

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 30, 2023

4th 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

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

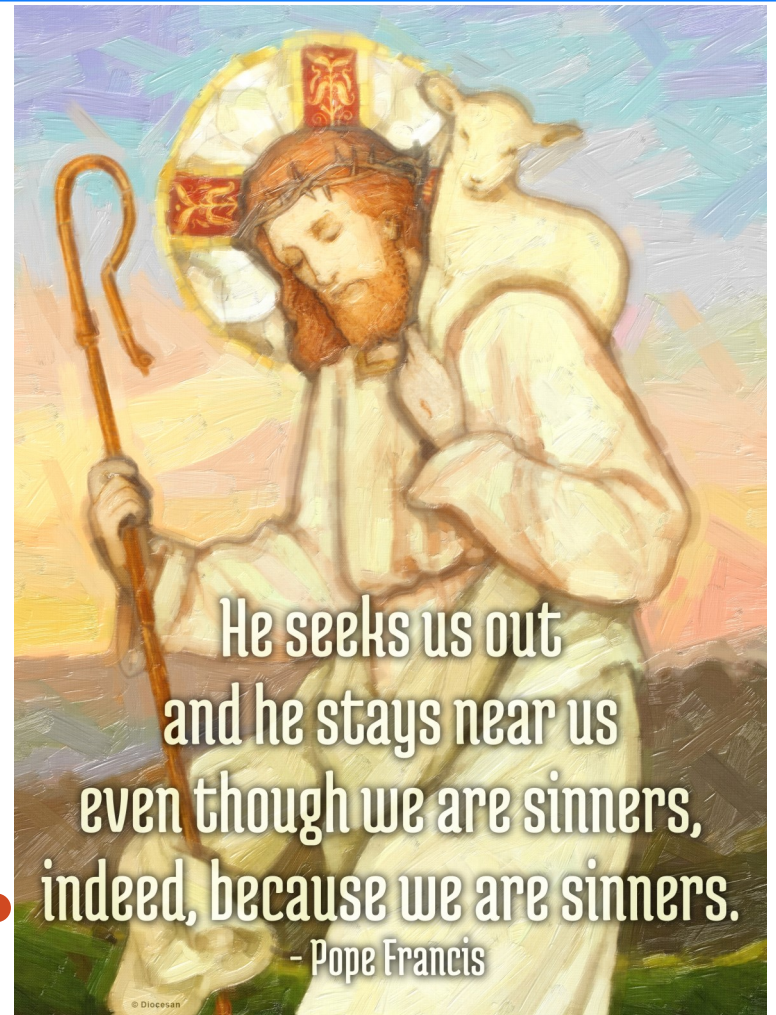
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm

icc



He seeks us out
and he stays near us
even though we are sinners,
indeed, because we are sinners.

- Pope Francis

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 16, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$21,134	\$27,500	(\$6,366)
YTD	\$1,114,637	\$1,152,400	(\$37,763)
Needs	\$1,122	\$1,604	(\$482)
Easter	\$17,554	\$18,000	(\$446)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending April 16, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,339
Second Collection	\$878

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.

This is part two of my column on the use of the “smells and bells” of Catholicism... last issue we dealt with the bells, this issue with the smells — that is, the use of incense in the wonderfully rich rituals of Catholicism.

The Scent of Mystery. How many of you can claim to have seen the movie, “The Scent of Mystery.” I have to bet it is a small, small number; it was a movie like no other. Made in 1960, this film, this murder mystery, was filmed and produced using a technic called “Smell-o-vision.” I am not making this up. Movie theatres showing this film were equipped with special venting systems that released key smells and aromas at key moments in the film. So, if there was a scene in which a woman was putting on perfume, a pleasant perfume-odor would be released throughout the theatre to accompany the action on the screen. Suffice it to say, the novelty of “Smell-o-vision” never caught on. And reviews for the film and the technique were – well, let’s just say they were less than scent-sational. Thus, in spite of a cast that included Peter Lorre and Elizabeth Taylor, “The Scent of Mystery” for all of its aromatic gimmickry was a movie that stunk.

The Scent of the Mystery of God. In our Catholic Church, we, in a more significant and more enduring way, also provide a bit of scent of mystery – fragrance to accompany our experiencing of the mysteries of our faith. You see, we have what is commonly called “the smells and bells of Catholicism.”

More than Garlic. The “smells” portion of the phrase, speaks to the fact that in the celebration of the Mass and other Rituals, the Church tries to connect to the minds and hearts of a faithful believer not just in sight (e.g., the aesthetics of the Sanctuary, stained glass), sound (e.g., readings, music, and bells), touch (e.g., receiving the sign of peace, holding the missalette, encountering the occasional fender bender in the parking lot), and taste (e.g., reception of the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist). The Church goes further, it tries, in its Rituals, to engage the believer with the sense of smell. And I don’t mean the old guy next to you who had a little too much garlic before coming to Mass.

The Aroma Catholic Church. The sense of smell, referred to all the olfactory sense, is nothing to sneeze at. It all allows one to encounter the aroma of good food, floral aroma, chocolate, brewing coffee, and even the scent of a good cigar. Yep, the sense of smell catches us even before our eyes, ears, etc., are even aware of something. And so what are examples of the “smells” of Catholicism?

Getting Incensed at the Church! When we talk about the “smells of Catholicism” – there are two that leap to mind. The first is the perfumed scent of the Sacred Chrism, an oil consecrated by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week. This oil is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders, and is the most Sacred of all of the holy oils of the Church. The second Catholic scent is

incense. And incense, as the most common fragrance that one will encounter in the practice of the Catholic faith, will be the focus of this article.

What is Incense? Incense is a spice that is burned for the sweet smell that it produces. When, on that first Epiphany, the Three Kings came to see Jesus, one of the gifts that was brought to Him was frankincense. Frankincense was an incense burned back-in-those-days to honor God. Thus, when it was brought to Christ, it pointed out that the Three Kings understood who this child in the manger was. Thus in the “We Three Kings of Orient Are” we hear the line: “Frankincense to offer have I / Incense owns a Deity nigh.” This refers to the king (King Caspar, by tradition) acknowledging that he is bringing this incense to the Deity (God) that is near (nigh).

Why is it Used? I have to make it clear here that the Church does not use incense just because it smells nice; there are a lot of things that smell nice that we don’t use in Church. So, you may ask, why incense? Incensing “is an expression of reverence and of prayer” – according to the Church’s General Instruction on the Roman Missal.

Wafts Up, Doc. On the point of incense being used for prayer, it has been put forth -- down through the ages -- that the prayers being said during the Mass are carried up to heaven on the wafts of smoke that rise upwards. This understanding comes to us from Psalm 141:2, “Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering.” And so, in a spiritual sense, the sweet fragrance of the incense brings forth our prayers to God in an appropriate and acceptable manner. Likewise, in the Heavenly liturgy, we are told, “[An] angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones” (Revelation 8:3-4).

When is incense used? Incense may be commonly used during and outside of Mass, as follows:

1. **During the Entrance procession:** The Priest may add incense to the thurible to allow it to put forth the sweet smell of incense while the Procession to the altar takes place.
2. **At the beginning of Mass, to incense the cross and the altar.** After the priest kisses the altar, he then adds incense to the hot coals in the thurible and goes around the altar incensing the altar in a sign of reverence.
3. **At the Gospel.** When a Deacon (or Priest) goes to the ambo to proclaim the Gospel, he may choose to incense the Gospel.

(continued on page 10)

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

2023 FAITH AND CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL – “SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST”

All three readings today call us to follow Christ and live by His example. We are called to follow Jesus' example and abundantly share our time, talent, and treasure. We are called to generosity. By following Jesus, we are called to share His example with the world, serving others and bringing love, joy, hope, and healing. He came so that we may have life and have it abundantly.

The Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal, with its theme, Shining the Light of Christ reminds us to shine Christ's light in all that we do and share that light with those around us. We are challenged to bring Christ's healing, joy, love, and hope to all those we encounter, through acts of Christian Stewardship.

This weekend you are invited to participate in the 2023 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Please respond by pledging a sacrificial gift to this important campaign.

To learn more about the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal, visit www.cdow.org; click “Giving” then “Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal.”

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of those who have recently passed away:

- Frances Cassidy
- George Fersch
- Adeline DePaz DeLeon
- Dinigres Domingo
- Albert J. Schmidt
- M. James Clougherty
- Anne Crimmins

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MAY 7)

FIRST READING: ACTS 6:1-7

Trusting in the Holy Spirit, the Church grows in number.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 2:4-9

Christ is the cornerstone of our faith.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-12

Jesus tells his disciples not to be troubled. He will show us the way.

Deacon Formation Information Nights



New class of
Permanent Deacons
starting in June 2023

For more information, visit: cdow.org/deacons

Is the Holy Spirit calling you?
You must follow the link above to make your reservation to attend one of the Information Nights!

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Attention Gold Star Families. We would like to acknowledge and honor the sacrifice of your loved one at the Memorial Day Mass on May 29th. Place of interment need not be Holy Cross Cemetery. Please contact Len Dornberger at 302-674-5787 ext. 135 to provide needed information.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to the Baby Shower we hosted last weekend. Your generosity is overwhelming. We truly appreciate all of the wonderful donations that came in to help those in need.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS

First Saturday Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Shrine (Old Bohemia Mission) on May 6 at 11:00 AM. Rev. Ron Murphy, SJ from Georgetown University will be the president. The rectory museum will be open at 9:00 AM for tours. The Shrine, located at 1690 Bohemia Church Road in Warwick, MD is the Mother Church of the Diocese of Wilmington. Email OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com or call 302.545.2126 for additional information. First Saturday Masses will continue through the end of the year.

**MASS INTENTIONS
MAY**

1 MONDAY HC 8:00 am	DM of Antonio Coronitti Family
2 TUESDAY HC 8:00 am	Anna Grady
3 WEDNESDAY HC 8:15 am	Richard Willemen
4 THURSDAY HC 8:00 am ICC 6:00 pm	DM Bruno Family For the People
5 FRIDAY HC 8:00 am	Don McLane
6 SATURDAY HC 8 am HC 5:00 pm	Anna Grady Catherine and Frank Lutz
7 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	DM Zullo Family Agnes Parkey Joseph McLaughlin Keith DeFrancesco Jorge G. And Elena B. Rodriguez For the People

*(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)*

DE RIGHT TO LIFE

Join us Thursday, May 11 at Middletown Memorial Hall for our Annual Fundraiser Banquet, which features Mark Houck as our main speaker. Mark has an amazing story to tell of his pro-life activism, which led to his being falsely arrested by the FBI last summer. His courageous witness to the sanctity of life is an example to us all. Don't miss it. Register at www.derighttolife.org/calendar

faith in action

HOLY CROSS MAY 6/7, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM C. Bugglin D. Darling L. Curley
M. Casey L. Darling B. Richardson
L. Richardson

LECTORS

D. Dixon
D. Kilby

7:30 AM C. Brown T. Dinan E. Bydlon
J. Clendaniel M. Thompson T. Catipay

LECTORS

M. Jacobs

9:30 AM G. Wessel B. Whitworth W. Shuron
M. Wessel R. Willey B. Song
D. Song

LECTORS

R. Alderman
M. Sossich

11:30 AM C. Garcia A. Luna TBD
B. Guzman

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

B. Lawson

8:30 AM

LECTORS

J. Tormey, Jr.

F. Cristiano

11:00 AM

LECTORS

S. Tucker

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!!!

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND SPAGHETTI
DINNER FUNDRAISER

The Holy Cross Odyssey of the Mind team will hold a spaghetti dinner on Monday May 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, to raise funds for their trip to the World Competition in East Lansing, MI on May 24-28. Team members will be present after masses on Saturday and Sunday, May 6th and 7th to sell tickets. Take out is available. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 10 and under. A family ticket for two adults and children 14 and under is available for \$36.

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 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
- MONDAY 5 am, 11 am, 3 pm, 5 pm
- TUESDAY 5 am, 6 am, 2 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm
- WEDNESDAY 11 am
- THURSDAY
- 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.

- Conquistando Las Naciones para Cristo Tendrá un Retiro de Sanación Interior en Delaware del 5 al 7 de Mayo para hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años. Donación es de \$125. Lugar 14047 Redden Rd. Bridgeville, DE 19933. Para más información hable con los líderes de la Junta Directiva o llame al 302-442-5887 -302-685-8192. “Vengan a mí los que estén cansados y agobiados que Yo los aliviare” Mateo 11,28
- Mayo Mes de María. La Virgen peregrina va a empezar a visitar casas a partir del 7 de mayo. Si desea que la imagen de la virgen visite su hogar por una semana 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

- Primeras Comuniones: Nuestras felicitaciones a nuestros 12 niños(a) quienes recibieron por primera vez a Jesús en el Sacramento de la Comunión , el sábado, 29 de abril: Alessandro, Aylin, Elmer, Kendra, Keylin, Litzy, Lizbeth, Marlon, Melody, Mercedes, Pablo, Yordin.
- Coronación y el Santo Rosario Viviente será el último día de clases de Educación Religiosa después de clases. 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)

Have a child or children in grades K-8 who need faith formation? Please go to the following link to register for religious education classes.

<https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

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!

Interested in enrolling your family in the LAFF program for the 2023-24 school year?

Please go to the following link to register for the LAFF program using the religious education form.

<https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

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- espanol-registration>

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Registration for Confirmation 2024:

Forms for registering for Confirmation Preparation Classes may be found

on the Holy Cross website under Teaching the Faith - Sacramental Preparation - Confirmation.

Please return forms to the Religious Education Office no later than June 30, 2023.

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@holycrossdover.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.

First Eucharist at Immaculate Conception:

Congratulations to our 12 children who received Jesus in the Sacrament of First Eucharist on April 29th: Alessandro, Aylin, Elmer, Kendra, Keylin, Litzzy, Lizbeth, Marlon, Melody, Mercedes, Pablo, Yordin.

May Crowning and Living Rosary will take place on our last day of Religious Education, May 7th. Please join us at 9:45am in the hall.

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: "Stellar" 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. Adult and youth volunteers asked to attend. on Sunday, April 23rd at 12noon in the Office meeting room and join our team of great volunteers.

In an earlier installment I tried to draw a parallel between the mission statement of Holy Cross School and the Twelve Reasons to Choose a Catholic Education for your children. This Twelve Reasons is a document published by the National Catholic Educational Association and is one shared with prospective families during our visit together during the pre-enrollment process. This week I attempt to continue in illustrating the root of our mission that is intertwined within the twelve reasons why your child will draw life-long benefits from a Catholic school experience.

As a gentle reminder I include the words of our school Mission statement:

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 #7: WE TEACH CHILDREN RESPECT OF SELF AND OTHERS.

Kids are kids. No matter where they are. They have to be taught to work cooperatively and show kindness to others. As human beings we aren't born with that knowledge. At HCS, it begins in the Pre-K with learning forgiveness when a wrong has been committed. "I forgive you" is the resolution to a conflict and it carries through to the upper grades. I've heard it said countless times when a tiff between two or three warrants resolution. (At Holy Cross we strive to convey a sense of justice....)

Reason #8: WE INSTILL MORAL DEVELOPMENT AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.

Self-discipline, like respect is a learned skill. It is learned through a lifetime. The ability to exhibit self-discipline, proper social etiquette and a kindness to one's neighbor is indeed a cross-curricular focus at Holy Cross. In children, it's not a lesson easily learned sometime, but with perseverance, compassion, and nurturing, Catholic school teachers are unquestionably dedicated to moral development, social conduct, and holding a child to standards for self-governance. Many are the times when I can recall our students being complimented for their behavior and favorable representation of our school at the conclusion of a field trip experience. (we strive to convey a sense of justice, peace, compassion, and respect for all God's creation.)

Reason #9: WE PREPARE STUDENTS TO BE PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS AND FUTURE LEADERS.

A Catholic education provides that solid foundation that paves a smooth and seamless pathway into the future. The doors of high schools and colleges are opened wide for Catholic school graduates. Parents realize the importance and sacrifice to provide this opportunity for their children with the knowledge that their future is bright and their child is ready to take on life. In my experience, in welcoming HCS graduates back to their roots, I have had the pleasure of shaking hands with doctors, nurses, law enforcement officers, attorneys, military personnel, architects, educators and entrepreneurs. Believe me; the list goes on. Their common thread? HCS graduates!! It's where it ALL began..... and they want the same for their children. (...ensuring a Catholic values-based education)

Reason #10: WE HAVE A 99% HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE AND 85% OF OUR GRADUATES GO TO COLLEGE

Our mission is not to prepare for the next step onto a college campus, but without the HCS infancy years.... Who knows the hoops and obstacles they might encounter??

Reason #11: WE CULTIVATE A FACULTY AND STAFF OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DEDICATED CARING, AND EFFECTIVE.

Can I hear an amen to that??!! I could compose quite the lengthy discourse on the dedication, compassion and effectiveness of our fantabulous faculty. It is my distinct pleasure to call them colleague, to work by their side, to support their efforts in educating our children, and to support their efforts in working with our parent community. The greater majority of our faculty and staff have children, or have had children attend HC. Their roots and dedication run deep, and the proof of that pudding was found during the pandemic years when educators encountered great career challenges. HCS faculty and staff members never wavered, choosing rather to take the proverbial bull by the horns and find the best ways to provide instruction for their students. (...ENSURING a Catholic values-based education, and STRIVING to convey a sense of justice, peace, compassion, and respect for all God's creation.)

Reason #12: WE PROVIDE A SAFE AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL.

There are many security measures and devices in place to make for a safe learning environment at HC. We are grateful to our HSA and the efforts made by Mrs. Gambone to plan for our upcoming Walk-A-Thon where sufficient funding has been raised to purchase new two-way radios for our faculty and staff in the upcoming year. This has proven an invaluable device in communicating campus wide throughout the day. And, we are grateful.

Welcoming?--believe me, you are welcome here! We have answers to questions, we are solution seekers, and maybe most importantly, we are listeners. Everyone has a story to tell, everyone has a child who deserves a Catholic school education. So, call us, or ring the doorbell. We are happy to welcome you. Perhaps we could have tea? (compassion, and respect for all God's creation.)

4. **At the Offertory.** After the hosts and chalice have been placed on the altar, and the preparatory prayers have been prayed, the Priest may incense the offerings, the cross, and the altar. He may also incense other priests, deacons and the people, or may delegate this additional incensing to the Deacon.
5. **During the Elevation.** When the Priest elevates the host and the chalice after the consecration, an acolyte (altar server) may incense the Sacred Species, often accompanied by the tintinnabulation of bells.
6. **At a Funeral Mass.** It is an overwhelming common and proper practice to use incense at a Funeral Mass (or more formally called, a Mass of Christian Burial). At the part of that Mass called "the final commendation," the Priest usually incenses around and about the coffin. He does this as a sign of honor to the body of the deceased (which was a temple of the Holy Spirit since Baptism) and as a sign that the prayers of the family and friends gathered there will rise up to God.
7. **During Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.** Incensing is carried out during the period just after exposition of the Sacred Host and shortly before Benediction occurs.
8. **In Special Liturgical Processions.** Incense may be used during processions on special holy days (for example during a Corpus Christi or Palm Sunday procession).
9. **During the Blessing of the Oils at the Chrism Mass.** When oils are blessed or consecrated by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass during Holy Week, incensing may take place at the time each of the oils (Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumen and Sacred Chrism) are carried away.
10. **During the Gospel Canticle at Laud and Vespers.** In a setting where Lauds (Morning Prayer) or Vespers (Evening Prayer) is being celebrated communally in a Chapel, the altar may be incensed during the singing of the Gospel canticle ("The Benedictus" during Lauds, and "The Magnificat" during vespers).
11. **Other Times?** Incense can be used to venerate holy images, relics, sacred objects, etc., as may be appropriate.

How is Incense Used? When incense is used during Mass, this is what you will likely see regarding how it is used: The Priest, usually with the help of Deacon or altar server, will take grains of incense contained in an object commonly called an incense boat. The Priest will scoop the incense out of that container and sprinkle it atop of hot coal contained in a device called a "thurible." The thurible is a metal (usually golden) censer suspended from a chain (or chains). Once the incense touches the hot coals in the censor wafts of incensed smoke begins to rise and fill the Church.

Singles, Double, Triples and the Basis. Likely, at Mass, you have seen a Priest (or Deacon) swinging the thurible and incensing either the Altar, the Cross, a coffin, the Most Blessed Sacrament, etc. You may wonder if there is a rhyme or reason to how many times they swing that thurible with the incense rising from it. Well, there is no rhyme, but there is a set reasoning to the use of the thurible. Set forth in liturgical law of the Church we are told:

- **Triple swings** of the thurible are proper to "the Most Blessed Sacrament, a relic of the Holy Cross and images of the Lord exposed for public veneration, the offerings for the sacrifice of the Mass, the altar cross, the Book of the Gospels, the Paschal Candle, the priest, and the people."
- **Double swings** of the thurible are proper to: "relics and images of the Saints exposed for public veneration."
- **Single swings** of the thurible are proper to the incensing of an altar incensed. If the altar is free-standing, the Priest goes around the altar, if the altar is attached to the wall, he walk to the right side, then the left. If the Cross is on the altar, it is incensed first; if it is elsewhere it is incensed when the Priest passes in front of it.
- **Regarding incensation of the offerings (the bread and wine) at Mass:** There are two options that are commended. The priest "incenses the offerings with three swings of the thurible or by making the sign of the cross over the offerings with the thurible," he can then incense the Cross and the altar as indicated above.

Ups and Downs. Two final notes worth mentioning, lest someone get "incensed" that I leave them out: A person who is being incensed is always to be standing up, if he is able, and the Priest or Deacon incensing him is also to be standing up. The Most Blessed Sacrament is always to be incensed from a kneeling position.

Scents and Sensibilities. And so, from the "Scent of Mystery" in a movie to the Scent of Mystery in our faith, scents and sensibilities are duly engaged to elicit our awareness of that which is before us. So, I would pass on the movie and definitely commend to you the mysteries of our faith expressed to us, and embellished for us, in the use of the smells (and bells) of Catholicism.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor