



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

December 12, 2021 Third Sunday Advent/Our Lady of Guadalupe

holycross

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
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

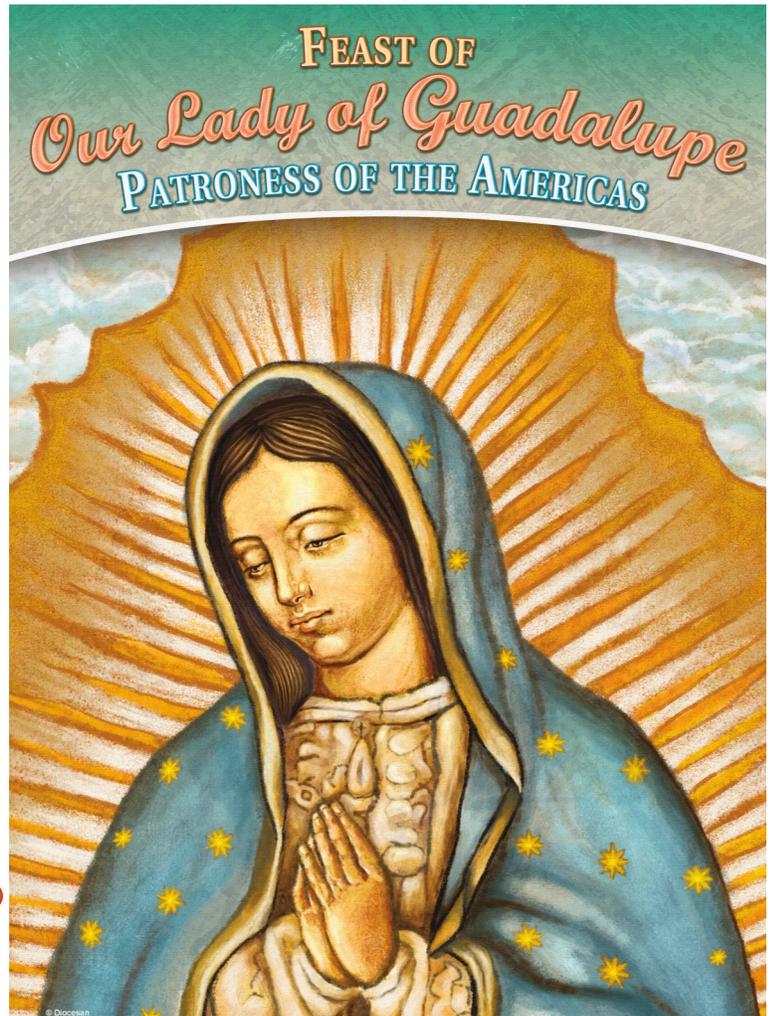
Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am—9 pm



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

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

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.

MASS BOOK 2022 (HC)

The **Mass Book for 2022 is now open.** Due to the reduced number of Masses we are currently offering, we must restrict the number of requests. Please see below:

1. You can **request ONLY 3 Masses** and payment of \$10 per Mass is required at the time of the request.
2. Requests **MUST** be written out providing **your name, phone number, email, maximum three requests listing date and time of request (with alternative dates) and with person's name (remember intention can be for one person or members of same family only for the intentions).** We will do our best to honor your request. *Please note we are only offering the 8 am Masses Monday through Saturday, 5 pm Saturday Mass, Sunday 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am Spanish Masses.*
3. Requests for the Church tabernacle candle or Adoration Chapel candle can also be made. \$10 per request. Limit **one** request per person.

Please call the office with any questions.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

7 PM

VISITING PRIESTS WILL ALSO BE PRESENT TO HEAR CONFESSIONS.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

November 28, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$30,036	\$26,000	\$4,036
YTD	\$558,010	\$569,300	(\$11,290)
Needs	\$2,139	\$1,480	\$659

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending November 28, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,208
2nd	\$137

For Holy Cross, you can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

We appreciate your generosity to the church.

Dear Parishioners,

Frank Sinatra once crooned “Luck be a lady to-night.” In the 1940s movie “Guys and Dolls,” the character that sings that song is a gambler who hopes that he will win a bet, because the outcome of that gamble will decide whether or not he is able to save his relationship with the girl he loves. There is a lady whom we as Catholics love, but our relationship to her, as our Mother, was not granted by a roll of the dice; rather, it was granted to us by the love of Christ. It is not a gamble, but a certainty. And that Mother is Mary, our most Blessed Mother. She is the Queen of all saints, Mother of God, Mother and Model of the Church, and the one who we call on in prayer to “pray for us sinners; now and at the hour of our death.” Because of this special role of Mary in our faith, she is honored with many holy days every year – and there are two important Marian days in December. One of those days was observed this past week, namely: The Immaculate Conception (December 8) and, today, on December 12, landing on this Third Sunday of Advent, is the Feast of our Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Name and Rank. You might wonder why, if this Feast of our Our Lady of Guadalupe is so very significant, we are not celebrating at Mass. As they say in show business and indeed in life, timing is everything! You see, in the formal observances during the Church year there is a designated hierarchy of dates. That hierarchy dictates that if any saint day lands on a Sunday, the observance of the Sunday takes precedence. Hence is St. Francis’ holy day lands on Sunday, and it is also the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the observance of that 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time takes precedence.

However. But as with all general rules, there are exceptions. If the holy day that lands on a Sunday is a solemnity (e.g., All Saints Day, Assumption, Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Joseph, etc.), and it occurs during “Ordinary Times” (i.e., not during Lent, Easter, Advent or Christmas season), that Solemnity trumps the Sunday observance – hence a few years back we celebrated All Saints Day on a Sunday.

However, the Sequel. An other exception is for Feasts of the Lord (e.g., Transfiguration, Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Annunciation, Presentation of the Lord, etc.). If these holy days that demarcate events so very significant in the life of Savior and the Church land on a Sunday in Ordinary Time, they also trump the Sunday.

Seasons in the Son. But then we have what are called “Privileged Seasons” – namely Advent, Lent, Christmas and Easter. These seasons are built around the Son of God and the Son of Mary, Jesus Christ, regarding his incarnation, birth, manifestation, passion, death, and resurrection. And during those Seasons nothing allows us to demur from the celebration of those Seasons’ Sundays (unless a specific celebration is mandated for a specific Sunday – like Holy Family Sunday on the 2nd Sunday Christmas, or Divine Mercy Sunday on the 2nd Sunday of Easter, to name but a few). Thus, the Season of Advent, Lent, Christmas and Easter – especially on Sunday – have a privilege of precedence over all other feasts.

Mary, Mary, not Contrary. That brings us back to the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe – this year it lands on a Sunday. And it follows those same liturgical rules. It ranks not as a solemnity but as feast; it is not a feast of the Lord, but rather a Marian Feast; and it is not a holy day of obligation. However, even if it were all of those things, it would still not be observed on a Sunday in Advent, because Advent – the season of waiting for the Lord – takes precedence, as it is a privileged season.

And One More “However.” All that being said, the Sunday in Advent doesn’t abolish the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, it merely suppresses its celebration at Mass and during the prayer of the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours. So, as a feast day for Our Lady, it can be noted in our private prayers, in our intercessions, etc. We can celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe festively in our homes and hearts, with songs, prayers, and veneration, even during Advent.

Meanwhile in Mexico. Now, let us step into the wayback machine. Let us set the dial to the year 1531 (way back)! On December 9, 1531, in what its now Mexico, a young convert to Catholicism named Juan Diego was on his way to Mass. As he was passing a location called Tepeyac Hill, he saw a brilliant light at the peak. Much like any of us going through Camden-Wyoming in the 25MPH speed zone, Juan Diego slowed down, and looked around. He heard a woman calling him to the top of the hill; and after climbing to the peak, he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary standing amidst divine illumination.

Mary Speaks. Mary spoke to Juan Diego, identifying herself and saying, “I am your merciful Mother, to you and to all mankind who love me and

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mano Salla	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/Susan Cutrona	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
holycrossover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Please see the insert in today's bulletin for the upcoming Christmas Schedule.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Holy Cross will be having its Advent Reconciliation Service on Monday, December 20, at 7 pm in the church. We will have several priests available that evening to hear confession.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

While waiting for your spouse to arrive, calmly remember the good person you are awaiting (instead of stewing if he or she is late). Or "wait on" your spouse in the sense of doing a favor for him or her.

PARENTING POINTERS

Although society may hurry Christmas by celebrating and gift giving before Dec. 25, help your children learn the value and self-discipline of delayed gratification.

SVDP MEETING (IC)

St. Vincent de Paul meeting will meet from now on in the office building every month on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (IC)

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 AM in the ICC Parish Hall. Knitters & crocheters Welcome. Questions call Karen Cairns 302-382-9316

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 19

FOURTH SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING" MICAH 5:1-4

In Bethlehem, the prophet declares, the savior will be born.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

Christ came into the world to do God's will.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth declares Mary to be of all women "the most Blessed".

SAMARITAN GIVING TREE

This year, we will continue with our Giving Tree for the Samaritans. We would still like to collect monetary donations in order to help those in need. We have our Samaritan Tree in the Gathering Space with envelopes on it. All funds received will go into the Samaritan account so we can then help those in need who contact us and are cleared that they truly need help. Please consider making a donation to the Samaritans through this Giving Tree so we will have funds available to help those in need throughout the year. Take an envelope from the tree and return it to the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket in the envelope. All funds go into the Samaritan account. Do not leave checks or money at the tree.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Christmas decorations (such as wreaths, poinsettias, blankets, etc.) are permitted from December 1st until March 1st. As always, thank you for your understanding and cooperation in maintaining our sacred grounds. For more information, contact Len Dornberger at 674-5787 x135.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, December 18th, tune-in for our annual Christmas program featuring Bishop William Koenig's first Christmas message as Bishop of Wilmington, and greetings from priests and deacons of Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at facebook.com/CatholicForum.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 11-13, 2022 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strict-

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER

13 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Cy Morgan
14 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	James and Elizabeth Sinclair
15 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Karen M. Gallagher
16 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Mark Kropiewnicki
ICC 6:30 pm	For the People
17 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Ludwik Kosir and DM Kosior Family
18 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Mark Tigani
HC 5 pm	Martin Belt
19 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Dr. Robert Scacheri (LI)
ICC 8:30 am	James & Elizabeth Griffith
HC 9:30 am	F. Marie Weaver
ICC 11 am	Alexis, Carl & Marlene DeFrancesco
HC 11:30 am	Sheila Berninger
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

ly confidential.

VOCATIONS

Holiness is a challenge for us all, whatever our specific vocations. We are called to be holy in all aspects of our lives. This is an ongoing process, often slowed by setbacks. When the saints were alive, they did not regard themselves as saints; rather, they knew they were sinners — and they strived to be saints. The process of becoming holy is, even for saints, painful and filled with struggle. Know you are a sinner; strive to be a saint.

The Serra for priestly and religious vocations

MASS MINISTERS DEC 18/19

HOLY CROSS

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 P M D. Novack V. Pearl J. Salamone C. Helwig L. Curley

LECTORS

D. Dixon

7:30 A M C. Brown A. Fischer J. Fischer S. Hands A. Costa M. Costa

LECTORS

J. Davis

9:30 A M J. McIlvain L. Olmsted G. Richard T. Arndt C. Robinson A. Torbert B. Torbert

C. Parks

11:30 A M M. Ramirez E. Vincente T. Hernandez C. Costes K. Espinosa A. Betancourt

LECTORS

N. Almengor

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 A M B. Lawson

LECTORS

K. Cairn

11:00 A M L. Soule

LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00 P M

LECTORS

- Attention Holy Cross liturgical ministers: If you have not responded to our request to send in updated information on which ministry you are involved with, your name, contact information, and your ministry you are involved with, please do so now so we can get you on our next schedule. If we don't hear from you, we cannot place you on the schedule. Contact M. Dornberger at 674-5787, ext 116, or email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org

WANTED—PICKUP TRUCK (HC)

Holy Cross Parish is in need of a used pick up truck for our maintenance department. Our current pick up has died and is beyond repair. If you have, or know of someone who would like to donate a used pickup that is in good condition to the parish, please contact the Parish Office, extension 113. Thank you for your consideration.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you and/or your family.

SUNDAY 7 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 2 pm

FRIDAY 8 am, 7 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm

HEAP APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities is taking applications for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** for the upcoming heating season. This federally-funded program assists low-income Delawareans with heating bills through direct payments to home energy suppliers. The benefit is based on a household's income, size, and type of fuel.

In order to qualify, you must make an appointment with Catholic Charities. Call your local Catholic Charities office. Regular office hours are 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. In Kent County, call 302-674-1782.

SAMARITAN DONATIONS

We will continue to collection donations for our upcoming Christmas baskets. Again, any canned goods, juices, etc can be placed on the tables. We are in need of small creamers, sugars, and coffee.

The freezers are available to place any frozen meat items. We can use hams and turkeys please.

NUESTA FAMILIA HISPANA

POSADAS: Diciembre 16-24. Este año las Posadas serán presenciales. Tradicionalmente la primera Posada de Holy Cross es la Posada de la iglesia o del Padre, si alguien quiera unirse o ayudar con esta Posada hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Puede colaborar con Tamales, Atole, Piñatas, Refrescos, Buñuelos, Dulce, Aguinaldos, platos, vasos y utensilios desechables. Les invitamos a que participen de las posadas.

Jueves 16, de Diciembre:

“La humildad para convivir con armonía”
Nombre: La Parroquia Comunidad
Dirección: 631 South State St.
Dover DE 19901

Viernes 17, de Diciembre:

“La Fortaleza para realizar los deberes diarios”
Nombre : : Petrona Ramírez
Dirección: 139 Carnation Dr.
Magnolia /DE

Sabado 18, de Diciembre:

“El desprendimiento
Nombre: : Familia Martínez
Dirección: 10 Gander Dr.
Clayton , DE 19938
Teléfono 302-535-1413

Domingo 19, de Diciembre:

“La caridad para amar al prójimo”
Nombre: Familia Morales
Dirección:5 Pinewood Acres Ave.
Dover, DE19901

Lunes 20, de Diciembre

“La confianza en la misericordia divina”
Nombre: González-Pitti/ Gómez/Guzmán
Dirección: 1008 Quail Run.
Camden, DE 19934
Teléfono: 302-270-6035

Martes 21, de Diciembre

“La justicia para obrar con rectitud”
Nombre: Familias De La Paz, Alcántara, Rivas, Rivera,
Dirección: 1061 South Little Creek Lot 52.Dover DE 19901

Miércoles 22, de Diciembre:

“La pureza para rechazar lo maligno”
Nombre: Familia Cortes
Dirección: 2381 White Oak Road
Dover DE 19901

Jueves 23, de Diciembre:

“La alegría para alcanzar el cielo”
Nombre: Familia Serrano
Dirección: 66 Roberts Dr. Dover DE 19901

Viernes 24, de Diciembre: Iglesia

La Santa Misa de Nochebuena 8:45 PM
Nuestro sincero agradecimiento a las familias que nos acogieron en sus hogares. Que Dios los Bendiga!

“Participemos con alegría compartiendo con FE el Nacimiento de Nuestro Salvador Que ésta Navidad nos enseñe a vivir en Unidad, Amor y Paz.” “La generosidad para entregarse al servicio de Dios”

- 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 ext. 118
- Symbolon Explicación de la fe católica: conocimiento de la fe. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 1
- En español en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. Con el padre Oscar y la Sra. Arline. Todos los viernes a las 6:00 – 8:00 PM de la tarde el ELC. Si está interesado hable con la Sra. Arline.
- En inglés en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción con la Sra. Alicia. Todos los lunes a las 7:00P.M. La primera parte continuara hasta el13 de diciembre y la segunda parte comenzara después del Año Nuevo.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

No habrá clases el 26 de diciembre ni el 2 de enero 2022. Se reanudaran el día 9 de enero 2022. Primera Reconciliacion el próximo 14 de diciembre en el salón de 6:30-7:30PM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class – December 19 at 3:30 pm

Next Class: January 9, 2022

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.
- 7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.
- No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
- Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

- Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm
- Grades K-1 -5:20pm
- Grades 2- 5:25pm
- Grades 3-4 5:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class December 12th; 10:30am-12:30pm in the Matthew/Mark Room;

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION (Corrected Information)

Advent is around the corner! Holy Cross is offering the class Advent: Preparing for Christ Cycle C. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at 9 am or 7 pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the Early Learning Center upstairs. Classes will begin on November 30, 2021. There will be a \$17 for the workbook that accompanies the class.

If you are interested in attending, please register by either emailing Tammy Korosec at

tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or calling (302) 674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Makeup Classes for Confirmation:

Will take place on Sunday, December 19 in the Matthew/Mark room.

Please check your letter regarding time for the class(es) you have missed.

Next Class for Confirmation:

Sunday, January 9 at 1 and 4 pm and Wednesday, January 12 at 6 pm.

Youth Choir—If you are interested in assisting with music at the 5 pm Saturday Mass on the third Saturday of the month, please contact the Parish Office. We are in need of singers, percussion, piano and guitars. Rehearsal is each Tuesday evening at 6:30 in the choir room.

SRE (IC)

SRE next Classes: Sunday, December 12 and 19th 9:40-10:50am.

There will be no SRE on Sunday, December 26 or January 2, due to the Christmas Holiday.

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 9th.

Sacraments:

Youth confirmation prep- Next session will be Sunday, December 12th, 2:30-5pm in the hall

1st Reconciliation Prep- next session on Tuesday, December 14th at 6:30-7:30pm in hall

Symbolon will finish up on January 3rd.

Part 2: Living the Faith, will begin soon after, with schedule to be posted. You are welcome to join, no need to have participated in Part 1: Knowing the Faith, you can catch up later.

Symbolon is your guide to the depth and breadth of the Catholic Faith. By bearing witness to the beauty of the teachings and the Tradition of the Catholic Church, Symbolon enables you to grow in knowledge of the Catholic Faith and in relationship with our Lord along with others in your community. Through this comprehensive program, we hope God’s truth and grace will transform your life.

It was 4:00; a.m. that is and it would be a good three hours before the sun would rise. It wasn't his normal to rise and shine, but today was different. Today was like other like it where my father-in-law would be ready to walk out the door with his packed breakfast and lunch, stepping out into the cold early morning air, he was ready for a day across the bridge. Across the bridge means Baltimore; in the parlance of those who are natives of the Eastern Shore. It had to be something important if you were going across the bridge for anything, because spoken in true native fashion, "if you can't get it down here, you don't need it!" He had one stop to make before heading west, and that was to be made at the house next door. His neighbor was ready for departure. Under great physical duress the man; who was only in his early fifties had been troubled by several physical maladies in his time and rendering him unable to care for himself. My father-in-law was taking his neighbor to Baltimore for his dialysis treatment at John Hopkins Hospital. My father-in-law took his neighbor for his treatments every week because there was no one else who could.

There came a knock on the door. My father-on-law was eating his breakfast. Now, living in a senior citizen community, he had become a trusted go-to for anyone who need anything, at any time. In answering the door, my father-in-law was greeted by one of his neighbors who was wheelchair bound. The man needed to go to the bank. My father-in-law is the only person I have ever know who people trusted enough to have his name placed on their banking accounts so he could conduct business for them when they were unable. He was the kindest, most selfless and respected man I have ever known.

I have noted on people's attire the words "Be Kind." I have seen it on stickers people have placed on their automobile windows. Be Kind. I have seen it on great big signs along the highways and byways. It is told to us in scripture. Be Kind. Why is it that we have to be told? Why is it that we have to be reminded to be kind? In my mind, there should be a feeling of joy when expressing kindness, one to another. I think love, joy, and kindness are all wrapped up in a single package, tied up with a pretty bow.

We light the rose-colored candle in this third week of Advent. The rose-colored candle is symbolic of joy. The third Sunday is known as Gaudete Sunday, meaning joy in Latin. How does one express joy? Is there an outward sign, of some sort? I suppose there's great exuberance, but then there are tears of joy, as well. Maybe there is no outward sign, just a peaceful, easy feeling in the heart. My father-in-law never expressed great joy in being kind. In his own humble way, he just felt he was doing what he should for his fellow man. But at the end of the day, he knew he had done his part to ease the burdens of someone else.

I have been told by some pretty important people that Holy Cross students are kind. "You have nice kids in your school, Mrs. Pollitt." A very important person (he shall remain nameless) told me that. I admit to feeling quite proud of our students. He was right, though. Now, I freely admit to having told many a prospective family that HC is not a school of geniuses and angels; we have normal kids. But our normal kids are essentially respectful and kind to all those they meet. This is Mrs. Arndt's first year at HC. Not too very long ago, she remarked at how surprised she was at the level of kindness and respectfulness shown by our students. Our students know that their teachers and I love and respect them very much. It all goes into the mix when describing the overall peaceful environment of HCS.

I had been called to speak with a student. I was walking into the outer office when I heard someone crying. I knew that the child I had been called upon to speak to would not be distressed in any way, so I immediately directed my attention to my friend who was visibly distraught, his head resting on his forearms hiding his head, sobbing. Resting my hands on his arms, I gently called his name. Allowing him time to collect himself, I inquired as to the reason behind his distress. He shared that he had lost a pocket watch that his mother had purchased for him on a trip they had taken together. He had lost it at recess and he was so afraid that before he could get back to his search, the second graders might find it, or further bury it in the playground mulch. He was so afraid he would never see it again. I went back to my office to get my coat and radio. We were going out to see what we could see. One arm in the sleeve of my jacket, I heard Mrs. Arndt call back that the fifth grade was on their way out to help find the watch. I left them to it. I still had a student waiting for me.

Later, I received this email from Mrs. Bydlon:

In Religion class we are always talking about kindness and ways we can show it to one another daily.

When we got there we encountered 2nd grade (all masks were up). I explained what happened to Mrs. Wicks and she and her 2nd grade class helped us scour the playground to find our lost item.

God must have intervened, because Aiden was able to find it. Magnus was so happy he hugged Aiden (I'm sorry, I know COVID) and he cried, but this time tears of joy and appreciation. Everyone outside clapped and we made our way back to class. However, on our way back inside Magnus, walked next to me and asked, "why would they do that for me?" I replied, because we are a family.

I was so moved by this I just had to share. I have had the pleasure of working with children from many different backgrounds and I have never seen kindness and true appreciation that I saw today, anywhere else.

Holy Cross is truly a unique and special place. In 5th grade, these students showed more concern for one person than I have seen many adults display throughout a lifetime. It speaks volumes to what we teach and how to lead by example at Holy Cross.

I couldn't be more proud of my kids, and our school community.

Thank You. Is there anything left to be said?

trust in me and invoke my help. Therefore, go to the dwelling of the Bishop in Mexico City and say that the Virgin Mary sent you to make known to him her great desire." Juan Diego went to the Bishop who didn't believe his story; he asked Juan to seek a sign to bear out his claim. On December 12, Juan Diego encountered our Blessed Mother on a road near Tepeyac Hill. He asked her for a sign he could take to the Bishop. Mary told him to climb to the hilltop, pick the flowers there and bring them to her. This seemed odd to him, as no flowers bloomed at this time of the year, and certainly not on a stony summit. But more stunned than a vegetarian at a pig roast, Juan Diego did find flowers there. He cut them, put them in his *tilma* (cloak) and brought them to Mary who arranged them; she then sent Juan Diego to the Bishop with this sign to persuade him.

Juan Diego's Assumption? Juan Diego made the assumption that the "sign" that Mary put forth was these beautiful flowers found at a place and in a season when they shouldn't be blooming. So, he went to the Bishop, and opened his *tilma* to show forth the sign. The flowers fell onto the floor. But to the amazement of Juan Diego and the Bishop, the inside of the *tilma* now bore an intricate colored portrait of the Blessed Virgin, just as Juan Diego had previously described her. In a later apparition Mary made known that the image on that *tilma* was be known as "Santa Maria de Guadalupe" (or in common parlance, Our Lady of Guadalupe). Thus, on December 12, 1531, the Church confirmed Mary's first apparition in the New World. Soon thereafter, 8,000,000 natives converted to Catholicism, and from then on, the Church in Mexico thrived and grew. Today Mexico boasts a Catholic population of over 100,000,000, and is the second largest Catholic country in the world (second only to Brazil, with approximately 140,000,000).

Never a Dull Moment. Much like Ginsu Knives advertised on TV infomercials in days gone by, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has never dulled. As a matter of fact, in defiance of science ("defiance of science" — hey I'm a poet and didn't know it) and age, the image of Our Lady on that cloak has miraculously remained crisp and brilliant for 490 years. The cloak and its image are on display at Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City where it hangs reverently behind the main altar.

The Popes and Our Lady. In 1754, Pope Benedict XIV declared Our Lady of Guadalupe patroness of "New Spain" (i.e., Mexico, Central America, and Northern South America), and added prayers into the Mass for her holy day. The famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was granted a decree of a canonical coronation on February 8, 1887 by Pope Leo XIII and coronated in October 1895. In 1910, Pope Pius X proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe patroness of all Latin America. Then in 1945, Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, was declared Patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII. Pope St. John Paul beatified Juan Diego in 1998, and canonized him St. Juan Diego in 2002 (with his feast day on December 9). That same Pope, in 1999, extended the December 12th holy day of Our Lady of Guadalupe to the Church's universal (world-wide) liturgical calendar.

In this Holy Season of Advent in which we prepare for the Birth of our Savior, it is right and just that we pause to remember his Mother, and our Mother, Mary most holy. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

