
	J. Davis	K. O'Neill	L. Pate
	B. Holmes	J. Priest	
	D. King	R. Vinsen	
		F. Hettinger	
			LECTORS
			S. Swierczek
			D. Dixon

7:30 AM	M. Thompson	C. Brown	M. Neal
	A. Mackey	B. Gattuso	N. Whiteman
	S. Gede		B. Stumpf
	R. Campanicki		
			LECTORS
			D. Kilby
			R. Pritchett

9:15 AM	J. Chandler	K. Kelly	R. Torbert
	J. Bieker	V. Pepper	A. Torbert
	M. Wessel	J. Sears	B. Torbert
	C. Fortier	C. Bugglin	
	D. Diaz	G. Sears	
	L. Stiller		
			LECTORS
			T. Baurys
			J. Coffield

11:00 AM	W. Aschenberg	M. Miller	K. Fernandez
	R. Aschenberg	D. Petka	M. Johannsen
	P. Keller	R. Bratz	K. Viray
	C. Robinson	R. Bratz	
	D. Lyons	C. Barnes	
			LECTORS
			S. Crossen
			C. Petka

1:00 PM	C. Valdex	R. Dosman	A. Sandoval
	M. Ramirez	E. Paztoriza	D. Sanchez
	M. Pitti		
			LECTORS
			K. Rangel
			A. Luna

6:00 PM	A. Wyllie	D. Balcerak	A. Ghanayem
	M. Cacesse	L. Darling	C. Wilk
	D. Novak	D. Darling	N. Kosior
	J. Zajac	T. Steir	
	V. Balcerak	K. Boyer	
			LECTORS
			TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	A. Smith	D. Smith	A. Locke
			LECTORS
			B. Thompson

11:00 AM	P. Lardizzone	J. Stewart	V. Haass
			W. Meyer
			LECTORS
			A. Poppiti

1:00 PM	G. Morales	C. Miguel	C. Gabriel
	G. Perez	E. Morales	M. Matias
	V. Bravo		
			LECTORS
			D. Garcia
			L. Ramirez

GIVING TREE (HC)

All gifts are due back today, Sunday, December 15. If you forgot your gift please bring it back by 7 pm tonight. We are distributing gifts to the family this week.



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 21st, tune in for the annual Catholic Forum Christmas program featuring Bishop Malooly's Christmas message to the people of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore.

NEWLY REGISTERED MEMBERS

Welcome to our newly registered members:

- Erik, Cara, Bellamy and Declan MacDonald; Louis, Lugeolyn and Jordan Papa; Nancy Chen; and John and Pamela Hulka

RECENTLY DECEASED (HC)

Condolences to the families of the following:

- Jean Wood, Darwin Tomas-Reynoso, Tyler Jonathan Stokes, Lawrence C. Bremer, Anita Kapes, Timothy Lewis, Leonara P. Malone, Franklin Bearses, Joseph E. McKnight, Thomas J. Geist, Vincent Bilello, Barbara Jean Raksnis, and Mary Catherine Castiglione

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

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 19 GRUPO #7
 Fausto Ortiz, Everilda Perez, Jose Luis Ortiz, Idonlina Perez, Guillermo Ortiz, Bersy Perez
 DICIEMBRE 26 GRUPO #8
 Rafael Morales, Marcos Gonzalez, Osvaldo Miranda, Eleazar Santizo, Reyna Morales, Hortencia Morales

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.

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, 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.

YOUNG AT HEART

Young at Heart will meet January 13 at 11:00 a.m. in the Early Learning Center Matthew/Mark room. The speaker is Dr. Joe O'Donnell. His topic is the Life and Times of William H. Taft. You can begin arriving at 10:30. Should the school be closed due to weather we will not meet. If school is delayed we will still meet. Lunch is \$5:00. All seniors are welcome.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP

As temperatures start to decline, Catholic Charities is preparing to *Warm Up Winter* for its most vulnerable neighbors by collecting new and "gently used" blankets and other bedding, coats, hats, and gloves at each of its office locations now through the end of January 2020. Catholic Charities will freely distribute donated goods through its various programs. Staff at all locations will accept donations between the hours of 9 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. All donated blankets and bedding, coats, and other clothing items should be clean, in good condition, and ready to use.

- 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

Domingo 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 únese 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– No CCD December 18 or 25); next class will be January 8.)

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.

CONFIRMATION CLASS (HC)

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

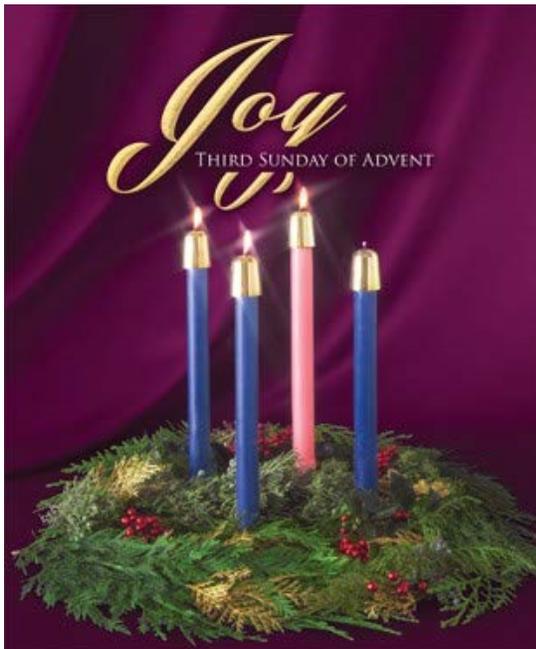
us on this awesome weekend retreat with teens from Delaware, Maryland and surrounding states. Cost is \$100. Please contact Mrs. Darling for instructions on registering.



VOCATIONS

Creating a culture of vocations...

In talking with your children, remember to talk about the call to Church ministry. The process of answering God's call begins in childhood. Throughout adolescence and adulthood, the attitudes assumed in childhood begin to influence the course of one's life. A vocation or a talent will not grow to fruition unless it is nurtured in childhood and adolescence by a parent.



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 classroom. Please do not drop children in parking lot or at the door.
- There will be no Classes for School of Religious Education on Sunday, December 29th.
- Classes will resume on the 5th of January.

SACRAMENTAL PREP (ICC)

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

Registration needed for Mount! Please contact Mrs. Poppiti at the office and come into register now.

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 December 22. We are currently making hat and scarf sets for boys and girls, women and men. You are welcome to join us!

ATTENTION LECTORS (ICC)

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

THANKS TO ICC

On behalf of Neighbors United to Serve (NUTS), we wish to thank you for the donation of the use of your building, financial donations and volunteers that helped towards our 2019 Thanksgiving Day meal distribution. With the generosity of your church, members and friends, we were able to provide over 1, 100 individual meals to families in Caroline County. Without your support and your wonderful volunteers of this mission, NUTS would not be able to do what we do in reaching out to those who otherwise, may not have food on a day of which, the rest of us give thanks. Your kindness and continued support does not go unnoticed. Thank you so very much again.

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.

MRS. POLLITT'S PONDERINGS

How many times have we found ourselves in a situation where additional time for preparation would have made the completion of a task a smidge bit easier? How many times have we thought to ourselves, "Ah! I got this!" And then lo and behold, its' not so much the case. Ever sat in a classroom with a test before you and thinking about how much time you had to prepare, but didn't? How many (countless) students have chosen to show up for class without a completed project..... a home assignment? It has always baffled me in the way a student will choose to face a teacher unprepared as opposed to taking the time to prepare. How about not taking the time to prepare for a meeting? Its' painful to be surrounded by those who have arrived with everything they need to succeed, and you find yourself without so much as a writing utensil! What is it about us that oftentimes we choose to fly by the seat of our proverbial pants rather than take the time to prepare?

PREPARATION: The term has taken on various connotations over time. Perhaps the most familiar would well be "a state of being prepared." Arrive alive! Alternatively, as defined by Mr. Webster, "a preparatory act or measure." A period of preparation, if you will. Think of it in terms of the time needed in gathering and organizing ingredients prior to cooking a pot of soup. Many recipes will include not just the cooking time, but also the amount of time needed in the preparation of the ingredients. And finally, there's the old fashioned medical connotation of the term preparation. Ever hear of a poultice? It's a soft, usually heated and often medicated mass spread on cloth and applied to sores or other lesions. Its' otherwise known as a preparation. Emmy, my asthmatic cat has a topical preparation applied to the pinna of her ear. This preparation is in the form of an ointment specially made for her. A bronchodilator, it helps her to breathe properly.

So, what does all this have to do with anything at all?? **Well, we're in the midst of the season of Advent, that's what! What is Advent all about? Preparation. Preparation of the heart. Preparation of the heart for Jesus.**

It's a practically insurmountable task. There's so much blasted competition with the glitz of Christmas. I was speaking with Mrs. McGowan in her classroom last Tuesday morning, our first day after the Thanksgiving holiday. I noticed three little ones standing in line waiting to speak to their teacher. Did they inquire as to whether

or not she had a nice holiday? No. With more than just a little excitement they wanted to tell her the story of their elf on the shelf.

It is not my intent to take away from the joyous days leading to the family Christmas celebrations. But it is my intent to plant the seeds for preparing the way of the Lord; no matter the age! At Holy Cross we hit the ground running upon our return to school. May I share with you a few of the ways we are keeping the school environment and spirit purple?

- *Fifth grade students will be given a Good Deed of the Day chart. After we discuss the importance of Advent and preparing our hearts for Jesus, students will need to focus on the ways they can do good for others. At the end of the day, they will be encouraged to write on their chart at least one good thing that they did.*
- *Our 2nd Grade is following the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. We are filling the stable with all the people and animals that were waiting for the Messiah. They are writing prayers to ask the Holy Spirit to help them do more good deeds. The 2nd Graders are also making hand-painted Advent Wreaths.*
- *In Pre-K every child has a secret prayer angel that they pray for during Advent, another child in the class. Each child decorates an angel to be given to their secret angel at their Christmas celebration telling them that they prayed for them during Advent.*
- *Also in Pre-K there are stories of St. Nicholas and the stockings of money. This is followed by a collection of money in socks to purchase animals to donate to World Vision. To plant a sense of service the children are decorating stockings to donate to Mom's House as another way of helping others at Christmas. There is a heavy emphasis on acts of kindness as we ready our hearts for Jesus.*
- *Shoes stuffed with goodies mark the Feast of St. Nicholas and cinnamon buns mark the Feast of St. Lucy.*
- *There are Advent wreaths at every turn and Jesse Trees bedecked with figures of the ancestors of Christ, rising from Jesse of Bethlehem, the father of King David.*

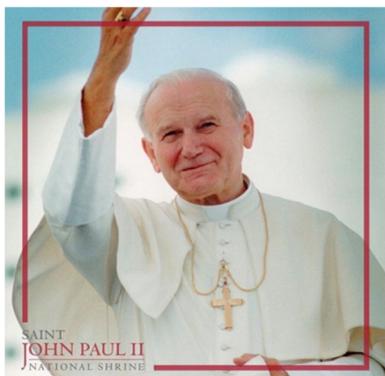
Just like that pot of soup, we are putting all the ingredients together for the preparation of the heart. Preparation of the heart for Jesus.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

The faculty and staff of Holy Cross Parish schools recently embarked on a spiritual retreat together: a mini pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C.

What a beautiful tribute to his life and leadership! It is my sincere hope that you find time to visit it yourselves if you've never been.



The Shrine's website has the following to say about Saint John Paul II: "Moved by his faith in Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of Man, St. John Paul II lived an extraordinary life as a gift to God and to everyone he met. During his 26-year papacy, Pope John Paul II came to embody the trials and triumphs of the twentieth century and became a voice of moral and spiritual clarity on the sanctity of human life, the nature of human freedom, and the need to bridge the profound differences that divide the human family."

Prior to our tour of the exhibit, our staff enjoyed a presentation focused on humility – a trait Saint John Paul II modeled well for the world. One of the questions we were encouraged to ponder as we toured the exhibit was, "Why is humility a safeguard against the dehumanization and devaluation of others?"

For me, that answer was made clear in the way Saint John Paul II lived his young life as a brave and rebellious spirit under an authoritarian regime hostile toward religion. He worked for God's glory and in service to others, not out of concern for self-preservation or self-interest. He had a missionary spirit, visiting 129 countries and addressing the UN twice. When he would deplane in a new country, he would kiss the ground as a sign of reverence and respect for the nation he was visiting. He cared deeply about sharing a message of human dignity, saying that love is the most basic human vocation. He encouraged ecumenical relations, inviting all Christians to greater dialog, and above all, to prayer, so that we might bear witness to God through a "sacrifice of unity." He took his example for humility from Christ, naturally, but especially from

Mary, Mother of God, whose intercession he sought regularly. And perhaps that is where the answer to his question posed by our presenter comes to rest best: Mary. The Magnificat quotes Mary as saying, "He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly." Praise be to God for his love of the downcast, the lost, the lowly, the marginalized, and for his servant Saint John Paul II!

We ended our visit with Mass in the Luminous Mysteries Chapel – a truly inspiring House of God.

The faculty and staff of Saint Thomas More Academy thank our fellow educators of Holy Cross School for sharing in this special spiritual retreat with us. May it serve as a model for our students to retreat and get in touch with God.

Yours in Christ,

Rachael A. Casey
Principal



STMA CELEBRATIONS!



Congratulations to the 22 students named to the Honor Roll in the 1st Academic Quarter!

