



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



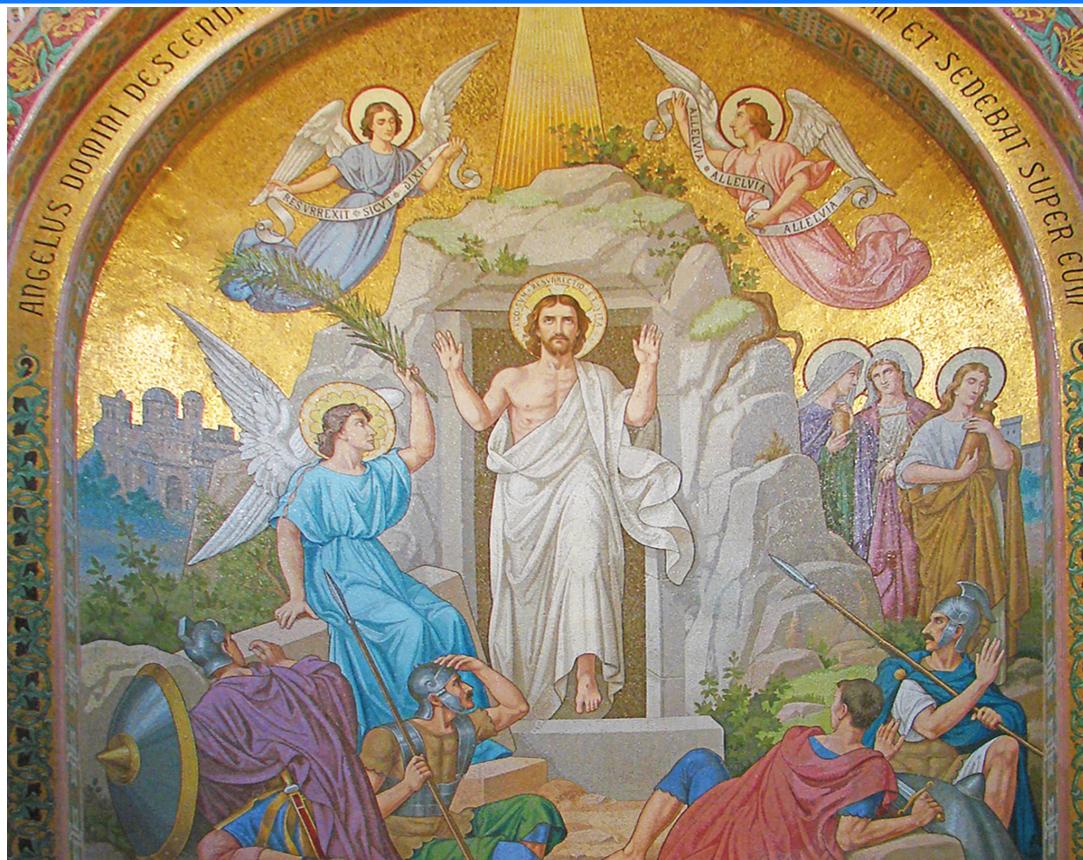
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

April 26, 2020

3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

holy cross

iccc



3rd Sunday of Easter

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.

Check out our
websites

holycrossdover.org

iccmarydel.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. You can also watch the taped Mass each weekend at Holy Cross and/or Immaculate Conception by one of our priests.

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.

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.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) ending April 12

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$27,286	\$28,200	(914)
YTD	\$1,137,012	\$1,163,800	(\$26,788)
Needs		\$1,586	
Easter	\$9,604	\$22,650	(\$13,046)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending April 12

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. 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 Luke's Gospel, on the evening of Christ's birth, following the Angel telling the shepherds that a savior is to be born, and following the shepherds relaying to Mary's about the multitude of angels singing their praises for this child born in a manger, these shepherds inform Mary of what they saw and heard. And what was Mary's response? According to Luke 2:19, "Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart." She pondered, and sets an example for us to do likewise when faced with things that are too sweeping to take in at times.

The verb "ponder" is defined by Webster as meaning "to weigh in the mind, to think about, to reflect on." So, in brief, "ponder" means to weigh and reflect upon, which is appropriate, as the word "pound" (something with weight) and "pond" (a body of water that reflects) both have their origin in the Latin word for ponder: "ponderare."

Why all this talk of pondering? Because this will be a ponderous Pastor's Column. I usually use the Pastor's Column to relay Catholic teaching, history, or related information. But this week, I'm pondering. This week, I'm reflecting on the current situation of lockdown, the question of the loss of human interaction, and the role of the imposed lockdown in the lives of individuals and in the life of our faith. I'm hesitant at times to share insights like these, as they are personal, but I think many of you are having similar reflections (although perhaps arriving at different conclusions).

THE SITUATION. So, unless you have been living in a parallel universe, you all know that we are currently in the midst of a lock down to battle the Coronavirus outbreak. This lock-down, or period of isolation, which has gone on for over a month — and looks to continue for a while — feels like a form of imprisonment for many folks. It feels like an imposed quarantine of sorts. This time, this period, of lock-down, isolation, health crisis and economic shut down, has given me, during my quiet time in prayer, many moments to ponder what all of this means for the faithful of the flock here at Holy Cross and at Immaculate Conception, and indeed in our state and nation.

As I write below, I'm not looking for agreement or disagreement. I'm just pondering the current situation and am sharing my ponderings with you. So, what is it that I am pondering these days? I have eight points of ponder that I ponderously, to wit:

1.TIME OF LOCK DOWN. I ponder that while most understand the present circumstances, and are being conscientious in adhering to the rules of the lock-down, in the back of their minds, they are asking "Is this going to go on endlessly?" In the back of their minds they are wondering, "In our response to this problem, are we setting precedents that we will regret later?" The suspension of our way life, currently imposed on us by executive diktat in each state and nationally, seems something unthinkable, yet somewhat understandable. But, there are questions to ponder in all of this. When it will end? We don't know. And, in truth, when it ends, it can start all over again. Also,

will people abide forever in an eternal lockdown whenever time a new virus comes along?

2. RAMIFICATIONS. I ponder the ramifications of the limitlessness and the side-effects of the present situation's regulations and prohibitions. While catching this virus is bad, we are simultaneously confronted with other bad things: devastating economic consequences, massive job losses, the shuttering of businesses, the cost in mental health, an increase in suicides, and the incredible difficulty for many people to function in this lockdown. All happening as a result of actions taken, all happening as result of preventing the spreading of a virus, but happening, in some sense, without an inkling of an end game.

3. A COUNTER POINT? I ponder that the health-compromised elderly (especially those over 80) who can be the most seriously affected, indeed killed, by the virus, are the most virulently anxious to get back to living again. They are the group with the highest percentage (according to a recent Harris Poll) that would go back to eating in a restaurant and go back to shopping once the economy re-opened (at 43% and 65%, respectively, a rate 12 percentage points and 18 percentage points higher, respectively, than the nearest other age group). Ironically, from that poll, it would seem that these older folks whom States are taking such great action to protect, appear to be more unhappy with the present restrictions and more eager to see them suspended than the younger age groups. I ponder, on the above matter: why is that the case? Wouldn't it seem that the folks who are most vulnerable would be most hesitant about returning to the pre-Coronavirus way of life so quickly? That's also a ponderous matter.... and I address that below in #4.

4. OF RECONCILIATION AND MORTALITY. And so, I ponder, that as one gets older, one reconciles themselves with the truth of human mortality. I know as I edge closer to 60, that is certainly true for me. Thus, the older one gets, the more reluctant one will be to spend his or her remaining years/time isolated from his or her family and friends and the joys of daily life. For example, if you were an 85 year old grandparent and had a choice between possibly catching Coronavirus or living out what could be your final years of life without ever seeing your grandchildren again, which would you go for? The response would likely be the latter. Is the person who makes that choice just selfish, or is that person seeking the human experience rather than perhaps dying alone, or being isolated. Solitary confinement is usually a punishment for the worst inmates in a prison, is it a rightful sentence to be imposed under the aegis of helping? And if it is imposed, what are the ramifications? Isolation is, in its own way, a form of slow death. By our nature, as scripture says, "It is not good for the man to be alone." (Genesis 2:18), that is to say, human contact is a necessary part of the way we are made. We need human contact just as we need food, water, and love, hence God didn't stop after creating Adam.

5. OF SCIENCE AND MORALITY. I ponder, what

(Continued on page 4)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

Pastor
 Parochial Vicar
 Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

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

Pastor Emeritus
 Deacon
 Deacon
 Deacon
 Deacon
 Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell
 Mr. James Tormey

Deacon
 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
Arlene 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

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 Dover, DE 19901*

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

*Immaculate Conception Church
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HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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 302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Principal, ext. 111

Linda Pollitt

MAILING ADDRESS

*Holy Cross School
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 Dover, DE 19901*

ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

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

Principal

Rachael Casey

MAILING ADDRESS

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

kind of an issue are we dealing within all of this mess of the current virus crisis? Is it strictly and only a “science” question? Relatedly, should all policy decisions be guided only by science? Or are there moral questions at play here... moral questions that deserve a Christian response, and need to be in the mix. What do I mean by this? Well, scientists can provide scientific, external, and empirical data that help us to understand the circumstances and virus’ progression, but that data does not deal with the greater moral questions being posed by this crisis and our response. Questions like “What does it mean to be human?” “Is man meant to be isolated?” “Is living online the same as living?” “What matters most about human life - its length or its liberty?” “What is the proper balance amongst one’s safety, one’s liberty, and the common good?” and “Amidst this crisis, are we extinguishing civil liberties that might only need be somewhat curtailed?” need to be considered. Christ only lived 33 years; if he would have heeded the calls of the authority to, dare I say, self-isolate and stay away from others, maybe he would have lived 66 years — mankind wouldn’t have been redeemed, but his life would have been longer. I guess, what I am asking, however imperfectly, is this: is life really meant to be lived without risks? Does leaving our brothers and sisters isolated, fearful, and in hiding, really fulfill our Christian mission? Should we live our lives fearful of being in one another’s company?

6. OUR YOUNG GENERATION. I ponder, and I ponder greatly, on the question of our teens, people in their 20s and 30s, and those with young families, regarding the ramifications of our current crisis. And what I ponder is this: would I prefer to take a risk with my own health for the sake of protecting the next generation’s (and their children’s) economic future? Indeed, I would; greater love has no man than this: to lay down his life (or perhaps risking a potential virus with varying effects) for his friends. That means risking the risk of risk, for the future of our future’s future. Where are we on that?

7. VITAL VS. VIRAL. I ponder, also, the moral considerations about the experience of life, specifically, as it relates to the younger generation I noted above. If there continues to be social distancing and no social gatherings or contacts for a prolonged period (say, until there is a vaccine one day, or until herd immunity occurs) then a long stretch of the lives of our young people will be impoverished in some quite sad ways: they will be unable to socialize with friends, or form new relationships; they will be unable shake the hand of a friend; hold someone to console them; kiss their first date; dance together; and so on. If a young man or young woman (late teens, 20s, 30s, etc) are single and unattached right now in 2020, then they will have to remain that way for the remainder of this crisis, and will be missing out on the chance to form the bonds of love and personal relationships that would be normal at this time in their life. They will be losing out on having the human touch in their life. Should one’s life cease to be vital, for fear of getting viral? Is our response to not getting “caught” by the virus, to be one of hiding away like

(Continued on page 5)

St. Peter hid on the night of the Lord's Passion for fear of getting "caught" as being one of the followers of Christ.

8. OF LIFE AND LIVING. I ponder, whether we need a discussion or moment of reflection regarding these matters — not for just this current crisis but for future ones; discussions and reflections which go beyond the science and even beyond economics. I ponder that we need to ponder and discuss the value and values, from a Christian perspective, of what it means to be human and live a human life. Thus, if I locked myself in a fallout shelter from age 18-90, and thereby would never come in contact with anyone — hence, avoiding anyone who could get me sick — then I guess, perhaps, I'd live longer and healthier, but would I actually be living at all?

And at the end of the day, that last question is the question that I really ponder.

People have told me that they are hungry for the Eucharist. What I would hope they mean by that is that they are hungry for gathering for the Eucharist. In truth, one only needs to receive communion once a year to meet the obligations of their faith in that regard, but whether one receives or not, they are obligated to attend Mass weekly, and gather with their brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate — key word, "celebrate" — the Eucharist. In our current situation we are not celebrating, we are hungering for that celebration. I look for the day when that hunger will be sated, and we will again be living in the midst of the community Catholic faithful, not centered around isolation and fear, but rather centered around the altar and hope, celebrating and being nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ.

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 Wilmington, and Father 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.

MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL/MAY

27 MONDAY	Mary Catherine Castiglione Victor & Mildred Passer
28 TUESDAY	Carmellene Sovinski
29 WEDNESDAY	Hyacinth Sealy Gary & Sharon Seelig (LI)
30 THURSDAY	Peter Doroshenko Rosalie Chordas-Baryszewski For the People
1 FRIDAY	Samantha Seelig (LI)
2 SATURDAY	Matthew & Mary Seben Dina Ugarte
3 SUNDAY	Stephen Bachman Tommy Smith Dec. Members Wood Family Sachikok Saus Joseph P. DeAngelis, Jr. For The People Dec Members Lesko & Crowder Family

(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

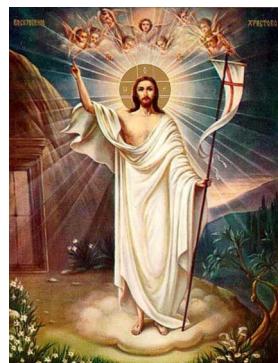
MASS INTENTIONS

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.

PRO LIFE CORNER

- During this difficult time of Coronavirus Disease, abortion procedures continue throughout the U.S. and in Dover. Abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood are classified as ESSENTIAL SERVICES! You can save lives in Dover by praying with Holy Cross and other local church groups on Friday mornings from 9 AM – noon at Planned Parenthood of Dover or by praying at home. If you pray at Planned Parenthood, please follow Governor Carney's Social Distancing Guidelines.
- Also, remember to pray for the most vulnerable and seniors who are most susceptible to the Coronavirus.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Pick one day this week to especially enjoy creation together. Take a hike, plant something, gaze at the moon and stars. Be creative together.

PARENTING POINTERS

Join with your child in doing something to honor the earth this weekend - recycle, plant something, observe nature... Be creative

RESOURCES IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

A new webpage has been created on the diocesan website: **Resources in Times of Pandemic**. It is a clearinghouse for resources for:

- Joining Masses On-line
- Prayer Resources
- Spiritual Formation
- Resources for Young Adults
- Resources for Young People
- Resources for Children
- Supporting Parents and Families
- Recursos en Español
- About COVID-19
- Best Practices
- Mental Health
- Resources for Pastoral Ministers

Check it out!

Thanks!
for giving

this & that

On behalf of the Priests, Deacons, and Parish Staff, we thank all of you who continue to send in your weekly contributions to the church. We long for the day when we can come together again to celebrate the Mass with all of us present.

Remember you can also put your donation on a credit card. Just call the Parish Office and leave your name and phone number if no one answers, and we will call you back for your information.

Faith Direct is our online giving program that makes continual giving effortless. You can go to the website: holycrossdover.org, go to Giving, then click onto online giving. If you'd rather sign up via a paper copy, call the Parish Office and leave your name and number and we will call you back to get your address and send you a paper copy to sign up.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you.



Stay safe !!

We are praying for you!!

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.

The Samaritans also appreciate any monetary donations that have been sent in. Thank you for thinking of your needy brothers and sisters.

READINGS FOR MAY 3 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:14, 36-41

It is from Christ that we receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:20-25

Christ suffered for us, offering us an example to follow.

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:1-10

Jesus is the gate through and by which we enter into salvation.



- 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 trasmisirá 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 mesita 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.
 - a. 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 escuchó.
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.

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.

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP IN DOVER (HC)

Catholic Heart has cancelled all camps for this summer. For those of you who requested help this June, please know we will be back to assist you in the Summer of 2021.

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.

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, crocs, boots, tennis shoes, high heals, 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.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Like so many, I was listening to the news the other evening when there came upon the screen a mental health professional offering sage advice on how to maintain a healthy perspective and positive outlook during this time of such sadness and isolation. I listened and completed a mental checkoff from the list of suggestions she made as to keeping that sunny disposition.

First and foremost, she was emphatic that we maintain our personal hygiene. She strongly encouraged us to begin the day with that uplifting and invigorating shower. Go ahead and sing in the shower if you like.

- Wear a different outfit every day. (Heaven knows, we have the time to do the laundry!)
- Maintain a healthy diet; avoid the sofa with nothing more in hand than the remote and a bag of potato chips. Fruits and vegetables....and now it is springtime there are many more varieties available.
- Exercise...(oh my, that's where the checking off the list stopped for me). I see so many people walking in the neighborhood, most with their family dog. I think to myself, maybe I'll do that tomorrow. But then, I don't have a dog. So, I haven't taken that walk yet.

All good advice to get us through times that could otherwise be dark and dismal. It helps to remember that no matter how dark the night, it is always followed by the sunrise.

It was during that same news broadcast that I heard other words of inspiration; I listened a bit more intently to the words coming through the sound system of the kitchen television set. I focused intently on the image of Cardinal Timothy Dolan as snippets of his Easter Sunday homily were being aired on the nightly news. I was so taken by his words that I opened the drawer of the center island and retrieved a pen and paper. Hurriedly, I scribbled some of the words. It left me hungry for more. My hunger for more led me to a podcast of his homily. [<http://cardinaldolan.org/index.php/easter-sunday-homily/>]

In the days that followed, I found myself harkening back to Cardinal Dolan's homily. Now, I don't know about you, but when I find something that I can get excited about, I want to share it with others. I tried to Google the homily. I wanted the printed word. All I have been able to find is a news article from a Catholic publication, Catholic New York. I hope you will find his words as beautifully inspiring as I do.

- Easter morning, the cardinal explained, "is rather about fullness, not emptiness—fullness of light and triumph and good and hope and life. Does not the Easter message start with that empty tomb? The Holy Women, and then Peter and John, came to the grave early that first Easter morning and they found it empty. The Roman guard, posted by Pontius Pilate, had fled at something extraordinary, what had happened? An angel explains, Why are you looking for the living among the dead? He is risen as He said."
- The emptiness of the tomb is the signal that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, the cardinal said. "The dramatic, overwhelming emptiness of Good Friday afternoon—still fresh in memory when the world was empty of light and goodness and decency, of truth and hope of life itself, empty of God—gives way to the empty tomb and the fullness of Easter glory."
- "Empty dinner tables for Passover and Easter because family and friends can't get together," the cardinal said in his homily. "Empty schools and factories, restaurants, roads and airplanes. Empty wallets, empty bank accounts. Empty chairs at home where those we cherished used to sit with us." Empty churches, said the cardinal, and empty collection baskets. "Empty lives, some wonder, as they're tempted to conclude all that filled their days before might now be gone."
- "I ask this Paschal morning, could the empty tomb of Easter be a metaphor for our world and our lives? Could it be a whispered invitation from the Risen One to search for the living one, not among the dead?"
- "And when they arrived at the tomb, they found it empty," the cardinal concluded his homily.

Granted, snippets don't have the same effect as the entire homily. But, I think that from these passages one can glean some hope for tomorrow. With the end of each day, that tomorrow inches just a little closer to being within our grasp.

So, go ahead! Make that shower water good and hot. Cut up some fresh strawberries for your cereal. Select a spiffy outfit for the day because you're going to be out there walking in the neighborhood!! And don't forget Fido!

Come back inside all invigorated, and while Fido naps, you can listen to the Cardinal's podcast!!

Mrs. Pollitt

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

Brianna Altidor and Margaret Kosior are members of the Saint Thomas More Academy Class of 2020. They'd each prefer to be in school with their friends and teachers soaking up the experience of their final spring semester, and I'd prefer to recognize these young ladies in front of our entire student body for their accomplishments. But as I know they are not spending their time in quarantine simply sulking, rather using this time well to impact their communities, I am glad to use all platforms I have to share their accomplishments!

I'd like to ask you to join me in recognizing these two young ladies this week. Each has contributed to our school community by serving as models of scholarship, demonstrating leadership on sports teams, and offering friendship to all. I am proud of them for who they are and how they live their lives! I am especially proud to report this bit of news about each....

Brianna has used her talent to respond to the health crisis. She said, "During this pandemic and time of stress for health care workers I wanted to do whatever I can to help them. So I spent my spring break crocheting face masks for the hospitals. My dad is a healthcare worker in New York so I sent as many as I could to the hospital. In a week's time I created over 25 face masks. I plan to try and make more over the next few weeks." I don't know about you, but I feel a bit less happy with the fact that I spent much of my Easter vacation downtime on my couch eating snacks and watching Netflix.

I asked Brianna if this was particularly difficult, or if in sharing her news, I might be able to help multiply her work by inspiring others to give it a go. She replied, "The instructions are fairly simple, anyone with any form of background [in crochet] can do it or anyone can learn. The idea came to me after I saw someone on social media do the same. I was taught how to crochet as a little girl from a neighbor. I got the pattern online. The only items necessary are a ball of cotton and a crochet needle in the size H. Everything else [listed] is optional. Rather than purchasing filters, I researched and found that coffee filters can serve the same purpose. Overall it took me about one and a half hours to complete one mask." She shared this resource for anyone interested in crocheting face masks:

<https://traversebaycrochet.com/2020/03/24/easy-diy-crochet-face-mask-with-filter/>

Thank you, Brianna, for living out the STMA mission founded on community service and using your God-given gifts in a time of true need!

The St. Timothy National Youth Award is awarded to junior or senior high school youth from parishes and schools throughout the Diocese of Wilmington. It is the highest recognition from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and acknowledges young people who live as disciples of Christ, set a positive example for other youth, witness their faith by exhibiting Catholic morals and integrity, demonstrate Gospel values through service to others, and exhibit Christian leadership in parish, school, and/or community settings.

We are proud to announce that Margaret, aka Maggie, Kosior will be receiving the St. Timothy Award! Margaret is an active member at the Church of the Holy Cross with her family and demonstrates her foundation of faith in her student life at Saint Thomas More Academy. She is a dedicated member of Campus Ministry which allows her to set a positive example for her peers. She cares for those around her, and is a great example of expressing gratitude. We are thankful for her representation of STMA at the annual March for Life. Margaret is a Retreat Leader for younger classmates and gives witness to her faith in leading group discussions, prayers, and themed talks. She demonstrates Gospel values through service to others by exceeding her required service hours each year and leads the Liturgical Choir at weekly school Masses. We miss hearing her music each week in our chapel these days!

The St. Timothy award is usually presented at a banquet with much celebration and fanfare; we regret that Maggie will not be able to hear the applause and have her moment in the spotlight for her work, but we know God will be rewarding her for her work much better than we could achieve. Thank you and Congratulations, Maggie!

I would be remiss if I did not mention that these two young ladies, stand out though they may, are part of a class of inspiring young adults. I say with sincere appreciation that I am proud of each one of the fourteen members of the Class of 2020! We spend a lot of time at STMA trying to help students figure out what they want to do and who they want to become "when they grow up." Isn't it ironic, then, that when I grow up, I'd like to be a lot like the Class of 2020!

Yours in Christ,



Rachael A. Casey
Principal