

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 9, 2023

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

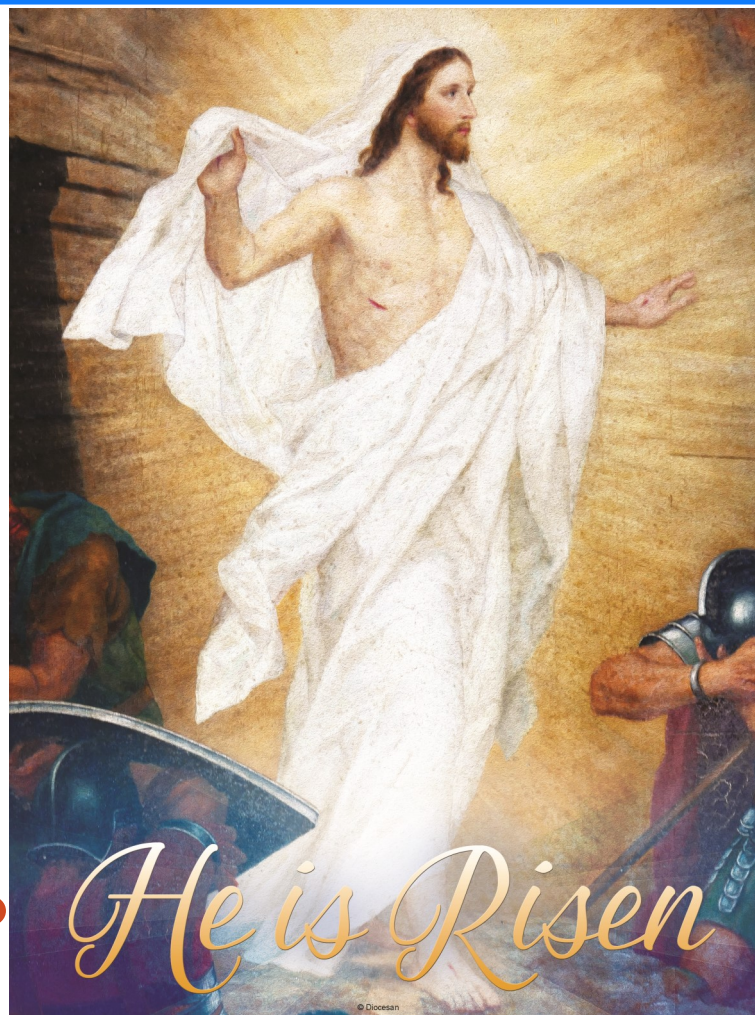
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

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

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

The Holy Cross Parish Office will be closed on Monday, April 10, for the Easter Holiday.

During the week of April 11 through April 14, we will be operating on limited hours. Please contact the office before trying to come in.

The priests, deacons, and staff of Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception wish you a very joyous, blessed Easter.

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!!



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending March 26, 2023

\$26,106	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$31,207	\$27,225	\$3,982
YTD	\$1,041,395	\$1,069,900	(\$28,505)
Needs	\$2,516	\$1,604	\$912

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending March 26, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,793
Second Collection	\$792

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,

Witty comebacks. In spoken language, there are retorts to comments or situations that we commonly call “comebacks.” These retorts, these comebacks, can be snarky, clever, witty or cute. Like when one guy was telling another guy something preposterous. The first guy looks at the the second guy and says, “Light travels faster than sound which is why you seemed bright until you spoke.” Good comeback. But let me share with you a better comeback.

Baseball comebacks. Picture it, it’s August 5, 2001 — a warm summer evening in Cleveland, Ohio — and you are at a Cleveland Indians baseball game. That night best team in baseball, the Seattle Mariners are playing the-not-best-team-in-baseball, the Cleveland Indians. The betting money is on a Mariner’s win. It’s 8:05 p.m., and the game starts at Jacob’s Field in Cleveland. By the seventh inning the Mariners are winning 14-2. The game was so lopsided that the Indians benched three of their starters, which is a way of conceding inevitable defeat. With that Indians put in their second string players to finish the game, and the biggest MLB comeback ever began to take form.

Shazam! First came a solo home-run, soon followed by a two run homer — and the 14-2 Mariners’ lead dropped to a 14-5 lead. And suddenly the Indians had the mojo in their corner. The “bench players” given their chance at the plate began racking up hit after hit after hit. By the bottom of the ninth, the Indians had tied the score 14-14, sending the game into extra innings. And then in the bottom of the 11th inning... Shazam! It happened: the Indians, by way of a line drive to left field, scored a walk-off winning run — thus, besting the Mariners (who at this point were probably were in need of major therapy) 15-14. Now, that’s entertainment! Ladies and gentlemen, that is what we call a come back!

Back from the Dead. That baseball comeback, to the players on the Cleveland Indians, must have felt like some kind of a resurrection. They were dead in the water. Defeat seemed to be the outcome that awaited them. But suddenly, they were dead no longer, they were alive’n’kicking. To use scriptural language, the rock — so to speak — had been rolled away from their dugout, and they were alive again. Not just alive, victorious. And that is the message for this Easter Sunday: Christ is risen, and He is victorious over death. Resurrection is at hand, and redemption has been won.

The Comeback of all Comebacks. So, while there are always comebacks in things like baseball and football, in things like acting careers, musical careers, and indeed, in things in our everyday lives. But the biggest comeback, the most important comeback, the most magnificent, salvific, gravitas-laden comeback is the one we celebrate today, on Easter: The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What Seems “Reasonable”? Today, the tomb is empty. Alleluia. Today, the Lord is risen. Alleluia. Today, Jesus Christ has triumphed over death. Alleluia. Sounds like Easter, and y’know, it sounds simple enough. But I once spoke to a so-called scholar who claimed Christianity, but who had certainly strayed from the centrality of our faith. This person told me, “When you preach of Christ risen from the dead, don’t preach like it really happened. Preach like you wished it did. It sounds more reasonable.” After some smelling salts, I roused myself and prayed for that person’s soul, and reminded myself of today’s Gospel: *“they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.”* [He had to... he had to... thus if for us the resurrection is merely hypothesis, hyperbole, or high hopes, then we are fools being here today; but for us this is history wrapped in the gift box of faith.]

What Makes Us Christian? This event — the Resurrection of Jesus Christ — is the cornerstone of our faith. Belief in the Resurrection is very much what makes us Christian. Not that Christ was born -- we were all born. Not that Christ died -- plenty of folks have died. But what is key, is that Christ conquered death, that he rose from the dead. Christ was human, divine too, but he became man. And he showed that by doing God’s will and staying reconciled to God, gives us the hope of eternal life. Not the guarantee but the hope. Yes, at death our souls may find rest in heaven, but Christ tells us that both our body, in glorified form, and our soul will one day be reunited -- at the final resurrection. It is as God had intended.

Whole, Wheat and Rise. And so, we hear in the Gospel that for this to be possible, Christ had to rise from the dead — whole and entire. For us that is certainly true. The rising of Christ is essential to our faith. It is like a cake: If it is in the oven and it doesn’t rise, you have a tasty mousepad; but if it rises you have what you hoped for — and it is a feast! Or as scripture says, *“I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.”* (John 12:24); that is it brings forth a fine harvest. And so, we imitate Christ in our prayer, in our sacraments, and in the way that we live our life -- and so to we have the hope of imitating him in death, and rising to new life. Thus, if he didn’t rise, our faith is as nutty as that scholar’s comment; if he didn’t rise, what are we here for. If Good Friday was in fact the end, and Easter is fiction, why would anyone be a Christian?

Of Science and Shakespeare. But again, rising from the dead, to quote that scholar, doesn’t sound rea-

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

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

Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell

Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787
Jane Green Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext. 122
Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt

Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

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.



BABY SHOWER APRIL 22-23

FOR NEW DAY PREG CARE CENTER, DOVER

The Holy Cross Pro-Life group will be helping local needy families this month with a baby shower. Please donate from the following list:



Bottles, Baby wash, shampoo and lotion, Bibs, Car Seat Canopies, Infant socks, Sleep Sacs, Bath towels/cloths, Bath tubs, diaper cream, diaper bags, Diapers newborn.

Place items in the receptible in the Narthex the weekend of April 22-23 only. (Not the food collection bin.) Contact Donna if you would like to help. 862-266-1099

New Day, formerly Kent Cty Preg Help Center, is associated with Care Net and is helping over 60 clients a month and is expanding their services. You can make a big difference! Free Ultrasounds are available. If you know a young woman with child who needs guidance and support, please refer her to: New Day PCC at 811 Governors Avenue newdaypcc.com 302-264-9087

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (APR 16)

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:42-27

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 1:3-9

God the Father, in his great meracy, has given us a new birth as his sons and daughters, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-31

Jesus said to the disciples, "Peace be with you," and showed them his hands and his side.

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!

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 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. 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!



SAMARITAN NEEDS

Thank you to all who contributed food or monetary donations to the Samaritans during this Easter season. We were able to provide baskets for those in need so they could have a joyous Easter day with

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH

10 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Delores Kolakowski

11 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Basilio Bautista

12 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Barbara Siers

13 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Michelle Shenenberger McDaritt
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

14 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Elizabeth c. Santos

15 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Jo Marie Tritschler
HC 5:00 pm Ann & William Csajko

16 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am DM of Fe Derico Family
ICC 8:30 am Costello Family
HC 9:30 am Ed Furjanic
ICC 11:00 am Richard C. Saladino
HC 11:30 am Clara Valdes
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

their families. God bless.

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) lucyminn929@gmail.com.



faith in action

HOLY CROSS APRIL 15/16, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00
PM

D. Darling
L. Darling

D. Field
C. Helwig

A. Torbert
B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
D. Kilby

7:30
AM

J. Denny
A. Fischer

J. Fischer
A. Wyllie

E. Bydlon
T. Catipay

LECTORS

K. Meier

9:30
AM

P. Ford
S. Ford

F. Hanlin
C. Jones

K. Fernandez
M. Ford
E. Ksenich

LECTORS

S. Crossen
J. Coffield

11:30
AM

T. Hernandez
E. Patoriza

M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30
AM

E. Costello

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

10:00
AM

G. Taraila

LECTORS

D. King

1:00
PM

TBD

Homebound Ministry at Holy Cross Needs Your Help

Holy Cross is in need of more Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist to the shut ins and those in the nursing homes and hospital. We service so many assisted living places, rehabilitation places, nursing homes, the hospital, and the homebound and do not have enough ministers to lighten the load of those already doing this special ministry.

We will offer one class to train you as an EMHC. We will have you also shadow with someone to make you feel comfortable doing this ministry. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to learn more about this ministry. We need YOUR help!!!

ADORATION CHAPEL (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, 5 pm

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.

- ¡Feliz Pascua de Resurrección, Aleluya ! La palabra Pascua viene del paso del Señor, la Pascua judía que conmemora la noche anterior al paso liberador de los judíos por el mar Rojo, de la esclavitud a la libertad, de la muerte a la vida, de la tiniebla a la luz. Es la fiesta central de los cristianos en la que se conmemora, la resurrección de Jesús de los muertos, al tercer día después de haber sido crucificado. Ese día cuando María y otras mujeres iban a ungir su cadáver con especias aromáticas, se encontraron con la piedra que tapaba el sepulcro desplazada y el nicho expuesto y ¡la Tumba está vacía!
- El Cirio Pascual es un símbolo central de esta luz divina, que es Cristo. Se coloca cerca del ambón durante el Tiempo Pascual y se enciende en todas las celebraciones litúrgicas. Domingo de Pascua de Resurrección:
- Aleluya! del latín halleluia, tiene a su vez raíces hebreas en hallēlū yāh y significa “alabad a Dios”. Durante los 40 días de Cuaresma la palabra “Aleluya” no se dice durante la liturgia de la Iglesia. No se dice ni una vez. Luego, durante la Vigilia Pascual, el sacerdote entona el gran Aleluya y parece que la Iglesia no puede dejar de repetir esta palabra una y otra vez.
- ¡Hosanna! Expresa un gozo profundo, como un “¡Viva!” y significa “salva”, “da salud”, “ayúdanos ahora”, lo que espera el pueblo judío del Mesías. Lo usaban los judíos para acompañar con ramos el agua de la piscina de Siloé (“enviado”) que usaban para rociar el altar del templo de Jerusalén en la fiesta de los Tabernáculos. Cantaban “Hosanna”: “Sálvanos, Señor. Asegúranos la prosperidad. Bendito el que viene en nombre del Señor” (Salmo 118, 25-26). Los católicos reconocemos a Jesucristo como ese Mesías, el que nos salvó de nuestros pecados por su Muerte y Resurrección y que nos sigue dando salud por Su Presencia en la Iglesia por medio de los Sacramento
- La octava de Pascua .comprende los ocho días que van desde el primero al segundo domingo de Pascua. Cada día se celebra como si fuera domingo, es celebrar y prolongar la alegría del día glorioso de la Resurrección. En cierto sentido, cada día de la octava es como un pequeño domingo.
- Todos los segundo jueves de cada mes habrá una Unidad Médica Móvil de Cristiana Care que le proporcionara servicios de fácil acceso el mismo día. La unidad móvil está ubicado en: Modern Maturity Center, 1121 Forrest Ave. Dover, DE 19904

ICC INFORMACION

- Clases de Primera Comunión en ICC: Es el martes 18 de abril de 6:30 – 7:30 en el salón
- Sacramento de la Confirmación: Ensayo de Confirmación: jueves 13 de abril de 2023 a las 6:00 p. m. en Holy Cross en Dover. Los candidatos son responsables de recordar a sus padrinos todas las fechas y horas.
- Confirmación: Será el sábado, 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 salón de eventos en la iglesia a las 9:00 am.
- 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.
- Escuela Bíblica de Verano: Mantén tus ojos en el cielo!! ¡La reunión de la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones llegará pronto para planificar una semana estelar en agosto!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Religious Education next class:

4/16/2023 at 3:00pm-5:00pm

Last Class 4/30/2023

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education for the 2023-24 school year? Contact Tammy Korosec at either

tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

Registration forms will be available online soon

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)
Class 4/2/2023 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Office

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

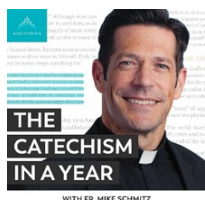
Contact Tammy Korosec at either
tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

Registration forms will be available online soon.

The Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry would like to wish everyone a very blessed Easter!

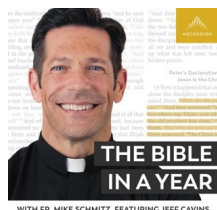
ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

The Catechism In a Year



www.ascensionpress.com/pages/catechismiyear

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 rehearsal for Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception candidates takes place on Thursday, April 13 at 6 pm. We will meet in the parish hall - please be prompt.

PURSE BINGO

A special thank you to everyone who helped support our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer by attending our Purse Bingo fundraiser last weekend. We were blessed to raise over \$10,000. Please know you are all in our prayers.

CATHOLIC HEART CAMP COMING TO DOVER

Catholic Heart Camp will be coming to Holy Cross from June 19 to June 22. Anyone who needs assistance with painting, yard work, light repairs, etc., please call Linda Darling at 302-674-5787, ext. 123, or email her at ldarling@holycrossddover.org.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

There is no Religious Education classes this week, April 9th due to the Easter Holiday. Classes will resume on April 16th.

Rice Bowl: HAPPY EASTER! Our CRS Rice Bowl journey has ended, but our prayers, fasting and almsgiving continue as we seek a closer relationship with God and our global family. Let us hold in our hearts our sisters and brothers in Honduras, the Philippines and Kenya and commit to share our Easter joy with people in our local community and around the world. 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.

Confirmation for Youth will take place on April 15th at 10am Mass at Holy Cross Church.

Rehearsal will be on April 13th at 6pm at Holy Cross.

First Communion classes Immaculate Conception: The next Session is Tuesday, April 18th 6:30-7:30pm in the ICC 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.

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*



sonable, it doesn't sound scholarly; science can't prove it. But as Shakespeare's Hamlet says, "*There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio, / Than are dreamt of in your science.*" And so, simply put, it happened: Christ was born, he died and he rose. And that is our faith. Scholars can debate and ponder, but actually we have a very simple faith that is based on trust in the one we know we can trust.

One Friday, Two Questions. And yet, if this is all so simple, what happened on Good Friday? On Good Friday, we rejected Christ. On Good Friday Christ died not merely for our sin, but because of our sin. We rejected Christ. If this faith is so simple; if Christ's news was so good, why did man reject Christ? This is important to understand, to better grasp Easter. Thus there are essentially two great questions: Christ is the Master, he is the Lord; why was he rejected? And when rejected, why did he come back in the Resurrection?

Why Was Jesus Rejected? Regarding that first question: "Why was he rejected?" — I want to quote an atheist. Atheist Albert Camus once wrote: "*Ah, mon cher, for anyone who is without God and without a master, the weight of days is dreadful. Hence, one must choose a master, God being out of style.*" Basically, if man rejects God he takes another master. For some drugs become the master. For other amassing power or wealth becomes the master. And still for others the master chosen may be a seemingly good thing, like careerism or professionalism -- things that consume all of our attention and affection. Christ challenges these false masters... and so man, today as much as yesterday... resists or rejects Christ when he sees his ox being gourd. We cannot serve two masters; and on Good Friday mankind chose sides. It wasn't something to be proud of, yet it was something embedded in our pridefulness.

Why didn't Jesus Reject Us? Regarding that second question, this is even more important — "When rejected, why did Jesus come back?", or more simply stated: When rejected, why didn't God, Christ, reject us? It certainly would have been the reasonable thing to do. When someone spits in your face you don't embrace them. When someone jeers you and curses you, you don't return to that crowd. And when someone nails you to a Cross, it is clear the welcome mat has been removed. So why did Christ return?

The Journey. When I ask this question, it leads me to think about my Grandmother. My grandmother -- my mother's mother -- used to talk about her journey from Italy when she emigrated to America. It was once asked why she never went back to Italy to visit. She said her journey to America was a tough one; she spent many, many days (I believe over two weeks) in the steerage section of a ship. She would say that a country you spend so many days in steerage getting away from is a place you don't want to go back to. And yet, Christ — after experiencing something worse than long days in steerage — came back. He didn't abandon us. He was not to be an absentee landlord to us.

The Easter Question. All that being said, why does he give us Easter? He gives us Easter — this day and event of resurrection — because Easter represents the faithfulness of Christ's enduring and steadfast love despite the worst we can inflict. Christ endures with us until we come to the place in our lives when we realize we need the fullness of God's love. He waits until that moment when we realize that "the weight of days" is too dreadful without Him. He waits until that moment when we realize that the masters we have chosen cannot give us peace or redemption. And then, He shows us that even the inevitability of death, given by sin — which none of our false masters can conquer — is vanquished by him. And so, he came back:

- because of a profound spirit of charity;
- because he knew our human condition and our need for redemption,
- so the hope for heaven could be restored.
- remembering the goodness of his creation in the beginning.
- so that those who turned from Him may one day turn back to Him.

A Door opened by the One We Adore. Yes, praise God, He came back. By the faithfulness of His Divinity, His humanity rose from the dead ... opening the door for us: A door that had been closed by the sin of Adam and Eve and all the sins afterwards. And now that closed door is opened. That door, once closed by death, is again opened. Christ came back and made redemption reality. And this isn't science, my friends, this is faith, and this is truth. And for us today is the first day of the threefold promise of an eternal Easter. That is, to say: A promise of hope, a hope of heaven, and a heaven of eternity with Christ, body and soul at the final resurrection.

The Score. Returning to the baseball theme I began with: For those keeping score: It's God 1, Death 0... it's a shutout, a no-hitter and a perfect game. And so, today is Easter, and Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Now, reasonable or not, that's something to say alleluia about! **Happy Easter!**

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor