



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 4, 2021

Easter 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
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
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-Midnight (temporarily closed)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

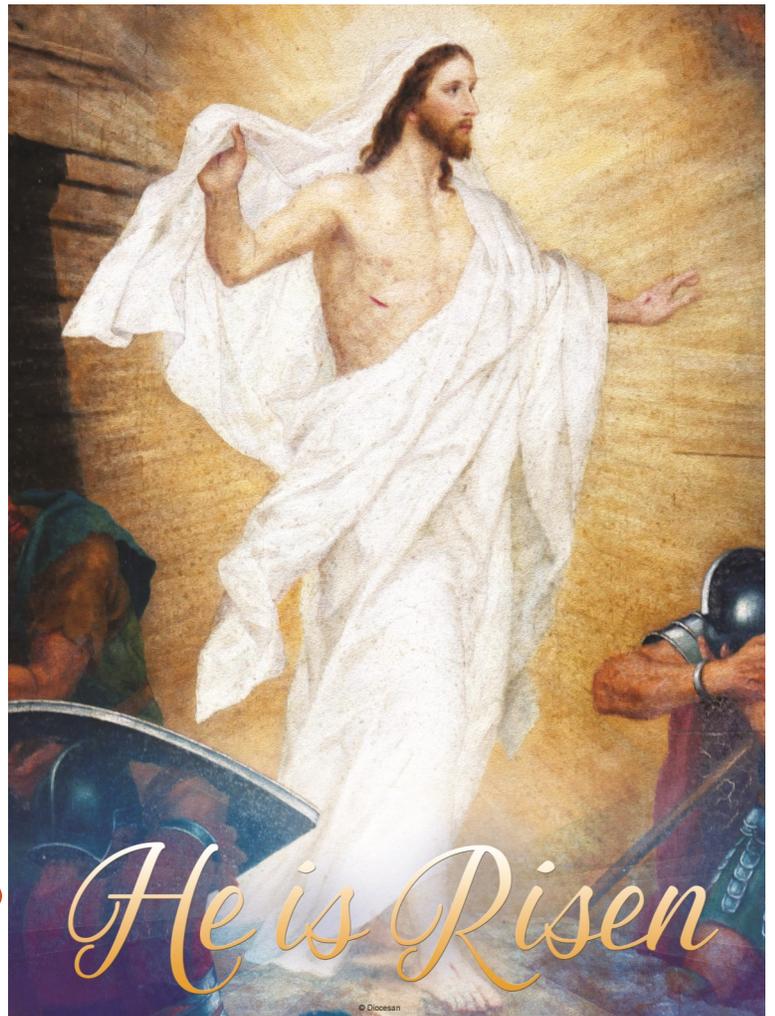
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish
Saturday, 9 am, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, after 9:00 am Mass
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

icc

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.

THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

Check out our websites

holycrossover.org
iccmarylodel.org

Holy Cross Church will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday, and 7 am to 7 pm on Sunday.

Immaculate Conception will be open daily 9 am to 7 pm.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, parishes must continue to adhere to all health and safety regulations without exception. Policies including wearing face masks, maintaining proper six-foot social distancing and proper hand hygiene remain nonnegotiable and are fundamentally rooted in protecting all people in our parishes and maintaining the health and safety of our community. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Masses on holy days remains suspended at this time.

Face masks are to be worn by all who are in the church. It is to be worn covering both the nose and mouth. Thank you for your cooperation.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

March 21, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$30,938	\$27,625	\$3,313
YTD	\$943,181	\$1,057,475	(\$114,294)
Needs	\$1,358	\$1,550	(\$192)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending March 21, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,395
2nd	\$191

Tax letters are ready at ICC. Please call the Parish Office at ICC and they will be mailed to you.

Tax Statement for Holy Cross

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2020 year. If we have your email in our records, this information was emailed to you at the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossover.org. Thank you.

Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time. Many are still not attending Mass but we still need your support. 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.

Dear Parishioners,

A Happy, Joyful and Blessed Easter to you and your families. Easter is for us, as Christians, the greatest and most significant day of the year; it is the day of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I want to use this column, and some words from the Beatles, to examine Easter's significance.

Easter: The Scoreboard. This year especially, as we slowly return to normal as a society — a return far too long awaited — it especially important to note this most holy of days — the day of the Resurrection. As Christians, we are fundamentally a people of hope, bound up in the truth of the Resurrection of Christ, that seminal event in which death was conquered, the gates of heaven opened, and long-awaited Messiah indeed saved his people. For those keeping score: It is God 1, the Devil 0... it was a perfect game, and a shutout. Praised be to our Lord Jesus Christ, God in the Flesh, for the victory!

A Little Help from my Friends. Those who read this column regularly know that I like to invoke music, often, in drawing connections, imagery and analogy to much of our faith. Often, I like to sit and listen to music which always get my imagination moving. I listen to music primarily on vinyl, with my trusty turntable and 1978 Sony receiver putting out that music. A few years ago, after listening to some classic Beatles music, I contemplated some lyrical connections to ways to express the beauty and truth that we celebrate on Easter. And so, with exultant praise to God always (he is the one who always must get the praise, every day, and in every breath of our life) and, dare I say, *"with a little help from my friends"* John, Paul, George and Ringo, let's talk Easter!

Get Back. The Beatles once encouraged us to *"get back to where [we] once belonged."* With that in mind, Easter's significance requires us to step into the way-back machine and *"get back"* to the very beginning of our human story: back to the time of Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve, you will remember, committed that original, prideful sin of disobedience: They ate the fruit of the one tree from which they were forbidden by God to eat. That transgression, that original sin, put a gaping wound in the relationship between God and man. Thus, man saw paradise lost, as well as losing his perfect relationship with God. Over time God tried to set things right by way of covenants, by way of the sacrificial system, etc. But all of those covenants and sacrifices relied on fallible man abiding faithfully; he did not. Man's side of the covenants always wound up violated.

Making things Better. To quote the lyrics from the Beatles, *"Hey Jude,"* Jesus Christ would suffer, die and rise, to take mankind's *"sad song and make it better."* And so, in the fullness of time, God sent his only Son into the world as its Messiah. This Messiah, Jesus Christ, instituted a new and everlasting covenant in his blood. He was the incarnation of God in the world — and showed us how to live and exist as God would want us to live and exist. He was faithful to his mission of salvation — even to the point of death. This New Covenant of Christ was sealed by Him, in both His humanity and His Divinity, thus, it was the perfect covenant between God and man.

And with a Love Like That... To seal this Covenant in his blood, Christ made the perfect Sacrifice in which he was the Priest, the Victim and the Sacrifice. His sacrifice, made in love, was so perfect that all of man's past deeds and deeds yet-to-come could be forgiven, and his place in creation could be restored. The Easter-sign of death being conquered, and of mankind having a new beginning, was that of Christ risen from dead. In His Resurrection, our world was changed forever, and God's love was abjectly brought to fruition for us. And from this, we know that, to paraphrase the Beatles again, *"He loves you, yeah, yeah, yeah... and with a love like, you know [we] should glad."*

Here Comes the Son! The Beatles sang, *"Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter... Here comes the sun... and I say, it's all right."* Change the word "sun" to "Son" and you get a little bit more of a taste of the joy of Easter, and the glory of Jesus' resurrection. In the midst of Easter, we should be sure to understand that while Christ was the same person upon resurrection, he was also, at the same time, different: his body had been glorified. He showed himself to his followers and would later ascend to Heaven and send forth his Holy Spirit into the Church so that it might continue to preach His message of hope and truth to the world. In honoring his New Covenant, and as the ultimate sign of that Covenant, Christ continues to abide with and be present in his Church — being with us always in the most Blessed Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist; body and blood, soul and divinity!

Lead Me to Your Door. In 1970, the Beatles, had their last number one song with *"The Long and Winding Road."* It was a song that talked about the long journey during which the singer commends the object of his love, *"Don't leave me wait-*

Continued on page 10

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

LEAVING ITEMS IN CHURCH

Please **do not** leave cards, religious items, clothing, or other such items in the lobby area of the Gathering Space. We cannot accept any of these items at this time.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Even though we are not opening the Adoration Chapel at this time, anyone who was on the normal adoration schedule is encouraged to come into the church to pray during your assigned hour. The church is unlocked from 7 am to 7 pm and Our Lord is waiting for you to come spend time with Him. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle all day long and would love for you to spend time praying. It's a great way to get back into the routine of praying during your scheduled hour.



READINGS FOR APRIL 11 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

FIRST READING: ACTS 4:32-35

The early Church, gathered together, is shown as a foundation for prayer, unity and the sharing of goods for the good of all.

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 5:1-6

Love of God is revealed in love of one's neighbor.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

The doubting apostle, Thomas, discovers new faith in the risen Christ.

EASTER HC & ICC

EASTER Sunday, April 4

- 7:30 am Mass in Church (HC)
- 7:45 am Mass in Parish Hall (HC)
- 8:30 am in Church (ICC)
- 9:30 am Mass in Church (HC)
- 9:45 am Mass in Parish Hall (HC)
- 10 am in Church (ICC)
- 11:30 am Spanish Mass in Church (HC)
- 12 Noon Spanish Mass in Church (ICC)

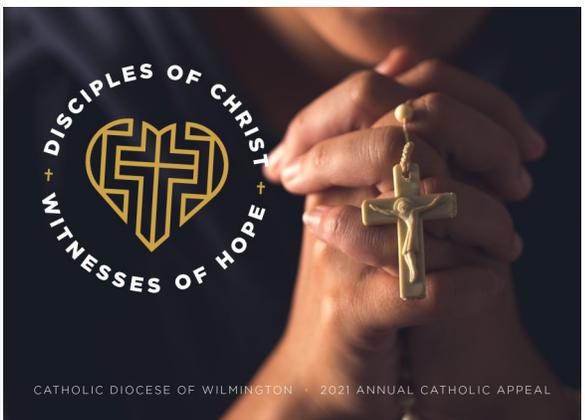
2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL – DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, WITNESSES OF HOPE

In the Resurrection of Jesus we find hope and the prospect of everlasting life in heaven. But to obtain eternal life, we must recognize Christ’s call to be His witnesses. We must become his obedient servants.

The Annual Catholic Appeal, with its theme, “Disciples of Christ, Witnesses of Hope”, brings hope and the good news of Christ’s love to thousands of families and individuals throughout Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Funds generated through the Appeal help provide critical financial support to more than thirty pastoral, charitable and educational ministries.

With continuing impact caused by the pandemic, when employment has dropped and the hardships of the needy have increased, the hope for the generosity of our parishioners is needed more than ever.

Many of you have received information about this year’s Appeal through the mail. Please take time to read the materials provided prayerfully considering your response. To learn more about the Annual Catholic Appeal visit the diocesan website at www.cdow.org/annualcatholicappeal. Consider viewing a brief video highlighting some of the supported ministries at <https://youtu.be/1789oOHmTkg>.



MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL

5 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Charles and Bridget McGlynn

6 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am John S. Kowalczyk

7 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Tom & Dolores Kowlakowski

8 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Bob & Bernie Whittman

9 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Don St. Clair

10 SATURDAY

HC 8 am DM Insao Family
HC 5 pm Ed Furjanic

11 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Terry Fusky
ICC 8:30 am Marge Messner
HC 9:30 am Denise Fostock
ICC 11 am Harry Bunkley
HC 11:30 am For the People
ICC 1 pm For the People

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

VOCATIONS

Prayer is a moving force in vocation development. Prayer is effective; prayer is powerful; prayer is essential. Few are called to priesthood or religious life, but all are called to pray for vocations.

*“Lord, your Church is in need.
Touch the hearts of many within our parish with the desire to serve you.
Call forth from this community sisters, brothers, deacons, priests and lay leaders.
Help us to live lives that will nurture childhood trust into adult commitment.
May this parish be a source of hope and a source of ministers for your Church, your people and your world.
Amen.”*

Serra for priestly and religious vocations

MASS MINISTERS

PLEASE COME
FORWARD TO HELP
DISTRIBUTE
HOLY COMMUNION AT THE MASS
YOU ATTEND. THE PRIEST WILL INDICATE HOW MANY EXTRA-ORDINARY
MINISTERS ARE NEEDED.

Lector Schedule for April 2021

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass

Apr 3 8 pm for Vigil Mass
Apr 10 Lori Christiansen
Apr 17 Dennis Dixon
Apr 24 Donna Kilby

7:30 am Mass

Apr 4 Donna Kilby
Apr 11 Christina Cuffee
Apr 17 Edi Outten
Apr 24 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass

Apr 4 Mary Louise Sossich
Apr 11 Sher Crossen
Apr 17 Suzanne Ford
Apr 24 Colin Parks

At Immaculate Conception

8:30 am Mass

Apr 4 Theresa Thompson
Apr 11 Karen Cairns
Apr 18 Bill Thompson
Apr 25 Gerry Godfrey

11 am Mass

Apr 4 (10 am for Easter) Donna King
Apr 11 Laura Schlopitz
Apr 18 Laura Schlopitz
Apr 25 Donna King

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at dbelt@holycrossdover.org so we can add you to the names of those who have already volunteered to lector.

At ICC, please get in touch with Marilyn Dixon at mdixon@iccmmarydel.org Thank you.

DIRECTORIES (HC)

The Parish Directories are in the Parish Office. If you would like to stop by the office to pick up your copy, please call ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it for you to pick up.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Celebrate the new life of Easter today! Recall a hardship or tough time in your marriage that is now history. Rejoice that you've weathered it together. Your love has been resurrected. Pass it on.

PARENTING POINTERS

As parents we give our lives daily for our children. In the spirit of Jesus' sacrifice for us and forgiveness of sins, overlook one fault of your child today.

DOVER INTERFAITH MISSION

Anyone interested in providing a dinner for the DIMH Men's shelter can call 302-736-3600. The shelter is located across from the Salvation Army building.

The shelter will have to move to a new location at the end of the year. They are also asking for anyone interested in donating money to help build/redo a new building to house the shelter. They would like to have a permanent location in the future. If interested in donating, you can send your donation to DIMH Shelter, 684 Forrest Street, Dover, DE 19904.

RETROUVAILLE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises.

The next program begins the weekend of April 16-18, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

RECENTLY DECEASED (HC)

Our condolences to the families of:

- Timothy Staniszewski
- Lourdes B. Lanot
- Mildred Lugo

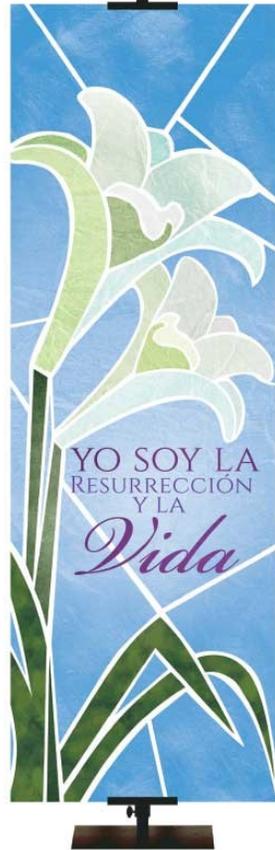
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

NEWLY BAPTIZED (HC)

Welcome to our newly registered members:

- Randall Noel

- Los que laboramos en la oficina parroquial y del ministerio Hispano nuestras parroquias Santa Cruz y la Inmaculada Concepción, les desea a usted y a su familia una feliz Pascua de Resurrección lleno de alegría, lleno de luz, de esperanza, de paz y salud, porque Cristo venció la muerte, Cristo está vivo, vivo en nuestros corazones para darnos una nueva oportunidad. Estemos alegres, pues en el Domingo de la Resurrección, ¡Es Pascua, es la fiesta de la Redención, es Vida! es el Milagro de la Resurrección que se manifiesta en una vivencia renovada del amor a Dios y al prójimo. Celebremos con gozo la Pascua del Señor, la Pascua de la Resurrección.
- Agradecemos a todas las personas que de una forma u otra nos ayudaron con la ambientación y la limpieza de nuestros templos.
- Recuerde que todavía tenemos que seguir las medidas de precauciones de guardar la distancia, usar mascarillas, lavarnos las manos con frecuencia y no aglomerarnos.
- Si hay algún adulto que no ha recibido su sacramento de la Confirmación y desea información sobre las clases por favor anótese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. adosman@holycrossdover.org Recuerde que para ser un padrino tiene que tener todos los Sacramentos de Iniciación Cristiana.



ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

¡Traiga sus mochilas Azul con libros a clase!

La Unidad 4 se estará estregando ahora. Por favor venga al salón después de la Misa para recoger el suyo. Si alguna familia no está asistiendo presencialmente a misa, por favor de avisarles que recojan los libros de sus hijos.

Grupo 1- grados 3,6, en el salón, 7,8 en el sótano (basement), y RICA estará en el salón de computadoras - presencial Grupo 1 - Próximas Sesiones: 11 de abril y 25 de abril

Grupo 2- grados 1, 2, en el salón, 4,5 en los salones del Basement (sótano) y RICA en el salón de computadoras- presencial 28 de marzo. Grupo 2- Próximas Sesiones: 18 de abril y 2 de Mayo

Si tiene alguna pregunta o prefiere que sus hijos continúen haciendo Educación Religiosa en casa, hágaselo saber a la Sra. Alicia Poppiti, Directora de Educación Religiosa al 410-482-8939 o envíele un correo electrónico a dre@iccmmarydel.org

Por favor tenga en sus oraciones a 3 jóvenes entraron a formar parte de la iglesia Católica en la Vigilia Pascual.

2021 CLASES DE PREPARACIÓN PARA LA PRIMERA COMUNIÓN.

La próxima sesión: martes, 6 de abril, a las 6:30 en el salón. Retiro: Sábado 17, 9am -12 mediodía en el salón.

PREPARACIÓN PARA LA CONFIRMACIÓN 2020-2021-ICC

El Sacramento de la Confirmación para los adolescentes, tendrá lugar en Santa Cruz, Dover, el sábado 10 de abril a las 11:30 de la mañana.

El ensayo será el viernes 9 de abril a las 7:30pm en Santa Cruz, Dover. Por favor sea puntual.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class

April 18 3:30-5:30 pm

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

April 11, 10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room

Next session May 9

KEY CHAINS (HC)

For our teens beginning to drive this year, or those from last year who were not able to receive a key chain, please let Mrs. Darling know you would like one. ldarling@holycrossdover.org

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

June 28 to July 1 we will be hosting teens from around the East Coast to assist the elderly and those who could use an extra pair of hands with yard work, painting, minor repairs, window washing, etc. We would prefer to do outside work if possible this year—please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org if we may be of assistance to you or someone you know.

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP INFORMATION MEETING:

Sunday, April 11 at 7 pm in Matthew Mark Room of ELC building. Information on how camp will run this year, answer questions, and register if interested in attending.

Happy Easter from the Religious Ed Office!!

PRO LIFE CORNER

- Are you pro-life and searching for ways to make a positive impact? Get connected with others who are making a difference. Currently we are conducting prayer vigils on Friday mornings from 9 AM to Noon in Dover at Planned Parenthood. We will train. Contact Donna Latteri 862-266-1099.
- Euthanasia is murder. Life begins at conception and continues through natural death.

“The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only object of good government.” – Thomas Jefferson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

***Registration for next year, 2021-2022 has begun. Please return forms as soon as possible so that we are able to order books and make vital decisions for the school year.

Bring your Blue Book Bags with books to class!

Unit 4 is being handed out now. Please come to the hall after Masses and collect yours. If you know families that are not physically coming to Church, let them know to pick up books.

Group 1- grades 3, 6, in the hall, 7, 8 in the basement, and RCIA in the computer center -on site April 11th.

Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement and RCIA in the computer center- on site April 18th.

Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryl.org

2021 FIRST COMMUNION PREP-ICC

Next session: Tuesday, April 6th at 6:30pm in the Hall.

Retreat: Saturday, April 17, 9am-12noon in the Hall.

CONFIRMATION 2020-2021-ICC

The Sacrament of Confirmation for the Youth, will take place at Holy Cross in Dover on **Saturday, April 10th at 11:30am.**

Rehearsal is the evening before, Friday, April 9th at 7:30pm at Holy Cross, please be prompt.

Rice Bowls: Easter Sunday

For those we encountered through CRS Rice Bowl, and all members of our one human family, that they might have access to enough nutritious food to thrive and reach their God-given potential. We pray to the Lord ...

HAPPY EASTER!

We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we rejoice because Christ is risen! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share the joy of having a loving God that is alive and accompanies us always. Let’s do the same by being present to our global family by caring for their material and spiritual needs.

On behalf of the entire Holy Cross School community, we join you in rejoicing the Atonement and shout Alleluia for Christ's immense love for all his people! Together, as community, let us join in rejoicing and praising Jesus for His selflessness and deep love for humanity.



“He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”

[Luke 24:6-7](#)

*Extending wishes for a blessed Easter to all in
Holy Cross Parish
and School.*



ing here, lead me to your door.” Forty-plus days ago, we started the Season of Lent, a season to remind us of the great sacrifice of Christ, and his love for us. Lent has been a season of reflection and waiting, and the Good News is that God didn’t just leave us waiting here, he led us to the door of that open tomb. Today, at that door, we receive and celebrate the fruit of Christ’s Sacrifice: resurrection, and new life. Thus, on Easter and during the Easter season we remind ourselves, and the world, that Christ’s salvific actions opened the gates of heaven to mankind once again, giving us the hope of final eternal rest in Paradise. God’s promise that he would abide with his people was lived out in Christ’s death and resurrection – and on that first Easter morning mankind became a new creation, a redeemed people.

Eight Days a Week. You may recall, the Beatles sang, “I ain’t got nothing but love, babe, eight days a week.” And so, too, it is in our Church, during eight-day periods we call “octaves. Thus, for us, Easter is not just celebrated in its fullness on Easter Sunday, but rather for a period of eight days beginning on Easter. The Church teaches that Easter is to be celebrated, as if each day is Easter Sunday, from today through the Second Sunday of Easter. (Thus, Catholic Schools are closed for this Octave period, treating each day like Easter Sunday.)

Mother Mary. In one of their last hits, “Let it Be,” the Beatles sang: “When I find myself in times of trouble Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be. And in my hour of darkness, she is standing right in front of me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be.” In that regard, what about Mary during this joyful time of the Resurrection. She was there with Christ at his birth, through his life, and during His “times of trouble” and His “hour of darkness” unto the very end. Did Mary see Jesus risen? Pope St. John Paul II noted, that even though scripture doesn’t specifically state that Mary encountered the Risen Christ...

“Silence must not lead to the conclusion that after the Resurrection Christ did not appear to Mary... it is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. Could not Mary’s absence from the group of women who went to the tomb at dawn indicate that she had already met Jesus?... [Mary] stood near him to the last, uniting the sacrifice of her mother’s heart with that He made upon the Cross: it is just, therefore, that she should be the first to partake of the joy of His Resurrection.”

Pope St. John Paul II is certainly speaking words of wisdom: Let it be.

Let It Be. As for me, going to the “Let it Be” lyrics once again, “When I find myself in times of trouble” trying to think of the right word to describe the joy of Easter, I find the words of the Preface prayed during Easter Mass are “speaking words of wisdom.” That Preface states:

“It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life.”

That Preface from Mass says everything we need to know about Easter – namely, Christ is risen from the dead, and because of that our lives are restored and always imbued by gift of hope. On this day of joy, this day of resurrection and this day of new life, I will leave you, not with the words of the Beatles, but, once again, with the words of Pope St. John Paul II to the faithful: “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people, and alleluia is our song.”

On behalf of all of the Priests of Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes, as well as our Deacons and staff, I wish you and your family a joy-filled, holy and Happy Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

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Chrism Mass 2021

Bishop Malooly will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 20 at 12 noon at the Cathedral of Saint Peter. Due to occupancy limits and to ensure proper physical distancing, only priests are invited to participate in person. All others are invited to spiritually join the Bishop by joining the live-stream broadcast on the diocese’s YouTube channel: [YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm](https://www.youtube.com/DioceseofWilm).

