

# 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 24, 2025

21st 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

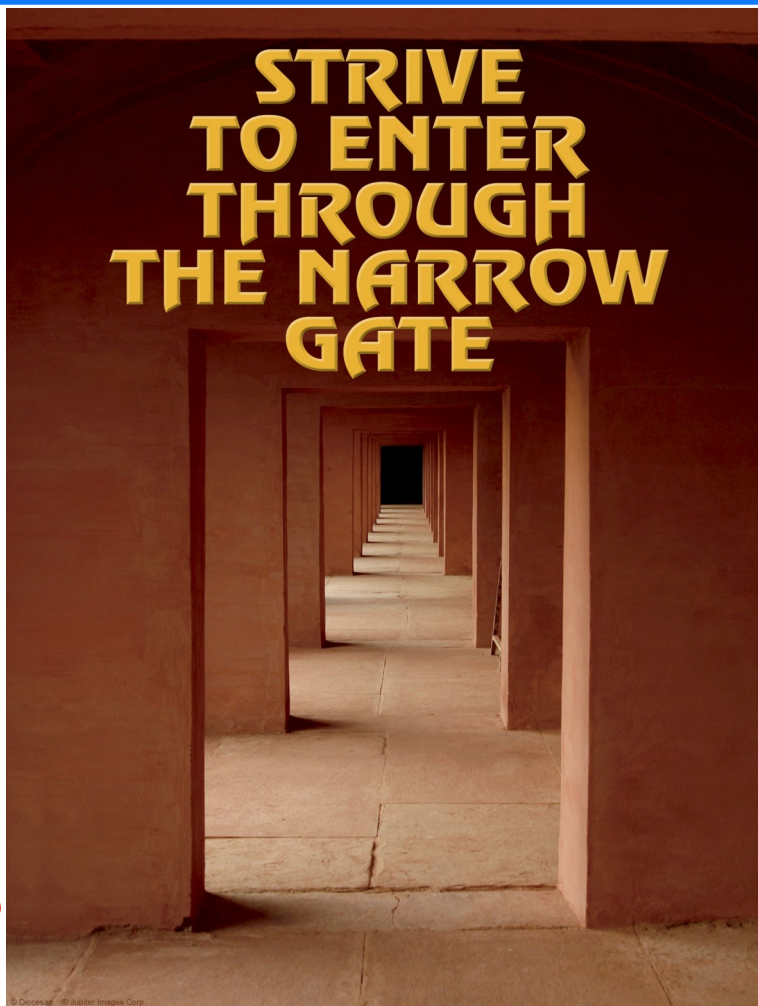
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Closed Wednesday and Friday

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



### 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 –

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>

## BLUE MASS

Attention active and retired police, fire, EMT and military: You are invited to join Bishop Koenig at the Annual Diocese of Wilmington Blue Mass to honor the work of all public safety personnel and military on Monday, September 29, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John the Beloved Church, 907 Milltown Road, Wilmington, Delaware. The Blue Mass is an event that honors local, county, state, and federal law enforcement, fire, emergency medical, and military personnel and their families who live and work in the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, which includes Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. First Responders of all faiths are welcome at the Mass.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending August 10, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$22,795	\$26,150	(\$3,355)
YTD	\$154,771	\$156,900	(\$2,129)
Needs	\$1,471	\$1,775	(\$304)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending August 10, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,043
Second	\$433

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,

"To everything (turn, turn, turn), there is a season (turn, turn, turn), and a time to every purpose, under heaven." Thus, sang the Byrds — the band, not a misspelled version of the flying creatures that decorate my truck — back in 1965. "It's the time of the season..." Thus, sang the Zombies — the band, not the living dead — back in 1968.

**Joanie, Chachi, and White Puka-Beads.** And indeed, it is the time of the season, the summer season, that is, when that season enters its waning phase. It is the time of this season to turn, turn, turn to what lies ahead! And the non-scientific demarcation of the end of summer is a little more than a week away: Labor Day. We know that with the arrival of Labor Day, things change. Here in Delaware, the beach traffic begins to abate, many free-standing ice cream stands start to prepare for their fall closing, schools everywhere are opened, and the new television season kicks off. Other related things also change. Once we pass Labor Day, it becomes the time of the season when those white shoes, white wallets, white handbags, white pants, white scarves, white suits, white moo-moos, and white hats get tossed into the box marked, "Do not open until Memorial Day." Yes, the period of propitiously wearing white, which began, theoretically, on Memorial Day, ends, theoretically, in the wake of Labor Day (you have eight days left to wear white in a societally proper manner). Now, I of course exaggerate all that, as few people observe these seasonal points of etiquette anymore. But even the memory of those practices of yore brings our minds around to the topic of customs and disciplines that we engage in.

**Going Through Customs.** So, maybe, in this time of the season, as summers winds down, as we remind ourselves of the old-time custom and tradition of "wearing white from Memorial Day to Labor Day," it would likewise be a good time to remind ourselves of some of our Church's customs, disciplines and practices — and indeed some of its laws that define our practices. And so, here is a refresher on some aspects of our faith and related customs, disciplines, and practices:

- **Easter Duty:** Every Catholic has the duty to receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season; likewise, each of the faithful has the duty to make Confession at least once a year if conscious of mortal sin. For the purposes of defining "Easter season," the Church stretches the season out to encompass all of Lent and Easter time, all the way through Trinity Sunday. You might say, in its generosity, the Church adds some extra seasoning!
- **Genuflecting:** All persons who are physically able, when entering a Church with a visible tabernacle in the sanctuary of the Church, are called upon to genuflect before taking a seat. As it says in the General Instruction on the Roman Missal #274: "all who pass before the Most Blessed

*Sacrament genuflect, unless they are moving in procession.*" This is nuanced for ministers in the sanctuary during Mass, but that's another story. In any event, genuflection is accomplished by kneeling down on the right knee (much like a suitor would when proposing marriage to the woman he loves). This is a sign of reverence and respect to Christ our King, and is a reflection of the way, traditionally, a subject greets a King. This is a practice we all (k)need to remember.

- **Sacred Silence:** A Church is a sacred space reserved for silence and prayer. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal #45 notes that "before the celebration [of Mass], it is a praiseworthy practice for silence to be observed in the church." Before Mass, many people come to Church to pray; today, we often find people who come to talk. An old priest once said, "Two people talking prevent forty people from praying." We all have an obligation to keep the inside of the body of the Church prayerful. One should use the area outside of a Church, be it the narthex (gathering space), the parish hall, or other common space, for talking to one another, and the body of the Church for talking to God.
- **Holy Water Font.** The Holy Water font is meant to be used for people to "bless themselves" and remind themselves of the waters of Baptism. It is customary for a person, as he or she enters or leaves the Church, to bless himself/herself by dipping the right hand in the font and then making the sign of the cross with that right hand.
- **Fasting Before Holy Communion.** Bruce Springsteen sang that "Everybody's got a hungry heart." That may be true, but sometimes hunger (and thirst) needs to be put in check. Thus, the Church prescribes abstaining from food and drink for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. The Code of Canon Law #919 states: "One who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion." This means no doughnuts, no candy, no Big Macs, no Pop-Tarts, and no Coca-Cola (and other items in the Fr. Lentini diet plan) before Mass. The requirement does not include the taking of medicine or needed consumption. In 1973, Pope Paul VI exempted people over 60 from this requirement. That being said, water bottles should not be present in Church — it's Mass, not a picnic.
- **Being Properly Disposed for Holy Communion.**

**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 31—22ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

**FIRST READING: ECCLESIASTICUS 3:17-20, 28-29**

Be humble in all you do, and you will be loved.

**SECOND READING: HEBREWS 12:18-19, 22-24**

Jesus makes a new promise of his love for poor and oppressed people.

**GOSPEL: LUKE 14:1, 7-14**

Jesus teaches us about humility and generosity. He shows the importance of helping those who are often overlooked and marginalized, reflecting God's love and grace. .

**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](http://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**

Thank you to all who contributed to the collection for our Cathedral of St. Peter. We appreciate your generosity.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

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

- Nenita Dairo Hermogenes

## 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](mailto:claireshep1502@gmail.com)

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, it's back-to-school time with superintendent, Lou De Angelo and new associate superintendent, Tyler Kulp. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum) and Facebook.com/CatholicForum.

## 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

## MASS INTENTION AUGUST

### 25 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Gary Wessel, Jr.

### 26 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Edward V. Dodd, Jr.

### 27 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Charles K. Pitts

### 28 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Jo-an Sper Paquette  
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

### 29 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Nelia Alegre Hernandez

### 30 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 pm Robert Solomon  
HC 5:00 pm Cono Scaffidi

### 31 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Darren Conti  
ICC 8:30 am Thomas Conlin  
HC 9:30 am Juana Seseso Blyth  
ICC 11:00 am Gayle Kinnamon  
HC 11:30 am For the People  
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

*Aug 24 -Aug 30 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of HC parishioners*

*Aug 24-Aug 30 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of HC parishioners.*

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](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

AUGUST 30/31, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

B. Richards M. Sirolli C. Barrett  
G. Richards N. Sirolli M. Caskey

LECTORS

D. Kilby

7:30 AM

J. Chandler J. Denney T. Catipay  
J. Davis T. Dinan S. Corpuz

LECTORS

M. Jacobs

9:30 AM

J. Lausten G. Wessell L. Boggs  
M. Lausten M. Wessell P. Cusatis

LECTORS

S. Crossen  
S. ford

11:30 AM

A. Cisneros B. Guzman TBD  
C. Garcia

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

E. Costello

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM

f. Cristiano

LECTORS

Lausten Family

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](mailto: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](mailto: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!**

Kindergarten-8th grade Religious Education Classes begin with a **parent meeting on August 26th at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.**

If your child is not registered, please go to [holycrossdover.org](http://holycrossdover.org) for registration forms, and email them to [tkorosec@holycrossdover.org](mailto:tkorosec@holycrossdover.org) as soon as possible.

**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 C

"Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the ultimate way for your parish or small group to encounter the wisdom of the Catechism and deepen your understanding of the Catholic Faith.

This dynamic, video-based program is filmed across 40 locations in 11 countries on 4 continents—taking you to the the places where our faith was explained and clarified by Church councils, the Church doctors, and the saints. This study is a spiritual pilgrimage that will transform the way you understand Catholic teachings and live the Catholic Faith."

This class is 20 sessions. 10 sessions will be presented then we will break for our special Advent lessons, then the rest of the 10 sessions will be presented before we start our special Lenten lessons.

This is a free class; however the workbook set

associated with this program will be ordered upon request for a cost of \$40 (workbook and catechism chart)

If you have any questions or would like to order the workbook set, please contact Tammy Korosec at [tkorosec@holycrossdover.org](mailto:tkorosec@holycrossdover.org) or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

**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](mailto:ldarling@holycrossdover.org) as soon as possible. If you plan to have your child receive Confirmation, you must register for this class.

**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.

**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**

**Classes start on Sunday, September 21**

**@9:40am.** Children must be registered to attend. Registrations are available at the office and online for 2025-2026 SRE year are being accepted now until September 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. We still need help with classes. Contact Alicia Poppiti, DRE at 410-482-8939 or [dre@iccmaryladel.org](mailto:dre@iccmaryladel.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:** Sorry we were cut short on our week. Ms. Alicia has crafts and water bottles from first 2 days of VBS. If you attended, please see me to get your things:) Thank you to the many hands that made our Vacation Bible School happen!

When we need help, we can trust in Jesus! Hope to see you all next year!

What a joyful and grace filled week we have had at Holy Cross as we welcomed our faculty and staff back to campus! The energy, collaboration, and spirit of unity have truly set the tone for a blessed school year ahead.

On Monday, we began our week by joining our parish community for daily Mass. There is no better way to begin our year than together in prayer. Prayer is at the heart of all we do at Holy Cross, and we lift up intentions for one another as we enter this new school year. We pray for safety and protection, for the good health of our faculty, staff, students, and their families, and for our students to continue to grow in wisdom, faith, and love each day.

Following Mass, we enjoyed a delicious breakfast generously provided by our Home and School Association. We are so grateful for their tireless dedication to our community. After breakfast, Father John led us in a reflection on our Diocesan theme for the year, *By Name You Are Called*. He encouraged us to reflect on the many ways Jesus calls us each day to live out our faith in word and action.

We then gathered for our full faculty and staff orientation, where we welcomed new members to our Holy Cross family: Ms. Vahey, our school counselor; Mr. Speed, our gym teacher; Ms. Krastel, our third kindergarten teacher; Mrs. Morton, PreK3 aide; Mrs. Spence, first grade aide; Dr. Lee Olmstead, junior high math teacher; and Mr. Latham, seventh grade ELA and history teacher. These gifted educators have been preparing with their teams all summer, and we know our community will embrace them with warmth and prayer.

We also introduced our new Crusader Academic Center, led by Mrs. Borden, a certified dyslexia practitioner with over 25 years in Catholic education. As a Wilson Language Level One certified educator and a mother of three children with dyslexia, she brings both expertise and compassion to her work. Her faith-filled approach will help students discover their God-given strengths and reach their full potential.

On Tuesday, our new counselor, Ms. Vahey, led a professional development session on supporting students' social and emotional needs. She will be connecting the spiritual works of mercy to monthly school-wide themes, which we will share with you soon.

Wednesday took us to the northern part of our Diocese for a day of prayer and discussion with fellow Catholic educators. Thursday brought CPR and First Aid certification for our staff, thanks to Mr. Devenney, a dedicated parent in our community. Later that day, we welcomed students for supply drop-off and teacher meet-and-greets, followed by back-to-school night for our preschool and kindergarten families.

On Friday, final preparations were completed for our students' return. We are ready, excited, and grateful for the year ahead.

Thank you for your partnership in Christ. We look forward to welcoming our K-8 students on Monday and our preschool students on Tuesday.

God Bless,

Mrs. O'Mara

The law and practice of the Church tells us that when a Catholic approaches the altar to receive Holy Communion, that person may not be in a state of mortal sin. Note please, that for one to commit a mortal sin, three conditions must be met: (1) the sin that was committed must be a serious, grave sin; (2) the sin was committed with full consent of the will; and (3) the sin was committed after sufficient reflection. If these criteria are not met, no matter how egregious, the sin is venial. Thus, the distinction between mortal sin and venial sin: for those lovers of police shows and court dramas, think of the difference between murder and manslaughter. All that being said, if one is actually in mortal sin, that person must receive absolution in order to properly and rightly receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist. I have to comment on this by noting that often someone will say to me that they are staying away from Communion because 30 years ago they did x, y, and z — and didn't even realize it was a sin, but now they know it is a mortal sin. Well, if they didn't know something was a sin, it could not have been committed with "full consent" of the will, and let alone with sufficient reflection; in short, it can't be mortally sinful. But is it still a sin? Yes, certainly, objectively speaking, it is. But, mortal sin? Without all three conditions being met, no.

- **Examining One's Conscience.** Relatedly, to what I wrote above, if you have committed venial sins, should you receive communion? Well, at Mass, we have part of the introductory rites called "The Penitential Act" — which usually takes the form of the prayer, "The Confiteor" (*I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters...*). It is the mind of the Church that one prepares for that Penitential Act by making an Examination of Conscience (i.e., recollecting their venial sins); this is a great and sound part of the Catholic practice of faith. We examine our conscience before we go to confession; likewise, we should do it before Mass in preparation for the Penitential Act. When one does this, and then at Mass says the Penitential Act, sincerely and repentantly, and later receives Holy Communion, the reception of the Eucharist itself will absolve any venial sins one may have committed. The Catechism #1394 tells us, "*the Eucharist strengthens our charity... and this living charity wipes away venial sins.*" This is because, as we are told in Catechism #1863, "*venial sin does not deprive the sinner of sanctifying grace.*"
- **Lighting a Candle. [Custom]** Lighting what are called "votive" candles is a common practice in the Catholic Church. The action of lighting a candle is an expression of prayer and devotion. The lit candle symbolizes Christ, who is the "Light of the World," who hears our prayers. Also, the lighting of a candle brings a little more light into the world, and as the saying goes, it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. As noted, lighting a candle is a visible sign of prayer, and expresses a desire for that person's prayer to persist, even when the person lighting the candle has gone.
- **The Mantilla. [Custom]** Back in the day, up through the end of the 1960s, it was an observed custom for a woman entering the Church to have her covered with a veil; the most common type of these was called a mantilla. A mantilla is a liturgical lace or silk veil worn by women, especially in Church, over their head and shoulders. It was devotionally held that the wearing of a mantilla was done to veil a woman's physical beauty, so that the beauty of God may be glorified instead. The practice of wearing a mantilla was commended in the 1917 Code of Canon 1262 § 2, which stated: "*Men, in a church or outside a church, while they are assisting at sacred rites, shall be bare-headed... women, however, shall have a covered head and be modestly dressed, especially when they approach the table of the Lord.*" In the decades that followed, the wearing of the mantilla declined vastly — with the requirement declared non-binding in 1976 by the Vatican, and its canonical requirement officially rescinded in 1983. That being said, while the requirement of a head-covering went away, the practice did not. And in the past 20 years, it has made a strong reappearance — in most Masses you attend these days, you will see some women wearing mantillas — it is a sign of humility before God, and a devotional sign with a history dating back to the first century.

There are many other customs, disciplines, and practices, but those that relate to Mass are always good to keep keen in our minds. And, let me add, that unlike wearing white only between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the practices related to Mass encompass the whole year — regardless of what Federal Holidays intervene.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor