

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 23, 2023

3rd 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

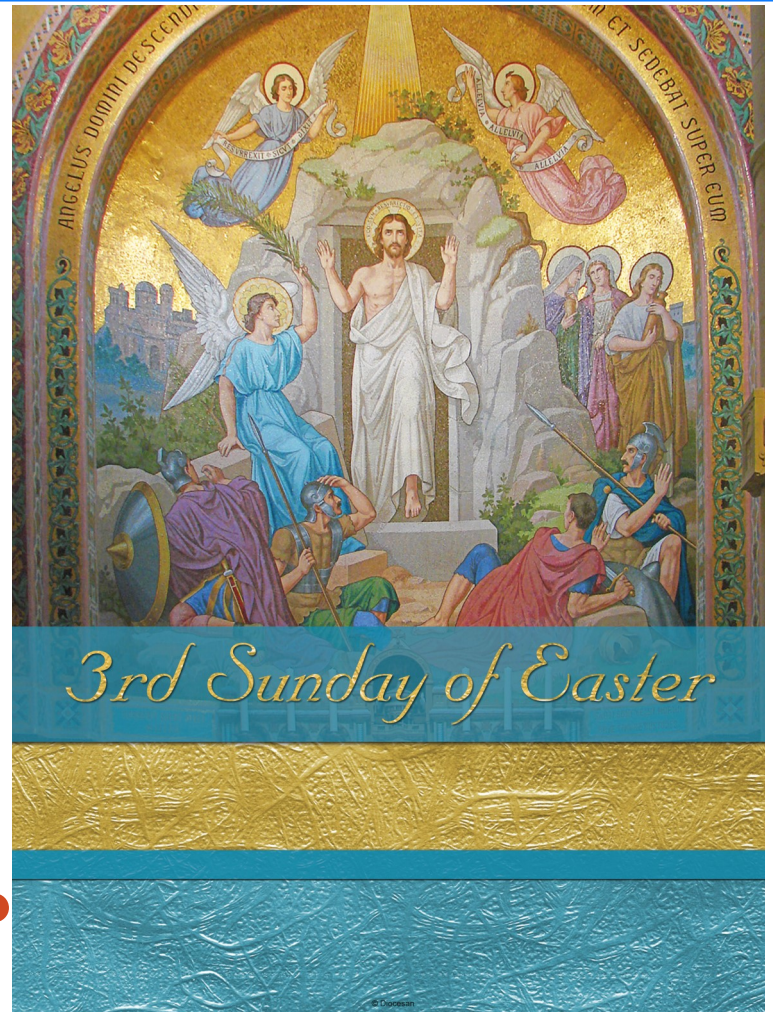
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

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.

CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATION

A study commissioned by the Knights of Columbus revealed that 75% of Catholic young people who had seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal.

Do you know someone who would make a good priest? A good deacon? Perhaps someone is being called to marriage, single life, becoming a religious sister.

Your encouragement may be all they need. Talk to our youth, bring them to church. You may be the one to help them make their decisions. Pray with them!



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending April 9, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$22,950	\$27,500	(\$4,550)
YTD	\$1,093,503	\$1,124,900	(\$31,397)
Needs	\$788	\$1,604	(\$816)

Easter \$15,183 \$18,000 (\$2,817)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending April 9, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$6,307
Second Collection	\$1,025

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,

This issue and next, I will be writing about what is known as the “smells and bells” of Catholicism — that is the wonderful history and tradition surrounding the tintinnabulation of bells, and gorgeous scents of the rising smoke of incense.

Songs with a-Peal. In 1979, disco singer Anita Ward made all of America aware, that she told the man she loved, “You can ring my bell.” This gruesome little bit of 1970s disco gruel, painted red in the blood of the death of music, should be a forgettable #1 hit. But that song still occasionally haunts my brain, as I can hear the chorus sung with the clanging of bells in the backdrop. Those bells are memorable. Likewise Paul McCartney opened one of his most successful songs “Let ‘em In” with a memorable invocation of bells. I guess you could say both songs, “Ring My Bell” and “Let ‘em In,” had some a-peal. (ouch)

Ready, Willing and a Bell. Bells announce things. They let us know what time it is; they tell us our three-minute egg is ready; they announce a phone call; they announce that you have reached your floor on the elevator; they announce a person is at your door to visit with you. Bells do a lot – and they have a special place in the heart of the Church in terms of announcements and other purposes.

Coming to your Senses. In Catholicism, we use what is commonly called “the smells and bells” of the Church to bring the faithful into a deeper sense of worship. We don’t just stimulate the mind and soul with words, and music. No! The Church is kinesthetic in its approach to bringing the faithful into the worship of God — it touches all the senses.

- There is touch: You bless yourself with Holy Water as you enter the Church.
- There is the olfactory allure of smell: Incense is used often to bless and sanctify.
- There is speech: We pray and sing.
- There is sight: The Church uses colors, images, and symbols throughout the year to express seasons and liturgical happenings.
- And there is sound: We hear the priest, the music, the prayers and of course, the bells, the bells, the wonderful bells. And when it comes to the celebration of the Mass, the Church sings along with Anita Ward, and says “You can ring my bell.”

A Ringing Endorsement. Bells have been used at religious worship for time in memoriam. The use of bells at Mass, as we would recognize it today, began in the Eastern Church in the early centuries of Christianity and spread to the west a few centuries later. For centuries, bells were used to highlight key moments of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the people who were present, but standing at a distance from the altar. People today, certainly, with rare exception, do not face that distance problem, but bells are still rung at Mass and at other times to denote special mo-

ments of importance. Here are some moments in the Church when bells provide a ringing endorsement:

1. **The Bell at the Epiclesis.** The General Instruction on the Roman Missal (which provides proper protocols and guidance for the celebration of the Mass) states “A little before the consecration, when appropriate, a server rings a bell as a signal to the faithful.” This is, and had traditionally been done at a point in the Mass called the epiclesis. This is time in the Mass when the Priest, holding both hands over the bread and wine, calls down the Holy Spirit upon the offerings to make them “spiritual and acceptable” (as per Eucharistic Prayer I) for confection as the Sacrament of the Eucharist. A single bell is rung to alert the people gathered in prayerful active worship that something of great joy is about to happen. Just as trumpets blare when royalty enters a room, so too, at the entry of the Holy Spirit at this moment of worship, a bell is rung.
2. **Bells at the Elevation.** The General Instruction on the Roman Missal states: “According to local custom, the server also rings the bell as the priest shows the host and then the chalice.” This point of the Mass is commonly called the elevation – after the priest says the words of consecration, he elevates the host (formerly bread, but now, the Body of Christ). To denote Christ’s Eucharistic presence, the altar bells are rung (commonly, rung three times, bringing to mind the work of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). The same is done again with the elevation of the Chalice.

Going through Customs. Interestingly that rule says that bells should be rung where it is “local custom.” What does that mean? Let’s start with the word “local” – local does not mean your local parish, it means the Local Church (i.e., the Diocese). As for “custom,” well just like you and Merriam-Webster would assume: A custom is a regular or common practice. Kind of like Aunt Estelle drinking too much wine during Christmas dinner, and having to have a nap afterwards. If she only did it once, it’s not a custom. If it happens multiple Christmases in a row, you get that bed ready for her, because that has become a custom to which you have become accustomed.

Thirty Something. In this regard, Canon Law tells us that a custom “obtains the force of law only if it has been legitimately observed for thirty continuous and complete years” and is not contrary to the

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F.
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn
Rev. Brennan Ferris

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

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

Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
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

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2023 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal will be conducted in parishes throughout the diocese next weekend. Once a year, our Bishop asks each of us to make a commitment to support the work of diocesan programs and ministries that provide services that no one parish can offer on its own. Your gift helps our Church to serve the poor, the sick, the distressed, our children and our elderly.

As parishioners of Holy Cross or Immaculate Conception, we are being asked to serve others by sharing our resources. Your generosity enables us to accompany our brothers and sisters in need.

HC parish target is \$220,000, and ICC's parish target is \$ 25,000. Your financial support of the Appeal also provides funding for our parish since once achieving the goal assigned to our parish, once we are over goal, we receive (100% or 50% where applicable) of monies collected for our own parish and ministry needs.

Please prayerfully consider your generous gift to this Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Kindly decide ahead of time the contribution you wish to make this year and come to church next week prepared to complete your pledge and offer your support to our parish, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

To learn more about the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal, visit www.cdown.org; click "Giving" then "Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal."

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (APR 30)

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14, 36-41

A call to repentance, and a radical new way of thinking and behaving. Peter declares that the Holy Spirit is promised to all whom God calls.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:20-25

Peter calls us to turn back "to the shepherd and guardian of our souls", We are called to do what is right, even if it means suffering.

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus is the shepherd and the gate of the sheepfold, guarding and protecting the sheep.

Deacon Formation Information Nights



New class of
Permanent Deacons
starting in June 2023

For more information, visit: cdow.org/deacons

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

BABY SHOWER THIS WEEKEND ONLY 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

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY WEBSITE

The Cemetery website has been revamped with new features and updated information. Please go to: holycrossdover.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/holycrossdover23>, checks are also accept-



MASS INTENTIONS APRIL

24 MONDAY HC 8:00 am	Miriam Schaefer
25 TUESDAY HC 8:00 am	Albert Baca
26 WEDNESDAY HC 8:15 am	Geralyn Haynes
27 THURSDAY HC 8:00 am ICC 6:00 pm	Victor & Mildred Passer For the People
28 FRIDAY HC 8:00 am	Donald E. Gombs
29 SATURDAY HC 8 am HC 5:00 pm	Cecilia Doughty DM Ranieri Family
30 SUNDAY HC 7:30 am ICC 8:30 am HC 9:30 am ICC 11:00 am HC 11:30 am ICC 1:00 pm	Carmen Campanicki Jan Shafron Joseph McLaughlin Keith DeFRancesco Margaret Maron 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!

PRO-LIFE INFORMATION

Delaware allows abortions through all nine months. DE law says abortion is allowed up the point of "viability." When the Democrat Legislator were asked to define "viability," it was made clear—it's when the abortion doctor says it is. (SB 5, 2017) Contact your Legislators and let them know you do not support any abortion bill. Tax payers should not be forced to pay for abortions. For further information contact Donna L. at 863-266-1099.

HOLY CROSS APRIL 29/30, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

M. Miller P. Sheldon N. Sirolli J. Bieker

G. Coyle M. Coyle L. Curley

LECTORS

J. Davis V. Viddy

7:30 AM

J. Candler R. O'Neill W. Thomas A. Wyllie

S. Shevock E. Wadhams

LECTORS

J. Davis

9:30 AM

V. Pepper G. Richards C. Robinson M. Sossich

J. Novack J. Novack J. Seeney

LECTORS

C. Petka M. Sherlock

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez E. Pastoriza M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

J. Moore

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM

M. Soule

LECTORS

L. Soule

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 (HO)

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 HAHN'S BOOK

We just started 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!

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.

- **Baby Shower:** El grupo Holy Cross Pro-Vida ayudará este mes a las familias locales necesitadas con un baby shower. Done de la siguiente lista: Botellas, Jabón para bebés, champú y loción, baberos, asientos para automóviles, calcetines para bebés, sacos para dormir, toallas/paños de baño, bañeras, crema para pañales, bolsas para pañales, pañales para recién nacidos. Coloque los artículos en el receptáculo en el Nártex solo el fin de semana del 22 y 23 de abril. (No el contenedor de recolección de alimentos). Comuníquese con Donna si desea ayudar. 862-266-1099 Está ayudando a más de 60 clientes al mes y está ampliando sus servicios. ¡Tú puedes hacer una gran diferencia! Ultrasonidos gratuitos están disponibles. Si conoce a una mujer joven embarazada que necesita orientación y apoyo, remítala a: New Day PCC en 811 Governors Avenue newdaypcc.com 302-264-9087
- **Mayo Mes de María.** La Virgen peregrina va empezar a visitar casas a partir del 7 de mayo. Si desea la virgen por favor de anotarse con la Sra. Martha Espinosa. ¿Porque Mayo es el mes de María? Durante siglos la Iglesia Católica ha dedicado todo el mes de mayo para honrar a la Virgen María, la Madre de Dios. La idea de un mes dedicado específicamente a María se remonta al tiempo barroco o siglo XVII. Si bien, no siempre se llevó a cabo en mayo, el mes de María incluía treinta ejercicios espirituales diarios en honor a la Madre de Dios. Fue en esta época que el mes de mayo y de María se combinaron, haciendo que esta celebración cuente con devociones especiales organizadas cada día durante todo el mes. Esta costumbre se extendió sobre todo durante el siglo XIX y se practica hasta hoy. Es común que las parroquias tengan en mayo un rezo diario del Rosario y muchas erijan un altar especial con una estatua o imagen de María. Además, se trata de una larga tradición el coronar su estatua, una costumbre conocida como la Coronación de Mayo. A menudo, la corona está hecha de hermosas flores que representan la belleza y la virtud de María y también es un recordatorio a los fieles para esforzarse en imitar sus virtudes. Esta coronación es en algunas áreas una gran celebración y, por lo general, se lleva a cabo fuera de la Misa. Los altares y coronaciones en este mes no son solo privilegios de la parroquia. En los hogares también se puede participar plenamente en la vida de la Iglesia. Debemos darle un lugar especial a María no porque sea una tradición de largo tiempo en la Iglesia o por las gracias especiales que se pueden obtener, sino porque María es nuestra Madre, la madre de todo el mundo y porque se preocupa por todos nosotros, intercediendo incluso en los asuntos más pequeños. Por eso se merece todo un mes en su honor.
- **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.
- **Ensayo para la Primera Comunión:** Ensayo el viernes , 28 de abril a las 7pm en la iglesia. Un padre de familia debe asistir con el candidato al Sacramento.
- **El Sacramento de la Primera Comunión:** Sábado, 29 de abril a las 10 de la mañana en nuestra parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción. Coronación y el Santo Rosario Viviente será el último día de clases de Educación Religiosa después de classes. Todos están invitados.
- 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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Religious Education next class:

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

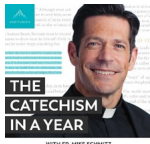
LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

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

In English:
Father Mike Schmitz



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

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



YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

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@holycrossddover.org.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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.

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: Rehearsal: for the Sacrament of First Communion will be on Friday, April 28th at 7pm in the Church. One parent must attend with your child.

1st Holy Communion: Saturday, April 29th at 10am at Immaculate Conception.

May Crowning and Living Rosary will take place on our last day of Religious Education, May 7th. Please join us.

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.

Sometimes it's a decision made at birth, or before even. It's a decision based on prior experience. Oftentimes the decision is based on the encouragement and good word of neighbors, workplace colleagues, personal research, or just knowing that whatever the current situation offers falls short of expectation. But, whatever the impetus that causes the doorbell to chime or the phone to ring on Mrs. Arndt's desk, more and more families are opting for a Catholic education for their children. It's a daily occurrence. And, we are grateful.

When I meet with prospective families as a part of their enrollment process to discuss all that Holy Cross has to offer, I will include a document published by National Catholic Educational Association entitled A Dozen Reason to Choose Catholic Schools. Almost 100% of the time, the mom or dad will tell me that the affirmative decision has already been made. And, we are grateful.

Our faculty and students recite our school's mission statement as a part of our daily morning prayer offering. I love the words of the mission statement because I feel that it provides the perfect description of our school environment, AND it aligns so well with the twelve reasons put forth by the NCEA.

Holy Cross School provides 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.

Reason #1: WE OFFER AN EDUCATION THAT COMBINES CATHOLIC FAITH AND TEACHINGS WITH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.

The traditional approach taken to instruction gives many of our families, including those who seek information a visible sigh of relief. It's the adherence to sound educational practices that our families welcome, and aligns with our mission to provide an academically rich learning experience for every child every day. And, our parents are grateful.

Reason #2: WE PARTNER WITH PARENTS IN FAITH FORMATION.

Many families have coupled the enrollment of their children with commencing the process for the receipt of the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion. As a school and parish we work together with the families to assist in preparation, but also provide daily instruction in the doctrine of the Catholic faith, while providing the opportunity for weekly Mass attendance, along with Reconciliation during Advent and Lent. (...thus ensuring a Catholic values based education.)

Reason #3: WE SET HIGH STANDARDS FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND HELP THEM SUCCEED.

The working relationship formed between student and teacher that supports the learning process is an invaluable gift that many of our former students cite as reason for their success. The establishment of a high work ethic and adherence to excellence isn't always viewed as the gift that it is until our graduates move forward. But, it is in the creation process that their parents are grateful! (academically rich, faith-filled learning environment)

Reason #4: WE PROVIDE A BALANCED ACADEMIC CURRICULUM THAT INTEGRATES FAITH, CULTURE, AND LIFE.

Add to the strength of the academic core subjects the richness of our enrichment offerings in Visual Art, and Music. The pieces of Art that adorn the hallways of the gathering space, as well as the elementary office are always worthy of favorable remark by touring parents. The brief stop we take in our Music/Band room is also a showstopper. Both, the Art and Music spaces are ample and filled with all the ingredients for an academically rich, culturally rich education. I love talking about our enrichment classes with new families. And, they are grateful.

Reason #5: WE USE TECHNOLOGY EFFECTIVELY TO ENHANCE EDUCATION.

Effectively---the key word. Technology can be used as an effective tool to enhance learning. Students from Pre-K through grade five have technology one day a week as an enrichment to learn the value of responsible use of technology. Students in grade 6 through 8 may choose either Engineering in grade 6 or Robotics in grades 7/8 as an enrichment. Our students become proficient as they enjoy their earliest glimpse into the design, construction, and operation of real robots. Another WOW! usually accompanies the visit to the Robotics lab along the tour. It's just another way our curriculum offers an academically rich(ness) not always found somewhere else.

Reason #6: WE INSTILL IN STUDENTS THE VALUE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS.

As early as Kindergarten our students learn the value of service to others. One of the practices in the 100 Days of School celebration in the collection of 100 boxes of macaroni and cheese to help stock the shelves of the food pantry. Tag days are often dedicated to the collection of socks, mittens, and hats for donation to the needy. We have collected and donated thousands of pounds of textiles for donation to the global needy. The members of our NJHS are strictly held to a prescribed number of service hours to the community. It is a life lesson to see and respond to the face of Jesus in others. (...convey a sense of justice, peace, compassion, and respect for all God's creation.)

I'm wondering if the folks at NCEA looked at our mission statement when they compiled their twelve reasons?

Hmmmm.....

Reasons 7-12 will be shared in the second installment, next week. May God's blessings be in abundance to you and your family during this Easter season.

Code of Canon Law. It also states that a “centenary or immemorial custom... can prevail against a canonical law.” The ringing of bells at Mass meets both of those criteria, just ask any twelfth century altar servers; the bells have been around for a long time. They are custom in almost every corner of the Church in the world.

3. **Bells during the Gloria (on Holy Thursday and at the Easter Vigil).** The rubrics of the Mass for Holy Thursday’s Mass of the Lord’s Supper and the Easter Vigil commend that bells are to be rung during the singing or saying of the Gloria. On Holy Thursday, the bells are rung for the last time until the Easter Vigil. Hence, at the Elevation of the Host and Chalice on Holy Thursday, there is no bell rung, a stark reminder of the Lord’s Passion to come. (Of course, if you find yourself in a parish that doesn’t use bells, that symbolism gets lost; you cannot note the absence of bells that are commonly absent.) Fast forward: On the Easter Vigil, the bells get dusted off and brought out and are rung throughout the Gloria. Christ is risen! Alleluia! Ding-dong death is dead!

Wise-clacks. Of note, during the Elevation of the Host and chalice on Holy Thursday, because there is no bell, some churches, especially in years past, have used a device call a “clacker” to denote the elevation. A clacker is a wooden board with a swinging-mallet that pounds the wood when the device is shaken. It makes a stark, harsh sound, appropriate for the Passion of our Lord.

4. **Bells after a Funeral.** It is long standing custom that when a funeral is celebrated, at the end of the Mass of Christian Burial, a parish may rightly sound the death toll (a slow, sequenced, ringing of the bells of the Church).

5. **Wedding Bells.** You have seen the tacky paper-mache fold-out stuck-to-wall bell decoration at many a wedding reception. Yep, bells and weddings go together. An example of that is when Marilyn McCoo of the Fifth Dimension, in 1969, lamented “am I ever gonna hear my wedding bells” in a song called “The Wedding Bell Blues (Marry Me Bill).” When a couple got married “back in the day,” the Church bells would clang in joyful acclaim announcing the new couple to the world; that practice is still done in many places.

6. **Angelus Bells.** It is customary that bells are rung during the time of the praying of the Angelus. The Angelus is a devotion that reminds the faithful of the Mary’s “yes” to God. Since the praying of the Angelus is a private devotion (even though frequently prayed publicly), there is no mandated rubric involved. However, the following use of bells is common: A bell is rung thrice at the end of each Hail Mary of the Angelus (there is one following each of three strophes), at the completion of the Angelus, the bells are commonly peeled nine or 18 times, joyfully. By tradition, the Angelus is prayed at 6 a.m., noontime, and 6 p.m., and the bells rung at this time are called “The Angelus Bells.”

7. **Extraordinary Rite:** In the Extraordinary form of the Mass (a.k.a. the old Latin Mass), bells will also be rung thrice at both the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy), and at the Domine Non Sum Dignus (Lord, I am not worthy...).

8. **For the Pope.** A “death toll” marks the end of a papal reign, and joyfully rings in the election of a new Pope. For these key moments in the Church, bells are rung worldwide.

9. **For a Bishop.** The bells are rung in a Cathedral parish to announce the appointment of a new Bishop and his installation.

A Bellwether Document. The Church promotes natural sound; hence we rarely, if ever, hear canned music in Church (certainly not during Mass). The same principle applies to bells. In 1958, the Vatican’s Congregation of Rites in the document *De musica sacra et sacra liturgia* – in one of the few documents that addresses bell usage directly -- presses emphatically that actual bells, not recorded bells should be used. That, dare I say, bellwether document, also states that, “The ancient and highly approved tradition of ringing bells in the Latin Church should be devotedly carried on by all who have this responsibility.”

And so, there you have it, a brief foray into the use of bells at Mass and outside of Mass. While bells are not mandated, they are part of the landscape and tradition of Catholicism. They signify announcement (at the elevation, at the epiclesis, Papal election, etc.), loss (death), new life (marriage), and joy (at the Gloria, in the Angelus). So, whether at a Mass, a Funeral, a Papal Election or a Marriage – fear not, the Catholic Church will be there – with bells on!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor