



# 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 22/December 25, 2019

4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas

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



## NATIVITY OF THE LORD

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

## 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)

### 22 SUNDAY

HC 9 am, RCIA, MT/MK  
 ICC 9:40 am, SRE, classrooms  
 ICC 2:30 pm, Adolescentes, CC  
 ICC 3:30 pm, Jovenes, Church Basement

### 23 MONDAY

*St. John of Kantyl*

HC, 7 pm, Posada, CH  
 ICC 7 pm, Posadas at chosen homes

### 24 TUESDAY

ICC Offices closed

### 25 WEDNESDAY

Merry  
 Christmas!!



### 26 THURSDAY

*St Stephen*

HC & ICC, Offices Closed  
 HC 8 am, Mass, CH

### 27 FRIDAY

*St. John, Apostle*

HC & ICC Offices Closed  
 HC 8 am, Mass, CH  
 ICC 8 pm, Vigilia, CH

### 28 SATURDAY

*Holy Innocents*

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

ending December 8

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$29,292	\$30,000	(\$708)
YTD	\$647,900	\$651,800	(\$3,900)
Needs	\$1,285	\$1,586	(\$301)

**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](mailto:mdornberger@holycrossdover.org).

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 8

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,706
Second	\$751

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.”

So many songs are written about remembering the past. Bruce Springsteen sang of those "Glory Days." The Beatles sang of "Yesterday." And Barbra Streisand, hitting a high score on the schmaltz-o-meter sang of "The Way We Were," noting that "Memories light the corners of [our] minds." And they do.

**The Ghost of Christmas Past.** Likewise, we have our memories of those Christmases gone by, bound up in family and faith, that light the corners of our minds. We may not sing about them, but we remember them well. And each one of us likely remembers one Christmas more than any other. I remember the year our oven broke on Christmas Day, and much like the family in "A Christmas Story," we went out and had Chinese food for Christmas dinner. I remember the year my grandmother had everyone – and I mean everyone – over for Christmas dinner in her small apartment; wall to wall people, eating wall to wall food. I remember the year I got a chemistry set for Christmas, a gift that caused untold damage, fire and burn-marks on me and on our home. We all remember different things about Christmas.

**You Must Remember This...** Similarly, our Gospel writers also have different memories when speaking about Christmas, and so at Christmas Masses we get a mélange of different views of the Christmas story. On Christmas Eve and Day, we listen to the Gospels of St. Matthew, Luke and John and hear various pieces of the story of the Incarnation of God, in the person of Jesus Christ, in three different forms, to wit:

**St. Matthew:** Of Isaiah and Elvis. At the Christmas Vigil (i.e., Christmas Eve Masses before Midnight Mass), we hear St. Matthew relate the Christmas story beginning with the genealogy of Jesus. He lists Jesus' family tree all the way back to Abraham to relate to the people of Israel (to whom he was writing) that Jesus traces his roots all the way back to Abraham, the father of Judaism (therefore sharing the lineage of King David). These speaks to Christ's relationship to the Jewish people and kingship – two key aspects for long-awaited Messiah! Likewise, St. Matthew quotes Isaiah. Isaiah was the like the Elvis Presley of Prophets for the Jewish people (focusing on a different idea of Grace-land), he had written, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." So, when this Prophecy of Isaiah came to pass, it weighed mightily on Matthew's version of the Christmas story as it was written.

*St. Matthew heard the story of Christmas – and what he remembered, was how all of this came to pass to fulfill the prophecies of the Jewish prophets, and this was therefore the Messiah of Israel, and that's what he wrote.*

**St. Luke:** Reading Between the Linus: At Midnight Mass and early morning Masses one hears from St. Luke. He tells us the most familiar version of the Christmas story. In "A Charlie Brown Christmas," Linus quotes St. Luke when he commends Charlie Brown and company: "Fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, tis Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find

*the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger."* Now unlike Matthew, Luke was writing for the non-Jewish audience. Thus he isn't concerned about Jewish identity, lineage, etc. He lays the story out as a narrative of events, and there is a focus on Mary. At Midnight Mass, we hear of Mary and Joseph and going to Bethlehem to partake in the Roman Census; Mary giving birth; and angels singing Glory to God in the highest. At morning Mass, the shepherds come to see Jesus lying in the manger; they go out and glorify God because of the events of that Christmas night.

*St. Luke heard the story of Christmas – and what he remembered, was that God came into the world in the flesh -- for the salvation of the world -- as the son of Mary, and that's what he wrote.*

**St. John: Poetry in Motion.** Do you remember the old TV show "Laugh-In"? On it, a man named Henry Gibson would walk out on stage, holding a sunflower in one hand, and acclaiming "A poem, by Henry Gibson." He would then relate a poem as his way of telling a joke. It was different from what the rest of the comedians on the show did, but it was funny nonetheless. Among Gospel writers, St. John was the poet; his words weave a poetic telling of the Christmas story. I can almost hear his version of Christmas story beginning with the word "A poem, by St. John." At the last Masses of Christmas day, one hears St. John's version of the story of Christ coming into the world; he focuses on neither Mary nor Joseph, but on Jesus as the Incarnate (in the flesh) Word of God. This reading, John 1:1-18, is one of my favorite, and in part it reads thus: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth." I remember a parishioner at a former Parish who attended the Christmas day Mass and complained to me, "Why didn't today's Gospel tell the Christmas story?" I told him, "It did, but it told it poetically." He then told me what he thought of poetry... in very un-Christmas-ey language.

*St. John heard the story of Christmas – and what he remembered, was the beauty of what God did for mankind, and that's what he wrote.*

**Viva la Difference.** While different Gospel writers focused on different moments and different aspects of that same Christmas story, the key point is always the same: On that Christmas morning, all those years ago, God so loved the world that he gave us our Savior. And if, amidst the gift giving, the food, and the family-freneticism, you remember nothing else from these Christmas readings, remember that! And thank God every day for what he did for all us on that first Christmas day.

On behalf of all of the priests, deacons and staff at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception parishes, I wish you the happiest, most joyful, and holiest Christmas you will ever remember!

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. 118  
 Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext 122  
 Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123  
 Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director  
 Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135  
 Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Church of the Holy Cross*  
 631 S. State St.  
 Dover, DE 19901

## ICC STAFF

Parish Office 410 482 7687  
 Marilyn Dixon Office Manager  
 Alicia Poppiti DRE Religious Ed.  
 Susan Venezia Bookkeeper  
 Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Immaculate Conception Church*  
 P. O. Box 399  
 Maryland, MD 21649-0399

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8  
 302 674 5787  
[holycrossdover.org/school](http://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](http://saintmore.org)

Rachael Casey Principal

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## HOLY CROSS MASS SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS EVE – TUESDAY, DEC. 24

4:00 pm Mass in Church  
 4:15 pm Mass in Parish Hall  
 4:30 pm at St. Thomas More  
 Academy  
 (133 Thomas More Drive,  
 Magnolia, DE, off Plain  
 Dealing Rd.)



6:30 pm Mass in Church  
 9:00 pm Spanish Mass in Church  
 Midnight Mass in Church  
 (Choral/Musical Prelude begins at 11:30 pm)

## CHRISTMAS DAY – WEDNESDAY, DEC 25

8:00 am Mass and 10:00 am Mass



## THURSDAY, DEC. 26 & FRIDAY, DEC. 27

8:00 am Mass

## HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS - DEC. 28/29

4 pm confessions/5 pm Mass Saturday  
 7:30, 9:15 and 11:00 am Mass  
 1:00 pm Spanish Mass  
 6:00 pm Mass

## MONDAY, DEC. 30 & TUESDAY, DEC. 31

8:00 am Mass

## NEW YEAR'S EVE – TUES., DECEMBER 31

Solemnity of Mary  
 5:00 pm Mass  
 7:00 pm Spanish Mass

## NEW YEAR'S DAY – WED., JAN. 1, 2020

Solemnity of Mary  
 8:00 am Mass and 10:00 am Mass

## READINGS FOR DECEMBER 29

### HOLY FAMILY

FIRST READING: ECCLESIASTICUS 3:2-6, 12-14

It is in the family that we first live out our baptismal calling to love.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:12-21

Let the message of Christ, in its richness, find a home with you.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:13-15, 19-23

Jesus is called out of Egypt to form a new people of God.

## 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. For more information contact call 302-313-6935 or e-mail MenOfHolyCross@gmail.com.

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

In the midst of your busy preparations go outside (even in the cold) and look at the sky. Ponder your smallness in this universe, but also the warmth of your love for each other.

## 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](http://www.wwme-delmar.org) or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302 220 9833.

## 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.
- Week 3: Fertilization --- Egg being fertilized and implanting in the uterus. The sperm and egg unite in one of your fallopian tubes to form a one-celled entity called a zygote. If more than one egg is released and fertilized or if the fertilized egg splits into two, you might have multiple zygotes. The zygote typically has 46 chromosomes — 23 from the biological mother and 23 from the biological father. These chromosomes help determine your baby's sex and physical traits. Soon after fertilization, the zygote travels down the fallopian tube toward the uterus. At the same time, it will begin dividing to form a cluster of cells resembling a tiny raspberry — a morula.

## MASS INTENTIONS

### DECEMBER

#### 23 MONDAY

HC 6:30 am Mildred Byers  
HC 8 am Josephine Kane

#### 24 TUESDAY

HC 6:30 am Jackson Rey Cruz (LI)  
HC 8 am Andrew Martin  
HC & ICC Christmas Eve—see schedule elsewhere in bulletin; all Masses for the People

#### 25 WEDNESDAY

HC and ICC—see schedule elsewhere in bulletin; All Masses for the People

#### 26 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Hans Crews  
ICC 7 pm For the People

#### 27 FRIDAY

HC 8 am Gilbert Irvis, Jr.

#### 28 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Bill Farrell  
HC 5 pm Normita Phillips

#### 29 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Erlinda Trazona Caparida  
ICC 8:30 am Tom & Doris Costello  
HC 9:15 am Michael McLaughlin  
HC 11 am Joan M. Sclesky  
ICC 11 am Margaret Poppiti  
HC 1 pm Eugene Belt  
ICC 1 pm For the People  
HC 6 pm Robert Rankin

(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

## TABERNACLE & SANCTUARY LAMP DEDICATIONS (DEC 22—DEC 28)

HC Adoration Chapel Donald Fair  
HC Church Joe Casey, Jr.

## 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** 7 am  
**WEDNESDAY** 5 am, 5 pm, 11 pm  
**THURSDAY** 7 am, 4pm  
**FRIDAY** 10 pm  
**SATURDAY** Noon, 4 pm, 6 pm, 8 pm, 9 pm, 10 pm, 11 pm

HOLY CROSS

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM	F. Ernst	C. O'Donnell	L. Curely
	S> Coghlan	M Casey	M. Clemente
	L. Accalagoon	R. Coppadge	N. Onogu
	M. Hitch	V. Pearl	LECTORS
	A. Hunter	F. Hettinger	
T. Dupuis		F. Urick	
		J. Benzin	

7:30 AM	L. Davis	J. Fischer	N. Umobi
	R. O'Neill	A. Fischer	C. Umobi
	H. Speed		E. Wadhams
	K. Speed		LECTORS
		M. Cordalis	
		C. Cuffee	

9:15 AM	K. Coyle	D. Diza	M. Bieker
	C. Jones	M MacLeiosh	B. Coyle
	T.	G. Wessel	N. Ramos
	Staniszewski	A. Hlakfa	LECTORS
	L. Carr	T. Arndt	
J Bieker		M. Arsenauls	
		M. Sherlock	

11:00 AM	N. West	P. Huffman	C. Powell
	B. Whitworth	M. Rogers	N. Hankoua
	A. MArano	R. Seliga	M. Maddalena
	F. Deeney	B. Richards	LECTORS
	K. Maddalena	G. Richards	
		S. Winfrey	
		M. Phillips	

1:00 PM	M. Rivera	B. Guzman	J. Cortes
	E. Pastoriza	T. Hernandez	E. Cortes
	C. Valdes		LECTORS
		S. Ruiz	
		D. Renzer	

6:00 PM	R. Bracy	M. Rathbun	A. Blackwell
	R. KAtcher	A. Wyllie	J. Blackwell
	R. Katcher	M. Cacesse	C. Darling
	K O'Neill	D. Novak	LECTORS
	T. Steir	J. Zajac	
	R. Kosior	TBD	

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	J. Moore	G. Godfrey	A. Clancy
			LECTORS
		B. Thompson	

11:00 AM	F. Cristiano	J. Cristiano	S. Santizo
			I. Meyer
			LECTORS
		S. Tucker	

1:00 PM	O. Roblerol	R. Morales	I. Roblero
	N. Capistran	D. Cuin	Y. Ortiz
	S. Morales		LECTORS
		S. Berduo	
		O. Cuin	

SAMARITAN TREE (HC)

Envelopes will be available on the Samaritan Tree through Christmas. These envelopes can be put into the collection basket, mailed to the Parish Office, or handed directly to the priest at mass. Money collected from these envelopes is used to support our Samaritans' efforts throughout the year. Thank you for your continued generosity.



CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday morning at 11:00 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, December 28th, tune in to hear an interview with Devin Schadt, developer of the new LEAD program for Catholic fathers. After it airs, listen online anytime at [www.cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/Catholicforum).

VOCATIONS

A study commissioned by the Knights of Columbus revealed that 75% of Catholic young people who had seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal. Do you know someone who would make a good priest? Why not tell him so? Your encouragement may be all he needs.

RECENTLY DECEASED (HC)

Condolences to the families of the following:

- Robert Morra and Carol Finazzo
- May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

COLLECTION COUNTERS (ICC)

**December 22**, Tom and Mary McGowan  
**December 29**, Elisa and Tom Costello  
**Jan. 5** Marilyn Dixon & Maurillo Gabriel  
**Jan. 12** Ann Lawson & Julia Moore

CHURCH CLEANING CREW (ICC)

**DICIEMBRE 26 GRUPO #8**  
 Rafael Morales, Marcos Gonzalez, Osvaldo Miranda, Eleazar Santizo, Reyna Morales, Hortencia Morales  
**ENERO 2: GRUPO #9**  
 Reynaldo Perez, Maribel Ortiz, Juventino Lopez,  
**Isenia Escalante**, Clemente Escalante  
**ENERO 9: GRUPO #10**  
 Marcos Domingo, Orelia Berdugo, Carmen Gabriel, **Susana Ortiz Morales**, Alberto 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](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215 766 3944. All inquiries are confidential.

## 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.



- Gracias a todas las familia que tomaron una Posada y a las que colaboraron con la Posada de la Iglesia y que nos acogieron en sus hogares y nos dieron Posadas. Esta es una manera de unidad a la comunidad mediante nuestra cultura y tradiciones. Fue forastero y me acogisteis (Mt. 25,35) Dios los bendiga abundantemente.
- ¡Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo! En nombre del Ministerio Hispano de Holy Cross y La Inmaculada Concepción y todos los que laboramos en las parroquias queremos deseales una Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo, y en esta nueva década que vamos a iniciar les deseamos que reine el amor ,la alegría y la paz en esta Navidad y sobre todo buena salud física como espiritual, tomemos a la Virgen María como nuestro modelo de fe, de amor, de humildad, de esperanza y paz para lograr todo esto tenemos que proponernos abrir nuestros corazones para que Cristo more en ella y así transmitir el amor, la esperanza ,la alegría y la paz a nuestros hermanos. Ella nos da a Cristo, nuestro Salvador, encomendamos a ella a nosotros mismo, a nuestras familias, a nuestra comunidad, a nuestra parroquia y a nuestra diócesis y todo el mundo, y así, irradiar la Luz de Cristo el Salvador. 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.

- La Misa del 31 de diciembre es misa de vigilia a las 7:00 PM , donde honramos a la Virgen María como Madre de Dios es día de precepto.
- Se Les invita seguidamente después de la Santa Misa del 31 a la gran celebración de fin del año y de la década con una cena bailable de 9:00 PM a 1:00PM auspiciado por Directiva del Ministerio Hispano de Holy Cross en La Academia de Saint Thomas More 133 Thomas More DR. Magnolia 19962. Adultos:\$25.00 – Niños 12.50.
- 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. Empezaremos con los Sacramentos, Bautismo y Confirmación.
- El día 5 de enero, celebraremos "La Epifanía del Señor" tradicionalmente conocida como "Día de Reyes".
- Si desea compartir una Rosca, atole por favor hable con la Sra. Irma Venezia. Esto será inmediatamente después de la Santa Misa en el Nártex del templo.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

### REGULAR CCD CLASSES

Wednesdays– Next class will be January 8 at 6 pm to 7:30 pm.

Sundays – Next class will be January 12 at 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

**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.

### REMINDER: FINAL CLASS OF ROMANS:

The Gospel of Salvation will be held on either Tuesday, January 7, at 7:00 pm or Wednesday, January 8 at 9:30 am.

### NEXT OFFERING:

We are continuing the series Catholicism: The Pivotal Players with the following players:

St. Augustine

St. Benedict

Fulton J. Sheen

Flannery O'Connor

Classes will run January 14–February 5 on either Tuesday evenings at 7pm or Wednesday mornings at 9:30am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Office. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or by calling (302) 674-5787 ext.122.

## 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 are today, Sunday 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.
- 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: 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!

## 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.

## ICC SCHEDULE OF MASSES

### CHRISTMAS EVE – TUESDAY, DEC. 24

5:00 pm Mass

7:00 pm Spanish Mass

Midnight Mass



### CHRISTMAS DAY – WEDNESDAY, DEC 25

9:00 am Mass

### HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS – SUNDAY, DEC 29

8:30 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

1:00 pm Spanish Mass

### NEW YEAR'S EVE – TUESDAY, DEC. 31

Solemnity of Mary

5:30 pm Mass

7:00 pm Spanish Mass

### NEW YEAR'S DAY – WED., JANUARY 1, 2020

Solemnity of Mary

9:00 am Mass

## MRS. POLLITT'S PONDERINGS

Granted, it may seem premature. Yes, it *may* seem poorly timed given that Christmas looms large right now. But, in my time I've not heard a positive word heard in defense of procrastination. I believe it was Scarlett O'Hara who made famous the lines "I'll worry about that tomorrow" and "Tomorrow is another day." Think about how many times you may have said these same things. I know I have to confess to it myself.

But on the other hand there's the school of thought that touts "There's no time like the present!" And although I'd not put Larry the Cable Guy in the same league as Scarlett O'Hara when it comes to quoting the famous, I believe that his motto "Git 'er done" has been adopted by legions.

So, it's that whole concept of gittin' er' done that we have taken on here at Holy Cross when it comes to re-registration for the 2020-2021 school year! I am pleased to report that many have jumped on the bandwagon and have their forms turned in already! It just makes me feel good all over to relay the good news that we even have a few littles enrolled for the TYO program for next year.

So at the end of the day, what leads people to make the right decisions? Volumes have been written on that subject. But the one and only decision I care about is the decision a family makes to entrust their child's education to those who have answered God's call to teach in a Catholic school. I'd like to take the opportunity to delineate a few of the reasons why families have voiced a resounding "sign us up!"

- ◇ **Balanced curriculum including Art, Music and Fitness.:** We have the best in all three categories right here at Holy Cross. Mrs. Benini is the finest in the Visual Arts, Mrs. S. is superlative in the Music department, and Mr. Seams leads his super healthy troop through their weekly workout teaching and encouraging them to maintain healthy bodies.
- ◇ **Emphasis on spiritual development, service to others and leadership skills:** We look forward to attending Mass on Wednesdays, and our students participate regularly in the sacraments. It was just this morning that I was in the ELC. It was time for morning prayers. The four year olds were heavy into their morning routine visiting centers. As soon as they heard the prayer leader say "Good morning Holy Cross; please stand for

prayers.," in seconds, those baby hands and bodies assumed the prayer position. I walked out into the hallway and heard children in six classrooms simultaneously praying the Our Father. A priceless moment that nearly reduced me to tears. Social awareness and community service begins as early as four years old where the little ones design bibs for babies at Moms House. Our students learn leadership from an early age and these skills are manifested by their membership in such organizations as the National Junior Honor Society and our Student Council.

- ◇ **A 99 percent graduation rate in Catholic high schools and strong preparation for further education.** I've said it before, and I'll say it again. The mighty tree was but once the tiniest seed. We are the fertile soil; the child is the seed who in time grows physically, intellectually, and spiritually into the mighty tree prepared to make a contribution to the world.
- ◇ **Exceptional faculty who help students reach their highest potential and individual attention in a caring community:** At HCS we are indeed blessed with a truly exceptional faculty where each teacher is committed to the cultivation of those tiny seeds; recognizing that all plants grow best when bathed in the light. We bathe our seeds in the light of Jesus!
- ◇ **Emphasis on proper use of technology in education:** Our own technology wizard, Mrs. Williams, works super hard to oversee the proper use of technology in our school. Consider the school-wide use of Chromebooks, and beefing up the curriculum with our Robotics classes added to the oft need for troubleshooting, we keep her hopping!

At HCS our families know that they can depend on a quality education for their children. I have always said that the investment made into a Catholic education insures a return like no other. **N-O-N-E!** Still a skeptic? I would invite you to speak with any one, five, ten, or even twenty (I'll stop there, but I could go on) of our own graduates who signed their kids up to be Holy Cross Crusaders, just like mom and dad.

It's that time of year.....don't be a Scarlett.....



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid...”  
Matthew 1:18-24

In the Gospel reading in this final week of Advent, “an angel of the Lord speaks to Joseph in a dream, encouraging him to accept the gift of baby Jesus into his family and to ‘not be afraid.’ We can only imagine how scared Mary and Joseph, asked to raise the Son of God, must have felt during this time of uncertainty and change. Despite this fear, Joseph follows God’s call and takes Mary into his home, choosing to accept the Gift that God has placed before him” (Reflection from Marina Jerry, Franciscan Mission Service). God bless the Holy Family for their faith and trust in the Lord!

I pray that you and your families may come to a greater understanding of God’s love this Christmas season, and that you may be open to growth in trust and faith, following the model of Mary and Joseph.

I’d like to recognize and celebrate two students who are embarking on a journey of faith and joy that requires much trust and faith.... An STMA senior, James Duke, and freshman, Karli Schradler, have decided to go through the RCIA program to become Catholic this year. To know that God is working through our school is a particular blessing this holiday. Please keep James and Karli in your prayers!

To share some Christmas cheer, please enjoy some scenes of joy from STMA!

Yours in Christ,

Rachael A. Casey, Principal



MERRY CHRISTMAS



BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED NEW YEAR



GOD’S LOVE TO ALL THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

