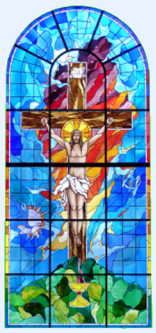


Church of the Holy Cross

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception

August 9, 2026 — **19th Sunday Ordinary Time**

holy cross

Parish Office Hours
School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

Schools Office Hours
School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

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

Confession Schedule
Saturday, 8:30 am—10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

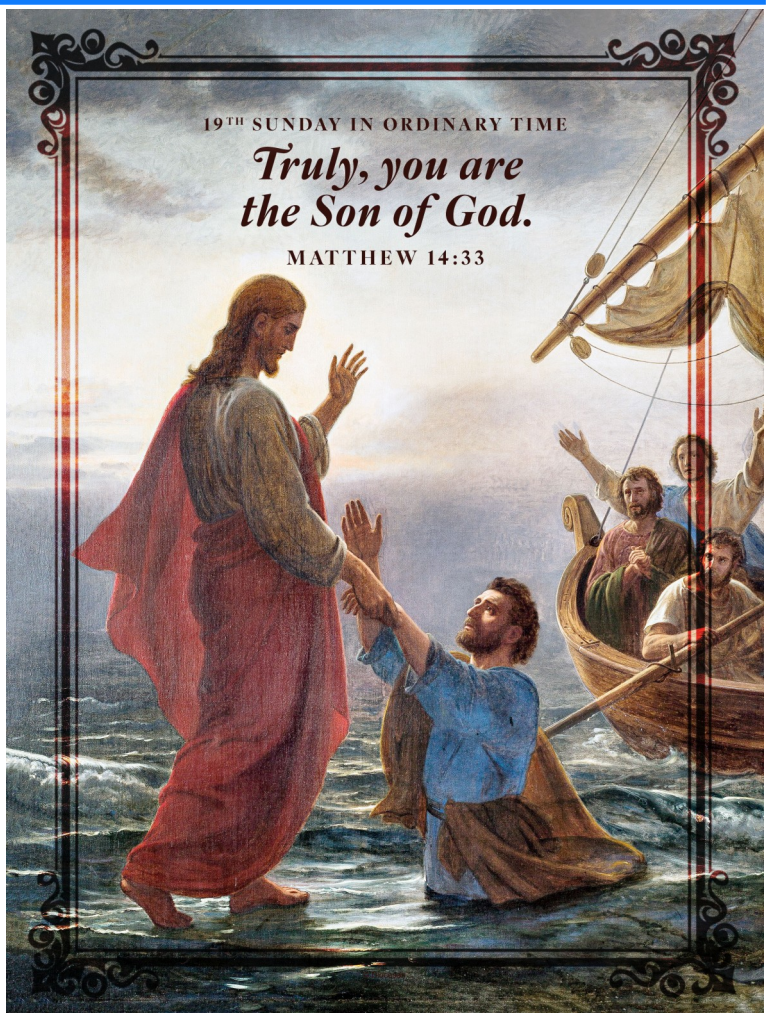
Adoration Chapel Hours
Daily, 5 am—9 pm

icc

Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-1 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

Sunday Mass Schedule
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1:30 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

sacraments

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.

happenings

Summer Hours

Both Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception are on their Summer Hours through Labor Day.

Holy Cross will be open Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm. Office is closed on Friday.

Immaculate Conception will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Office is closed on Wednesday and Friday.

Attention Ministry Leaders

Thank you to all those that have sent an email already, if you haven't yet had time, please kindly, send an email to Vivian Alvarado, at parishadmin@holycrossdover.org with information on what ministry you lead and your contact information. Thank you!

stewardship

Weekly Offering (HC)

Ending August 2, 2026

Offertory Type	Received
Regular	$15,787.00
Second	$926.00

Weekly Offering (ICC)

Ending August 2, 2026

Offertory Type	Received
Regular	$3,821.00
Second	$1,667.00

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.

A Word from your Administrator…

So you thought you witnessed a miracle, Jesus probably was thinking when it came to His disciples and the feeding of 5,000+. Now it really is going to blow your mind. This man you haven't chosen to follow and believe in can walk on the water and commend the wind and seas! Jesus want to show His disciples that they haven't seen anything yet. He will raise the dead and be raised from the tomb Himself. The miracles will abound. And yet, our faith can not depend on miracles and God coming through for us so dramatically. The Book of Kings tells us about Elijah discerning how God comes into his life. He realizes that God comes powerfully in the quiet to us whispering to our hearts. God whispers words of assurance. Imagine God telling you at the beginning of the day: "I got you!" As Jesus extends His hand to Peter drowning, an image captured by many artists, we need to see that hand extended to us with the words: "Take courage, it is I".

Next Saturday is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Because it falls on a Saturday the obligation to attend Mass is removed. Our Saturday morning Mass at Holy Cross will be at 9am for the Feast of the Assumption.

Lord, let us see your kindness and know you as the One who saves us.

Fr. Carroll

pastor's column

MONDAY
August 10
St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
2 Cor 9:6–10
Jn 12:24–26

TUESDAY
August 11
St. Clare, Virgin
Ez 2:8—3:4
Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

WEDNESDAY
August 12
Weekday
Ez 9:1–7; 10:18–22
Mt 18:15–20

THURSDAY
August 13
Weekday
Ez 12:1–12
Mt 18:21—19:1

FRIDAY
August 14
St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
Ez 16:1–15, 60, 63 or 16:59 –63
Mt 19:3–12

SATURDAY
August 15
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Rv 11:19a; 12:1– 6a, 10ab
1 Cor 15:20–27
Lk 1:39–56

SUNDAY
August 16
Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Is 56:1, 6–7
Rom 11:13–15, 29–32
Mt 15:21–28

connections

HC & ICC Clergy

Vy, Rev. Norman P. Carroll	Administrator
Rev. John Enemuo	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Rommel Padilla	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

HC Staff

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Lilie Ramos	Receptionist, ext. 110
Vivian Alvarado	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Darcee Impagliazzo	Business Manager, ext. 119
Rev. Padilla	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I15
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Ashlyn Baynocky	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
Rev. Padilla	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

faith in action

Samaritan's Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Canned Kidney, Black and Pinto Beans, peanut butter, jelly, hamburger helper, one pound bags of rice, Manwich, Cereal, Jell-O, Chicken Broth. These and small packs of meat or burger can be left in the pantry drop off door behind the rectory.

Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church is hosting a pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Barcelona - **September 13-22, 2026.** Join Fr. Volodymyr Klanichka and travel to two of the world's most revered pilgrimage sites. Experience the culture and beauty of Portugal, France, and Spain along the way! Double occupancy cost is $4,699 including airfare from Philadelphia and at least one meal each day.
For more information contact Fr. Volodymyr at Vovaklan@gmail.com or visit: https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1392151

Spiritual Bouquet

Join us in Providing a Spiritual Bouquet for Fr. Giamello, our incoming Pastor; and our other troops, who are deployed to the Middle East. The Spiritual Bouquet can be found in the Brides Room outside of the Adoration Chapel.

What is a Spiritual Bouquet? Spiritual bouquets are a beautiful Catholic tradition of presenting prayers or acts of charity, mercy or devotion that is offered for someone else. *At the heart of spiritual bouquets is "**intercessory prayer**", a practice that dates back to biblical times.* **Examples are:** Rosaries, Masses, Holy Hours, Memorare/Week, Divine Mercy Chaplets or Mass Intentions. *"St. Paul in his letter to Timothy urges Timothy to offer prayers and petitions and intercessions and thanksgivings for all people".*

Annual Appeal Update

The Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal continues to experience strong support throughout our Diocese. We are grateful to all who have already made a gift or pledge to this year's Appeal.

If you have pledged, please remember that fulfilling your commitment helps provide essential funding for ministries that serve those in need.

If you have not yet participated, there is still time. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. New and returning donors also help our parish qualify for special rebate opportunities that directly benefit local parish ministries and programs. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal.

Recently Deceased

Our prayers and condolences to the families who have recently lost a loved one:

- Rachel J. Neely
- Anna M. Goodyear

Welcome New Parishioners

We extend a warm welcome to our newly registered members:

- Ravindu Wijeratne, Shehani Rodrigo and Ansher Wijeratne
- Kattiana Borsainvil and Ziya Lourent

Newly Baptized

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Ethan Daniel Matamoros-Funes
- Oscar Alejandro Lemus-Canas

Become a registered parishioner today!

We welcome all visitors and newcomers to our Parish. If you wish to register please stop by the Parish Office.

Mass Intention
August

10 Monday
HC 8:00 am Hans & Virgina Crew

11Tuesday
HC 8:00 am Lolita V. Papas

12 Wednesday
HC 8:15 am Kenneth & Lida Smith

13 Thursday
HC 8:00 am Len & Marie Dornberger (LI)
60th Wedding Anniversary
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

14 Friday
HC 8:00 am Banez & Timtishin Families

15 Saturday
HC 9:00 am Manuel D. Rocha
HC 5:00 pm Robert Sadusky Jr.

16 Sunday
HC 7:30 am Thomas H. Combs
ICC 8:30 am William F. & Ann R. Sullivan
HC 9:30 am Msgt. Harry & Fram Heltinger
ICC 11:00 am Michael Brelia
HC 11:30 am For the People
ICC 1:30 pm For the People

Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of parishioners of Holy Cross.

Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the

Adoration Chapel

"A Holy Hour before the blessed sacrament is worth more than a thousand years of human glory." ST. PADRE PIO You don't need a time if you cannot make a commitment. Please feel free to come in and sit with our Lord, when you can! Contact JOHN MURPHY 302-233-1779, text, or email jkm2015@verizon.net

Times Available are:
Sunday 6-7am, 7-8am,
10-11am,5-6pm, 6-7pm, 8-9pm
Tuesday 6-7am, 3-4pm
Thursday 6-7am, 8-9pm
Friday 5-6pm
Saturday 12-1pm, 7-8pm, 8-9pm

faith in action

faith in action

AUGUST 15/16, 2026

	EMHC		SERVERS
5:00 PM	D. Darling L. Darling	K. Fanelli P. Gerard	J. Novack J. Novack
			LECTORS
			D. Dixon R. Fanelli
7:30 AM	S. Gede A. Wyllie	A. Fisher J. Fisher	T. Catipay S. Corpuz
			LECTORS
			C. Cuffee
9:30 AM	G. Wessel M. Wessel	T. Arndt D. Banach	J. Beugre C. Beugre
			LECTORS
			R. Alderman J. Amako
11:30 AM	B. Guzman M. Rivera	C. Garcia	D. Aguilar Y. Aguilar
			LECTORS
			N. Almengor A. Garcia

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	E. Costello		
			LECTORS
			D. Smith
11:00 AM	M. Soule		
			LECTORS
			Lausten Family

If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Altar Server, please all the Parish Office at Holy Cross. Leave your name and contact information.

As always, we can use more volunteers to become ministers to the sick and homebound. This ministry is growing daily and they so appreciate receiving Our Lord especially since they can't come to Mass. Sign up at the office if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

this & that

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of November 6-8, 2026. 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.

HOLY CROSS GOLF LEAGUE END OF SEASON TOURNAMENT:

Tee it up for Teens - 4th Annual Golf Benefit Thursday September 9th, Shotgun start at 10:00 AM. For more information contact Wes Grau (302) 270 - 8111 or Greg Coury (302) 883-4000

Adult Education Opportunities

Catechism in a Year: https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

Bible in a Year: In English: Father Mike Schmitz https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/

- **El próximo sábado es la Fiesta de la Asunción de la Santísima Virgen María**. Como cae en sábado, se elimina la obligación de asistir a misa. Nuestra misa del sábado por la mañana en Holy Cross será a las 9 de la mañana para la Fiesta de la Asunción.

- **La Virgen Peregrina:** La Virgen Peregrina está visitando casas, si usted desea que la imagen de la virgen peregrina visite su casa por una semana, hable con nuestra hermana Marta Espinosa.

- **Jesús te Invita a que pases una hora con El: Capilla de Adoración Eucarística**: «Ven y pase una hora con Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento. Para anotarse llame a la oficina parroquial.

- **Las clases de educación religiosa se imparten en la Escuela Primaria Holy Cross Para más información comuníquese con**: Sra. Tammy Korosec Coordinadora de Educación Religiosa email -tkorosec@holycrossdover.org o llame al 302.674.5787 ext 122

- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ** ¿Sabías que...? ¡Sin sacerdotes, No hay Sacramentos! Existe un grupo internacional de católicos que rezan diariamente por un sacerdote, y aquí en Holy Cross tenemos un grupo dedicado a nuestro propio sacerdote. Este grupo se basa en que siete mujeres hacen una Hora Santa ante nuestro Sumo Sacerdote Eucarístico, Jesús, por un sacerdote, todos los días, todas las semanas, durante todo un año… de ahí el nombre de Apostolado de las Siete Hermanitas. Nos encantaría que te unieras a esta iniciativa. Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersaposto-late2023@gmail.com

- **Voluntarios**: Se necesitan catequistas para el año escolar 2026-2027º si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-Bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787.

- CONVIÉRTETE EN FELIGRÉS REGISTRADO HOY! Damos la bienvenida a todos los visitantes y recién llegados a nuestra parroquia. Si desea registrarse, por favor pase por la Oficina Parroquial.

++

PARROQUIA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION- MARYDEL

- **Inscripciones para la Escuela Dominical:** Ya se están recibiendo inscripciones para el próximo año. Por favor, inscriban a sus hijos ahora para asegurar su lugar en una clase aquí en la Inmaculada Concepción.

- **Se necesitan catequistas para el año escolar 2026-2027**. Si desean colaborar con la Educación Religiosa o con la Escuela Bíblica de Verano, por favor comuníquense con Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939. Ofrecemos clases desde septiembre hasta mayo. Se proporcionará capacitación y formación. Por favor, disciernan si esta es su manera de contribuir con la comunidad de la Iglesia.

- **Todos están invitados** todos los Jueves a la Santa Misa a las 6pm. A las 7pm Adoración al Santísimo Sacramento y Confesiones.

Religious Ed at Holy Cross

Registration for the 2026-27 Religious Education School Year is now open. Click on the QR Code to go to the website:

Adult Religious Education Classes

2026-27 Class – Beginning on September 8th

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

Have you been thinking about becoming Catholic?

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? Have you received some, but not all, of the Sacraments of Initiation? If so, you are invited to explore the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA).

OCIA is the process through which adults learn about the Catholic faith and prepare to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. Classes meet every Sunday, 1:00pm-3:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office, Building C, Early Learning Center, 2nd floor (back by the playground). Walk-in's are welcome! For further information, contact Tammy Korosec, Coordinator of Religious Education at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org, or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

Youth Ministry

Attention Volunteers please plan to attend our Confirmation/ Peer Leaders Meeting on Saturday, August 15.

- **3:00 PM** – Adult Volunteer Meeting
- **4:00 PM** – Peer Leader Meeting
- **5:00 PM** – Mass

We encourage our adult volunteers to stay and meet our Peer Leaders before we all attend the **5:00 PM Mass** together to conclude the afternoon. We are so excited for this Confirmation year and all the wonderful things to come. Thank you for your willingness to serve and accompany our candidates on their faith journey! If you have any questions, please contact **Ashlyn Baynocky** at abaynocky@holycrossdover.org.

Registration for Confirmation Preparation 2027: May be found on the church website under Confirmation 2027.

Religious Education at ICC

SRE: Registrations are being taken now for next year. Please get your children registered now to save their place in a class here at Immaculate Conception. $50 per child, but if you are unable to pay at this time let us know. Do not let your child's religious formation lapse do to finances.

Catechists, assistants, and aids are needed for the 2026-2027 school year. Kindergarten, Grade 5, OCIA, Confirmation Prep and assistants for several grades. We have classes from September -May. Training and formation provided. Please decern whether this is your way of giving back to the Church community. Any questions, please feel free to contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception:

Religious Education- In need of persons with a desire to broaden your faith while teaching others the Catholic faith. Call Alicia Poppiti 410-482-8939 to inquire. Kindergarten and 5th grade, and sacramental prep Catechist needed.

Dear Parishioners,

As we move into this last stretch of summer, there is an unmistakable sense of excitement on our Holy Cross campus. While many families are still enjoying vacations, time together, and well deserved relaxation, preparations for another wonderful school year are well underway. Before we know it, our hallways will once again be filled with smiling faces, joyful laughter, and the energy that makes Holy Cross such a special place.

This past week, several members of our Holy Cross faculty and staff, along with myself, traveled to Tennessee to attend the Innovate Educational Conference. At Holy Cross, we firmly believe that investing in our teachers is one of the greatest investments we can make in our students. While we provide ongoing professional development throughout the school year and through the Diocese of Wilmington, the summer months also provide a valuable opportunity to learn from and collaborate with educators from across the country.

The conference focused on leadership, innovation, and strengthening school communities. Throughout the sessions, I found myself reflecting on how truly blessed we are at Holy Cross. Our greatest strength is the incredible community that surrounds our school. As a Catholic school, we have the privilege of placing Christ at the center of everything we do. That shared faith unites us, inspires us, and reminds us that education is about much more than academics. It is about forming hearts, minds, and disciples. By continuing to learn, grow, and challenge ourselves as educators, we are ensuring that Holy Cross remains a place where every child is known, loved, and encouraged to reach their fullest potential.

This coming week marks the final stretch of what feels like summer on campus. Our maintenance team and contractors are putting the finishing touches on several exciting improvements throughout the school. Freshly refinished floors, newly painted hallways, a beautifully renovated cafeteria, and our brand new teacher workroom have transformed our campus. We cannot wait for our students and teachers to enjoy these updated spaces.

These projects would not have been possible without the generosity and dedication of so many people. We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs. Andrea Lewis for her generous donation that made our new teacher workroom and cafeteria freezer possible. Thank you to Mr. Brian Lessard for his countless hours of work in bringing the teacher workroom to life. We are also incredibly grateful to Mr. Francesco Iacono and his team for painting our school and creating beautiful faith inspired murals that will remind our students each day of God's presence. Finally, a heartfelt thank you goes to our maintenance team Mr. Justin Wurzel and Mr. Earl. Their hard work, dedication, and willingness to do whatever is needed truly keep our school running smoothly each and every day.

I would also like to congratulate and thank our newly elected Home and School Association officers. Even during the summer months, they have been working diligently to strengthen the organization, update its bylaws, and begin planning exciting events for the upcoming school year. I look forward to introducing this outstanding team, along with our newest faculty and staff members, in next week's bulletin.

As teachers begin returning to campus to prepare their classrooms, the excitement continues to build. It is always one of my favorite times of the year as the school slowly comes back to life. I cannot wait to welcome our faculty and staff back, hear about their summer adventures, and begin another incredible year together with our Holy Cross family.

As always, thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and unwavering support of Holy Cross Catholic School. We look forward to sharing more exciting introductions and updates with you next week.

God Bless,

Mrs. Mallory O'Mara
Principal

9 de agosto de 2026. Semana 19 del Tiempo Ordinario.

Dios le dice al profeta Elías, quédate en el monte Horeb y estate atento porque el Señor va a pasar. Vino primero un viento huracanado, que partía las montañas y resquebrajaba las rocas; pero el Señor no estaba en el viento. Se produjo después un terremoto; pero el Señor no estaba en el terremoto. Luego vino un fuego; pero el Señor no estaba en el fuego. Dios no está en el viento fuerte; Dios no está en el terremoto y Dios tampoco está en el fuego. ¿Dónde estamos buscando a Dios nosotros? Muchas veces nos sucede lo mismo que el profeta Elías, buscamos a Dios en el terremoto, presenciamos una catastrofe y lo primero que pensamos es que Dios está allí, que Dios mandó la destrucción y debemos tener mucho miedo, porque podrían venir peores desgracias. La superstición es contraria a la fe. Hay muchos cristianos que vienen a la misa todos los domingos, leen la palabra de Dios, escuchan la palabra de Dios, algunos hasta predican la palabra de Dios, comulgan el cuerpo de Cristo, pero son supersticiosos, esto significa que no tienen fe, sólo son muy emocionales y piensan que la fe es un acto parecido a la magia. Por ejemplo: una persona no puede experimentar un acontecimiento negativo, como la muerte de un ser querido, la perdida de un trabajo, la perdida de la salud, porque ya están pensando que alguien les está haciendo brujería que ya Dios no está con ellos, se sienten completamente abandonados por Dios y por supuesto que esta sensación emocional es absolutamente falsa. El miedo se opone a la fe, de hecho el miedo no proviene de Dios. Dios no está en el huracán, no está en el terremoto y no está en el fuego. Esto me hace recordar aquel pasaje bíblico del Evangelio de San Lucas 13, 1-5 “En ese momento algunos le contaron a Jesús una matanza de galileos. Pilato los había hecho matar en el Templo, mezclando su sangre con la sangre de sus sacrificios. Jesús les replicó: ¿Creen ustedes que esos galileos eran más pecadores que los demás porque corrieron semejante suerte? Yo les digo que no. Y si ustedes no renuncian a sus caminos, perecerán del mismo modo. Y aquellas dieciocho personas que quedaron aplastadas cuando la torre de Siloé se derrumbó, ¿creen ustedes que eran más culpables que los demás habitantes de Jerusalén? Yo les aseguro que no. Y si ustedes no renuncian a sus caminos, todos perecerán de igual modo. ¿Qué sucede cuando mi prójimo sufre una desgracia? Hay gente que se pregunta: ¿Qué mal estará pagando? O algunos hasta se alegran y exclaman: “este es el momento que ansiosamente he estado esperando toda mi vida”. Podríamos estar buscando a Dios en el lugar equivocado. De igual forma, esto me hace recordar, a aquellos predicadores que usualmente aparecen en las redes sociales, apenas se dan cuenta que algún país hubo un tsunami; un terremoto; una erupción volcánica e incluso una guerra, inmediatamente comienzan a predicar que el Reino de Dios viene pronto, arrepientete y cambia de vida. ¿Cómo saben ellos que Dios está allí en esos acontecientos? ¿Qué certeza tienen? Nadie debería creer en Dios teniendo como fundamento el miedo. El amor hacia Dios no nace del miedo, pero muchos predicadores infunden el miedo, crean el miedo, con un único fin, que la gente acepte a Cristo, partiendo desde el miedo. Dios NO es un monstruo. Dios es amor. El Apóstol San Pablo dice: “todos pecaron y todos están privados de la gloria de Dios”. Nadie debería sentirse excluido de esta sentencia del Apóstol, todos estamos dentro de ella. Todos somos pecadores, todos tenemos la misma inclinación hacia el pecado, nadie está exento, todos estamos en la misma condición moral delante de Dios. No seamos supersticiosos y no busquemos a Dios en la desgracia. Dios no está allí. Dios todo lo ha creado bueno.

Entonces ¿Dónde debemos buscar a Dios? Dios está en el silencio; Dios NO está en el ruido. Dios NO está en la superstición. Dios NO está en el miedo. En el silencio con Dios, se aisla el orgullo de nuestras vidas y maduramos en la fe. En el silencio podemos hablar con Dios, desde la intimidad de nuestra consciencia. El teólogo italiano Raniero Cantalamessa afirma que el aparente silencio o ausencia de Dios en algunos acontecimientos de nuestras vidas, es una prueba profunda para la vida de los creyentes y sólo se comprende desde el amor, la humildad y la noche oscura del espíritu.

Sinceramente,

Padre Padilla