



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 13, 2020

3rd Sunday of Advent

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-Friday, 12:10 pm also
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-Midnight (temporarily closed)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

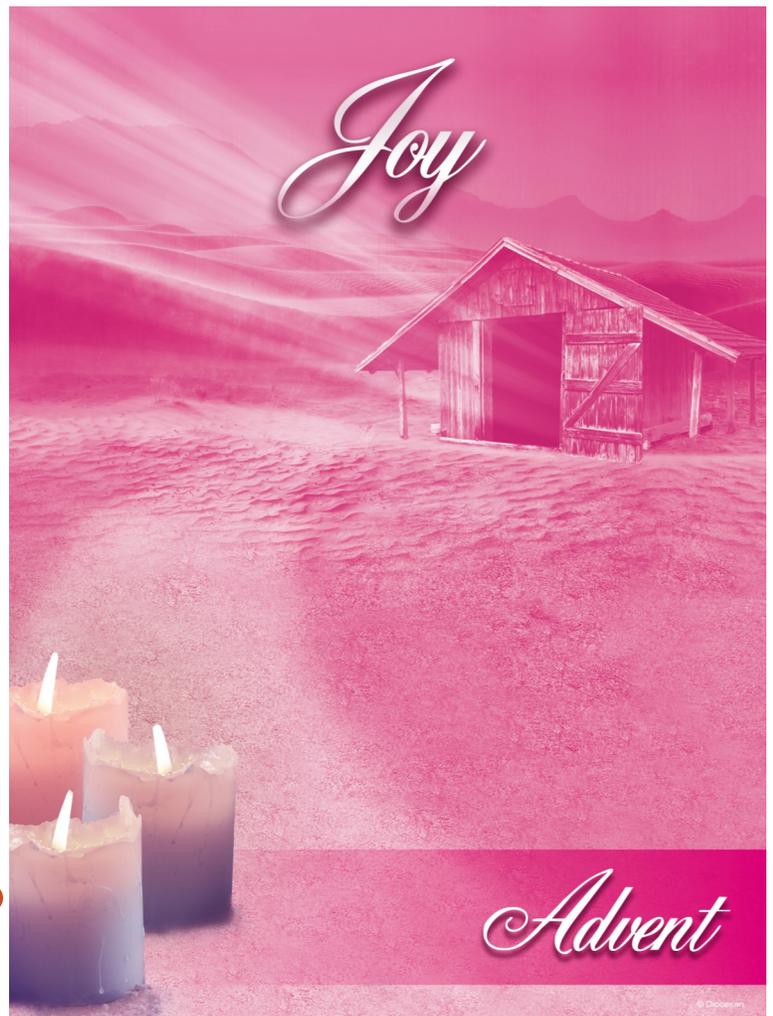
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish
Saturday, 9 am, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, after 9:00 am Mass
Thursday, 6:30 pm

icc



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 parish 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.

THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

Check out our websites

holycrossover.org

iccmaryl.org

Holy Cross Church is unlocked and available for private prayer. The doors will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday, and 7 am to 7 pm on Sunday.

Immaculate Conception will be open daily 9 am to 7 pm.

Daily Mass at HC at 8 am Monday through Saturday. Weekend Masses at Holy Cross are Saturday evening 5 pm, Sunday at 7:30 and 9:30 am, 11:30 am Spanish.

Weekend Masses at ICC are Sunday at 8:30 and 11 am, and 1 pm Spanish. Also a 6 pm Mass Thursday and 9 am Mass on Saturday morning, both in Spanish

We are limiting access to the parish offices, so you can buzz when you stop by, or call and leave messages and we will get back to you; or, you can email us. Stay safe and stay healthy.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

November 29, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$22,389	\$27,760	(5,371)
YTD	\$527,660	\$609,200	(\$81,540)
Needs	\$1,683	\$1,550	\$133

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending November 29, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,840
Second	\$100

Thank you for your offering. It is with your continued support and the sharing of your time and talent that the ministries, programs, and activities of Holy Cross and ICC are made possible.

“Whatever you give to the Lord, He will return to you a hundred fold.”

Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time. May are still not attending Mass but we still need your support. 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 will call you back . Thank you for your continued support.

Dear Parishioners,

This week's column is a continuation of last week's column where I began to introduce the Saints of Advent. I hope you enjoy learning something about each Saint and can use this time to continue praying and preparing for the coming of Our Lord.

St. Lucy (December 13). Sicilian-born St. Lucy came from a noble family and was wealthy. She took a vow of virginity and divested herself of all of her wealth, giving it to the poor. A man who had hoped to marry Lucy one day was ticked off by this and he appealed the local authorities that Lucy should be his. They concurred and approved that this man could violate Lucy's virginity. When he approached her, she stood firmly in place and was unable to be moved; he then gouged her eyes out. She was later beheaded, suffering martyrdom but remained a virgin. It is said that when her body was being prepared for burial, her eyes were restored. This was God's way of saying to the faithful: "I Love Lucy." And he did, greatly. She is the patron saint of the blind and those with eye trouble.

St. John of the Cross (December 14). St. John of the Cross bore many crosses. One of his greatest achievements yielded him his greatest sufferings: He worked to reform his Carmelite order, and while his reform was approved by the powers-that-be, the senior members of the order did not take kindly to John's changes. They accused him of apostasy and imprisoned him; eventually he was released but was oft treated badly by his brethren. His greatest writing was a book called "Dark Night of the Soul" – while not as exciting as "The Dark Knight" movies – it was an incredibly powerful spiritual work. St. John called the spiritual journey we are on "The Dark Night" because drawing closer to God's light means shedding much of the things of this world, which oft bind us in darkness. For John, life is journey from darkness to the light of Christ. He died in 1591 at the age of 49.

St. Peter Canisius (December 21). St. Peter Canisius was born in the Netherlands in 1521 around the time of the Protestant re-

volt, led by Luther. He became a priest in 1546. He is remembered as a great defender of the Church against the Protestants, the writer of many catechisms, and key player at the Church's Council of Trent.

St. John of Kanty (December 23). St. John of Kanty was a Polish priest, born in 1397 in the town of Kanty; he was known for his sanctity. The story is told that St. John was attacked by robbers who took everything from him. They asked him if he had anything more, and St. John replied that he didn't. After they left, he found two gold pieces sewn into his clothing. He took the two gold pieces and ran after the crooks. Not wanting to have lied, he told them that he did have more to give them and presented them with the two gold pieces. Initially they were excited at the prospects of so easily getting more loot (I guess you could say they were like kids in a Kanty store). However, the robbers were ultimately so moved by his St. John Kanty's honesty, they gave him back all of his belongings that they had stolen. Those two gold coins offered to the thieves by this great saint changed their lives; I guess that that was this saint's way of putting his two-cents in!

Ss. Adam and Eve (December 24). What? The folks that got the Godly eviction notice from their Creator are saints? In the Roman Martyrology, Adam and Eve are designated as Ss. Adam and Eve and their feast day, December 24, Christmas Eve. Here's the story:

It is the long tradition of the Church, especially the Eastern Church, that Adam and Eve were cast out of paradise (and, in some traditions, sent to the island of Ceylon/Sri Lanka) during which time they repented of their sin, worshipped God along with their children (Gen 4:26). Adam and Eve served their penance through hard work and suffering, which God had given to them as both a punishment and an opportunity (see Gen 3:16-19), died, and entered into the "limbo of the fathers." From there, along with all the holy men and women who died before Jesus, they were delivered by Jesus

(Continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F. Pastor
 Rev. Mano Salla Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn Pastor Emeritus
 Mr. Philip Belt Deacon
 Mr. John Harvey Deacon
 Mr. Robert McMullen Deacon
 Mr. Scott Peterson Deacon
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon

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
 Maryland, MD 21649-0399

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

GIVING TREE

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 your donation to Holy Cross through this Giving Tree so we will have funds available to help those in need. Take an envelope from the tree and return it to the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket in the envelope so we know it is to help those in need through the Samaritans. **Do not leave checks or money at the tree.**

LEAVING ITEMS IN CHURCH

Please **do not** leave cards, religious items, clothing, or other such items in the lobby area of the Gathering Space. We cannot accept any of these items at this time. They will all be thrown out.

SAMARITAN FOOD NEEDS (HC)

The Samaritans thank you for your generosity during this past Thanksgiving Holiday and throughout these past few months. Due to your generosity so far this calendar year, the Samaritans have helped 1,208 families, consisting of 2,239 adults, 3,307 children, making a total of 5,546 individuals. That is just awesome and wonderful.

We continue to collect items now in order to provide Christmas baskets for those in need. Please send in items such as instant mash potatoes, canned vegetables, puddings, soups, cereal, juices, pudding, and so on. We are also collecting hams for the baskets and they can be left in the freezer in the Samaritan drop off.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 20 4TH SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: 2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

David is getting ready for his next big project. Having overcome his enemies, he wonders if he now needs to build a house for the ark of God.

God, however, has different ideas of greatness.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 16:25-27

In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that the mystery which has puzzled generations of seekers of truth has now been resolved. The wisdom of God has been revealed in the person of Jesus.

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-38

We see two sides of Mary's character. She is a meek and humble servant of the Lord but she is also a strong and courageous young woman, able to ask sensible questions, even of an angel, the messenger of God.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Even though we are not opening the Adoration Chapel at this time, anyone who was on the normal adoration schedule is encouraged to come into the church to pray during your assigned hour. The church is unlocked from 7 am to 7 pm and Our Lord is waiting for you to come spend time with Him. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle all day long and would love for you to spend time praying. It's a great way to get back into the routine of praying during your scheduled hour.

VOCATIONS

Sisters are women just like you.

Women, just like you, who have families and friends, and who have come from parishes and neighborhoods and schools and jobs.

Women who have come to our area from other places.

Women, convinced that ministry within the Church is their right and their responsibility — that the vowed life and community is their vocation.

Women who serve wherever they are needed. In retreat centers and retreat houses, in parishes, schools, hospitals, homes, offices, from rural areas to the inner cities, on the streets, on justice and peace committees, on neighborhood organization boards and on parole boards, a part of commissions, agencies, institutes — everyday life.

Women who teach and preach and heal. Since their lifestyle is Gospel-centered, they do as Jesus did. The needs of the Church and the world are limitless, and so the ministry they do takes on many forms.

If this life appeals to you, make a call to serve Him. Contact the Vocations Office in your diocese.

Pray for vocations.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Veterans interred in our cemetery are being remembered and honored for their service to our country. On November 7th, members of the Cemetery Committee placed American flags on veterans graves marked with a veteran's plaque or a veteran's flag holder. Then on December 12th a large Christmas wreath was placed at the memorial area under the American flag. This wreath was made possible through the efforts of committee members Peggy Bell, John Bell and Barbara Boehmer. A special thanks to all mem-

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER

14 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Claudia Zuchowski
15 TUESDAY	
HC 6:30 am	Eileen Martin
HC 8:00 am	E. Mark Tigani, Jr.
16 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Mark Kropiewnicki
17 THURSDAY	
HC 6:30 am	Frank Trojan
HC 8:00 am	DM Ludwik & Kosior Families
18 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Esther Pura
19 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Maria Reyes
HC 5 pm	Brendan P. Ryanr
20 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Susan Adams
ICC 8:30 am	Elizabeth & James Griffith
HC 9:30 am	Robert Salemi
HC 11:30 am	Albert Clark
ICC 11 am	Richard Brusca
ICC 1 pm	For the People
HC 6 pm	Robert J. Gore, Jr.

Where we do not have 6:30 or 1 pm or 6 pm Masses, the intentions will still be said privately by one of the priests.

(LI = LIVING INTENTION
DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

bers of the Cemetery Committee for all they do for Holy Cross Cemetery.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Give your relationship the gift of quality time during the pandemic! Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight sessions presented on Sunday and Wednesday evenings from January 20 to February 14. Make Valentine's Day 2021 extra special as you learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! For more information visit our website at www.wwmelmar.org or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

MASS MINISTERS

PLEASE COME FORWARD TO HELP DISTRIBUTE HOLY COMMUNION AT THE MASS YOU ATTEND. THE PRIEST WILL INDICATE HOW MANY EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS ARE NEEDED.

Lector Schedule for December 2020

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass (HC)

- Dec 12 Dennis Dixon
- Dec 19 Lori Christiansen
- Dec 26 Fran Urick

7:30 am Mass (HC)

- Dec 13 Christina Cuffee
- Dec 20 Donna Kilby
- Dec 27 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass (HC)

- Dec 13 Tamra Baurys
- Dec 20 Colin Parks
- Dec 27 Mary Louise Sossich

At Immaculate Conception:

8:30 am Mass (ICC)

- Dec 13 Terry Thompson
- Dec 20 Karen Cairns

11:00 am Mass (ICC)

- Dec 13 Donna King
- Dec 20 Sharon Tucker

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at dbelt@holycrossdover.org so we can add you to the names of those who have already volunteered to lector. At ICC, please get in touch with Marilyn Dixon at mdixon@iccmarylodel.org Thank you.

We will need lectors for Christmas Masses. Call the office if interested in being a reader. Schedule is on the back page of this bulletin.

DIRECTORIES (HC)

The Parish Directories are in the Parish Office. If you would like to stop by the office to pick up your copy, please call ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it for you to pick up. Please do not just show up without calling first.

HOLY CROSS CELEBRATES 150 YRS.

We will place another order in December for our next order of the Anniversary Book. It makes a great gift,. So, if you would like to still purchase a copy, please call the office or send in your order form. The is a comprehensive coverage of our parish's history from 1870 to present day parish life is presented in nearly 80 beautifully designed pages. Numerous pictures, some in black & white while others are in vivid color, help to bring the material to life. Major sections include: a short biography of all our pastors since 1870, articles describing many of the important events through the years, and several more in-depth stories covering specific areas of our parish from both a historical and current perspective.

Go to HolyCrossDover.org and look under "Headings" to get a glimpse (teaser) of the book's content and to download the order form. The books are available in three levels of quality and are priced at \$9.00 (Good), \$18.00 (Very Good), and \$25.00 (Best). The variations include softback vs. hardback covers, paper type, and standard vs. premium color. Sample books can be viewed at the parish office receptionist desk. **Our second order is being placed this week. Please get your order if interested.**

RETURNING TO MASS

- Attendees must **wear a face covering (mask)**(when inside the Church ; **masks are to be worn over the nose and mouth and must be kept on during the entire Mass.**
- Pews have been marked off to accommodate social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is available as you enter the church.
- **When receiving Holy Communion, please remember to stay socially distanced.** We encourage you to receive Holy Communion in your hand, but **if you wish to receive on the tongue, you are asked to be at the end of the Communion line.** There will be no Cup distributed at this time.
- As you leave the church, please **do not gather in the Gathering Space** or parking lot.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

How about choosing one thing that gives you joy, say one prayer, and be thankful for one thing today. Share.

PARENTING POINTERS

God often comes through people we can identify with. Having trouble getting a message across to your kids? Try tuning into their world, their needs

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

Couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for mar-

riage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 12 - 14, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information or to register please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

YAH (YOUNG AT HEART) HC

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the seniors from the Young at Heart team. Please stay safe and we will see you in 2021. Watch the bulletin for when we will resume the meetings.

- El Ministerio Hispano de las parroquias gemelas de Holy Cross y la Inmaculada Concepción, y todos los que laboramos en la parroquia les deseamos unas fiestas navideñas lleno de agradecimiento, alegría, oración, esperanza, salud y amor. Reflexionemos en el verdadero sentido de la Navidad que es "Emanuel" que significa Dios con nosotros y está cimentado en lo profundo de la revelación divina manifestado en el hecho de que Dios nos ama tanto que decidió habitar entre nosotros, tanto en Belén con los pastores, como en nuestra propia familia. Para vivir la Navidad de una manera autentica este año puede ser difícil, sobre todo lo vivido, un año lleno de incertidumbre y aislamiento, de enfermedad y perdidas, ha sido un año de momentos muy difíciles, muchos hemos perdido seres queridos pero a pesar de todo lo vivido tenemos que estar agradecidos con Dios, que está entre nosotros, que todo lo ha creado, todo sostiene y todo, últimamente, conduce al bien. Estemos alegres porque nos ha nacido un Salvador, celebremos y oremos sin cesar por nosotros, nuestras familias y por toda la humanidad, para que podamos vencer el mal de la pandemia. Miremos al futuro con esperanza de que mañana sea mejor que hoy. El niño Dios vino al mundo por amor y dar amor. Que abramos nuestro corazón para que Jesús encuentre morada en ella. Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año Nuevo.

- **Misa de Nochebuena (24 de diciembre)**
⇒ **Holy Cross** En español a las 9:00 de la noche no habrá ninguna otra celebración
⇒ **La Inmaculada Concepción. En ingles 5:30 y Misa de Gallo (media noche) en español a las 7:00 de la noche no habrá ninguna otra celebración. Misa de Navidad: 9:00 de la mañana**

en ingles

- ⇒ **María Madre de Dios: Misa en Español Vigilia 31 de diciembre 7:00 de la noche en ambas parroquias**
- **El salón solo se usará solamente para la Santa Misa para las celebraciones del mes de diciembre..**
- **La Santa Misa durante el COVID -19** Las reglas de la pandemia siguen en vigor y todos tenemos la responsabilidad de protegernos y proteger a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.
 - Usar mascarillas cuando entra al templo durante todo el tiempo que permanezca adentro la mascarilla debe cubrir la nariz y la boca.
 - Desinfectante de manos está disponible al entrar a la iglesia.
 - Distanciamiento social, los asientos están marcados para que guarde su distancia.
 - Al recibir la Sagrada Comunión, recuerde mantenerse socialmente distanciado. Le recomendamos a recibir la Sagrada Comunión en su mano, pero si desea recibirla en la lengua, se le pide que esté al final de la línea de Comunión. No se distribuirá la Preciosa Sangre de Cristo en este momento.
 - Al salir de la iglesia, no se reúna en el Nártex ni en el estacionamiento.
 - Lavarnos las manos con frecuencia.
 - Si está enfermo quédese en casa. Protegemos nuestra salud y la salud del hermano especialmente los más vulnerables.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class December 6th 3:30-5:30

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office. No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter the building. Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.; Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows: Upstairs Grades 6-8 and sacramental prep 5:15; Down stairs (a teacher or assistant will escort to the ramp):

Gr. K-1 5:20 Gr. 2-3 5:25 Gr. 4-5 5:30

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.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

December 13th

10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room

Next Sessions January 17th

CONFIRMATION CLASSES (HC)

December 13 and December 16 classes are cancelled.

Our next class will be January 10 for Sunday class and January 13 for Wednesday class.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

Classes have been grouped by size of class to return on specific weeks.

Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement classes and RCIA to be in the computer center- on site starting December 13.

Group 1- grades 3, 6, in the hall, 7, 8 in the basement, and RCIA to be in the computer center -on site starting December 20th.

If you would prefer to have your children continue to do Religious Education at home please let me know,

Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or send me an email to dre@iccmmarydel.org

And be sure to pick up Unit 2.

Thank you! to all the Catechists that have prepared and adapted their lessons during this transition.

2020/21 FIRST REC/COMMUNION (ICC)

Our 6th session will be on Tuesday, December 15th

CONFIRMATION 2020-2021 (ICC)

Our next Prep session is Sunday, December 13th, 2:30-5pm in the Parish Hall.

This is for 8th grade and HS youth that are regis-

tered to begin Confirmation Prep.

This is for the youth only, no parents or Sponsors at this session.

FIRST COMMUNION 2020

Congratulations to the children and adults that received the Sacraments of the Initiation and the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Saturday, December 12th. Please keep in prayer all these children and their families

ADVENT RECONCILIATION (HC)

This year, we will offer several times for you to be able to go to Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. We cannot gather in one Advent Reconciliation Service for the Deanery as we have in the past few years because we have to keep the numbers gathering at one time to a limit.

With that in mind, these are the days we will offer Reconciliation at Holy Cross in December:

Saturday, December 12, 8:30 – 10 am

We will have 2 priests available

Monday, December 14, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

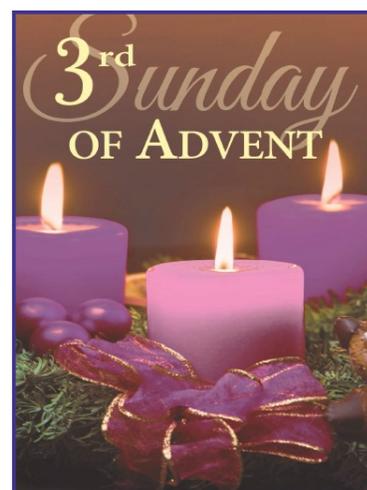
We will have 5 priests available

Saturday, December 19, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

We will have 5 priests available



Please take advantage of these times to go to Reconciliation and prepare for Christmas. Remember masks must be worn and social distancing must be kept as you are waiting in line.



I am at a loss for words. That doesn't happen. I've often said that I can't even say hello in less than fifty words! But, this time I am at a loss for words. Shocked and amazed. Dumbfounded. Who knew?

Giddy. Just giddy with excitement. That's the best descriptor I can think of for Mrs. Zink and Mrs. Bifferato. With each passing hour they became increasingly excited over the rising number—their confidence and optimism was building "I just know we're going to reach ten thousand." With heightened hopes "I can't believe it, I bet we get twenty thousand...."

The deal was sealed. I was destined to kiss a pig named Kevin Bacon!

It is with a great sense of humility that I extend my most sincere appreciation to those who have answered the call to support our school in our concerted effort to overcome the obstacles placed before us this year in our ability to raise funds.

- Our Holy Cross Families. I am humbled by your generosity, commitment and love for our school.
- Our Holy Cross Parishioners: Thank you for your continued support and allegiance to our school and to Catholic education.
- Our Holy Cross Alumni: Thank you. Your contributions symbolize and acknowledge the lifelong influence of a Catholic education.
- Our Holy Cross Faculty and Staff: Thank you for the demonstration of your ardent faith in Catholic education and affirmation of your commitment to the call to serve.
- The Dover Area Business Concerns: Thank you. By your generous donations you have demonstrated your belief in the importance of our mission in the community.

We find ourselves in the season of Advent. A season for watching and waiting. In our classrooms we are focusing on the meaning of the days leading up to the Christmas season and teaching the children that despite all that surrounds us in the secular world, it isn't Christmas just yet. It's a tough sell. In and out of classrooms, I've heard stories of the mischievous elf that always pervades the season, but then I've also seen many lovely DIY advent wreaths, and Jesse Trees adorned with ornaments. We teach the children that each ornament traces the heritage of Jesus through the stories and prophecies of the Old Testament. The stories are rich in biblical history, the children love them. The Nativity is present, we teach the children the reason why there is no Baby Jesus present...just yet. We teach the children the reason why the Three Wise Men are not yet included. In some classrooms, the Wise Men are slowly making their way to the prayer table, the teacher moving them ever closer with the passing days of Advent. The color is purple and even though our ability to table-scape our prayer tables has been limited, teachers have found creative ways to bring in the liturgical colors.

In the observance of our theme this year, Called To Serve, each month is devoted to a Corporal Work of Mercy. Last month the theme focused on Feeding the Hungry and this month we learn the significance of Sheltering the Homeless. Our students have donated trial size toiletry articles that have been placed in plastic bags to be given over to Catholic Charities. This is the second year in a row that we have collected articles that will be shared with those who are marginalized, living in our communities. St. Joseph and the Blessed Mother found themselves in similar circumstances when they were turned away from the inn as they sought safe shelter, a place for the birth of our Savior.

It is the messages and lessons we pass on to the children in school that we hope are reinforced in the home. It is the message of finding Jesus in our neighbor that we hope is being reinforced by mom and dad, grand-mom and grand-pop. It's a simple lesson, one that is simple to impart.

Perhaps we could.....

1. Pray. Pray a lot. Ask God what you as a family are being called to do for others during Advent.
2. Pray a decade of the Rosary with your children in the car on the way to school in the morning. Even better, have one of the children lead the prayer.
3. Keep change and dollar bills in cash in your pockets to give to charities collecting outside grocery stores. Many of us use payment cards these days for everything, so be mindful of having something on hand. It sends a valuable lesson to the children.
4. Ask family and friends who give you Christmas gifts every year to make a donation in your name to a one of your favorite charities.
5. Place the Advent wreath in a prominent place in your home. Light the candles in the evening before having dinner. I've heard parents tell me so many times the lesson they have learned from their children in saying Grace Before Meals. Prayer is a normal part of our children's lives. Welcome and reinforce it in the home.
6. And, by the same token highlight the Nativity Scene. Consider making a prayer table a permanent fixture in the home. Advent, the beginning of the Liturgical Year presents a perfect opportunity for establishing a new family practice, leading to a lasting tradition.
7. And finally, as a family gathered around the dinner table, make a list of all of your blessings—

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights,
who does not change like shifting shadows. James 1:17

It is in the giver that we see Jesus. It is in those who sacrifice that we see Jesus. My thanks to all the givers. Thank you for a more successful giving event than we could have ever imagined. Thank you for helping us to convey the true meaning of the giving season; sharing the light of the coming Savior with others.

on Holy Saturday, and brought into the Heavenly Kingdom. As part of that tradition, it developed over the centuries that many folks, especially in Eastern Europe, would put up what were called paradise trees, and decorated their homes with greenery on December 24 — the feast of Ss. Adam and Eve — to represent the restoration of the Garden of Eden (Paradise) even in the midst of winter. This is the origin of our modern day Christmas Trees.

Putting the feast day of Adam and Eve (not celebrated as a memorial at Mass but as a traditional saint day) on December 24 is the perfect date for this. The birth of our Savior is directly linked with the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Or as it is said at the Easter Vigil, "O happy fault that earned for us so great, so glorious a Redeemer." And also, by tradition, especially observed in eastern Europe, on December 24, shortly before midnight the local churches would sound the "death toll" – a slow clanging of the bells symbolizing the death of the old Adam, who with the woman Eve, put man out of paradise. Then at midnight, at the start of midnight mass, a jubilant ringing of the bells would begin to celebrate the coming of the new Adam, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

St. Andrew, St. John Damascene, St. Nicholas, St. Ambrose, St. Juan Diego, Pope St. Damasus I, St. Lucy, St. John of the Cross, St. John of Kanty, and Our Lady of Guadeloupe, Mary, the Immaculate Conception... and even Ss. Adam and Eve... pray for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE HOLY CROSS

December 24, 2020

- 4 pm Mass in the Church
- 4:15 pm Mass in Parish Hall
- 4:15 pm Mass in the Gym (if necessary)
- 6:30 pm Mass in the Church
- 6:45 pm Mass in the Parish Hall
- 6:45 pm Mass in the Gym (if necessary)
- 9:00 pm Spanish Mass in Church

December 25, 2020

- 12 am Midnight Mass in Church
- 12 am Midnight Mass in Parish Hall (if necessary)
- 8 am Mass in Church
- 8:15 am Mass in Parish Hall (if necessary)
- 10 am Mass in Church
- 10:15 am Mass in Parish Hall (if necessary)

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 24, 2020

- 5 pm Mass in Church
- 7 pm Spanish Mass in Church

December 25, 2020

- 12 am Midnight Mass in Church
- 9 am Mass in Church

*Please Note: There are limitations to the numbers in each location
which is why we are offering more options*