



# 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

April 16, 2023

2nd Sunday of Easter

holy cross

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm  
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am

Wednesday – 8:15 am

Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,  
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am  
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 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.

## A SINCERE THANKS

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus and Holy Cross School, we thank you for a great success on the last fish dinner of this Lenten Season.

A total of \$4,095.00 was raised for the school scholarship bulletin. This money will be used to assist some of our families who need additional help to send their child/ren to Holy Cross School.

The attendance at the Living Stations of the Cross put on by the eighth graders was well received, and we are so proud of our students for a job well done!

We thank all who came out to support the Knights and Holy Cross School.



## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending April 2, 2023

| BUDGET  | RECEIVED    | BUDGETED/NEEDED | DIFFERENCE |
|---------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| Regular | \$29,159    | \$27,500        | \$1,659    |
| YTD     | \$1,070,554 | \$1,097,400     | (\$26,846) |
| Needs   | \$1,610     | \$1,604         | \$6        |

## WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending April 2, 2023

| OFFERTORY TYPE    | RECEIVED |
|-------------------|----------|
| Regular           | \$5,278  |
| Second Collection | \$603    |

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.  
We appreciate your support!  
If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, I want to share God's great mercy and avail folks of the gift and blessing Christian marriage. A few years back, at about this same time, I wrote a Pastor's Column about the Sacrament of Marriage, and exhorted folks who were living together or were married outside the Church, to consider getting married (or getting their marriage "blessed") in the Church. As it is April, and the number of weddings rise between now and the fall, I thought it best to rerun a modified version of my comments regarding marriage in this column.

**Ratings, Weddings and Genies.** TV lover that I am, I can remember back in 1970, watching the wedding episode of "I Dream of Jeannie" when in a play for better ratings, using wedding-based glitz and glamor, Jeannie and Major Nelson (a lady genie and her astronaut beau) tied the knot. Alas, not even a genie and a wedding could save the show – and it was soon cancelled. This episode "I Dream of Jeannie" tell us something about weddings and marriages that life experience confirms. A wedding should not be about show and flash, or glitz and glamour; rather it should solemnly celebrate the first day of a lifetime of a marriage of a man and a woman.

**Wedding Bell Blues?** In our world today, weddings seem to have taken on a greater importance than the marriage itself. There are wedding TV shows, wedding registries, wedding planners, and a whole host of things that have made weddings the second largest expense in a person's life, after buying a home. The problem with this is that "the wedding" has become the focus of attention, while marriage has become some mere echoed after effect. To make an analogy, it would be like having a child and making the entire focus on the child's birth, and then once he's born, toss-

ing him aside and just looking back on that birth event.

**Gifts and Marriage.** To be clear, in the Catholic Church, there is a not a Sacrament of Wedding; there is a Sacrament of Marriage. The focus of that Sacrament is not on the event (the wedding), but on the vocation (married life). Thus, I often tell couples preparing for marriage to stop watching TV wedding shows. Why? Because marriage is not about the "event" of a wedding but, rather, about a life spent together. Thus, while a wedding passes into history in a few hours (after the cutting of the cake and the receiving of some Kenmore blenders, gift cards, and perhaps a set of Ginsu knives), the marriage endures. And marriage in the Church – received as a Sacrament – allows the Baptized parties of the marriage to share in the marital graces, given by God, to bless married life.

**Mission Not Impossible.** To this end, as Pastor of the parish, I want to commend our couples who are not married in the Church, to consider addressing that status. Many folks think that getting your marriage "blessed by the Church" is an arduous or even impossible task; in most cases, it is not. To this end, I would ask men and women, in non-Church marriages, to seek to amend that situation, and come into the fold of those married in Christ.

**How to Get Your Marriage Blessed in the Church:** There are several different situations that entail slightly different actions to address marital status. To list all the possible circumstances would take a book the size of a Herman Wouk novel. So, I will focus on the three most



## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F. Pastor  
 Msgr. Daniel McGlynn Pastor Emeritus  
 Rev. Brennan Ferris Parochial Vicar

## HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt Deacon  
 Mr. John Harvey Deacon  
 Mr. Richard Kosior Deacon  
 Mr. Robert McMullen Deacon  
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon

## HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787  
 Jane Green Receptionist, ext. 110  
 Diane Belt Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113  
 Kenneth Trojan Business Manager, ext. 119  
 Michele Dornberger Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116  
 Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 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  
 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

## MAILING ADDRESS

*Holy Cross School*  
 631 S. State St.  
 Dover, DE 19901

## HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Orders are being accepted for our Memorial Area brick pavers. The deadline is April 17th. Order forms are available at the Parish Office and on the Parish website at [www.HolyCrossDover.org/about-us/cemetery](http://www.HolyCrossDover.org/about-us/cemetery).



## BABY SHOWER APRIL 22-23

### FOR NEW DAY PREG CARE CENTER, DOVER

The Holy Cross Pro-Life group will be helping local needy families this month with a baby shower. Please donate from the following list:



*Bottles, Baby wash, shampoo and lotion, Bibs, Car Seat Canopies, Infant socks, Sleep Sacs, Bath towels/cloths, Bath tubs, diaper cream, diaper bags, Diapers newborn.*

Place items in the receptible in the Narthex the weekend of April 22-23 only. (Not the food collection bin.) Contact Donna if you would like to help. 862-266-1099

New Day, formerly Kent County Pregnancy Help Center, is associated with Care Net and is helping over 60 clients a month and is expanding their services. You can make a big difference! Free Ultrasounds are available. If you know a young woman with child who needs guidance and support, please refer her to: New Day PCC at 811 Governors Avenue [newdaypcc.com](http://newdaypcc.com) 302-264-9087

## 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER (APR 23)

### FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14, 22-33

The humanity of Christ was raised to fulfil the deepest longings of Israel.

### SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:17-21

Only the gifts of God are truly free, but the redemption is also the gift of a human being. This is why it was fitting that the Lord should pay a price for that redemption.

### GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

The Church is a conversation, as we share our faith. Sometimes we fail to allow the Lord into that conversation.

## Deacon Formation Information Nights



New class of  
**Permanent Deacons**  
starting in June 2023

For more information, visit: [cdow.org/deacons](http://cdow.org/deacons)

You must follow the link above to make your reservation to attend one of the Information Nights!

### NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to those who recently registered with our Parish:

- Doris and John Psota
- Despenia Hiester
- Dr. Gino and Jane Bottino

### NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest baptized members:

- Naomi Cielo Navarrete-Castrejon
- Yair Isael Castillo- Navarrete

### SODALITY MEETING

The next Sodality Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 16, at 12:30 pm, on the second floor of the Early Learning Center Building. All are welcome to attend.

### HOLY CROSS CEMETERY WEBSITE

The Cemetery website has been revamped with new features and updated information. Go to: [holycrossover.org/about-us/cemetery](http://holycrossover.org/about-us/cemetery)

### THE CRUSADER WALKATHON IS BACK!

It will take place on the Holy Cross School Campus on Friday April 28, 2023. If you would like to help the campaign, please visit our online pledge page, <https://independent.pledgebrite.org/fund/holycrossover23>, checks are also accept-



### MASS INTENTIONS APRIL

|                     |                                |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>17 MONDAY</b>    |                                |
| HC 8:00 am          | Justine Freud                  |
| <b>18 TUESDAY</b>   |                                |
| HC 8:00 am          | Sophia & Michael Timtishin     |
| <b>19 WEDNESDAY</b> |                                |
| HC 8:15 am          | Wilberto A. Macalalad          |
| <b>20 THURSDAY</b>  |                                |
| HC 8:00 am          | Carmelita Guevarra             |
| ICC 6:00 pm         | For the People                 |
| <b>21 FRIDAY</b>    |                                |
| HC 8:00 am          | TJean & Norman McClure         |
| <b>22 SATURDAY</b>  |                                |
| HC 8 am             | Felix Tromba                   |
| HC 5:00 pm          | Eugene Knapp                   |
| <b>23 SUNDAY</b>    |                                |
| HC 7:30 am          | (DM) Butler/Hornich Family     |
| ICC 8:30 am         | William F. and Ann R. Sullivan |
| HC 9:30 am          | (DM) Ives & Pross Family       |
| ICC 11:00 am        | Keith De Francesco             |
| HC 11:30 am         | Clara Valdes                   |
| ICC 1:00 pm         | For the People                 |

(LI—LIVING INTENTION  
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

ed at all school and parish offices. Please indicate that it is for the walkathon so that we are sure to give you an extra special thanks. Thank you for your continued support of our school! Crusader Proud!

### RACHEL'S VINEYARD

A Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of April 21-23, 2023. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with the pain of abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) [lucyminn929@gmail.com](mailto:lucyminn929@gmail.com).

faith in action

HOLY CROSS APRIL 22/23, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

F. Hettinger  
D. Kaltenbaugh

D. MacLeish  
M. Macleish

S. Murawski  
B. Richardson  
L. Richardson

LECTORS

H. Walker  
F. Urick

7:30 AM

R. Fritzsche  
S Gede

M.. Jacobs  
M. Thompson

B. Gyamfi  
E. Ghamfi

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM

K. Kelly  
S. Lascano

D. McGinnis  
L. Olmstead

G. Maddalena  
F. MAdukwe  
C. Imhof

LECTORS

C. Parks

11:30 AM

C. Garcia  
B Huzmn

A. Luna

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

B. Casey

LECTORS

D. Smith

10:00 AM

B. Vanvessan

LECTORS

A. Poppiti

1:00 PM

TBD

Homebound Ministry at Holy Cross Needs Your Help

Holy Cross is in need of more Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist to the shut ins and those in the nursing homes and hospital. We service so many assisted living places, rehabilitation places, nursing homes, the hospital, and the homebound and do not have enough ministers to lighten the load of those already doing this special ministry.

We will offer one class to train you as an EMHC. We will have you also shadow with someone to make you feel comfortable doing this ministry. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to learn more about this ministry. We need YOUR help!!!

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday We have openings where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY

7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY

5 am, 3 pm, 5 pm

TUESDAY

5 am, 2 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm

WEDNESDAY

11 am

THURSDAY

5 am

SATURDAY

5 am, 12 pm, 1 pm,  
2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

MORNING MEETING ON SCOTT HAN'S BOOK

Beginning on Monday, April 17, 2023, we will be starting a 12 part video series based on Scott Hahn's newest book, *Holy is His Name*. All are welcome to meet at 9 a.m. Monday mornings in St. Luke's Room at the ELC. For more information you may contact Carol by text or call at: 302-423-6654. Hope to see you there!

GALA FOR OLD BOHEMIA

The Old Bohemia Historical Society is hosting a Gala on Saturday, April 22 to raise money for the ongoing restoration and preservation of St. Francis Xavier Shrine and the Bohemia Mission, located in Warwick, MD. The evening starts at 6:15 PM with an hors d'oeuvres reception and open bar at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 371 E Main Street, Middletown, DE. Music will be provided by the Tim Laushey Quartet. Guests are welcome to attend Mass at St. Joseph Church at 5:00 PM. Tickets for the Gala are \$50 per person or \$80 per couple. Sponsorships and advertising in the program book are being offered. For ticket and/or advertising information, email OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com or call 302.545.2126. During this evening of food and music, a beautiful painting of the church by renowned local artist W. James McGlynn will be auctioned off. Prints signed in person by Mr. McGlynn will be available for purchase.

A TREASURED PRESENCE: FILIPINO AMERICAN CATHOLICS

Join Fr. Ricky Manalo for a presentation that celebrates the Quincentenary (500 years) of Catholicism in the lives of Filipino Communities on May 13 from 9 am to 3 pm at Mary Mother of Peach Church in Millsboro, DE. Cost is \$35. Contact Nela Wintjen at 302-727-2919. Please call for reservations as seats are limited.

- Nuestra Felicitaciones a los 25 nuevos miembros de Holy Cross que entraron en la Vigilia Pascual a formar parte del Cuerpo de Cristo y abrazaron nuestra Fe Católica, Sepan que estarán en nuestras oraciones.
- El día sábado, 15 de abril 48 de nuestros jóvenes recibieron su Sacramento de Confirmación, felicidades y también están en nuestras oraciones.
- ¡Feliz Domingo de la Divina Misericordia! La Congregación para el Culto Divino y la Disciplina de los Sacramentos publicó el 23 de mayo del 2000 un decreto en el que se establece, por indicación de San Juan Pablo II, la fiesta de la Divina Misericordia, que tendrá lugar el segundo domingo de Pascua. «En todo el mundo, el segundo domingo de Pascua recibirá el nombre de domingo de la Divina Misericordia.
- La denominación oficial de este día litúrgico será «segundo domingo de Pascua o de la Divina Misericordia». La Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia se recomienda rezar la Coronilla y la Novena a la Divina Misericordia; confesarse -para la cual es indispensable realizar primero un buen examen de conciencia-, y recibir la Santa Comunión el día de la Fiesta de la Divina Misericordia. Tiene como fin principal hacer llegar a los corazones de cada persona el siguiente mensaje: Dios es Misericordioso y nos ama a todos... "y cuanto más grande es el pecador, tanto más grande es el derecho que tiene a Mi misericordia" En este mensaje, que Nuestro Señor nos ha hecho llegar por medio de Santa Faustina, se nos pide que tengamos plena confianza en la Misericordia de Dios, y que seamos siempre misericordiosos con el prójimo a través de nuestras palabras, acciones y oraciones... "porque la fe sin obras, por fuerte que sea, es inútil"
- La esencia de la devoción a la Divina Misericordia se sintetiza en cinco puntos fundamentales:
  - 1. Debemos confiar en la Misericordia del Señor.
  - 2. La confianza es la esencia, el alma de esta devoción y a la vez la condición para recibir gracias.
  - 3. La misericordia define nuestra actitud ante cada persona.
  - 4. La actitud del amor activo hacia el prójimo es otra condición para recibir gracias.
  - 5. El Señor Jesús desea que sus devotos hagan por lo menos una obra de misericordia al día.
  - Foro Cristiano Todos los viernes de 6:00 – 8:00 pm en ELC. Venga escuche, participe y aprenda de nuestra
- Fe y como vivirla Con el Padre Brennan Ferris y el seminarista Jon Lenus
- Todos los segundo jueves de cada mes habrá una Unidad Médica Móvil de Cristiana Care que le proporcionara servicios de fácil acceso el mismo día. La unidad móvil está ubicado en: Modern Maturity Center, 1121 Forrest Ave. Dover, DE 19904

## ICC INFORMACION

- Nuestra comunidad esta bendecida de tener a 4 que entraron en la vigilia Pascual> Dios bendiga a Ricardo, Héctor, Alexandra y María
- Felicitaciones a nuestros 20 jóvenes que recibieron el Sacramento de la Confirmación el pasado 15 de abril, Dios los bendiga. Andrew, Mackie, Larry, Keyli, Rosmery, Brandon, Maria, Chelsea, Mark, Modesto, Alejandra, Kimberly, Leyver, Jeremias, Sherly, Maritsa, Maite< Allison, Mariana and Ricardo.
- Clases de Primera Comunión en ICC: Es el martes 18 de abril de 6:30 – 7:30 en el salón
- Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para las clases de Educación Religiosa 2023-2024. Es de suma importancia que inscriba a su hijo ahora, y de esa manera garantizar materiales, catequistas y salón a tiempo.
- Escuela Bíblica de Verano: Mantén tus ojos en el cielo!! ¡La reunión de la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones llegará pronto para planificar una semana estelar en agosto!



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Religious Education next class:

4/16/2023 at 3:00pm-5:00pm

Last Class 4/30/2023

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education for the 2023-24 school year? Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

Registration forms will be available online soon  
\*\*\*\*\*

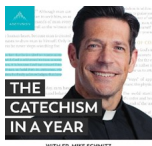
#### LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

LAFF, Living as a Family of Faith. How is your Faith growing; personally, and as a family? I was once told, "show me a Bible that has not been opened and I'll show you a family falling apart; show me a Bible falling apart, and I'll show you a family living in Faith." Put down the electronics and pick up the Bible and pray together as a family and learn to communicate with God and each other. Learn more about our Faith and the Catholic Church. Understand what "The Source and Summit" of our Catholic Faith is all about. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. Bring your communications equipment with you: Basic Information Before Leaving Earth. BIBLE!

Contact Tammy Korosec if interested in joining in the LAFF Class for next year.

### ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

The Catechism In a Year



[www.ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear](http://www.ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear)

In English:  
Father Mike Schmitz



<https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

In Spanish:  
Fray Sergio Serrano  
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration>



### YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

#### Newly Confirmed

Please continue to pray for our 60 teens from Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception parishes who were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation by Bishop William E. Koenig this weekend.

A special thank you to Fr. Lentini, Fr. Ferris, our deacons, volunteers and peer leaders who shared their faith with our young people this year. Thank you to the Columbiettes who assisted with our reception.

### CATHOLIC HEART CAMP COMING TO DOVER

Catholic Heart Camp will be coming to Holy Cross from June 19 to June 22. Anyone who needs assistance with painting, yard work, light repairs, etc., please call Linda Darling at 302-674-5787, ext. 123, or email her at ldarling@holycrossdover.org.

### SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Classes will resume on April 16th.

**Rice Bowl: THANK YOU** Our community changed lives this Lent through CRS Rice Bowl, and we want to say THANK YOU! Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl in the Bin at the front of Church or to Ms. Alicia, or donate online at [crsricebowl.org/donate](http://crsricebowl.org/donate).

Our community is blessed to have 4 enter the Church on Easter Vigil. God Bless Ricardo, Hector, Alexander and Maria.

Congratulations to our 20 Youth who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 15th. God Bless Andrew, Mackie, Larry Keyli, Rosmery, Brandon, Maria, Chelsea, Mark, Modesto, Alejandra, Kimberly, Leyver, Jeremias, Sherly, Maritsa, Maite, Allison, Mariana and Ricardo.

**First Communion classes Immaculate Conception:** The next Session is Tuesday, April 18th 6:30-7:30pm in the ICC hall.

**Registration for Religious Education for the 2023-2024 school year are now open.** Please get your children registered now, so that we may plan accordingly.

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS will be here before you know it! Come to our planning meeting on Sunday, April 23rd at 12noon in the Office meeting room and join our team of great volunteers.



So, envision everyone standing around the water cooler at the office. Idle chatter prevails until someone announces, "hey, wait, have I got a story to tell you guys." The enthusiasm of the story teller is obvious, with a great big smile, commanding everyone's attention. The story teller begins, loving every minute of the telling. Before everyone knows it, the story ends. Sadly, the humor seems lost on everyone but the story teller. There's the awkward moment when everyone just sort of walks away...slowly...so as not to hurt anyone's feelings... and as the enthusiasm of the teller wanes, he simply says; "well, I guess you just had to be there."

Now, envision Holy Cross Church in darkness, save the altar lights. Imagine the sheer silence as people enter to find a seat in a pew where they will have a birds eye view of the altar. Imagine two guards stationed at the entry-way, standing stoic, perfectly rigid. Imagine seeing a robed image standing motionless in front of the altar. Waiting. Imagine the beauty of the stained-glass window at night. Imagine a congregation waiting in quiet anticipation. It is 7 pm. The eighth-grade class, under the direction of Mrs. Kate White has prepared for the presentation of the Way of the Cross for several weeks. This evening, the fourteen Living Stations will be presented for members of the parish as a gift of gratitude.

"The Stations of the Cross follows the suffering of Jesus from when He was condemned to death and ending with His burial in the tomb. One of the earliest records of this tradition of praying through Jesus' suffering was recorded in a letter by a French pilgrim in the 4th Century. The Stations help us to reflect on the suffering of Jesus for our sins and to see Jesus's love for us."

*"Heavenly Father,  
as we gather this evening to reflect on your Son's Way of the Cross,  
we ask you to open our ears, minds and hearts to your presence.  
Please lead us to your Son's Cross,  
Lead us to your love,  
Lead us to your salvation."*

*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen*

And so began the Living Stations that evening in the darkened, solemn church. There is no real way of my relaying the power of the realistic reenactment of Christ's walk to Calvary. Because you had to be there. There is no convincing way of my being able to relay the power of the monologues read by students who portrayed such key figures as Barabbas, Simon of Cyrene, Mary Magdeline, Caiaphas, and the Blessed Mother. Because you had to be there. The voices of the angry crowd, the accompanying musical selections, and the period attire, all lent a credible realism to the presentation. I only hope you were there.

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

As a school we extend our gratitude to Dr. Wayne Thomas and his fellow Knights of Columbus for allowing us to be a part of the final Friday Fish Fry of the Lenten season. The benevolence of the patrons allowed the Knights to make a very generous donation to the HCS Scholarship Fund. The fund allows financial assistance for families who desire a Catholic education for their children, but might find the fees a bit of a challenge. In this day when more families are realizing the benefit of a tuition-based; faith-based education over the free alternative, it makes it a smidge less of a financial burden when assistance can be offered. As administrator of the school, I extend sincere appreciation for the financial gift extended, and as I have always tried to do, offer my heartfelt gratitude to the parishioners of Holy Cross Parish.

And now, we find ourselves at the outset of the Easter season. The final words of the presentation on that Friday night follow. May they resonate in each of us throughout the liturgical year.

*On his way to be crucified, Jesus showed true grace, undying love, and mercy in the face of cruelty and violence.  
Let us stay close to Jesus.  
Let us be with him in his suffering and death.  
Let us embrace and trust God's will as Jesus did.  
Let us carry on Jesus's love for the unloved,  
his mercy to those who hurt us,  
his compassion to those who are without necessity.  
Let us be the face of his peace for others.  
Let us have the courage to be spirit-filled witnesses of his everlasting love.*

On that evening, the church emptied in respectful silence..

common circumstances below. (For more complicated scenarios you will need speak to one of the Priests or Deacons in the Parish.)

1. **If you are married civilly and this is your only marriage:** If you are couple who, for whatever reason, married civilly, but not in Church — and you have only been married once — you can have your married “convalidated” in the Church (often referred to as “blessed in the Church”). This takes your civil marriage and makes it into a marriage in the Catholic Church.

- If you have been civilly married (or married in another faith without Church approval) for over four years, you need only to meet with one of our Priests or Deacons, complete a pre-marital inquiry to determine your marital status, and then a convalidation via the Catholic Rite of Marriage may be scheduled.
- If your civil marriage is more recent (four years or less), you may have to do pre-Cana preparation before the Convalidation of your marriage.

2. **If you (or your spouse) are Catholic and had a previous civil marriage before this one:** This is usually fairly simple. Since you (or your spouse) are Catholic and married outside of the proper Catholic form of marriage without permission of the appropriate Church authority, that civil marriage reflects a "lack of canonical form" and can be deemed null. This entails some paperwork. Once I get the approved documentation back from the Diocese (usually, in a week or two), we can get your Convalidation planned (and if married over four years, the simpler process noted above applies)

3. **If you are Catholic and have a previous marriage in the Catholic Church (or married with Church permission in another Christian Church/location):** In this circumstance, you may need an annulment. An annulment speaks to the questions of whether a marriage was validly contracted at the time of consent (i.e., was there duress, were there impediments, etc.). If it is deemed that the circumstances on the day of the marriage were not proper or that informed consent was impeded, an annulment may be issued, freeing you to marry. The good news is, is that process, with emendations put forth by Popes Benedict and more recently Pope Francis, has become much quicker (usually about six months or less).

**Please note:** If you are in a marriage currently, and you or your spouse are non-Catholic: If the non-Catholic party had been married previously, that original marriage of theirs is considered valid and thus an annulment process must ensue (as noted in #3 above).

**Marriage in the Church.** And so, I commend you: If you are married outside of the Church, seek to have your marriage convalidated (blessed) in the Church. This is the faith and teaching of your Church, moreover, this is the call of Jesus Christ to a man and a woman in the vocation of married life. Christ is asking: Do you want to do what is necessary to marry according to our faith and the laws of His Church: Please say, “I do.”

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor