



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 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

Wednesday – 8:15 am

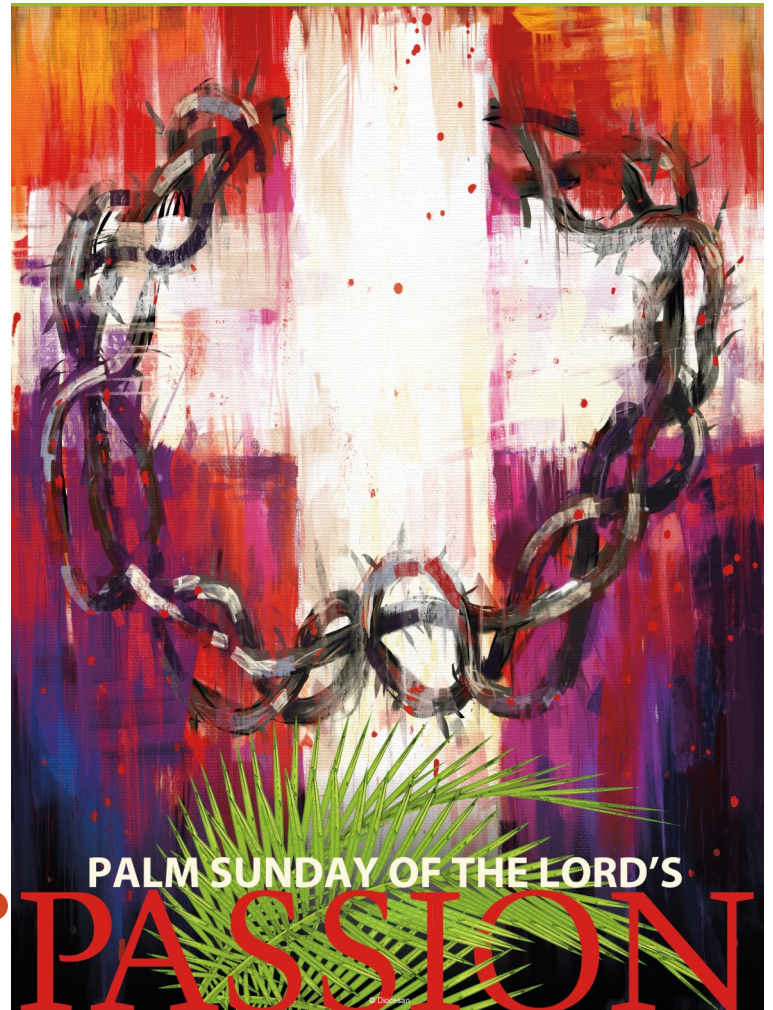
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S

PASSION

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.

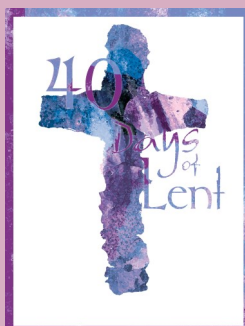
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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.

LENT

The rules for fasting and abstinence for Lent are as follows:

- Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent.
- Every person between the age of 18 and 60 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on all other Fridays of the year, unless he or she substitutes some other form of penance for abstinence.



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending March 19, 2023

\$26,106	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$23,491	\$27,225	(\$3,734)
YTD	\$1,010,188	\$1,042,675	(\$32,487)
Needs	\$2,370	\$1,604	\$766

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending March 19, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,008
Second Collection	\$1,071

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 is a continuation from last week's column.
Blessed Holy Week to you all.

HOLY THURSDAY. On Holy Thursday, Jesus gathered with his Apostles for a Passover meal (the Last Supper). There, Jesus makes alludes to the idea that Judas would betray him: "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." (Matthew 26:21). No one says a word, except the guilty party, Judas: "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" Jesus responds, "You have said so." Then, Judas, realizing that folks are on to him, slips away.

Institution of the Eucharist and Holy Orders. As that gathering continues, Jesus Christ institutes the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As we recount at Mass, Christ said, "Take this all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body which will be given up for you... Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the Chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sin." With these words Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Following the Apostles reception of what might be reckoned a "holy communion" for them, Christ commanded them to "Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25). With these words Christ instituted the Priesthood, and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. On that same night, Christ washes the feet of his Apostles (John 13:5-8) – a sign of service to the people of God. He tells his Apostles to do likewise: "What I have done for you, you should also do." (John 13:15).

After the Supper. After the Last Supper, Christ goes to the Garden of Gethsemane, to pray about what lay ahead for him; he commends his apostles, to wait outside of the garden. During his prayers he says, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done" (Matthew 26:39). Christ's pondering of what lay ahead of him was so intense that his "sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground" (Luke 22:44). During His "agony in the garden" angels came to Christ to comfort Him in his time of need (Luke 22:43). Christ left that garden to begin his Passion.

Beyond the Garden. While he was at prayer, his disciples fell asleep. He chastised their weakness of spirit, "Could you not keep watch for one hour?" (Mark 14:37). Meanwhile, Judas and the plotters against Christ drew near. Judas kissed Christ on his cheek – a sign of fraternal care – to identify Christ to his detractors. Christ chastises Judas: "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48). The question was rhetorical; Christ was betrayed by one of

those closest to him. Some of Christ followers are riled up to the point that they start to fight against the authorities; Christ tells them, "Stop, no more of this!" (Luke 22:51). Christ is captured by the authorities and is tormented by his captors. He taken before Annas, a High Priest. Annas cannot get a confession out of Jesus, so "Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest." (John 18:24). Christ is taken before the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas. Caiaphas asks Christ if he is the Messiah, to which Christ responds, "You have said so." He is charged with Blasphemy and the Sanhedrin declares the Jesus is worthy of death (Matthew 26:57-66). Caiaphas then sent Christ to Pilate, the Roman Governor, whom had the authority to order an execution (John 18:31). Furthering Christ's suffering, Peter, the leader of his Apostles, denies Christ as he is questioned about knowing him. Peter weeps when he realizes that Christ predictions that he'd betray him came to pass (Luke 22:54-62).

Prayer for Thursday of Holy Week: *O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

GOOD FRIDAY. On Good Friday, in the morning, Judas – recognizing the weight of deeds – hangs himself. Jesus is brought before Pilate, who finds him guilty of no crime. Pilate sends him to Herod who also had jurisdiction in this matter (Luke 23:6), who likewise finds no guilt in Jesus (Luke 23:15). Jesus is sent back to Pilate who ultimately finds Him innocent three different times (Luke 23:22). Amidst these trials, Jesus is scourged, spat upon, crowned with thorns and mocked by the people he came to save. Due to a custom, Pilate was able to allow the people in the crowd to release a prisoner from custody. Pilate gives the people the choice between releasing Barabbas, a murderer (Luke 23:18) or Jesus. The people release Barabbas, and Pilate agrees to allow Christ's execution on a Cross (Luke 23:23).

The Time of Morning. At about 9:00 a.m., Christ takes up his cross and makes the journey from the Palace of Pilate to the place of His crucifixion.

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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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
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

FISH FRY'S

Thank you to all who participated and attended the fish fry's sponsored by the Knights of Columbus each week in Lent. Your support is greatly appreciated. There is no fish fry on Good Friday.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception will each offer the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7 pm.



SODALITY MEETING

The next Sodality Meeting will take place on Sunday, April 16, at 2:30 pm, on the second floor of the Early Learning Center Building. All are welcome to attend.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Orders are being accepted for our Memorial Area brick pavers. The deadline is April 17th. Order forms are available at the Parish Office and on the Parish website



at www.HolyCrossDover.org/about-us/cemetery.

EASTER SUNDAY (APR 9)

FIRST READING: ACTS 10:34, 37-43

Those who saw the Lord ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

Paul, thrilled by the true life Christ gives us, calls on us to raise our eyes and thoughts to the things that are in heaven.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:1-9

Mary Magdalene, Peter and John find the Lord's tomb empty on Easter morning.

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!

PROLIFE EVENT

Please come and join us for our Good Friday Life Chain on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon, in front of Planned Parenthood of Delaware, located at 805 S. Governors Avenue, Dover. This Life Chain Event is meant to be introspective, prayerful, and peaceful. I am sure you have noticed that since the overturn of 'Roe v. Wade', by the Supreme Court of the United States, pro-death abortion forces are even more vile and despicable than ever. If ever we need you to attend our peaceful Life Chain event, it is now! Your prayers and support are requested. For more information, please contact Francis Urick, 302.233.4684.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY WEBSITE

The Cemetery website has been revamped with new features and updated information. 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. Students will walk a predetermined course and raise money through pledges. We are raising funds for a new communication, "walkie-talkie", system for the school. Walkie-talkies have twice the battery life of a cell phone and do not rely on a cellular network making them reliable for daily communications between faculty and staff and efficient during emergencies.

If you would like to help the campaign, please visit our online pledge page, <https://independent.pledgebrite.org/fund/holycrossdover23>, checks are also accepted 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!



MASS INTENTIONS MARCH

3 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am John W. McGonigle
HC & ICC 3:00 pm Reconciliation Monday

4 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Charles & Bridget McGlynn
HC 7:00 pm Chrism Mass

5 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am John S. Kowalczyk

6 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Morning Prayer
HC 7:00 pm Mass of Last Supper
ICC 7:00 pm Mass of Last Supper

7 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Morning Prayer
HC & ICC 3:00 pm Passion of Our Lord

8 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Morning Prayer
HC 1:00 pm Blessing of Food
HC & ICC 8:00 pm Easter Vigil

9 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am For the People
ICC 8:30 am For the People
HC 9:30 am For the People
ICC 10:00 am For the People
HC 11:30 am For the People
ICC Noon For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

SAMARITAN NEEDS

The Samaritans are now accepting Hams and all the accompanying foods to give to needy families for a wonderful Easter Meal. We can use: 6, 8 or 10 pound hams, Sweet Potatoes or Yams, Cranberries, canned Pineapple, sliced or chunk, Rice, canned gravy or pouch gravy mix, Powdered Potato boxes, canned vegetables (Corn and Green Beans, etc.) and Mac and Cheese. And, if possible a carton of Eggs for the children. Baskets will be given out on April 4th.



Thank you for your help and generosity. Food can be left in the Samaritan area as you enter the church property. The door is open from 7 am to 6 pm.

faith in action

Holy Cross Schedule

Monday, April 3

8 am Mass

3:00 pm – 8:00 pm Reconciliation Monday

Tuesday, April 4

8:00 am Mass

7:00 pm Chrim Mass

Wednesday, April 5

8:00 am Mass

5:30 pm to 6:30 pm Reconciliation

Holy Thursday, April 6

8:00 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ‘till 10:30 pm

10:30 pm Night Prayer

Good Friday, April 7

No Mass or Confessions

8:00 am Morning Prayer

3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

9:00 pm Spanish Stations of the Cross/Tenebrae

Holy Saturday, April 8

8:00 am Morning Prayer

1:00 pm Blessing of Food

8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Liturgy begins outside with “Blessing of the Fire” followed by procession into church.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9

7:30 am Mass in Church

9:30 am Mass in Church

11:30 am Spanish Mass in Church

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHEDULE

Monday, April 3

3:00 pm – 8:00 pm Reconciliation Monday

Holy Thursday, April 6

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

n Parish Hall until 11:00 pm

Good Friday, April 7

No Mass or Confessions

1:00 pm Stations of Cross in Spanish

3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord’s Passion

Holy Saturday, April 8

8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Liturgy begins outside with “Blessing of the Fire” followed by procession into church.

EASTER SUNDAY, April 9

8:30 am Mass in Church

10:00 am Mass in Church

Noon Spanish Mass in Church

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

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

SUNDAY 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY 5 am, 3 pm, 5 pm

TUESDAY 5 am, 5 pm, 8 pm

WEDNESDAY 11 am

THURSDAY 5 am

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

FROM THE DIALOG

Get the latest Catholic news sent free to your inbox. Sign up today for The Dialog newsletter, The Angelus. You’ll receive our newsletter, The Angelus, with the latest diocesan news, spiritual columns and feature stories of interest to people in our schools and parishes. You’ll also get breaking news alerts from TheDialog.org and information from our Dialog partners. To sign up, visit thedialog.org and click the "Get Our Newsletter" link at the top of every page. Type in your email address and you're done.

GOLF LEAGUE MEETING

A sign up meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12 at 5 PM at Jonathan’s Landing Golf Course Clubhouse. Nine-hole golf starts WEDNESDAY, April 19 through August 23. Two man teams: individuals will be assigned a partner. A \$50 registration fee includes weekly scorecards, software scorekeeping, end-of-season tournament prizes and a donation to the Holy Cross Youth Group. Maximum number of players is 44. For more information, call Phil Spampinato, 302-382-2979 or Wes Grau 302-270-8111.

RACHEL’S VINEYARD

A Rachel’s Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of April 21-23, 2023. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with the pain of abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 7.

- Ya damos comienzo a la Sema Santa, Semana Mayor. En forma sencilla vamos a ver el significado de cada día y qué celebramos.
- **Domingo:** Domingo de Ramos **comienzo** de la semana santa tiene un doble significado: Triunfo y Pasión. La entrada triunfal de Jesús en Jerusalén, a lomos de un Asno, en medio de una multitud que lo aclamaba como el Hijo de Dios. En este acontecimiento el pueblo lo alabó como rey con cantos y palmas. El color de éste día es el rojo, que representa su entrada triunfal en Jerusalén y la Pasión del Señor.
- **Lunes:** El Lunes Santo, es también llamado Lunes de Reconciliación, nuestro obispo Koenig, ha designado el lunes de la semana santa como lunes de Reconciliación. Todas las iglesias en nuestra Diócesis tendrán sacerdotes disponibles para escuchar confesiones a partir de las 3:00pm hasta las 8:00 pm. en el segundo día de la Semana Santa se conmemora la unción de Jesús en casa de Lázaro. Durante este día, la liturgia de la Iglesia Católica dedica la lectura evangélica al pasaje de la unción de Betania, cuando Jesús visita la casa de Lázaro, tras resucitar, y donde María le unge costos perfumes.
- **Martes:** Ese día a las 7:00 pm tendremos en nuestra parroquia la Misa Crismal. La iglesia universal recuerda a Jesús que se reúne con sus discípulos y les anticipa la traición de Judas y las negaciones de San Pedro.
- **Miércoles:** El Miércoles Santo es el día en que se reúne el Sanedrín (tribunal religioso judío) con Judas Iscariote, para condenar a Jesús. Día de espía.
- **Jueves:** Este día se conmemora la institución de la Eucaristía de la última cena, el lavatorio de pies y la oración en el huerto de Getsemaní. A las 7:00pm tendremos la Misa de la Cena del Señor. Jesús tuvo la Última Cena con sus discípulos, los 12 apóstoles, en la que compartió con ellos por última vez el pan y el vino. Al final Jesús realizó el lavatorio de los pies, acto de humildad y servicio.
- **Continúa la próxima semana con el Triduo Pascual.**
- Nuestro agradecimiento a todos los que participaron en las Estaciones de la Cruz y la peregrinación con el Señor Obispo Koenig en Wilmington.
- Quedan Todos cordialmente invitados a la dramatización en vivo de la Vía dolorosa de nuestro Señor Jesucristo y el “Servicio de la Oscuridad” el viernes , 7 de abril en la iglesia a las 9:00pm. Sera un evento con la participación de los talentos de ambas parroquias Holy Cross y la Inmaculada Concepción.

ICC INFORMACION

- **Clases de Primera Comuni3n en ICC:** Es el martes 18 de abril de 6:30 – 7:30 en el sal3n (La clase del 4 de abril se ha trasladado al 18 debido a la Misa Crismal).
- **Sacramento de la Confirmaci3n:** Ensayo de Confirmaci3n: jueves 13 de abril de 2023 a las 6:00 pm en Holy Cross en Dover. Los candidatos son responsables de recordar a sus padrinos todas las fechas y horas.
- **Confirmaci3n:** s3bado, 15 de abril de 2023 a las 10:00 de la mañana en Holy Cross , Dover. Todos los candidatos y padrinos deben presentarse en el sal3n de la iglesia a las 9:00 am.
- **Escuela B3blica de Verano:** Mant3n tus ojos en el cielo!! ;La reuni3n de la Escuela B3blica de Vacaciones llegar3 pronto para planificar una semana estelar en agosto!
- **Ya est3n abiertas las inscripciones para las clases de Educaci3n Religiosa 2023-2024.** Es de suma importancia que inscriba a su hijo a tiempo, y de esa manera garantizar materiales, catequistas y sal3n a tiempo.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Class 4/16/2023—3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Next Class 4/30/2023—Last Class

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at holycrossdovery.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation

If you have any questions contact Tammy Korosec either 302-674-5787 x122 or tkorosec@holycrossdovery.org

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)
Next class April 2, 2023 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Early Learning Center.

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF for next year? Contact Tammy Korosec.

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/biy-espanol-registration>

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Practice on 4/13/2023 at 6:00 pm. Please be on time!

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@holycrossdovery.org.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Rice Bowl: Lent can feel like a long time. Sometimes we'd like to skip right to Easter! But through prayer and sacrifices, we share in Christ's suffering and prepare for the joy of his resurrection. This Lent, we've learned how people in Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya made sacrifices so their families and communities can thrive. How have your Lenten sacrifices helped your family and community and communities around the world? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

First Communion classes Immaculate Conception:

*Sixth Session is Tuesday, April 18th 6:30-7:30pm in the ICC hall.
(The class on the 4th of April has been moved to the 18th due to the Chrism Mass.)

Confirmation Rehearsal: Thursday, April 13, 2023 @ 6:00pm at Holy Cross in Dover.
Candidates are responsible for reminding their sponsors of all the dates and times.

Confirmation: Saturday, April 15, 2023, at 10:00am. All Candidates and Sponsors are to report to the Parish Hall by 9:00 am at Holy Cross.

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.

Keep your eyes to the skies!! Vacation Bible School meeting coming soon to plan for a Stellar week in August!

*"Because of our traditions,
 We've kept our balance for many, many years.
 Here in Anatevka we have traditions for everything...
 how to eat, how to sleep, even, how to wear clothes.
 For instance, we always keep our heads covered
 and always wear a little prayer shawl...
 This shows our constant devotion to God.
 You may ask, how did this tradition start?
 I'll tell you - I don't know. But it's a tradition...
 Because of our traditions,
 Everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do.
 Tevya, Fiddler on the Roof*

My career began in a neighborhood location of a metropolitan area where tradition and the practice of old world customs were important to the families. Or more correctly said, they were important to the parents and grandparents, more so. School aged children practiced the traditions because they were important to their parents and it was the way it always was. During my time there I saw the communities begin to dissipate, young adults were fleeing the neighborhoods and its traditions in favor of suburbia, the quiet tree-lined streets, where every house had a driveway and garage. The concrete pavements in the old neighborhoods were abandoned in favor of green grass and big back yards. And, sadly, abandoned too, oftentimes were the old traditions brought to this country by their parents, or grandparents before them.

One of my favorite stories is told in the movie, Fiddler On The Roof. Oddly enough it was the first movie I ever watched after my husband decided to bring cable television into our home almost thirty years ago. The movie depicts the breakdown of the community and family unit due to circumstances beyond the control of those affected by cruel outside influences. Their traditional practices, and determination to preserve them, however, are packed up with their meager belongings as they set out for a new world.

My maternal family members in part sailed to American shores on a boat set out from England in the very early 1900's. In all honesty, the only real traditions practiced in my family, if any, were of the culinary variety. I suppose that was because of the similarity of the American and English cultures. Speculation, mere speculation on my part. My grandmother, born in the United States, held fast to her beliefs as an Episcopalian, and although a staunch Democrat, always maintained some allegiance to the concept of rule by a monarch. She and I enjoyed many a tea-party replete with fancy bone-china tea-cups. Lemon slices and a lighted candle were always placed on the table... and some sort of sweet nibble. To this very day my beverage of choice is a good hot cup of tea. A practice passed down by my grandmother, and her grandmother before her.

Lent and Easter are liturgical seasons when a family's traditional practices are often observed. Many of these customs have been preserved from the "old country" and will serve to enrich the ritual practices associated with the seasons. Permit me please to once again to summon up memories of my dear grandmother. She had a particular fondness for hot-cross buns. If it was Easter, by George, there were going to be hot-cross buns in the house. Most times they were ordered days ahead of time from the local bakery, but there were those special times when she and I prepared the recipe ourselves. Home-baked and enjoyed with melted butter and marmalade. Add a cup of hot tea, and there you have yourself a tradition! Simply stated, a hot cross bun is a spiced sweet bun usually made with dried fruit, raisins, or currants, marked with a simple white cross on the top. They have been traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The traditional recipe has its roots in the United Kingdom, and my grandmother learned to bake them from her mother.

And so, it wasn't too very long ago that I began thinking about those days in the kitchen with my grandmother. I toyed with thoughts of baking hot cross buns over our Easter holiday break, and I might. The modern bakery version just will not compare, if I could even find them.

I learned a great deal about cooking while working alongside my grandmother in the kitchen. There's a lot to learn. Measuring skills, appreciating the concept and meaning of a fraction, reading a recipe properly, safety with cooking tools, not to mention the opportunity to create lifelong memories.

I have a few websites you might reference for hot cross bun recipes and directions. Know ahead of time; it will probably take the better part of an afternoon, but the end results are well worth the time investment. And it's a sweet (literally) tradition to start with the family.

www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/easy-hot-cross-buns-recipe
<https://www.recipetineats.com/hot-cross-buns-recipe/>
<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/7073/hot-cross-buns>

So how about donning the apron, pulling down the canister of flour, a great bit mixing bowl and get started on the recipe, just you and the kiddos? And, do not forget to fill the kettle!!

*"...You may ask, how did this tradition start? I'll tell you - I don't know. But it's a tradition...
 Because of our traditions, Everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do."*

We recount these steps during the first ten Stations of the Cross. At noon, Christ, after making the agonizing journey carrying His cross, reached the place of his death at the hill of Calvary. There he was nailed to the Cross; atop the cross Pilate placed an inscription: "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." (John 19:19). Alongside Christ were two criminals, also being crucified (St. Dismas and Gestas). St. Dismas suffering alongside Christ, confesses his guilt and asks Christ, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus responds, "Today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43). St. Dismas, for his faith in Christ, has become known as "The Good Thief." In a similar vein, as he was dying on the Cross, amidst the gathered crowd, Christ called upon his Father saying "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34).

The Time of Mourning. As the hour of 3:00 p.m. arrived. Christ announces, "It is finished" (John 19:30) and "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Then "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last" (Mark 15:37). To make sure Jesus was dead, a Roman soldier pierced His side with a lance, and from that wound flowed blood and water. (John 19:34); the centurion then states, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39). Upon the death of Christ, the earth quaked (Matthew 27:51), breaching the veil of the Temple (Mark 15:38); reflecting the breach between God and man at this dark moment. His body is taken from the cross and laid into a stone-sealed tomb (Matthew 27:60). The women who abided with Christ "prepared spices and perfumed oils" for his burial. (Luke 23:56). Pilate ordered guards at the tomb to make sure His followers did not try to steal his body and claim "He has been raised from the dead." So, the soldiers sealed the tomb so that it could not be opened. (Matthew 27:66).

Prayer for Friday of Holy Week: *O God, who by the Passion of Christ your Son, our Lord, abolished the death inherited from ancient sin by every succeeding generation, grant that just as, being conformed by him, we have borne by the law of nature the image of the man of earth, so by the sanctification of grace we may bear the image of the Man of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

And now, then comes Holy Saturday – a day for waiting. A day for reflecting. On this day, as one source writes: *Mary and the disciples are grief-stricken, while the Church must mournfully admit that too many of her children return home from Calvary cold and hard of heart. When Mother Church reflects upon all of this, it seems as if the wounds of her dearly Beloved were again beginning to bleed... According to tradition, the entire body of the Church is represented in Mary... Thus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as she waits near the Lord's tomb, as she is represented in Christian tradition, is an icon of the Virgin Church keeping vigil at the tomb of her Spouse while awaiting the celebration of his resurrection.*

Prayer for the Saturday morning of Holy Week: *All-powerful and ever-living God, your only Son went down among the dead and rose again in glory. In your goodness raise up your faithful people, buried with him in baptism, to be one with him in the eternal life of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

And for us, our patient and prayerful wait begins as we the Christian faithful look from the darkness of Good Friday, to wait, patiently and prayerfully the glory of events of Easter.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor