



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

August 13, 2023

19th Sunday Ordinary Time

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



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Matthew 14:31

Saint Peter Attempting to Walk on Water
by François Boucher, 1766
© Dececan

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.



Holy Cross Summer Office Hours for Parish Office and School Office:

Monday thru Thursday : 9 am to 1 pm
Friday: Closed

Immaculate Conception Summer Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9 am to 3 pm
Wednesday and Friday: Closed



Please note that the Mass Book for 2024 does not open until November 1, 2023. We cannot take intentions for 2024 until we can open the new year Mass Book.

We have only a few intentions slots available at Holy Cross for 2023. We do have openings for the Adoration Chapel candle or Tabernacle candle.

Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending July 30, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$26,921	\$26,376	\$545
YTD	\$122,351	\$131,880	(\$9,529)
Needs	\$1,647	\$1,712	(\$65)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending July 30, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,935
Second Collection	\$744

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,

While summer is hot-weather time, it can also be expressed in a coolish sense, like when Frank Sinatra regaled his fans in his hit "Summer Wind" singing: *"The summer wind, came blowin' in from across the sea / It lingered there to touch your hair and walk with me."* In that song the singer sings of summer with a nostalgic touch, and breezy tone, enough to make you feel that cool, breezy, summer wind! And yet, those darn "dog days of summer" are around again. And here in central Delmarva, when we encounter what are commonly called the "dog days" of summer," and when the humidity pitches high, it gets hotter than a blister bug in a pepper patch (and trust me, that's hot). On Delmarva, it is in mid-August when nary a summer wind or breeze is likely felt with any frequency.

But Sirius-ly Folks. So casting the hope of summer winds to one side, what exactly is meant by "the dog days of summer?" In ancient Rome "the dog days of summer" referred to the period from July 24-August 24. It during monthlong period when the star called *Sirius* – not to be confused with the satellite radio station – was at its brightest. Sirius was and is known as the "dog star" – not to be confused with Lassie. This dog star (Sirius) was (and is) part of the Canis Major (or large dog) constellation. It was deemed that during this period of time when, as one author puts it, *"the sea boiled, the wine turned sour, dogs grew mad, and all other creatures became languid; causing to man.... burning fevers, hysterics, and frenzies."* Kind of like what happens on Route 1 when beach traffic gets really heavy. In any event, these dog days were deemed bad news, and a time of "Sirius" trouble.

Wane, Wane, Go Away. Well, as time went on though this concept of "dog days" waned – especially when different hemispheres with different weather patterns and times were discovered. So, as time and tide took their toll on that concept of "dog days" the phrases evolved a bit. Thus, today, the term "dog days" is generally relegated to referencing any of the hot days during the summertime period (of course most especially those days in August). So, when these Dog Days end on August 24, perhaps, we can start to hope for that summer wind, sung about by Frank Sinatra, to cool us down!

A Summery Summary. So, in the summer mode, I sit here writing, and think that it might be a good time to take a look at some references to summer in the Bible, for some spiritual insight about this hot season, that like pride, goes before the fall. Here are seven summery scriptural thoughts:

1. **Proverbs 6:6-8:** *"Go to the ant, O sluggard, study her ways and learn wisdom; for though she has no chief, no commander or ruler, she procures her food in the summer, stores up her provisions in the harvest."* In others word

summer isn't a time to do nothing or sleep your life away. This is certain the cry of the parent with the sleepy teen hibernating until the next school year. Aesop picked up on this Bible verse with his fable of the Ant and the Grasshopper.

2. **Jeremiah 8:20:** *"The harvest is over, the summer ended, but we have not yet been saved!"* Those who read scripture know that Jeremiah laments a lot – this is an example. Here he is lamenting the situation of his people. He laments that they have fallen away from God, and that times-a-wasting for them to fall back in line. Always a good reminder to ourselves in our own faith lives when we put off until tomorrow, commitments to Christ that we need to make today.
3. **Amos 8:1:** *"This is what the Lord God showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit."* No, Amos was not speaking of a gift basket from 1-800-Flowers, rather God was showing Amos his people ripe for consumption by his wrath, for they had fallen away. You know, sometimes scripture can sound so nice, even when smiting seems to be on its way! And just to clarify that I'm not reading a dark message into a nice sounding line of scripture, the rest of that passage reads thus: *"He asked, 'What do you see, Amos?' And I answered, 'A basket of end-of-summer fruit.' And the LORD said to me: 'The end has come for my people Israel; I will forgive them no longer.'"*
4. **Psalm 32:3-5:** *"Because I kept silent, my bones wasted away; I groaned all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength withered as in dry summer heat. Then I declared my sin to you; my guilt I did not hide. I said, 'I confess my transgression to the LORD,' and you took away the guilt of my sin."* This is the 'you better go to confession' Psalm. Basically it is telling you, if you don't repent and confess, the heavy hand of guilt will rest on you and your spiritual strength with dry up and wither. It will feel like you are a passenger in 1968 VW van with no air-conditioning, stuck in traffic – and t the windows won't roll down. Is that what you want to feel like? Check the bulletin for confession times (it's the "cool" thing to do)!
5. **Luke 21:29-31:** [Jesus said]: *"Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these*

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
----------------------	--------

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

ASSUMPTION HOLY DAY

Tuesday, August 15, is a Holy Day of Obligation in observance of the Assumption of Mary. Masses at Holy Cross will be held on the Vigil, August 14, at 7 pm, and on August 15 at 8 am and 12:10 pm.

At Immaculate Conception, Masses for the Holy Day will be on the Vigil, August 14, at 5:30 pm and 7 pm (Hispanic) , and on August 15 at 9 am.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER COLLECTION

The Cathedral of Saint Peter, in the historic Quaker Hill section of the City of Wilmington, is the Bishop's own parish and the center of Catholicism in our diocese. The collection to help support the Cathedral will be held today on August 12 & 13. We thank you for your generosity.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Due to the Relevant Radio Pledge Drive, there is no new Catholic Forum program on August 19th. You can listen to past programs anytime at cdow.org/ CatholicForum or on your favorite podcast platform.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!!! Get away for an intimate weekend – no group sharing required. The next weekend is November 3-5, 2023 at the Brighton Suites in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. For information or to register visit our website <http://www.wwme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

20TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (AUG 20)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 56:1, 6-7

The Lord will bring all peoples to his holy mountain.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 11:13-15, 29-32

God will show mercy to all humankind.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:21-28

Jesus responds to the great faith of a Canaanite woman.

GOLF LEAGUE

Our Golf Tournament will be on August 30 at Jonathan's Landing Golf Course. For information about the tournament, contact Phil at 302-382-2979, Wes at 302-270-8111, or Greg at 302-883-4000.

RETROUVAILLE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming programs will be held August 18 - 20 and again October 6 - 8, 2023 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.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL CRAFT FAIR

We are looking for vendors to participate in our upcoming Fall Craft Fair on November 18, 2023. If interested please email HAS@holycrossdover.org.



Holy Cross School FALL CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10:00am-2:00pm

Holy Cross Gymnasium

631 S State Street, Dover, DE 19901



- *craft vendors
- *food trucks
- *kid activities
- *silent auction
- *bake sale

****please bring cash, not all vendors accept credit cards****

Sponsored by Holy Cross School HSA
Interested in being a vendor or volunteer?
Email: HSA@holycrossdover.org

MASS INTENTIONS AUGUST

14 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Frederick J. Laskowski
ICC 5:30 pm For the People
HC 7:00 pm John Deighton
ICC 7:00 pm For the People

15 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Gloria Lentini
ICC 9:00 am For the People
HC 12:10 pm Paul Janiga

16 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Ascencion Insaio

17 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Soledad and Martin Banez
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

18 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Theresa A. Dupuis

19 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Edward Quinn
HC 5:00 pm Joseph Casey, Jr.

20 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Claire Zaragoza
ICC 8:30 am Jerome and Geraldine Bevenour
HC 9:30 am Richard Mokoski
ICC 11:00 am Kate Elizabeth Bentrup
HC 11:30 am Joseph and Elizabeth D'Aguiello

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)



AUG 19/20, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

F. Hettinger D. MacLeish
D. Kaltenbaugh M. MacLeish

A. Torbert
B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
J. Davis

7:30 AM

L. Bradford J. Chandler
C. Brown J. Salamone

E. Bydlon
T. Catipay
S. Shevock

LECTORS

K. Meire

9:30 AM

K. Kelly D. McGinnis
S. Lascano L. Olmstead

E. Ksenich
F. Madukwe
G. Maddalena

LECTORS

T. Baurys
S. Winfrey

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez M. Richard
E. Patoriza

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

B. Casey

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

11:00 AM

F. Cristiano

LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00 PM

TBD

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

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.

Call the Parish Office at 674-5787 to reserve a time for you.



SUNDAY 4 pm, 5pm, 8 pm

MONDAY 5 pm

TUESDAY 5 am, 8 pm

WEDNESDAY 7 am

FRIDAY 6 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest registered members:

- Brian and Kristin White
- Kyle, Janice, and Hunter Brown and Damian, Victoria and Natalia Gonzalvo
- Curtis, Katherine, Billy and Ryan Billig
- Abimael, Milarose, Casandra, Camila and Abimael Torres

RECENTLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest members:

- Logan Patrick Sebastian
- Blakely Ann Christie
- Gabriel Armando Mejía Torres
- Bruno Serrano Garcia
- Erik Hernan Jeronimo Ramirez
- Kohen Thomas Rivera
- Carl Joseph Hahn
- Leonardo Xavier Perez
- Emely Andrea Castillo Ayala

SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

Our Samaritans food pantry can always use donations to keep our shelves stocked with food for the needy in our community.

Peanut Butter and Jelly; Canned Ravioli / Chili / Beef Stew; Canned Vegetables / Soups / Chunky Soups; Spaghetti / Spaghetti Sauce Macaroni and Cheese; Tuna/Hamburger, & Tuna/Hamburger Helper; Ramen Noodles Dried Black Beans / White Rice and Massa

Please drop the food in the Pantry Food Drop Box in the building behind the Rectory. We have a new green sign near the drop box door.

- **Día de Precepto:** El martes 15 de agosto, celebramos la Solemnidad de la Asunción de la Bienaventurada siempre Virgen María. También es celebrada por la Iglesia Ortodoxa, que la conoce como “Dormición”. El Papa Pío XII definió como dogma de fe la Asunción de María al Cielo en cuerpo y alma el 1 de noviembre de 1950. La fiesta de la Asunción es “la fiesta de María”, la más solemne de las fiestas que la Iglesia celebra en su honor. Este día festejamos todos los misterios de su vida. La Asunción de María es la celebración cuando el cuerpo y alma de la Virgen fueron glorificados y llevados al Cielo al término de su vida terrena. Es obligación de asistir a la Santa Misa. Horario de las Misas; Lunes 14 de agosto ,Vigilia Holy Cross 7:00 PM en ingles ICC en español 7:00PM. Martes 15 HC: 8:00 y 12:10 en inglés. ICC 9:00AM en inglés.
- **Trabajo Comunitario en Nuestra Parroquia.** Cada año nuestra comunidad hispana tiene un día de trabajo comunitario en nuestra parroquia. El sábado, 19 de agosto, tendremos un día de Limpieza general en los predios de nuestra parroquia, Se podaran los árboles y arbustos, se pondrá Mulch alrededor de toda a propiedad. Se limpiará dentro y fuera del templo. Necesitamos voluntarios que se anoten y traigan sus herramientas de trabajo. Si quiere ayudar anótese con el presidente de nuestra Junta Directiva el Sr. José Cruz Pérez y su esposa Mireya Rodríguez.
- **Entrenamiento para monaguillos.** El domingo, 20 de agosto, después de la misa habrá un entrenamiento para monaguillos los que ya son y están sirviendo y los nuevos que desean servir como monaguillos. Si usted desea que su hijo o hija y si ellos desean servir como monaguillo beberán asistir al entrenamiento con el padre Ferris. Recuerda que es un privilegio pero también es un compromiso que con lleva una responsabilidad de servir en cualquier ministerio de la iglesia. Si usted está interesada por favor anotarse con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- **Festival Hispano y Cuadrangular de Futbol** El domingo 17 de Septiembre celebraremos la clausura de nuestras fiesta patronales y el comienzo de nuestra Herencia Hispana con un Festival de Comida y un Cuadrangular de futbol, venga y apoye nuestro evento. Si desea colaborar donando, su tiempo y talento hable con cualquiera de los miembros de la Junta directiva o llame a la oficina parroquial al 302-674-5787 ext.118.
- **La Virgen Peregrina esta visitado casas.** Si desea que la imagen de la virgen visite su hogar por una semana por favor de anotarse con la Sra. Martha Espinosa.
- **Educación Religiosa:** Inscriba a su niño para la Educación Religiosa que ya están abiertas. Si su hijo(a) no está asistiendo a una escuela católica debe de inscribirse en Las aplicaciones están en línea estarán llenando inscripciones después de la misa.

ICC

- **Educación Religiosa:** Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa para el año escolar 2023-2024 ya están abiertas. Inscriba a sus hijos ahora, para que podamos planificar en consecuencia. Las tarifas son de \$50 por 1 niño, \$100 por 2 niños, \$150 por 3 niños y \$180 por más de 4 niños. Después del 1 de julio habrá una tarifa adicional de \$10 por niño. Las clases comienzan el domingo 24 de septiembre de 2023.
- **Se necesitan voluntarios.** Si usted o alguien que conoce está interesado en ser voluntario, ser un líder de pares para la Educación Religiosa o la Preparación para la Confirmación, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmaydel.org o 410-482-8939.
- **La Inmaculada Concepción agradece:** ¡ A todos los que ayudaron, donaron y participaron, en la semana de Estudio Bíblico de Verano, tuvimos una semana espectacular.

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. 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.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Registration: Please return registration forms for preparation as soon as possible.

Forms may be found on the front page of the parish website.

Parent Meeting for Confirmation Candidates: Please mark your calendars for our parent meeting to take place on Sunday, August 27 at 7 pm OR Monday, August 28 at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. We will go over the

schedule for classes, retreats, and answer any questions. If you have not returned your child's registration materials, please do so ASAP.

Confirmation Volunteers Adult Meeting: For adults wishing to assist with Confirmation preparation classes beginning in September, please join us after Mass on Monday, August 14 at 8 pm in the Matthew Mark room of the ELC building 2nd floor.

Youth Group Adult Volunteer Meeting: If you would be interested in assisting with Junior High and High School youth group this coming year, please join us at 7 pm in the Matthew Mark room 2nd floor ELC building on August 23. Help is needed in planning activities, chaperoning, fixing meals, or organizing an evening for our youth - any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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. Fees are now \$60 for 1 child, \$120 for 2 children, \$180 for 3 children and \$200 for more than 4 children.

Volunteers needed! If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, being a peer leader for Religious Education or Confirmation Preparation team member, please contact: Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmaryl.org or 410-482-8939.

Classes begin on Sunday, September 24, 2023 and run thru May 3, 2024.

Vacation Bible School: We had a "Stellar" week and want to thank all our children for attending, volunteers for all your help, and all those that donated goodies to the week! We appreciate you all See you next year!.

The month of August has been referred to as the “dog days of summer.” I have always been under the mistaken impression that the days signified the warmest days of summer and dogs respond adversely to extreme outdoor heat. In point of truth, my opening sentence might be in error because apparently the dog days begin in July. I was somewhat correct in my understanding of the meaning of the term. But, as could be expected there is a rather lengthy and very scientific sounding explanation for the term “dog days” and if you’re interested in the wordy definition, I share the link.

https://www.google.com/search?q=what+are+the+dog+days+of+summer&rlz=1C1CHBF_enUS925US925

The link is equal in length to the explanation.

The more practical reasoning behind the term lies in the fact that dogs have a limited number of sweat glands. The unfortunate truth for the pooch is that these sweat glands are located beneath their coat of fur which in turn leads to the incessant panting of the overheated canine. There are a few additional glands through which the dog can give off heat, however these paltry few are situated in their paws. Frankly, I don’t see how this is a benefit, but then it is widely known that I prefer felines to canines, and everyone knows that the cat is **far** too haughty and way too sophisticated to sweat!

Anyway, I have a better name for the days that fall in the month named for Caesar Augustus. In my humble opinion, these days would be more aptly named as *the boring days of summer*. I don’t have any lengthy fancy scientific explanation for my proposal other than what I’ve been told and experienced. By the time we roll the calendar over to the eighth month, the children have been out of school for 50.5 days. I pray that they’ve been 50.5 days of fun and excitement, and filled with lots of long-lasting memories. But along about August, many parents are hard-pressed to keep up the high-level entertainment. Camps are on the wane; most vacations have been had. This brings me to the hot topic of the summer packet. Contrary to what some believe, the summer packet is not intended to be punitive. It is a requirement put in place to avoid the inevitable summer slide. The requirements are not excessive, and they obviously vary by grade level. It is critically important that our students read over the summer. The plain truth is that many would not, if it wasn’t for the summer requirement. The summer packet is an integral part of the academic rich curriculum that Holy Cross has become known for. This year we can add the 27 days of August before the children return to school to the 50.5 days coming to a grand total of 77.5 days in which the students have time to complete their summer packet. It is due on the first day of school. A few days ago I received an email from a parent informing me of an extended family vacation that will not conclude until Labor Day. She asked if she could turn in her daughter’s summer packet early. That is the commitment to academic excellence and familial support that we are grateful for.

The summer days have brought many new faces to our school. They, by and large have come from the public sector. Acceptance into the student body is coupled with the summer packet. One hundred percent have commented that they didn’t have that requirement in their former school; one further commenting, “That’s why we are here.” Homework is another requirement at Holy Cross where it isn’t a part of the curriculum in other places, locally. While some will grumble and moan over the summer work, and nightly homework requirement; it is for the overall betterment of the child. It’s one of those instances where the appreciation for the unfun chore comes after the fact.

So, for all those who have ears to hear, the word is to get the summer packet finished. Get it finished by day one. Most take the challenge very seriously. I have seen many beautiful projects designed as a part of the reading requirement in junior high. And, there are all sorts of options. Some like to get started right after the last bell rings for the year, some like to pace themselves a little, some wait until the last days to cram everything in. Rainy days make for good summer work days, on the airplane, the cruise ship, maybe dedicate an hour or two after Mass on Sunday. Realistically, books are very packable, and so are the Math pages. As of today, there are but a short two weeks. As Mrs. Speed has been heard to say, “let’s get crackalackin’”

So, make the best use of *the boring days of summer*. Find a comfortable spot, have at your fingertips the snack of choice, a cold bottle of water, and immerse yourself in the last few pages of your summer packet. For heaven’s sakes, avoid the awkward moments between student and teacher when it is due for collection, and you have chosen to show up empty handed.

things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near." In the text just before this portion Jesus tells his followers about signs that signal the end of time, the great tribulation and His second coming. He makes an analogy, to that of the signs that point to the arrival of summer. Stated another way, for us on Delmarva, this passage might read: "When traffic on Route 1 crawls at 2 m.p.h., you know that summer is near." Perhaps a shorthand way of saying this: Look at the signs that God puts before us, and take note!

6. **Proverbs 26:1:** "Like snow in summer, like rain in harvest, honor for a fool is out of place." A fool – or perhaps "the wisdom-impaired person" for the politically correct crowd – doesn't deserve honor, any more than summer time yields snow. The first year I lived in Delaware, we came as close to snow in the summer as one could imagine: It snowed in mid-April. It was probably that same type event that gave the fool in Proverbs some false hope... but still no honor.

7. **Genesis 8:21-22:** "[T]he LORD said to himself: Never again will I curse the ground because of human beings, since the desires of the human heart are evil from youth; nor will I ever again strike down every living being, as I have done. All the days of the earth, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." The Lord said this after Noah, once on dry land again, offered a sacrifice of thanks to God after the great flood. It shows that God relented, and gave mankind yet another chance... and will give those things that we need. What this passage also tells us is that in addition to death and taxes, we can also count on seedtime, harvest time, cold, heat, summer, winter, day and night! With the promise of their always being a summertime, this passage gives some context and understanding to the Beach Boys 1974 album titled, "Endless Summer" – now I can listen to that album with a Biblical understanding!

And so as we wade through these dog days of summer, let's be assured of God's presence to us and with us, always – no matter what the season!

About the Assumption. Sherlock Holmes, the great fictional detective, possesses a keen ability to make logical deductions. By looking at a crime scene, examining facts, and assessing character traits, Holmes was able to solve some thorny mysteries. And when by deduction he solved the mystery and revealed the truth of the situation, his aide-de-camp Dr. Watson would look amazed and say "How did you figure it out?" And, Sherlock Holmes would reply, "It was elementary, my dear Watson."

Dogma Unleashed. That power of deduction, so seminal to the work of Sherlock Holmes, is also applicable to Theology. By examining evidence revealed to us, we can rightly deduce proper conclusions about God and salvation. On August 15, we observe the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is an observance of an event in Mary's life and in salvation history. The Assumption is a dogma of the Church that was held for centuries before its official declaration. Why? Because what it asserted made logical sense and could be deduced by facts made known to us by revelation.

Untainted Love. Here's the basic premise: the wages of sin, result in death. Death came into the world by Adam and Eve's original sin; the preternatural gifts that had been given to man were squandered by their disobedience. Thus, man was cast out of paradise; the "gates of Heaven" closed. After covenants offered by God to mankind found man wanting, the time of our redemption came. Mary is the "new Eve" – conceived in the womb of St. Ann without the taint of original sin. Later in her life, she was asked to bear the Son of the Most High – Jesus. Mary, answered that call with a resounding "Yes." By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ was conceived in her womb; He was "new Adam" – the first born of the "new creation." We know the rest of the story – he suffered, died, and rose that we might have new life and Heaven could await us.

Paradise Found! Mary, unlike us, was conceived without the taint of original sin (the cause of death as we know it). She lived a sinless life. Thus, because of her unique status, Mary was assumed – taken up – body and soul, into Heaven. There was no need for her to wait for that final resurrection; she already possessed all she needed to dwell with God. Just as Eve before the fall of man dwelt in paradise, so too, Mary.

A Reasonable Assumption. As Sherlock Holmes might posit, "This makes perfect sense: If original sin separated us from dwelling in Paradise, and Mary lacked the stain of original sin and remained sinless throughout her life, of course, she would be assumed into Heaven. It's Elementary, my dear Watson!"

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor