



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 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

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-Saturday, 8 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

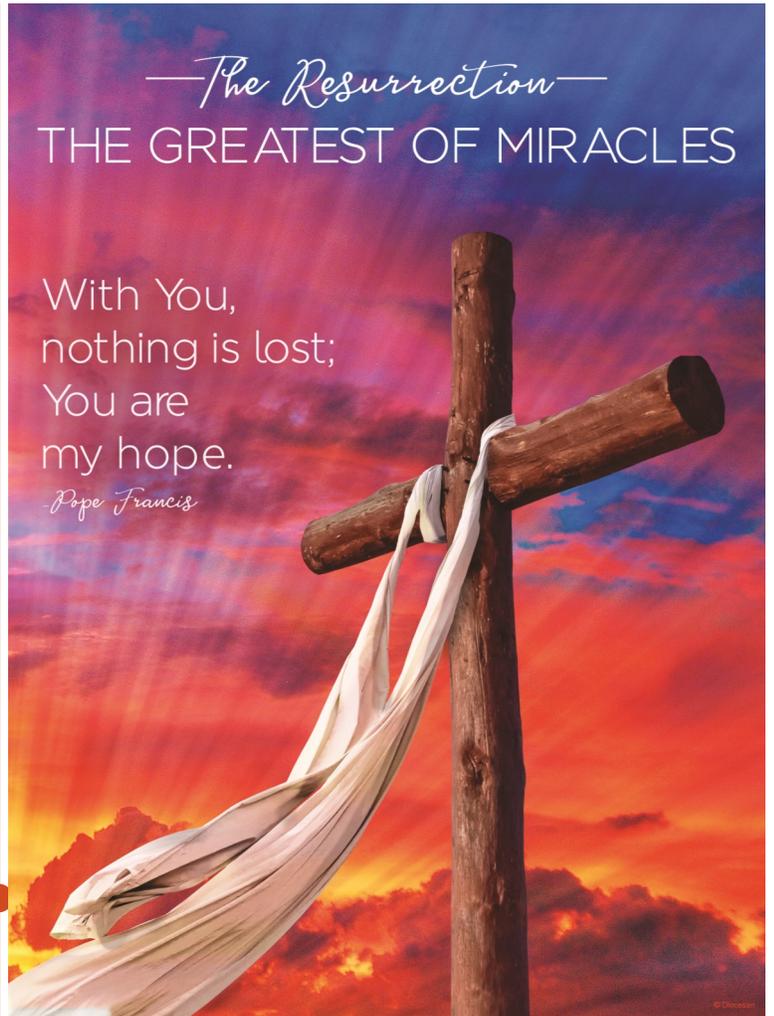
ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

—The Resurrection—
THE GREATEST OF MIRACLES

With You,
nothing is lost;
You are
my hope.

—Pope Francis



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.

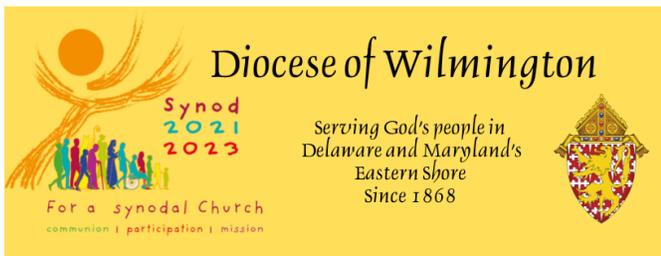
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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.

SYNOD 2021-2023

Pope Francis wants to hear from the whole Church about what is happening in local and parish communities of faith. He and Bishop Koenig would like to know what you think we are doing well and what we need to improve here at Holy Cross to help make our parishes better. The way he has proposed doing this is a synodal process. Holy Cross will have a Listening Session on Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 3 PM - to 6:00 PM in the parish Hall. If you are interested you need to register at Holy Cross website using the following link. Please complete the form once you sign in.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/CDOW1/HolyCrossParishSynodListeningSessionRegistrationForm>



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

April 3, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$26,675	\$26,500	\$175
YTD	\$1,053,634	\$1,040,450	\$13,184
Needs	\$1,245	\$1,480`	(\$235)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending April 3, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,881
2nd collection	\$590

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,

As a teacher for many years, I had often encountered a student who would do well, start to fade, start to fail — and then suddenly make a comeback, finishing strong, and saving his or her grade in the process. That's a kind of resurrection. Many people can make a comeback in their careers, like athletes, politicians, business leaders, actors, singers, artists, etc. Careers wane, and then bounce back; a dead career seemingly is resurrected. But the greatest come back of all time wasn't on the baseball field, the music chart, the TV ratings charts, the movie rankings chart, on political scene, or on the business scene. There are always comebacks in all of those area. But the biggest comeback is the one we celebrate today, on Easter: The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What Seems "Reasonable"? Today, the tomb is empty. Alleluia. Today, the Lord is risen. Alleluia. Today, Jesus Christ has triumphed over death. Alleluia. Sounds like Easter, and y'know, it sounds simple enough. But I once spoke to a so-called scholar who claimed Christianity, but who had certainly strayed from the centrality of our faith. This person told me, "When you preach of Christ risen from the dead, don't preach like it really happened. Preach like you wished it did. It sounds more reasonable." After some smelling salts, I roused myself and prayed for that *person's soul, and reminded myself of today's Gospel: "they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead."* [He had to... he had to... thus if for us the resurrection is merely hypothesis, hyperbole, or high hopes, then we are fools being here today; but for us this is history wrapped in the gift box of faith.]

What Makes Us Christian? This event — the Resurrection of Jesus Christ — is the cornerstone of our faith. Belief in the Resurrection is very much what makes us Christian. Not that Christ was born -- we were all born. Not that Christ died -- plenty of folks have died. But what is key, is that Christ conquered death, that he rose from the dead. Christ was human, divine too, but he became man. And he showed that by doing God's will and staying reconciled to God, gives us the hope of eternal life. Not the guarantee but the hope. Yes, at death our souls may find rest in heaven, but Christ tells us that both our body, in glorified form, and our soul will one day be reunited -- at the final resurrection. It is as God had intended.

Whole, Wheat and Rise. And so, we hear in the Gospel that for this to be possible, Christ had to rise from the dead — whole and entire. For us that is certainly true. The rising of Christ is essential to our faith. It is like a cake: If it is in the oven and it doesn't rise, you have a tasty mousepad; but if it rises you have what you hoped for — and it is a feast! Or as scripture says, "I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the

ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:24); that is it brings forth a fine harvest. And so, we imitate Christ in our prayer, in our sacraments, and in the way that we live our life -- and so to we have the hope of imitating him in death, and rising to new life. Thus, if he didn't rise, our faith is as nutty as that scholar's comment; if he didn't rise, what are we here for. If Good Friday was in fact the end, and Easter is fiction, why would anyone be a Christian?

Of Science and Shakespeare. But again, rising from the dead, to quote that scholar, doesn't sound reasonable, it doesn't sound scholarly; science can't prove it. But as Shakespeare's Hamlet says, "There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio, / Than are dreamt of in your science." And so, simply put, it happened: Christ was born, he died and he rose. And that is our faith. Scholars can debate and ponder, but actually we have a very simple faith that is based on trust in the one we know we can trust.

One Friday, Two Questions. And yet, if this is all so simple, what happened on Good Friday? On Good Friday, we rejected Christ. On Good Friday Christ died not merely for our sin, but because of our sin. We rejected Christ. If this faith is so simple; if Christ's news was so good, why did man reject Christ? This is important to understand, to better grasp Easter. Thus there are essentially two great questions: Christ is the Master, he is the Lord; why was he rejected? And when rejected, why did he come back in the Resurrection?

Why Was Jesus Rejected? Regarding that first question: "Why was he rejected?" — I want to quote an atheist. Atheist Albert Camus once wrote: "Ah, mon cher, for anyone who is without God and without a master, the weight of days is dreadful. Hence, one must choose a master, God being out of style." Basically, if man rejects God he takes another master. For some drugs become the master. For other amassing power or wealth becomes the master. And still for others the master chosen may be a seemingly good thing, like careerism or professionalism -- things that consume all of our attention and affection. Christ challenges these false masters... and so man, today as much as yesterday... resists or rejects Christ when he sees his ox being gourd. We cannot serve two masters; and on Good Friday mankind chose sides. It wasn't something to be proud of, yet it was something embedded in our pridefulness.

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mano Salla	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 8Is
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
---------------	---------------------

MAILING ADDRESS

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



2022 FAITH AND CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL – “WALKING BY FAITH”

In the Resurrection of Jesus we find hope in the prospect of everlasting life in heaven. But to obtain eternal life, we must accept the Lord’s invitation to follow Him. When we follow Jesus we are invited to Walk with Him. Walking By Faith, we trust in God and we are called to share.

During the weekend of April 30 & May 1, our parish will participate in the 2022 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal – a campaign conducted each year throughout the Diocese of Wilmington. Funds generated through the Appeal help provide critical financial support to nearly forty pastoral, charitable and educational programs and ministries.

The theme of the 2022 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal is “Walking by Faith”. When you walk by faith and participate in the Appeal – you enable programs and ministries to mobilize in service to the underserved. Together, “Walking By Faith” we will transform lives.

You can learn more about the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal by reading about the campaign insert in this week’s Dialog or visiting the diocesan website at www.cdow.org; click “Giving” then “Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal.”

READINGS FOR APRIL 24 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

FIRST READING: ACTS 5:12-16

Luke gives us a picture of the early community of disciples in Jerusalem and how people were attracted to come to them for blessing and healing.

SECOND READING : REVELATIONS 1:9-13, 17-19

John recounts the vision that led to his writing this book, the Revelation. The risen Jesus speaks to him and commissions him to set down all that he sees regarding the present and the future.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

The risen Jesus makes himself present to his disciples on two occasions. He commissions them to continue his work. Then Thomas makes the supreme confession of faith.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Perhaps an egg, with its hard shell but soft inside, can remind you that in marriage you must crack open your defenses to uncover each other's vulnerability. Safeguard this treasure.

PARENTING POINTERS

Discuss with your family one hardship that each of you have had this past year. Carrying them together can help. Consider a lesson or a benefit that at least one of your trials has brought you.

RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. For more info:

www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for an in-person or virtual experience getting closer to your spouse? Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! There will be an in-person weekend in Wildwood, NJ May 13-15, 2022. Many more options for virtual events can be found on our website www.wwme-delmar.org. For additional information please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Happy Easter! Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, April 23rd, meet Anna Keating, the co-author of the book, "The Catholic Catalogue: A Field Guide to the Daily Acts That Make Up a Catholic Life," Catholic Forum airs on Saturday after-

MASS INTENTIONS APRIL

18 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	James McCready
19 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Wilberto Macalalad
20 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Rafael Zarragoza
21 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Edie Holland
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
22 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Paul Gallagher
23 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Jensen Reed
HC 5 pm	Dec. Members Ernst Family
24 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Albert Baca
ICC 8:30 am	Deacon James Tormey
HC 9:30 am	Marjorie J. Mikula
ICC 11 am	Rosemary Vassquez
HC 11:30 am	Tom Burton
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

noons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.



HOLY CROSS APRIL 23/24, 2022

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Bieker J. Clendaniel S. Murawski
C. Bugglin F. Ernst A. Zink
M. Casey E. Zink

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
V. Vidya

7:30 AM A. Fischer P. Sheldon E. Wadhams
J. Fischer M. Thompson C. Wilk
R. O'Neill

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM K. Boyer N. West A. Carter
G. Richards R. Wiley M. Milligan
C. Robinson R. Willemin

LECTORS

C. Petka
M. Sossich

11:30 AM R. Ramirez R. Richards K. Espinosa
B. Guzman E. Guzman C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM S. Bell

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM J. Carrow

LECTORS

L. Schlaupitz

1:00 PM To be determined

LECTORS



SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

Holy Cross School is holding a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for our winning Holy Cross Odyssey of the Mind Team.



We are raising money to send the team to the World Competition in Ames, Iowa

When: Tuesday, April 26

Time: 4:30 to 6:30 pm

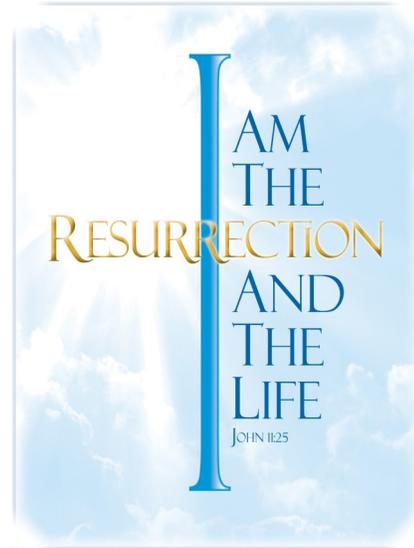
Place: Parish Hall

Menu: Spaghetti with or without meat sauce, Caesar Salad and Bread

Cost: \$10 for adults, Children 10 and under \$5.00

Take out is available!!

For more information call 302-270-7432.



ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY 10 am, 12 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANA

- ALELUYA CRISTO RESUCITO! Nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones en este día glorioso donde Cristo ha vencido la muerte. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, en su párrafo 638, expresa: La Resurrección de Jesús es la verdad culminante de nuestra fe en Cristo, creída y vivida por la primera comunidad cristiana como verdad central, transmitida como fundamental por la Tradición, establecida en los documentos del Nuevo Testamento, predicada como parte esencial del Misterio Pascual al mismo tiempo que la Cruz: Cristo ha resucitado de los muertos, con su muerte ha vencido a la muerte. Y a los muertos ha dado la vida.
- Quiero agradecer a todos los jóvenes que participaron en la dramatización de las Estaciones de la Cruz muy en especial a la Sra. Mariana Pitti que estuvo a cargo de los ensayos de los jóvenes. Es una bendición poder acompañar a Jesús hasta el Calvario.
- El comité de Arte y Ambientación invita a que se anoten para hacer la limpieza y la preparación del Templo para la Pascua. Si usted desea ayudar anótese con la Sra. Irma Venezia nos reuniremos el sábado, 16 de abril, a las 9:00 de la mañana en la iglesia. Todas las personas que quieran ayudar están bienvenidos.
- Confirmación para adultos: Si usted es mayor de 18 años de edad y no se ha recibido su sacramento de la Confirmación las clases de preparación, empezaran pronto. Habrá Confirmaciones de Adultos Hispano el domingo 10 de Julio. Para más información hable con el Sr. Antonio Luna o llame a la oficina de la parroquia al 302-674-5787 ext. 118.
- Si usted no está inscrito en la parroquia por favor hágalo es importante por si necesita una carta de recomendación de parte de la parroquia, para asuntos legales o de solicitud de documentos de inmigración tiene que estar registrado en la parroquia y ser un miembro activo de la comunidad parroquial, para poder escribirle la carta.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

- ¡Bendiciones de Pascua para usted y su familia de parte de todos nosotros en Educación Religiosa!
- La Inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 está abierta, las inscripciones están disponibles a todas las familias. Tiene que inscribir a su hijo cada año Por favor devolver las aplicaciones a Alicia Poppiti antes del 1 de mayo para que podamos estar seguros de tener suficientes maestros y espacio en los salones. Ultimo día de clases para este año es el domingo 1 de mayo. El último día de clases para este año escolar es el 1 de mayo. Terminaremos nuestro año con nuestro tradicional Rosario Viviente.
- Preparación para la Primera Comunión: próxima sesión, será el retiro el sábado 30 de abril de 2022 de 9:00 p. m. a 12:00 mediodía en el salón. Todos los Primeros comunicantes tienen que asistir. Solo los niños. Padres no tienen que asistir. Por favor, se puntual.
- Preparación para la Confirmación de Jóvenes: Por favor mantenga a nuestros 12 jóvenes candidatos de la Inmaculada Concepción en sus oraciones mientras continúan su jornada de fe al Sacramento de la Confirmación, que se celebrara el sábado 23 de abril a las 10:00 de la mañana en la Iglesia de Santa Cruz en Dover. El ensayo es el viernes 22 de abril a las 6 p. m. en la Iglesia de la Santa Cruz,
- Más información sobre La Escuela Bíblica de Verano En las próximas semanas: La Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones en La Inmaculada Concepción es del 1 al 5 de agosto, de 6 a 8:30 p. m. en el Salón. Los niños deben estar inscritos para asistir. Más información sobre la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones en las próximas semanas. La Inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 está abierta, las inscripciones están disponibles a todas las familias. Tiene que inscribir a su hijo cada año Por favor devolver las aplicaciones a Alicia Poppiti antes del 1 de mayo para que podamos estar seguros de tener suficientes maestros y espacio en los salones. Ultimo día de clases para este año es el domingo 1 de mayo.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Last Class: April 24
Contact Tammy Korosec at either
tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)
674-5787 X 122 with questions or concerns

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF for next year, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

Adult Education (HC)

The Bible in a Year Podcast 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



SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School July 11-15th, 2022
Ages PK4-Grade 4

Registrations accepted after June 1, 2022
Capacity is limited

Volunteers will be needed!



EASER BLESSING FROM ALL OF US
IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!!!

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Candidates

Please be in the Parish Hall on Friday,
April 22 by 6 pm for rehearsal for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Work Camp in Dover (HC)

We have a large group of teens and adults who are traveling to Dover to help our residents. They will be working June 27 to June 30. If you have projects that they would be able to assist you with, please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org. Painting, yard work, organizing, small repairs, cleaning - whatever you have that you are not able to do on your own, they would love to help.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Easter Blessings to you and your family from all of us in Religious Education!

Registration for 2022-2023 school year is open, registrations are available to all families. You must register your children each year. Please return to Alicia Poppiti by May 1st so that we can be sure to have enough teachers, books, and space in classrooms.

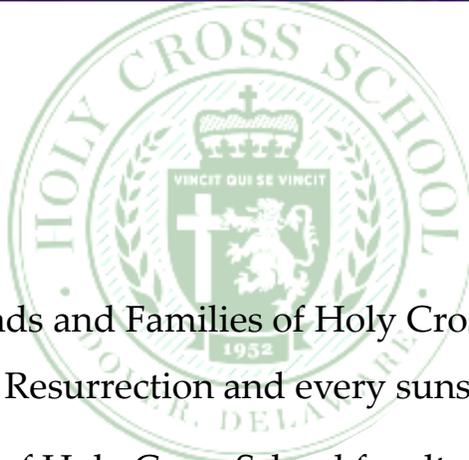
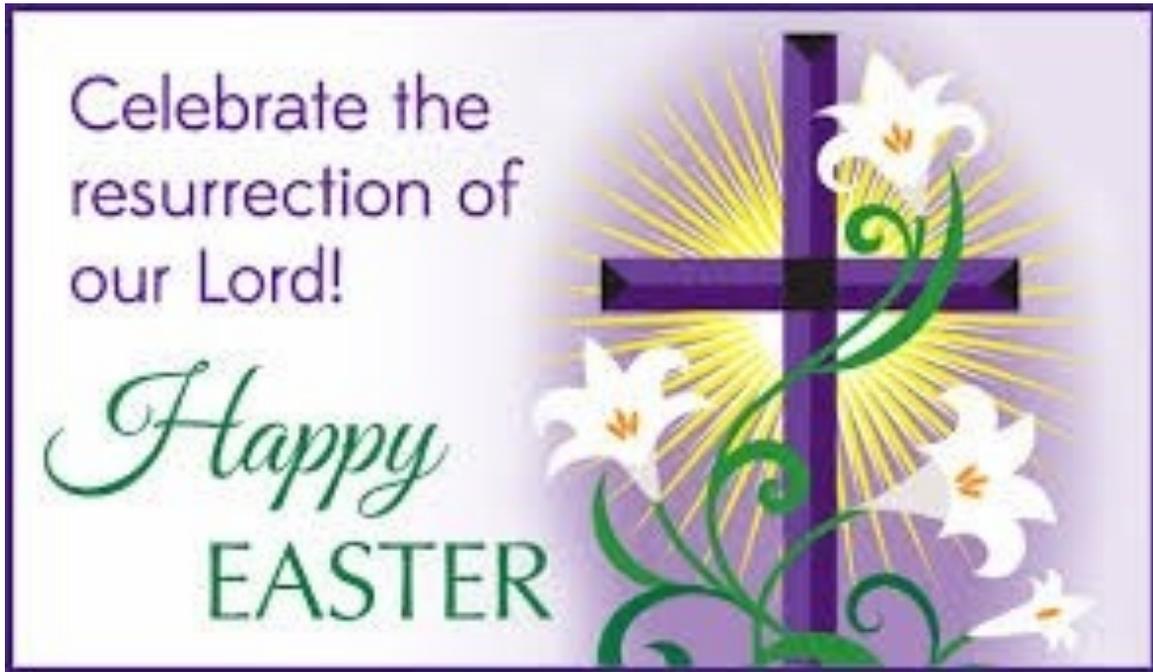
Last day of classes for this school year is May 1st. We will end our year with our traditional Living Rosary.

1stCommunion Prep: the retreat will be on Saturday, April 30 from 9am-12noon in the Parish Hall. All first communicants need to attend. Only children, parents do not need to attend.

Confirmation: please keep our 12 youth from Immaculate Conception in prayer as the continue their journey to the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be celebrated on Saturday, April 23rd at 10am at the Church of the Holy Cross in Dover.

Rehearsal is on Friday, April 22, @ 6pm at the Church of the Holy Cross, Dover.

More information about Vacation Bible School in next few weeks. Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Conception is from August 1-5, from 6-8:30pm in the Hall. Children must be registered to attend. Registrations will be available soon.



Dear Friends and Families of Holy Cross School,
Every dawn tells of His Resurrection and every sunset proclaims His glory!

On behalf of Holy Cross School faculty and staff
May our spirits rejoice and our hearts be glad as we celebrate
the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

From the fullness of his grace we have all received
one blessing after another.

JOHN 1:16

Mrs. Linda Pollitt

Why didn't Jesus Reject Us? Regarding that second question: This is even more important — “When rejected, why did Jesus come back?”, or more simply stated: When rejected, why didn't God, Christ, reject us? It certainly would have been the reasonable thing to do. When someone spits in your face you don't embrace them. When someone jeers you and curses you, you don't return to that crowd. And when someone nails you to a Cross, it is clear the welcome mat has been removed. So why did Christ return?

The Journey. When I ask this question, it leads me to think about my Grandmother. My grandmother -- my mother's mother -- used to talk about her journey from Italy when she emigrated to America. It was once asked why she never went back to Italy to visit. She said her journey to America was a tough one; she spent many, many days (I believe over two weeks) in the steerage section of a ship. She would say that a country you spend so many days in steerage getting away from is a place you don't want to go back to. And yet, Christ — after experiencing something worse than long days in steerage — came back. He didn't abandon us. He was not to be an absentee landlord to us.

The Easter Question. All that being said, why does he give us Easter? He gives us Easter — this day and event of resurrection — because Easter represents the faithfulness of Christ's enduring and steadfast love despite the worst we can inflict. Christ endures with us until we come to the place in our lives when we realize we need the fullness of God's love. He waits until that moment when we realize that "the weight of days" is too dreadful without Him. He waits until that moment when we realize that the masters we have chosen cannot give us peace or redemption. And then, He shows us that even the inevitability of death, given by sin — which none of our false masters can conquer — is vanquished by him. And so, he came back:

- because of a profound spirit of charity;
- because he knew our human condition and our need for redemption,
- so the hope for heaven could be restored.
- remembering the goodness of his creation in the beginning.
- so that those who turned from Him may one day turn back to Him.

A Door opened by the One We Adore. Yes, praise God, He came back. By the faithfulness of His Divinity, His humanity rose from the dead ... opening the door for us: A door that had been closed by the sin of Adam and Eve and all the sins afterwards. And now that closed door is opened. That door, once closed by death, is again opened. Christ came back and made redemption reality. And this isn't science, my friends, this is faith, and this is truth. And for us today is the first day of the threefold promise of an eternal Easter. That is, to say: A promise of hope, a hope of heaven, and a heaven of eternity with Christ, body and soul at the final resurrection.

The Score. And for those keeping score: It's God 1, Death 0... it's a shutout, a no hitter and a perfect game. If only the Phillies could resurrect this well! And so, today is Easter, and Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Now, reasonable or not, that's something to say alleluia about! Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

Alleluia!