



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

April 19, 2020

Divine Mercy Sunday

holy cross

icc

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

I Trust In You!



**DIVINE
MERCY**

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.

Check out our websites

holycrossover.org
iccmaryl.org

- *Read daily reflections by our clergy*
- *Watch Masses from various sources*
- *Find spiritual readings*
- *Read about our latest updates*

Watch the website for the weekend Masses being streamed live by the Diocese.

Keep praying.

While we are not allowing anyone into the parish offices, you can call and leave messages and we will get back to you.; or, you can email us.

Following the directives of our Bishop, the churches will remain locked until further notice. No Masses, no confessions, no baptisms, no gatherings of any type. Funerals will be graveside only and limited to 10 persons including clergy.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) ending April 5

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$17,870	\$28,200	(\$10,330)
YTD	\$1,109,726	\$1,135,600	(\$25,874)
Needs	\$1,652	\$1,586	\$66

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending April 5

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$1,265
Second	\$30

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."

Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time that we cannot gather together at Mass. It is through your support that we can continue to operate the parish.

You can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

We will call you back .

Thank you for your continued support.

Dear Parishioners,

In the South Atlantic, in the most distant part of the world that it is possible to be in, there is an island group called Tristan da Cunha. It is named after the Portuguese explorer who first encountered these islands in 1506. It's quite isolated. How isolated is it? It is 1,200 miles from the nearest inhabited land, Saint Helena, 1,500 miles from South Africa and over 2,000 miles from South America. It makes Pocomoke, Maryland look like downtown Manhattan. One of the islands in the group is named "Inaccessible Island." Another famous island in that area of the world is St. Helena – the island on which Napoleon was ultimately exiled to assure that there was no way for him to get back to civilization.

Meanwhile in TV Land. Then of course, we all know Gilligan's Island – fictionally located in the south Pacific, population seven castaways! Notably on this island, is a professor who can make an atomic reactor of coconuts but can't build raft, a movie star with a seemingly larger collection of dresses than Bloomingdale's and a millionaire with suitcases of useless money. But for all their isolation, it seemed that each week the castaways were visited by folks who stumbled upon this island – and who failed to give the castaways what they wanted most: The chance to get back to the mainland, and to be with their fellow citizens.

Let's Talk Turkey. Well today, we are not heading to Inaccessible Island, or Gilligan's Island. No! Today we step into the Wayback machine, set the dials for the late First Century, and head for the Greek Island of Patmos – an island that was a mere backwater of Greek portion of the Roman Empire, right off the coast of modern-day Turkey. It was on that island that St. John the Apostle had an encounter with the risen Lord. In the Book of Revelation, written by St. John, he wrote this:

I, John, your brother who shares with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the spirit on the Lord's day. (Revelation 1:9-10)

Voted on to the Island. Now, the island of Patmos is not and was not a normal island or town, rather it was a small isolated island in the Aegean Sea and served as a place of banishment for prisoners sentenced to isolation and hard labor rather than to execution. It was an early version of a prison-type labor camp. John was sent there "because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus," meaning, because of his loyalty to the word of God and his insistence in preaching the message of Jesus. It was a time of persecution of Christians under the reign of the emperor Domitian.

John identifies himself to the Christians to whom he is writing as "your brother." Together with these Christians he shares three things:

- (a) the present reality of "the persecution,"
- (b) the future hope of "the kingdom," and
- (c) the means to go from the one (persecution) to the

other (the Kingdom of God), namely "patient endurance."

Then and Now. As we celebrate the glorification of Christ at Easter, the church reminds us through John that our hope of future glory can only be attained if we accept with patient endurance the persecutions and crosses that life throws at us when we resolve to live our lives in faithfulness to Jesus and his teachings.

So, today, right now, for us, like St. John at Patmos, who was living in his own version of lock-down, we also together with a brothers and sisters in our Catholic faith share three things:

- (a) the present reality of "the persecution"
 - in this case the persecution of our way of life, caused by a virus.
- (b) the future hope of "the kingdom,"
 - our common faith that "we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ," and
- (c) the means to go from the one (persecution) to the other (the Kingdom of God), namely "patient endurance."
 - and man, oh, man, do we need that patience right now in order to endure.

Sunday Morning Comin' Down. By the time St. John wrote his Epistles and the Book of Revelation, Sunday – the Day of Resurrection – had become the holy day for Christians, comparable to what Saturday (the Sabbath) was for Jews. This new Sabbath, this special day, was the day when the faithful would come together in worship and celebration, a day to connect with one another and to connect with the risen Lord. However, John is banished to Patmos, this prison island where, obviously, there is no Christian assembly, no church. It is Sunday, the day of the Lord, and what does John do? He cannot attend a church service (sound familiar?) in Patmos since there is none. So, he does the next best thing. He recollects himself and joins himself in spirit with his brothers and sisters in the faith who are worshipping elsewhere at that time. In spirit, he connects with them and with the risen Lord. Since he had no liturgy to attend on earth, God admits John into the heavenly liturgy where Jesus, the lamb that was slain who now lives forever, is both priest and victim.

A Revelation! Thus, that great Scriptural writing, The Book of Revelation is basically an account of what St. John saw and heard in his privileged participation in the heavenly liturgy while on Patmos. The place where this happened can still be visited today: On the island of Patmos one can find the Cave of the Apocalypse – Apocalypse being the alternate name for the book of Revelation; it is located beneath the Church of St. John the Theologian. It is the spot where St. John encountered God in the heavenly liturgy; where he connected the earthly worship of the Church to the Mass of the Lamb in heaven.

(Continued on page 4)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Idongesit Etim	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mano Salla	Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Scott Peterson	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
Mr. James Tormey	Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green/Susan Cutrona	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I18
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

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

Rachael Casey	Principal
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

His Presence in the Present. And so, for us, in normal times, because of that connection, our Sunday observance — the opportunity to connect with one another and with the Lord in weekly worship— should not be seen as an obligation but as a privilege. And maybe these days we feel that more than during previous times. Now, as we find ourselves in the situation where it is impossible to attend Sunday service, we, like St. John, can always recollect ourselves in God’s presence. We can read the word of God, pray, and place ourselves in spiritual communion. The Lord himself will meet us in our place of need and grant us the same blessings that he has reserved for those who worship him in spirit and in truth.

The Feast of Heaven and Earth. This Sunday (and indeed on all these Sundays of no Mass) try to have the experience of St. John, and unite yourself in spirit to the feast of heaven and earth. Unite yourself to the Mass in eternity — a Mass that connects to and is reflected in the Mass we celebrate here on Earth. Know that the Mass instituted by Jesus Christ, carried out by his Apostles and their successor (today’s Priests and Bishops), whether celebrated in Marydel or Dover, has a foothold in Heaven.

St. John the Apostle learned of this, he experienced it and he wrote about it. His Revelation to us, about God’s Revelation to him, in a book appropriate entitled, the Book of Revelation, is a book of the Bible worth coming to understand. During these days, let’s take courage and strength from the experience of St. John the Apostle, who gives us a sound spiritual perspective for our current circumstance.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

The Diocese of Wilmington’s Office for Religious Education is providing reflections on the Sunday Gospels for families. Each week,

Fr. Rich Jasper,
Associate Pastor
of St. Ann’s
Church in Wil-
mington, and Fa-
ther Carlos
Ochoa, Associate
Pastor of St. John

the Baptist/Holy Angels Churches in Newark and Director of Hispanic Ministry for the Diocese, reflect on the Gospel and what it means to us during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. For this week’s reflections in English and Spanish, please go to – cdow.org/FamilyVideoSeries.



MARRIAGE MOMENTS

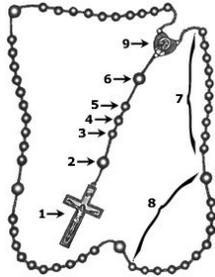
Recall a time in your marriage when you went without, had physical or emotional pain, or experienced the death of a loved one. And still you are together.

PARENTING POINTERS

April is Child Abuse Prevention month. We are agents of honesty, change, and prevention. Claim your call.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads.



1. Make the Sign of the Cross

2. Optional Opening Prayers

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

4. Hail Mary

5. The Apostles' Creed

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "Eternal Father" (6) on the "Our Father" bead and then 10 "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" (7) on the following "Hail Mary" beads.

9. Conclude with Holy God (Repeat three times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

10. Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion — inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL

20 MONDAY

HC 6:30 am
HC 8 am

Emanuel Rucci
Ann Csajko

21 TUESDAY

HC 6:30 am
HC 8 am

Kelly Napier (LI)
Donald Fair

22 WEDNESDAY

HC 6:30 am
HC 8:15 am

Giesela MacLeish

23 THURSDAY

HC 6:30 am
HC 8 am
ICC 7 pm

Arthur E. Luba
For the People

24 FRIDAY

HC 6:30 am
HC 8 am

Antonio Granitto

25 SATURDAY

HC 8 am
HC 5 pm

Gerald Thomas Emberger
Dec Members Casey Family

26 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am
ICC 8:30 am
HC 9:15 am
ICC 11:00 am
HC 11 am
HC 1 pm
ICC 1 pm
HC 6 pm

Millie Weyent
Costello & Lemp Families
Clara Combs
Joseph F. Hancoj
Dec Members Ranieri & DiSandra Fam.

For the People
Robert Rixey

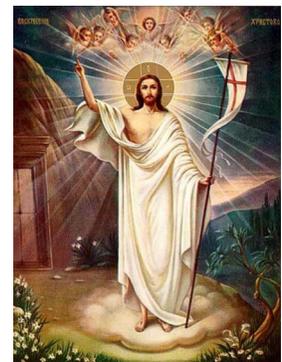
(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

MASS INTENTIONS

While there are no public Masses at this time, our priests will be saying private Masses each day. During their private Masses, the intentions of the day will be remembered. On the weekend, the priests will be saying several private Masses to cover all of the intentions that occur on the weekend. Your loved ones will still be remembered in prayer.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.



Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually

into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Pope Francis

Pope Francis Prayer:

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Archbishop Gomez Prayer:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,

and gain for our nation and world,

and for all our families and loved ones,

the protection of your holy angels,

that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,

we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.

Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,

wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,

teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

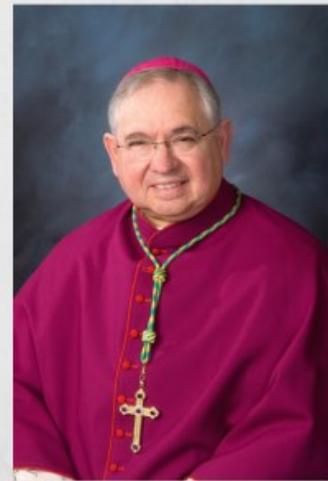
We come to you with confidence,

knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,

keep us in the embrace of your arms,

help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles
president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

SAMARITAN FOOD NEEDS (HC)

The Samaritan Food Pantry is collecting items to help with the great demands being placed on them during this crisis.



Please leave perishable items in the freezer by the Samaritan pick up door and non perishable items can be left there also. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

READINGS FOR APRIL 26 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14, 22-33

Peter gives witness to the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, in fulfillment of the prophecy of David that God's holy one would not be allowed to experience corruption.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:17-21

We are freed from a useless way of life by the ransom paid in the precious blood of the lamb that is Christ.

GOSPEL: LUKE 24:13-35

The disciples' hearts burn within them as they talk with the stranger on the road to Emmaus and they recognize the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.

this & that

- EL POR ORDEN DEL OBISPO LA IGLESIA ESTARA CERRADA HASTA NUEVO AVISO, ESTO INCLUYE LA CAPILLA DE ADORACION.
 - Si todos colaboramos y nos quedamos en casa estaremos ayudando a controlar la propagación del COVID-19. Si seguimos las recomendaciones del gobierno y del departamento de salud todo regresará a la normalidad pronto. "QUEDATE EN CASA"
 - Con la suspensión de las misas publicas nuestra parroquia se ve desafiada por la ausencia de la contribución financiera que hacen los feligreses, necesitamos su apoyo para que podamos funcionar y mantener las operaciones básicas de la parroquia y pagar los gastos necesarios de la parroquia. Le pedimos que sea generoso en estos tiempos de incertidumbre que vive el mundo en estos tiempos. Vaya a la pagina principal y haga su donativo. Sobre todo, le pedimos sus oraciones para que pronto podamos regresar a la normalidad.
 - La Misa dominical se transmitirá en vivo desde nuestra parroquia Holy Cross conéctese con la familia parroquia virtualmente. Escuche la misa del Domingo de Ramos desde Holy Cross en nuestro nuevo YouTube canal HolyCross-DE. Estará disponible este domingo a partir de las 7:30 a.m.
 - Prepárese para la Santa Misa con su familia. ¿Como hacerlo?
1. Prepare un espacio Sagrado, ponga una mesa con un mantel o tapete, coloca algunos artículos religiosos, un crucifijo, una biblia,

Vela (apagar cuando termine), imágenes de María y el santo Rosario

2. Levanten sus corazones, sus mentes, sus voces y sus cuerpos.
3. Haga los gesto y posturas necesarios de pararse, sentarse y arrodillarse. Cada postura que asumimos en la misa enfatiza y refuerza el significado de la acción en el momento de la misa, tiene un sentido profundo.
 - α. Nos ponemos de pie como signo de respeto y honor.
Nos sentamos para escuchar y meditar
Nos arrodillamos para adorar
4. **Haga un Acto de Comunión Espiritual**

Creo, Jesús mío, que estás real y verdaderamente en el cielo
y en el Santísimo Sacramento del Altar.
Te amo sobre todas las cosas, y deseo vivamente recibirte
dentro de mi alma, pero no pudiendo hacerlo ahora sacramentalmente, ven al menos espiritualmente a mi corazón. Y como si ya te hubiese recibido, te abrazo y me uno del todo a Ti. Señor, no permitas que jamás me aparte de Ti. Amén
San Alfonso María de Ligorio
5. Reflexione y dialoga con la familia acerca de las lecturas y la homilía que escucho.
6. Agradece a Dios por las bendiciones que nos da todos los días y por la Santa Misa y no olvide de rezar por sus sacerdotes.

comunidad hispana

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC, ICC) REGULAR CCD/SRE CLASSES

- All Masses and classes are cancelled at this time. Please continue to check the website or the latest resources that are online.
 - www.holycrossdover.org
 - www.iccmarydel.org
- Parents are being sent, via email, resources for your children's classes.
- If you have any questions, contact Alicia at ICC at dre@iccmarydel.org or her office at 410-482-8939; or contact Tammy at HC at her office 302-674-5787, ext 121, or her email at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

SRE REGISTRATIONS (ICC)

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020-2021 school year are available on the website or you can email office for them to be sent to you.

Fees are as follows: \$40 per child, not to exceed \$150 per family. This is to defray all costs of books, materials, and supplies.

LAS MATRICULAS: para nuestro programa de formación cristiana de niños en domingo están todavía disponibles en el despacho parroquial, en la entrada principal del templo, y en el internet. Favor de someterlas en lo más pronto posible, con la cobra de \$40 por cada niño, y no más de \$150 cada familia.

YOUTH GROUP: (HC)

Please join us for the next 3 Sundays at 5 pm for Youth Group - LFTN.CO/LIFENIGHT

We can't meet in person, but please share this link with your friends.

PEER LEADERS (HC)

If you are interested in helping next year with classes and retreats, please email Mrs. Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org. She will keep up with you via Flocknotes until we can meet in person.

ICC FUNDRAISER (ICC)

While you are at home cleaning out closets, we ask you to hold onto you used, old shoes. Yes, SHOES! ICC is going to have a Shoe Drive Fundraiser. What is involved is you donate any gently worn, used and new shoes. We can collect all shoes types.....flip flops, cros, boots, tennis shoes, high heels, slippers. We CANNOT collect rollerblades, roller skates, ski boots, or any other type of attachment as these.

Worn is okay, we're going for no visible rips or tears, and light wear on the soles. Please keep this in your mind as you are looking for things to do in the stay at home order. Hang on to them and we will let you know when you can drop them off. Thanks and happy cleaning out!!

REGISTRATION FOR HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

At Holy Cross School, we believe a Catholic education is a unique and invaluable learning experience. Why? We nurture the ongoing, daily influence of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual, intellectual, and physical growth of our students and families.

As our mission states we "provide an academically rich, faith-filled learning environment, thus ensuring a Catholic values-based education. At Holy Cross we strive to convey a sense of justice, peace, compassion, and respect for all God's creation". As a Catholic school, we instill in our students a life long commitment to learning as well as prepare them to be models of Christian values.

This faith is what has carried our school through the most difficult of times. When you enroll your child into Holy Cross School, you are becoming a member of a large faith-filled family. Academically, during this transition to online instruction our students continued to learn daily due to our systems in place from day one of the stay-at-home orders. Our students have learned new content from teachers who discovered new ways of delivering their instruction.

Holy Cross School is accepting applications for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Please contact the school:

Our website is holycrossdover.org/school

Download an application form and mail it into the parish office.

You may also call 302-674-5787 x113; please leave your name and phone contact and we will call you back.



I recall so many weekends where I would wish for the time to be able to just stay home. To be able to tend to those things that I would like to do around the house. Holiday breaks fly by because family members know I'm not in school, so invitations are extended, favors are requested, and then no matter the time of year, there is always obligatory work for school.... as I tear another page from the old cat calendar and blink, it's Friday. On Monday, it's Monday and all that a Monday holds in store.

All winter long, [did we actually have a winter in Delaware this year??] I grumbled and complained about the lack of a snowfall. I am an enormously big fan of precipitation in any form; [well, maybe not hail so much] I truly find it mesmerizing. But, when all the precip this year was in the liquid form, as opposed to the white frozen variety, I was most disheartened. But, as most often happens in life, God had a plan I was not aware of.

And so we found ourselves at the end of the day on March 13, 2020. It was a Friday. At this writing, it has been four weeks and two days since I have seen, spoken with, hugged, or simply observed some of the most favorite people in my life. Nothing could have prepared me for such a prolonged, unplanned for "respite" from school. These days are not flying by. Initially, we all thought that we could do the two weeks. Not too much of a problem. Thanks be to God and his infinite wisdom, we had our snow packets. That would take care of Week One. Through Week One teachers were meeting trying how best to figure out Week Two. I can only speak for myself, but there are a very small few of us [dinosaurs] who are not that computer savvy when it comes to meeting with students online. But, there we were, Chromebooks in hand going from one expert teacher to another trying to figure out how to do Google Classroom, GoogleMeet, Zoom, Flipgrid, Freckle, GoToMeeting,..... holy sox, you name it. Do they even *sound* like "educational" terms to you? Where's the *chalk*????

It was quite humbling for me to sit in Miss Christiansen's classroom with a couple other teachers trying to figure out Flipgrid and all the great things she had set up so she could communicate with her students! I say it was most humbling because Miss Christiansen is a former student of mine, and now, there I was literally sitting in a student desk, and she was sitting in the teacher's desk.

Thanks to Mrs. Williams, Miss Christiansen and Mrs. Knox, I suppose we made it through that morning of tutorials. But, then again we thought we only had one more week to prepare for, and then everything would be made right. Back to normal.

Teachers have been most diligent in seeing to the needs of the students. It hasn't all been without the hiccup or glitch in the road, but our families are patient, our teachers are understanding, and we

have found a way to make long-distance learning work from Pre-K3 through eighth grade.

I so enjoyed watching a video of Mrs. Zappulo read the story of *The First Easter* and following up with a craft. The three year olds have been meeting with Mrs. Zappulo and Mrs. Feaster by way of You-Tube regularly during the closure. These two ladies are not alone. Their colleagues in the ELC have also been meeting[virtually] with their little ones. Mrs. McGowan celebrated a Seder meal with her class during Holy Week. All three Pre-4 teachers have held virtual classes, read stories, and shared the entire week worth of lessons with our families sharing copious ideas and suggestions for celebrating the letter of the week! And in the beginning, before the imposed quarantine, Miss Hauss was visiting with her students taking the days lesson.

As I conclude, I share with you a portion of an email received from a parent recently. This is not the only email I've received bearing the same sentiment, but it was among the first; demonstrating that we were on the job out of the gate!

I have always been a proud parent of Holy Cross. And I have always appreciated the implementation of the prepared Snow Packets. But this week in particular, I am beaming with pride at the preparedness of our school! My neighbor is quite unhappy with the lack of preparedness of the public schools during this uncertain time. Her children have not received one piece of school work or a plan in the last two weeks. I do understand these are unprecedented times, and that a lot of people have been caught unprepared for what has been happening. This sentiment is not to badmouth our public schools or their teachers. Only to illustrate that Holy Cross has not only had measures in place in the past to deal with absences from school (e.g. snow days) but that these measures were able to easily transition into keeping our students learning during an emergency time as well. All this to say, I am grateful and extremely proud of our school, our teachers/faculty, our Church and our faith. We can't wait to get back to school, but in the meantime we take solace in knowing our students will continue to receive a first rate education.

A Proud Crusader Parent

And so, now I have those days once wished for. The time to do the little things around the house I once craved. To sit in the living room and read, relax... without guilt. That has yet to happen. In this new way of living, I have less time than ever! We find ourselves in the springtime of the school year, the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad and busiest time of year. I have enough to occupy my time. Now and again, I may find the time for an occasional phone call; but for the love of all things holy, who would have who would have ever guessed that discussion over the household toilet paper inventory would make for interesting conversation?

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Time to check in - how is remote learning and remote work going for you and your family? By now, I'm sure the excitement of the unexpected "school's canceled?!" message has worn thin for children who, like many of us adults, didn't (and couldn't) truly understand the gravity of the situation we find ourselves in under stay-at-home orders. The novelty of lounging in your PJ's well after the time they'd normally be in first period is likely long-gone, replaced by missing friends and teachers, feeling cooped up, and maybe even battling heightened anxiety given the amount of information available to them regarding the seriousness of this health crisis, including how it is directly impacting your families. Of course, for the teens I'm used to working with, times are sad! Students are feeling isolated, overwhelmed, and uncertain about their future. The worst thing for many is the "not knowing" exactly when they can return to class, or what activities and opportunities will be there for them when they do. What about their spring sports season? Spring concert? Prom? Graduation?!? What an unusual year it has proven to be for the Class of 2020, and our underclassmen who are already facing such major change as our year, and our school, comes to a close under circumstances no one could have predicted.

For parents, and even older children charged with childcare responsibilities, the weight of the situation seems only to grow heavier with time. I don't know how your juggling skills were before March, but wow! That's a skill we'll all have considerable practice with when this crisis is over!

As a people of faith - an Easter people! - we are called not to lose heart, though. Fresh off of celebrating Easter, we must remember the virtues of faith and hope, especially. Night is always followed by dawn!

I challenge you to sit down with a pen and paper - or even in the margins of this bulletin - and record a list of five blessings that you've experienced since the start of this health crisis. Go on.... You can come up with more than five, can't you? Parents have told me that they find that the extra time at home with seniors about to graduate and go off into the wide world is an unexpected blessing. Students have told me that the time away from school has made them ever-more grateful for it. I trust that this experience will further inure our students to the challenges posed by extra freedom even in a time of more personal responsibilities commonly faced during freshman year of college. They'll have experience and personal know-how in how to navigate that with success in the way no other high school student has before! I am blessed by the healthcare providers, grocery store attendants, police and security personnel, community support organizers, and so many others who have come forward to provide for us during our most dire times. When was the last time you stopped and thought - what a blessing it is to have toilet paper?!

Let's all resolve to hold on to this spirit of gratitude and this attention to the blessings God pours out - even in the hardest of times - when the call to feel them so acutely has left us.

I'm here to report that on a bright spot among the chaos of it all - virtual classes are in session for the students and teachers of STMA! Though teachers continued instruction for distance-learning without missing a beat on day one of our quarantine, we are now in full-force with our virtual classroom plan. Students are no longer solely dedicated to independent work; they are invited to attend live virtual class meetings with their peers and teachers. This means we can talk in real-time, provide critical support - learning and otherwise, and keep students feeling grounded and in better control of these uncertain circumstances. And just like that, the thing that makes our school so special - the community - is restored! Perhaps imperfectly, and granted, not as fully as we would wish being seated in desks in the same classrooms we're used to, but we are TOGETHER again. And that is a blessing!

Now, just because we can count blessings doesn't mean we aren't also facing hardship. Let me offer a few resources to assist those teens of yours, stuck at homeschool:

- [Adolescenthealth.org](https://www.adolescenthealth.org) offers a great list of youth friendly mental health online resources, apps, and tech services. Students needing guidance on emotional health, mindfulness, tracking mood/feelings, even what to do if they battle suicidal ideations, and how to talk to parents about it all are available. Just visit the "Resources" tab on their webpage.
- [Lifeteen.com](https://www.lifeteen.com) can keep your child connected to his or her spirituality during this time when churches and our Catholic schools are closed. Tell them to keep the earbuds in and listen to one of the "ultimate Catholic podcasts" from their list of resources, or to check out their blog.
- [Freeletics](https://www.freeletics.com) or [Pocket Yoga](https://www.pocketyoga.com) can help keep bodies active - which will also boost immunity, relieve stress, and break up the virtual learning.
- [Keeplearning.khanacademy.org](https://www.khanacademy.org) is another free resource that can keep students focused on AP exam and SAT exam preparation, but it offers so, so much more! Worried your child is not keeping an appropriate schedule? Review a sample schedule for distance learning published there with your teen and come to an agreement on a semi-structured day. Need additional curriculum support? Find it there.

Furthermore, it goes without saying that we are all blessed to be a part of such a strong and vibrant parish community! Thank you to all in the parish office and in our clergy who work to provide such plentiful resources in this bulletin and on the church website for our enrichment.

Yours in Christ,
Rachael A. Casey, Principal