



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 20, 2023

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



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Matthew 15:28

Christ and the Canaanite Woman by Jean Germain Drouais, 1784
© 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 NO 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 August 6, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$31,805	\$26,180`	\$5,705
YTD	\$154,236	\$158,060	(\$3,824)
Needs	\$1,818	\$1,712	\$106

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending August 6, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,621
Second Collection	\$488

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 Parishioner,

Along time ago in a covenant far, far away, the Prophet Isaiah famously wrote:

“Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?” (Isaiah 55:1-2).

Prophet and Loss. What this Prophet is saying, in somewhat flowing prose, as is Isaiah’s wont, is that God offers us rest, and peace, and comfort – and the cost is nothing. The best things in life – regardless of the jokes made about it – are free. He offers us a royal banquet, there for the taking. Whoomp, there it is! And yet, it seems to me, that there are so many people today are simply starving for a morsel of hope and missing the banquet.

Free for All. For us, God’s faithful, we know by the teaching of Christ and his Church that things we most need for salvation. And those things that move us toward salvation are simple: faith, trust, hope, and love. And these are the very thing that no checkbook, no currency, and not even a Platinum American Express card can buy. God offers them free, for the taking; as Isaiah says, we can get these *“without paying and without cost.”*

Worldly Things. You know most people love getting “free” stuff. When people see things given out for and they will line up and wait for the free item. When there’s a big bargain, yeah, you will see folk lined up. Look at the Black Friday sales the day after Thanksgiving. People start lining up in the dark of night to get a good deal the next day. I’ve seen them – you’ve seen them – lining up early then pushing their way over one another get a sale on a PC, or TV, or an iPhone, or what have you. Those are all mere things – passing things – and look at what people go through to get them. I always find it amazing.

Godly Things. Here in the Church, God offers us, among many other things, rebirth in Baptism, gifts from the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, forgiveness in Confession, and his very Body and Blood in Holy Communion. Cost: Nothing! Christ paid the price for us. And yet, while people will turn their life upside down to get things, and grab at temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil, so many don’t give a second to the thing of faith, to the Church, or to God. But they should. For if one ensconces himself in the things of this world, thinking he got a great deal, or walked into a great bargain – he fails to realize that there is a price to be paid.

Almost Paradise? The things of this world, while wonderful can’t bring salvation and yet so many languish, swim, in the desire for the things of this world, and fail to think about the next. They’re living in a fool’s paradise

thinking they’ve got it made, but they don’t. They’ve been made, they’ve been duped. As English clergyman Thomas Fuller once opined, “A fool’s paradise is a wise man’s hell.”

Of Big Macs and Happiness. So, today, while God extends these good things out to us, we see so many people with no faith or a passive faith wallowing in the wilds of the world. And for all of the worldly things they have, they still so often lament why they can’t have more or why they don’t have more. And that is because earthly things can never bring us fulfillment. Even my wonderful Big Macs – that decadent delicacy – can only bring a temporary happiness.

The Heart of the Matter. So, what is the answer? How do we find fulfillment in this life? There was a song some years back by rock singer Don Henley, the song was called “The Heart of the Matter.” In the course of that song, the writer laments the things that we allow in our lives that prevent us from recognizing the truth of the goodness of life. He laments that people put so many things between them – so many blocks and detours to holiness, if you would.

In part, the song say these poetic words:

*These times are so uncertain
There’s a yearning undefined
We’re a people filled with rage
We all need a little tenderness
But, how can love survive in such a graceless age?
The trust and self-assurance that lead to happiness
They’re the very things we kill I guess
And pride and competition
Cannot fill these empty arms
And the work we put between us
You know it doesn’t keep us warm*

Satisfaction Guaranteed. I hardly think the writer of that song would have thought he was writing a Christian thought, but he was. Remember in that famous Gospel story when Christ feeds the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes – he made a miracle of a situation. And the scripture said that after all was said and done, the people there were satisfied. They trusted in Christ; they trusted that God would provide. And they were not let down. And as Isaiah noted, that satisfaction required no money, just faith, just trust in God.

More, More, More. And yet the song I mentioned spoke of the death of trust. Today in our affluent society, trust – trust in God, trust in providence – is what we kill when we say we have faith in God but hedge our bets. It’s what we kill when we

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

When Jesus was approached by those who wished to become disciples, he invited them to "...come and see," that is to come and be with me and my disciples for a while. Walk with us – learn who we are. Then make your decision to become a disciple.

Pope John Paul II said, "It is not enough to discover Christ – you must bring him to others!" The words of our Holy Father should encourage us to reach out to a neighbor, friend, relative and co-worker. If they do not have a church home, invite them to consider Holy Cross.

We are already making contact and responding to those who are interested in journeying with us to discover more about the Catholic Christian experience. Even if you have asked someone before and they have passed up the opportunity, today may be the time that the Holy Spirit has chosen for them. Invite them to discover at no obligation what the Catholic Church is really all about. Classes started in August on Sunday mornings at 9AM in the Early Learning Center. For more information, contact the Parish Office, 302 674-5787 extension 110.

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.

LITTLE BOOKS

Immaculate Conception is taking orders for the Little Reflection books for the various liturgical seasons, Advent, Lent & Easter.

The total cost is \$5.00 for the set.

Orders and payment can be taken at HC or ICC Parish offices.

All who wish to purchase must place their order by October 15.

21ST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (AUG 27)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 22:19-23

SECOND READING: ROMANS 11:33-36

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:13-20

Jesus tells Peter that upon this rock I will build my church.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, August 26th, we talk with Teresa Mull, author of the new book, "Woke-Proof Your Life." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640.

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 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

FIRST SATURDAY MASS

First Saturday Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Shrine at Bohemia Mission on Saturday, September 2 at 11:00 AM. Father Paul Mast will be the presider. Father Mast, a retired priest of the Diocese of Wilmington, is working with International Jesuit Prison Network to connect interested Catholics with those in jail through letter writing. Father

MASS INTENTIONS AUGUST

21 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Shawn Cann
22 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Frances Cassidy
23 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Deacon Edward J. Danko
24 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Edward V. Dodd, Jr.
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
25 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Julia Frances Eck
26 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Charles K. Pitts, Jr.
HC 5:00 pm	Joe McLaughlin
27 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	DM Butler/Hornich Family
ICC 8:30 am	Thomas F. Conlon
HC 9:30 am	Philip Glick, Jr.
ICC 11:00 am	Frances Cassidy
HC 11:30 am	Edward and Benedicta Frank
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHAPEL FOR AUGUST 20-26 IS FOR JOSEPH ABATO.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHURCH FOR AUGUST 20-26 IS FOR ANTHONY J. RUGGIERO, JR.

Mast will hear confessions 30 minutes before the start of Mass. The Rosary will be recited after Mass. The rectory museum will be open at 9:00 AM for tours. The Jesuit order founded the mission, commonly known as Old Bohemia, in 1704 to minister to Catholics throughout the areas that are now Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The Shrine, located at 1640 Bohemia Church Road in Warwick, MD, is the Mother Church of the Diocese of Wilmington. First Saturday Masses will continue through the end of the year. Email OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com or call 302.545.2126 for additional information.

AUG 26/27, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

M. Miller M. Sirolli
P. Sheldon N. Sirolli

L. Curley
B. Richardson
L. Richardson

LECTORS

D. Dixon
D. Kilby

7:30 AM

A. Fischer W. Thomas
J. Fischer A. Wyllie

B. Gyamfi
E. Gyamfi
S. Shevock

LECTORS

M. Jacobs

9:30 AM

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

M. Milligan
C. Imhof
J. Seeney

LECTORS

S. Crossen
J. Coffield

11:30 AM

C. Garcia A. Luna
B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

J. Moore

LECTORS

D. Smith

11:00 AM

B. Van-
Vessen

LECTORS

L. Soule

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

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.

COMING SOON—OKTOBERFEST AT ST. JOHN'S

30th Annual Oktoberfest at St. John the Apostle, Milford is scheduled for October 6th from 6 PM to 10 PM and October 7th from 12 PM to 10 PM. Lots of good ethnic foods, good music and good fun for all ages. For more information please call Bonnie at 302-236-5296.

- Nuestros sinceros agradecimientos a todos los servidores que en una forma u otra contribuyeron con la limpieza de nuestra parroquia.
- Fiestas Patronales: La novena de la Exaltación de la Santa Cruz comienza el día 6 de septiembre en la iglesia a las 7:00 de la noche con la Exposición del Santísimo. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados a pasar una hora con Jesús Sacramentado.
- Festival Hispano y Cuadrangular de Fútbol El domingo 17 de Septiembre celebraremos la clausura de nuestras fiestas patronales y el comienzo de nuestra Herencia Hispana con un Festival de Comida y un Cuadrangular de fútbol, 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.
- Confirmación de Adultos: El día 15 de Octubre tendremos la Confirmación de adultos, si usted es mayor de 18 años y no está confirmado por favor hable con el Sr. Luna para las clases. O llame a la oficina para anotarse.
- 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.
- Comparta sus dones y Carismas: Todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios, y como cristianos tenemos la obligación de compartir esos dones que tenemos para la honra y gloria del Señor y para con el prójimo. Si usted desea servir en algún ministerio por favor hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman al 302-674-5787 ext. 118 o con uno de los miembros servidores de la Junta Directiva.

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 \$60 por 1 niño, \$120 por 2 niños, \$180 por 3 niños y \$200 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@iccmaryl.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.

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.

Sacramental Preparation for 1st Reconciliation/Communion, Confirmation and OCIA/RICA for youth are online. Please fill out and return .

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!.

Educators, like any real and successful professional, for the most part are very organized human beings. Those responsible for the welfare of others must have some scrap or smidgeon of an idea for maintaining organization. Calendars of all makes and sizes, short and long pads of paper for daily lists...we all need to recall where and when we must be someplace, what we need to buy at the grocery, or all the things we have to accomplish in just one day's time. The surface of my desk is filled with the handy dandy post-its as reminders of phone numbers, things teachers request for their rooms, due dates for the Catholic Schools Office, computer passwords, you name it and I have it scribbled on a post-it. Some are pretty old, it gives me such a charge to peel one away and toss it in the bin!

In addition to my post-its, I also have lists. Just about everyone I know is a list maker/keeper. No one can keep it all in their brain. It's just too much. Recently, it gave me great pleasure and a feeling of great relief to scrunch up a list I'd had front and center on my desk since June 11, 2023. Initially, it was a painful list of necessities to create; as I added one need, followed by another, extending the list, I did so with the prayer that God would provide. I had to be honest and list each need. I wasn't fooling myself in believing that each was any less essential than another. I placed the list front and center of my desk as a daily reminder for the need for constant prayer. What I needed was not humanly possible for me to attain. I needed God's help. I need the help of the Blessed Mother.

It was a Sunday morning in June right after the last day of school, I was attending Mass and tugging on God's sleeve, just sending a friendly reminder that HCS school had some needs. The opening hymn was announced.

Table of Plenty.

**Come to the feast of heaven and earth, Come to the table of plenty;
God will provide for all that we need, Here at the table of plenty.**

Singing those words gave me such joy, it was God telling me not to fret. It was from that moment on that I had absolutely no doubt that all my list entries would be provided for. As a result, my summer days have been pretty much worry-free.

Now, for the elephant in the room---so to speak; the list items. What were the list items that were going to prove so challenging to fulfill that only Divine Intervention could provide? My list follows:

*2 Middle school teachers (not one, but 2!) 1 Kindergarten teacher 1 Before-Care Supervisor
2-3 After-Care attendants 1 Part-time Librarian A classroom aide for the TYO Room*

By anyone's measure, a tall order. Especially in this present day and time. Perhaps a little clarification is in order. Not all of these folks went running for the hills last spring. You may recall Mrs. Susan Crawford's retirement from her middle school math position. The need for second middle school position is a result of growth in population. This being the case for our need in Kindergarten, as well. We needed a third section and a third teacher. Happy problems to have. And then, our beloved Mrs. K made it clear to me when she signed on last fall that she had long-range plans to visit family overseas in the 23-24 SY. So, come June of 2023, we found Mrs. K was committed to the previously made commitment, she flew off to England vacating the B/C and the Librarian position.

On any given afternoon, we have seen as many as 72 children in AC. God bless Miss Eleanor and her small, but mighty crew who no matter the number manage to keep the roof on things and make for an orderly and well contained environment for after-school supervision. I promised Miss Eleanor that we would do our best to find more able-bodied, kid-loving friends who would love nothing more than spending time with a bunch of school-aged children. But, where, oh where was I going to find a happy face who wanted to start each day with school-aged children?? At 6:30 am??

God will provide for all that we need....

Once again, a Sunday. I opened up my email. There was a response to the B/C position. There it was---one of the top two positions I thought were going to be most difficult to fill. Wow! Fast-forward; we welcome Mrs. Andrea Feldman to the HCS community.

Literally, the next week, an email from someone seeking to fill Mrs. Crawford's position. Thank you, Jesus!! We welcome Mrs. Judi Coffield to the HCS community where she will be teaching grades 6.7.and 8 Math.

With a good five or six inquiries into the PT Librarian position, it was difficult to wheedle it down to only one. But, wheedle I did and am happy to welcome Mrs. Andrea Cooper to the HCS Library and community.

The list was getting smaller..... I met with Mrs. Smallwood---she was working on day-care for her newborn, but she would return to the TYO Room.

Throughout the summer, inquiries into A/C have been coming in. As of today, we have three new kid-loving attendants in the names of Mrs. Jacqueline Mayi, Mrs. Patricia Jackson, and Miss Kathleen Just. We welcome them to the A/C fold.

And then...Mr. Adam Bauer emailed me with an inquiry into the second Middle School position, while just a few days later, Mrs. Lacey Cusatis emailed inquiring into the availability of the Kindergarten position. We welcome both teachers to our fine school.

And that's about the way it happened. No fuss. No muss. The list is in the bin!

Next week I will provide a more formal introduction to all the new HCS professionals, but for now....never, ever doubt that **God will provide for all that we need** when we gather at the Table of Plenty.

mouth the words, “God will provide,” but spend our days seeking more and more and more money to fill our emptiness. That song I quoted, said it well: *“Pride and competition cannot fill these empty arms and work we put between doesn’t keep us warm.”*

In other words,

- if we think money of certain amount will satisfy us, it will not.
- if we think climbing the social, power, or business ladder in and of itself will make life perfect, it will not.
- if we think having more and more will simply fix all of our problems, and address all of our desires, it will not.

Disappointment. But let me be clear: There is a place for money, money is good and important, absolutely. There is a place for work and achievement, absolutely. But if we let money and work and social climbing become for us the means to our ultimate satisfaction, then we will wind up sorely disappointed.

Hughes, with Caution. Just think of one of the richest men of the 20th century, a man named Howard Hughes. Howard Hughes had more money, more influence, more notoriety, and more power than almost anyone. That money, that power, that influence and that fame did nothing for Mr. Hughes but make him isolated, make him paranoid, and make him troubled. And when he died, he died alone and he died looking like a lonely homeless man – even though he had all the money, fame and power imaginable on this earth. And you know, no one would hardly have looked at that depressed, disheveled and bedraggled man, Howard Hughes, and have said, “Here is a satisfied man.” Indeed not.

A Matter of Trust. One might ask what was missing in Howard Hughes’ life? Well, it wasn’t money or power. But, what was missing was, as the song I quoted said, “Trust and self-assurance.” In order to be trusting and self-assured one must have faith as his anchor. It would seem Howard Hughes’ faith in money and power proved a bad anchor. The money and power did nothing for him when it mattered. And it will do nothing for us when we consider our mortality. All the money in the world can’t buy us love, hope or joy; it can only fill temporary needs, not eternal ones.

Money for Nothing? And so, in our Catholic faith, we are commended to be aware of the addictive, aphrodisiac allure of money and power. We need to recognize that there will be a day for all of us when all of that will mean nothing. In Heaven, even if one had money, it would be useless. Money is only valuable in this world, not the next. As the Beatles reminded us: *“I don’t care too much for money, cause money can’t buy me love.”* And God is love.

Money for Something? Now, does this mean to say that money is intrinsically bad? Absolutely not. Money is good, it is useful, and it serves purpose. I am abjectly a capitalist priest — money can do a lot of good for us and others. Heck, that’s why we take a collection at Mass every Sunday!

The Truth. But the truth is this: Money helps us to live, money allows us to help others, money enables the Church to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world and give honor to the Lord. I guess, simply put, it boils down to this: money is as good as the user of the money.

The Root, Bare. But money, as scripture tells is the root of evil – or to be more precise to the words of scripture, love of money is the root of all evil. That is to say: Money has the potential to be addictive, to be consuming, and to be a false answer and false god to our desires.

A Yen for Dollars. And when we become addicted to money, what happens? Well, the worst thing that happens is that in our addiction to money we begin to lose our addiction God. We begin to look at everything in dollars and pounds and euros and yen. We start to think that that “yearning undefined” that Don Henley sang about is something that can be mastered with MasterCard. And wrongly, we try to cure our blues with green — and then lament that something is still missing.

What a Deal! But Isaiah tells us: *You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk!* In other words, why spend money on what doesn’t satisfy, when God welcomes us at no cost? You know, that’s a great question. It’s a question should be a rhetorical one, but unfortunately for mankind, it is not. And so, today, and every day that question is ours to answer, and the answer we give is for us — as the Don Henley song title tells us — the heart of the matter.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor