

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 17, 2025

20th 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

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

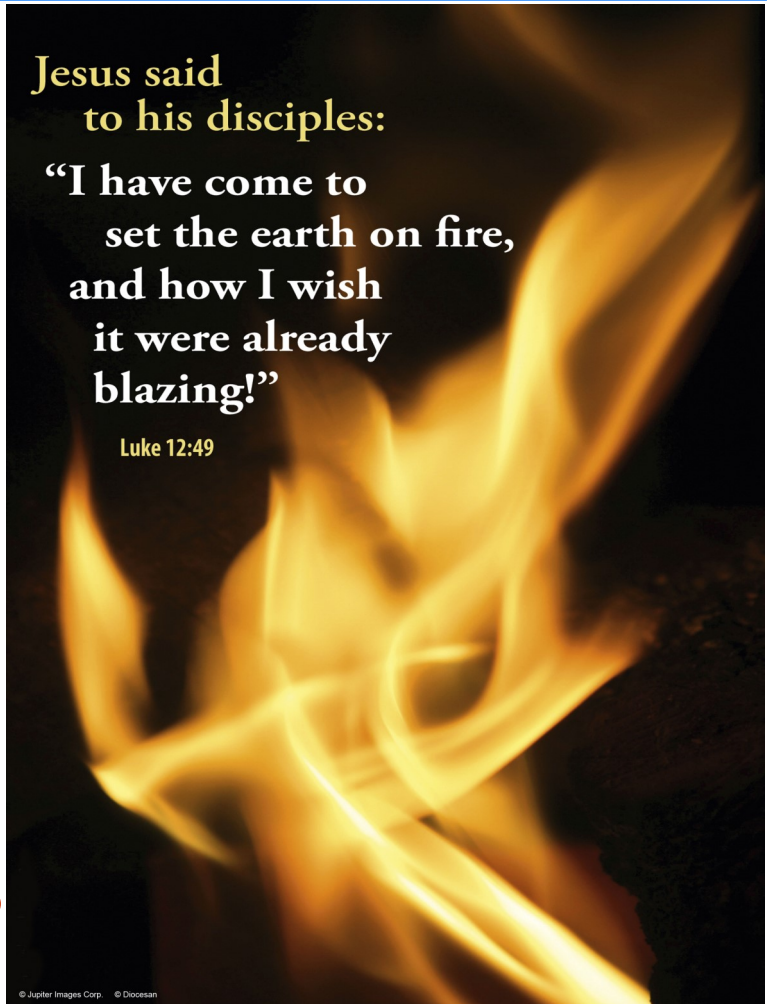
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

Jesus said
to his disciples:

“I have come to
set the earth on fire,
and how I wish
it were already
blazing!”

Luke 12:49



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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.

2025 FAITH AND CHARITY CATHOLIC APPEAL – TOGETHER IN HOPE™

Striving for 35%!

We are nearing the end of the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal, and our parish has a stretch goal: 35% participation. Currently we are only at 12.5% participation

This goal isn't just about numbers; it's about all of us coming together as one family in Christ to support ministries that serve thousands across our Diocese. If you haven't yet made a gift, no matter the amount, please prayerfully consider doing so today. Your participation makes a difference.

Pledge envelopes are available at the parish, or you can give online at:

<https://www.givecentral.org/appeals-form-registration/acp67610f75825c4/user/guest>

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending August 3, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$27,376	\$26,150	\$1,226
YTD	\$131,976	\$130,750	\$1,226
Needs	\$1,963	\$1,775	\$188

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending August 3, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,118
Second	\$4,889

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,

Last week, I was compiling some information about various parishes. In my notes, I cited Holy Cross as being the oldest parish in Delaware “south of the canal” — founded in 1870. However, I wanted to double-check myself on that, so I went to Google and typed: “What is the oldest Catholic Parish in southern Delaware?” After a few seconds, Google, instead of just giving me search results, kicked in with its “artificial intelligence” (A.I.) system. It responded with an answer: *“St. Peter the Apostle Church in New Castle, Delaware, holds the distinction of being the oldest Catholic parish in southern Delaware.”*

Okay, wrong county, so A.I. was unhelpful. So, I tried again, “What is the oldest Catholic Parish in Kent County or Sussex County, Delaware?” The A.I. system responded: *“St. Joseph Catholic Church in Dover, Kent County, Delaware, holds the distinction of being the oldest Catholic parish in the county.”*

Okay, St. Joseph’s is in Middletown, not Dover, and it is in New Castle County, not Kent. Again, unhelpful. But then, additional text appeared telling me that the oldest parish in Sussex County was Holy Cross. Again, unhelpful (times ten).

I despise A.I. More on that later.

A Brief Encounter with A.I. In Arkansas, a lawyer, Tony Pirani, is being fined for using artificial intelligence to write his court briefs (arguments submitted in writing to a judge). Evidently, the lawyer deemed himself too busy to write his own and had A.I. do it. Well, evidently, A.I. — creative little devil that it is — cited, in the brief, court cases that never existed, and case law that was imaginary. A sharp-eyed judge caught this, and Mr. Pirani got called on the carpet before the Judicial Office of Professional Conduct. Mr. Pirani denies wrongdoing in the lawsuit, but admits to using A.I. to write his court documents (and as Dr. Phil would say: “How’s that working out for you?”)

Did I mention I despise A.I.?

Technology Can Be Good. I will confess, I am a tech guy. Going way back to the days of the Tandy TRS-80 and Commodore 64, I have always had an affinity for computers and technology. At their best, computers and technology help man to carry out tasks more efficiently and help in assisting one in his labors. Thus, my Mac computer and iPhone help me in my work.

Technology Can Be Scary. But A.I. is something other than that. For those who don’t know what I am talking about when I say “A.I.” (artificial intelligence), let’s bring you up to speed. Artificial Intelligence is a computer and/or web-based simulation of human intelligence; technology using A.I. is designed to think and act like a human — it can learn, solve problems, and make decisions. In other words, A.I. isn’t there to help us; it is there to replace us.

Technology Can Be Intrusive. My first taste of a benign A.I. was about 10 years ago, when I dabbled briefly with a Samsung phone (soon after which I went back to Apple). That phone from Samsung had a digital assistant built in called “Bixby.” Bixby looked at all you did on your phone, read your email and texts, tracked where you went, what you bought, what you watched, listened to your speech patterns when you phoned, etc. It then began to inculcate a cyber version of you by compiling all this. One night, I was sitting in my room at about 10:15 pm, reading a magazine, and my phone lit up and spoke: “It’s 10:15 pm, shouldn’t you be going to bed now?”

An Apple for the Preacher. What? The hairs on the back of my neck stood up. This phone is spying on me. Another day, I was re-reading an article and was apprised that “You have read this already.” Well, that was it. I contacted Samsung and informed them that even though I was Catholic, Bixby needed the death penalty. I was informed that I could not uninstall Bixby, but I could silence him... I meant to say it (technology is an it, never a him or a her). But I was informed Bixby would still be in my phone. Back to Apple, I went.

The A.I. Invasion. Now, Apple is launching A.I., as is Microsoft, Google, etc. Microsoft’s Co-Pilot (their version of A.I.) suggests writing tips and revisions of email (not spelling or grammar correction — which is good; but rewriting or changing message, tone, or style). On all of my devices, I have A.I. disabled wherever I am able to do that. I hobble it, I block it. To be clear, I am not a Luddite; I do want to use technology, I just don’t want technology to use me.

Why is this topic of A.I. in a pastor’s column, you may wonder? What does this have to do with our faith? A.I. has a theological, philosophical, and sociological overlay that has a lot to do with our daily lives and our human dignity.

God: Real Intelligence. God is the supreme intelligence in the world. We, created in his image and likeness, can imitate or reflect that Divine intelligence. Thus, mankind, uniquely, is able to come to know God. Our creativity, our compassion, our righteousness, our understanding come from being in the likeness of God. We reflect his Divine intelligence, in small measure, but can never match it or exceed it. Hence, God alone can engage in *creatio ex nihilo*: creation from nothing.

A.I.: Trying to be God. The problem with “artificial” intelligence is that it is trying to be like God. It is a creation of man that is supposed to not just help man but be better than man. Right now, in its infancy, it still makes mistakes (as I noted at the start of this column), but working as intended, it is intended to be-

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor
 Rev. John Enemuo Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Wilson Paulose Parochial Vicar
 Rev. John Hynes In Residence

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
 Sharon Seelig Records Office, 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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

AUG 24—21ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 66:18-21

God intends to gather people together from all nations and cultures.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 12:5-7, 11-13

God disciplines his children to help them grow.

GOSPEL: LUKE 13:22-30

Jesus encourages his followers to enter his kingdom by the narrow path.

O.C.I.A.

Here's your invitation to join us for a journey into the Catholic Christian Faith. Do you or someone you know have an interest in becoming a Catholic Christian? We will begin our classes on Sunday, September 7, starting at 9:00 AM on the second floor of the Early Learning Center. Not Sure? Asking for a friend? Join us on Thursday evening, August 28, at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Early Learning Center to learn more about the process of becoming a Catholic Christian. Call our Religious Education Office at 302-674-5787, ext. 122, or visit our website at WWW.HolyCrossDover.org and click on the link, 'Receiving The Sacraments', and go to O.C.I.A. Looking forward to meeting you and answering your questions.

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for providing food to 1663 Families. (3832 Adults, 3817 Children) during the previous 12 months (August 2024 - July 2025).

The pantry is still in need of the following items: Cereal, oatmeal, one pound bags of white rice, peanut butter, jelly, canned goods, Brownie mix, hamburger helper, Manwich, and soups/ chunky soups. Meat or burger can be left in the freezer in the dropoff door behind the rectory.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER

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. It was built over 200 years ago – 50 years before the founding of the Diocese of Wilmington - and continues with a small but dedicated parish community and school. In 2015, the diocese instituted an annual special collection to support the maintenance and ministry of our Cathedral. This year, the collection will be held on August 16 & 17. For more information and to make a secure online donation, visit www.downtowncatholic.com. We thank you

for your generosity.

RECENTLY DECEASED

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

- Sidney G. Williams, Jr.
- Henry Kesterson
- Patricia Watson

40 DAYS FOR LIFE SIDEWALK ADVOCATES NEEDS YOU!

If you have the heart for praying for moms and babies as the last line of defense, please join our small group on Thursdays after mass till Noon. We also need volunteers to be present in the afternoon. Many babies have been spared because a mother saw an advocate on the sidewalk. God saves even if no words are exchanged. He alone changes hearts! Let's chat!! Donna Latteri 862-266-1099 Next campaign begins Sept 24 - Nov 2.

OUR LADY OF PEACE RETREAT

Please join our group for a full weekend spiritual retreat on September 12 at 5 pm to September 14 at 12 noon at the Malvern Retreat House, St. Joseph Hall, 315 S. Warren Ave, Malvern, Pa., 610-644-0400.

Cost is \$275.when you simply call the Malvern Retreat House to register.

For more information, you may call Claire Sheppard, 302-598-4922 or send email to claireshep1502@gmail.com

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, learn about a locally-based international organization – Water is Life Kenya – that is bring water, hope and more to the Maasai people of the African plains, when Aaron Lemma is the guest. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and [YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm](https://www.YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm) debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

MASS INTENTION AUGUST

18 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Doris Lillard

9 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Louise and Edward Quinn

20 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Virginia and John Hulka

21 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Betty Stadnicki
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

22 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Mary Ann McLane (LI)

23 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 pm Val Hannig
HC 5:00 pm The Mullen Family

24 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Ronald Weisman
ICC 8:30 am Ken Adriance
HC 9:30 am Richard H. Mokoski
ICC 11:00 am Gayle Kinnamon
HC 11:30 am For the People
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Aug 17 -Aug 23 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of Theodore Morris.

Aug 17-Aug 23 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of HC Parishioners.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

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 and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of October 3 - 5 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.

AUGUST 23/24, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. MacLeish M. Miller
M. MacLeish M. Phillips

L. Toto
E. Aguilar

LECTORS

D. Dixon

7:30 AM

M. Thompson S. Lascano
A> Wyllie C. Brown

A. Wilk
E. Costa

LECTORS

J. Davis

9:30 AM

B. Richards V. Pepper
G. Richards C. Robinson

J. Beugre
C. Beugre

LECTORS

T. Baurys
L. Christiansen

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez R. Mirna
E. Pastoriza

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

A. Smith

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

11:00 AM

A. Poppiti

LECTORS

K. Perez

HELP WANTED—WE NEED YOU



We are looking for more volunteers to help us bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound of our parish.

We can always use more volunteers to help at Mass as an Altar Server, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Communion, or a Lector. If interested please contact the Parish Office at 3020-674-5787.

ADORATION CHAPEL

The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God.

Pope Francis - World Youth Day 2016

Hours open and needed:

Sunday 7AM 5-6PM 8-9PM

Monday 7-8AM 5-6PM

Friday 2-3PM

Saturday 12-1PM 1-2PM 7-8PM 8-9PM

If you are a current Adorer and can no longer make your hour, please make contact with Adoration Coordinator. Contact John Murphy for more information. Phone or text at 302-233-1779 or email jkm@verizon.net.

ATTENTION SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS

For all adults and teens who enjoy listening to or singing praise and worship music by artists such as Matt Maher and Chris Tomlin, the Holy Cross Contemporary Praise Choir is looking for new members. Rehearsals begin in September. Please text Jane at 302-399-8115 for more information.

RACHELL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of October 24-26, 2025. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion or miscarriage. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Bernardo-Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by October 11.

HOLY CROSS GOLF LEAGUE

The Holy Cross Golf League is sponsoring a golf tournament at Jonathan's Landing on Wednesday, September 3 to benefit the Youth Ministry at Holy Cross. We're looking for golfers and sponsors. Please contact Phil Spampinato, 302-382-2979, Wes Grau, 302-270-8111 or Greg Coury, 302-883-4000 for more information.

- **Limpieza General de nuestra parroquia:** Se les invita a todos a la limpieza general el sábado 23 de agosto a partir de las 7:30 de la mañana. Traigan sus herramientas de limpieza. Si desea ayudar financieramente con el Mulch o las plantas o almuerzo para los voluntarios por favor de comunicarse con la oficina o con algun miembro de nuestra Junta Directiva. Todos estan invitados a participar. Somos iglesia, somos comunidad, somos hermanos en Cristo Jesus y la casa se limpia.
- **Fiestas Patronales.** La novena en honor a la fiesta de la Exaltación de la Santa Cross comienza el 5 de septiembre a las 7:00 pm. quedan todos invitados.
- **Festival Hispano celebrando las patronales:** El domingo 14 de septiembre en los predios de nuestra parroquia, Habra partidos de futbol, venta de comida y mucho mas, venga traiga a su familia, amigos, vecinos y pasemos un dia agradable con la familia parroquial.
- **Conquistando las Naciones para Cristo Retiros:** de Adoslecentes 14-17 años 6-7 Septiembre, 2025 en la iglesia Santa Maria del Refugio de los pecadores 2000 Hambrooks Blvd. Cambridge, MD 21613 Donacion es de \$100. Cupo es limitado
- Retiro de Sanacion Interior para Hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años 10-12 de Octubre, 2025, en la iglesia Santa Maria del Refugio de los pecadores 2000 Hambrooks Blvd. Cambridge, MD 21613 Donacion es de \$125. Cupo es limitado
- **Foro Cristiano :** El Foro Cristiano comienza el viernes, 12 de septiembre de 6:00pm a 8:00pm en el ELC segundo piso. El tema de este año es Symbolon " LA FE DE LA IGLESIA". Quedan todos invitados a conocer y a profundizar mas en su Fe catolica.
- **Educación Religiosa 2025-26** Las inscripciones para las clases de Educación Religiosa 2025-26 K-8 "YA ESTAN ABIERTAS" Opción 1: Kínder a 4.º grado y preparación sacramental/OCIA: martes por la tarde, de 6:00 a 7:30. 5.º a 8.º grado: miércoles por la tarde, de 6:00 a 7:30. Opción 2: LAFF (Catequesis Familiar Viviendo en Familia de Fe); Reunión de adultos y niños, el primer y tercer domingo de mes. La familia trabaja en actividades entre ambos. Para situaciones familiares especiales en las que su hijo no pueda asistir a ninguno de los horarios mencionados, comuníquese con nuestra oficina para programar una cita y trabajaremos con usted. Por favor, no deje que la educación religiosa de su hijo se vea interrumpida. Para familias con niños con necesidades especiales, ofrecemos formación en la fe individualmente. Para más detalles, comuníquese con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa. La preparación para la Primera Reconciliación y la Primera Comunión generalmente se realiza en nuestro programa de Nivel 2. Está dirigido a niños que han completado el Nivel 1 (generalmente corresponde a 1.º grado) y que tienen al menos 7 años de edad. Además de la asistencia del niño a las clases regulares, se espera que las familias asistan a las siguientes actividades: Reuniones de Preparación para Padres, Día de Reflexión para Padres/Candidatos de Primera Reconciliación; Día de Retiro para Padres/Candidatos de Primera Comunión. La Primera Reconciliación tendrá lugar en marzo. La Primera Comunión tendrá lugar en mayo. Costo: 1 niño—\$150 2 niños—\$260 3 niños o mas—\$340. \$75.- adicional para la preparación sacramental de la Reconciliación y la Primera Comunión. Para más información comuníquese con: Tammy Korosec. Coordinadora d E.R. tkorosec@holycrossdover.org .302.674.5787 ext 122
- **La Virgen Peregrina:** La Virgen Peregrina comenzará a visitar los hogares, si usted desea que la imagen de la virgen peregrina visite su casa por una semana, hable con nuestra hermana Marta Espinosa.
- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ**
Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia... (P. Gerald Fitzgerald, SP)
Únase al Apostolado de las Siete Hermanas en Holy Cross para ofrecer: Una hora santa, Por un sacerdote; Cada semana, Un corazón de oración. Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA DEL ICC:

- **Las inscripciones para el año escolar 2025-2026** ya están disponibles en la oficina y en línea. Por favor de inscribir a su hijo lo antes posible. Se aceptaran aplicaciones para las clases dominicales hasta el 1 de agosto. Por favor inscriba a su hijo ahora.
- Formación para catequistas el martes 9 de septiembre a las 7:00pm en el salón parroquial
- Día de Retiro para catequistas sábado 20 de septiembre de 10 de la mañana a 2 de la tarde

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025-26 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION K-8 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN!

Go to Holycrossdover.org for more information and forms.

Parents, Jesus said, "let the children come to me." In God's love, bring your child to life, and accept our invitation to assist you in the faith formation of your child. Our religious education programs can communicate information and provide experiences for celebrating the sacraments, but the practice and example of your living out the faith as a family is of equal importance.

Children need to see a connection between what they learn in class and what they experience at home. Be assured that we are available to assist you in whatever way we can. We only ask in return for your active participation in the formation process by living your faith daily by good example, and by joining the parish community each Sunday for the celebration of Mass and the other sacraments. This is absolutely essential to make that connection.

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

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If you feel you have a calling to become a catechist for either our K-8 program or our confirmation program, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 for further information. Volunteers are required to complete a criminal background check.

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LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Is your family interested in either starting or continuing their life-long faith journey together? Would you as parents like to be active participants in the faith formation of your children? Deacon Vince Pisano has the perfect Religious Education program for you and your family!

This program engages the family, whether it be parents with K-8 children, or a family who wants to enter the Catholic church and receive the sacraments of initiation together hand in hand. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences.

ADULT EDUCATION

Deacon Bob's Adult Ed Class Starting on September 9th and continuing every Tuesday at

either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building offerings beginning in September! If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Registration: For all 9-12 grade teens who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 2026— Forms have been emailed to parents and may also be found on the front page of the Parish Website— Please return these to the parish office or to ldarling@holycrossdover.org as soon as possible.

Parent Meeting for Confirmation Candidates: Will take place on Sunday, September 7 at 7 pm OR Monday, September 8 at 6 pm in the Parish Hall. We ask at least one parent to attend - we will go over the schedule, retreat, the sacrament, as well as answer any questions you may have. Teens are welcome to join their parents.

Peer Leaders for the 2025-2026 Confirmation Year: We will be meeting on Sunday, August 17 at 7 pm in the Matthew Mark room - 2nd floor ELC building - to start planning for classes and retreat. If you are a teen in grades 10-12 who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and would like to assist with class and retreat this coming year, please join us.

Catholic Heart Work Camp trip 2026: An informational meeting will be held on Monday, September 15 at 7 pm in the Matthew Mark room 2nd floor ELC building. Please join us to find out more about this amazing week of service. We will answer any questions, and decide on our destination for next summer.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

Registrations are available at the office and online for 2025-2026 SRE year are being accepted now until August 1st. Registration is at the Parish office, weekdays and some Sundays.***Please register now, so we can have enough teachers and plan accordingly. Do not worry about paying now, get your children registered now. Do not put off on Religious Formation. Classes start on Sunday, September 21 @9:40am. Children must be registered to attend. We still need help with classes. Contact Alicia Poppiti, DRE at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarylodel.org if you have any questions.

Catechist in-service on Tuesday, September 9th @ 7pm in the Parish Hall.

Catechist Retreat Day: Saturday, September 20th 10am-2pm.

Vacation Bible School: Thank you to the many hands that made our week of Vacation Bible School a success! When we need help, we can trust in Jesus! Hope to see you all next year!!

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, our campus began to come alive again as teachers returned to begin to set up their classrooms. It has been such a joy to see everyone back. Everyone is refreshed, renewed, and ready for the incredible school year ahead. The excitement in the air reminds me of what a blessing it is to be part of the Holy Cross community.

Our week began on Monday with a principals' meeting held up North. The day opened with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Bishop Koenig, a perfect way to begin the school year! Gathering with fellow Diocesan principals, we prayed together, shared ideas, and collaborated on ways to strengthen Catholic education across our Diocese. Starting the year in prayer reminds us that our mission is always rooted in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit.

On Tuesday, our Religion Committee gathered here at Holy Cross to begin planning for a faith filled year. Our discussion centered on the upcoming Back to School Prayer Service, weekly school Masses, the celebration of our school's feast day, and other spiritual opportunities for our students and families. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Cutrona for chairing this important committee, and to Dr. Olmstead and Mrs. Arndt for joining our team this year. We are blessed to have so many hands and hearts dedicated to ensuring that Christ remains at the center of all we do.

That same day, Holy Cross had the opportunity of hosting a table at the Dover YMCA's Community Day. This event was a wonderful opportunity to share the mission of our school with the wider community and invite families to be part of our Holy Cross family. Thank you to everyone who stopped by. On Wednesday and Thursday, our new faculty members traveled north for their New Teacher Faith Formation and Diocesan orientation. These gatherings help new educators in our Diocese grow in their understanding of our shared mission and connect with others who are committed to the ministry of Catholic education.

Looking ahead, this week marks our first official teacher week back on campus. Our days will be filled with community building, professional development, orientation activities, and, of course, prayer. We will prepare classrooms, attend Mass together, and welcome our new faculty and staff. On Thursday, we look forward to hosting our Supply Drop Off and Meet the Teacher event, followed by Preschool and Kindergarten Back to School Night. These moments are always a highlight, as we welcome our students and families back into the building with open arms.

This year promises to be especially exciting as we introduce our new school counselor and launch our Crusader Academic Center, a new student support program designed to help every child thrive academically and spiritually.

As summer draws to a close, may we enter this new school year with grateful hearts, trusting in God's guidance. Please know of our prayers for each of you during this time of transition from summer to back to school.

God Bless,
Mrs. O'Mara

come nearly sentient and be able to make decisions and choices. Only man is to share in God's creative power.

Don't be a Nimrod. The closest Biblical analogy that I can invoke to describe the folly of A.I. is the Tower of Babel. The building of the Tower of Babel was initiated by the appropriately named Nimrod (a Mesopotamian king). The point of the tower was to reach into the heavens and place man on par with God, making himself an equal partner. Of course, that didn't end well, as relayed by scripture:

Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves ... [a] tower with its top in the sky, and so make a name for ourselves... Then the Lord said: If now, while they are one people and all have the same language, they have started to do this, nothing they presume to do will be out of their reach. [So God acted to] "confuse their language, so that no one will understand the speech of another." (Genesis 11:4-7)

As that passage of scripture ends, we find that "the LORD scattered them ... and they stopped building." (Genesis 11:4-8)

On the Road to Dystopia. A.I. is the 21st-century man's Tower of Babel. As A.I. takes the form of robotics, man won't be needed in manufacturing. As A.I. takes the form of crunching data and making decisions, man won't be needed in financial advising, banking, government decisions, etc. As A.I. takes the form of a creator — making artwork, writing stories, making poetry — man won't need to exercise his creative power anymore. You can find A.I. artwork and fake photographs all over the internet even now. As A.I. dictates what is and isn't true or right, and if we start to listen to it, humanity will be led down a computer-generated reality where reality and fiction are indistinguishable. Yes, I know this sounds like a plot from a dystopian novel, but I can't help that, because at its core, this is where A.I., by intention, is meant to bring us: to a world where we don't need God or neighbor, and A.I. will replace both.

Fake Friends. Years ago, the term fake friends referred to friends who weren't truly loyal (i.e., fair-weather friends). That term has taken on a new meaning: In a recent YouGov survey, it was found that 25% young adults believe that A.I. has the potential to replace real-life romantic relationships. Some 43% of young people either would like or be open to befriending a chatbot (having an A.I. creation as a friend). Only 57% of young adults are uncomfortable with or reject the idea of an AI-created friend. 10% see a benefit of having an A.I. generated romantic partner over a real one, while another 22% say there may be a benefit to that. We've come a long way from the 1965 musical statement: "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world."

Dignity of Labor. Up to this point in human history, technology has been used to assist people to allow them to get tasks done more efficiently, to make their work more productive, and to make tasks get done more accurately and safely. Sometimes that technology displaced people from their job, though it usually served simply to help with man's work. But now, with A.I., for the first time, technology is rearing its head not to say that it can help us do our work but rather tell us — God's children — that we are no longer needed. Anything that tells us that does not fit in the Christian framework. There is a value to man's labor. When a person finishes a task and sees a job well done, he or she sees that labor as worth the effort. The sense of pride in achievement is there. A.I. can potentially strip away that dignity of labor, if left unchecked.

False God of Technology. The first commandment tells us not to worship false gods. Today, people, young and old, are worshipping their phones. In the way, a different generation would not leave home with their rosaries, or perhaps without their wallet or keys, this new era finds people addicted to their phones. It finds people unable to leave their house without their phone, terrified that they will be out of contact with technology, or unable to find their way here or there. Want to see the new Golden Calf, the new pagan idol of the day? Look no further than that phone in your hand — it has become a god to many. You don't believe that? Well, a 2018 survey found that one in ten millennials would rather lose a finger than give up their smartphone; 23% would rather give up one of their five senses than give up their smartphone. Holy smokes! We need to be careful where we go next with technology.

Am I getting rid of my Mac, my iPad, or my iPhone? No. I find them useful. But, at night, I turn them off. I don't put my phone on vibrate; I turn it off. I turn off my computer and iPad. It is just me and God, the created and the creator — a relationship based on love. Technology, specifically A.I., is not a relationship based on love... it is NOT a relationship at all. It is only about making use of something. The only question for us, at the end of the day, when it comes to A.I., is whether it's you or the technology being used. Let us pray!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor