

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 15, 2024

Third 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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am

Wednesday – 8:15 am

Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

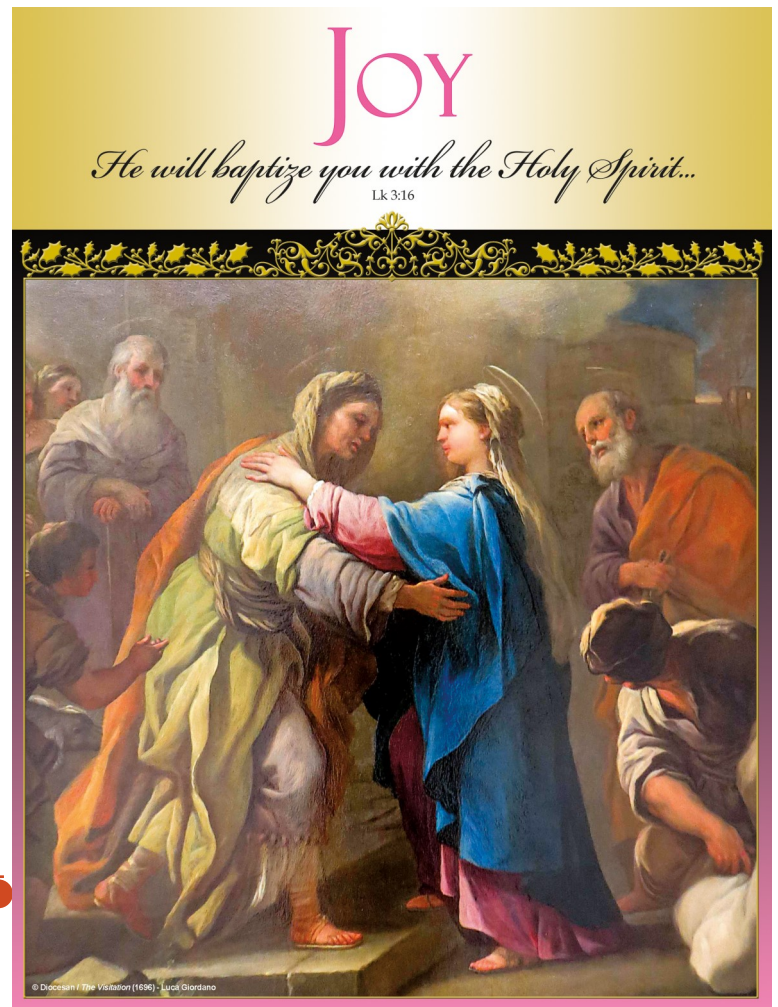
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our

parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

HOLY CROSS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm Mass
6:30 pm Mass
9:00 pm Hispanic Mass
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, December 25

8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass

New Year's Eve, December 31

5:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm Hispanic Mass

New Year's Day, January 1, 2025

8:00 am Mass
10:00 am Mass

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24

5:00 pm Mass
7:00 pm Hispanic Mass
Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, December 25

9:00 am Mass

New Year's Eve, December 31

5:30 pm Mass
7:00 pm Hispanic Mass

New Year's Day, January 1, 2025

9:00 am Mass

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending December 1, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$27,441	\$27,630	(\$189)
YTD	\$569,932	\$591,836	(\$21,904)
Needs	\$1,483	\$1,775	(\$292)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 1, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$5,072
2nd Collection	\$413

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.

We appreciate your support! If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

From December 17-23, the Church observes “The O Antiphons” — these are seven antiphons in the Liturgy of the Hours (the official prayers of the Church) prayed by Priests and Deacons. These antiphons bookend the scriptural text of the Canticle of Mary (the Magnificat) from Luke 1:46-55, and each of them begins with “O” and a word or words that describe an attribute of the Savior, Jesus Christ, who is being born to us at Christmas. The following are “The O Antiphons” and some reflections on them as we prepare for Christmas.

December 17 - O Sapientia (O Wisdom): *“O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care: Come and show your people the way to salvation.”*

The Latin *“sapientia,”* understood as “wisdom,” finds its origin in the Latin word *“sapere,”* which means “to taste.” Wisdom indeed gives us a taste of God’s presence and plan in our lives. Wisdom is a small taste, a soupçon, of the joy of God’s wisdom. The English word “wisdom” comes from the old English *“wis”* and *“dóm”* — meaning “certainty” of “judgment.” In ancient Israel, wisdom combined these understandings of wisdom and added something more. For the faithful of Israel, their seeking of human wisdom was seeking a taste of God. It became abjectly tied to the Wisdom of God, which governs or orders all things with “certainty” of “judgment.” Coming to the New Testament era: Christ our Lord is God’s Wisdom incarnate, carrying out God’s plan to re-establish all things in Himself.

May Christ become more present to each of us and indeed to the whole world this Christmas, imbuing us with wisdom to see the hand of God at work in us and in the world.

December 18 - O Adonai (O Sacred Lord): *“O Sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountain: Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.”*

In the United States, when we speak about the Lord, we are speaking about Jesus and God. Lord carries that specific connotation. However, in Spanish and Italian, the words for “Lord” are Señor and Signore, respectively — and those two words do not always refer to a Divine Person; often, they refer to a man. Mr. Smith would be Señor Smith or Signore Smith. But in our faith, in any language, when one uses the word “Lord,” — it doesn’t mean just any man; it means God-in-the-flesh: the Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, for example, in Spanish, while Señor connotes Mr., El Señor connotes not just Lord, but THE Lord — the one and only. In Advent, we are waiting patiently not for any ol’ man but for THE man. The man who is God incarnate. While in some circles of doubters, it is asserted that “Jesus was just a man, a rabbi, from the

first century.” Those words are not just malign in their diminution of Christ but also misleading. Christ wasn’t “just a man” — he was THE man: the Word made flesh, God incarnate.

That child to be born of Mary in that little town of Bethlehem is not just any child. He is Adonai — the Sacred Lord, our Sacred Lord — our God and our Savior. Put a bow around that thought and call it Merry Christmas!

December 19 - O Radix Jesse (O Flower of the Stem of Jesse): *“O Flower of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.”*

The phrase “the Stem of Jesse” (Jesse being the father of King David from whose tribe the Messiah will come) derived from Isaiah (11:1), *“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom.”* That term “the stump of Jesse” would seem to point to this royal lineage’s rough beginning and failings: King David took another man’s wife (and killed her husband), King Solomon worshipped false gods, and other successive kings’ had failings. Eventually, the Kingdom led by these kings crumbled, reflective of their faithfulness to God crumbling. But God did not abandon His people, despite their bad kings and their rejection of Him. Through his prophets and the words of scripture, we know that God promised to remedy their mistake and save us from the ultimate ramifications. A great new king was promised.

Bottom line: God remains faithful, even as we falter. He promised us a Savior, and on a late night, in late December, as Mary delivers her child, God delivers on His promise, bringing us deliverance. From the Root of Jesse springs the blossom of salvation.

December 20 - O Clavis David (O Key of David) *“O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.”*

When I was first ordained to the Priesthood, an old pastor said to me, “When you get to a parish, you are going to get keys to a lot of things. Once you accept any key, you accept the authority and the responsibility that goes with that key.” He was so right about that. And what he said to me is -- dare I say -- the key to understanding this antiphon. The antiphon of this day echoes from Isaiah 22:22, *“I will place the key of the House of*

Continued on page 10

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Brennan Ferris	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Sharon Seelig	Records Office, ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I18
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

FOURTH SUNDAY ADVENT (DEC 22)

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5A

Jesus, born in Bethlehem was to become the Bread of Life for all humankind.

SECOND READING: HEBREW 10:5-10

Christ is here to replace the Law's sacrifices and holocausts with a simple trust in the Father.

God prefers our trust and our service to our un-thinking actions and "sacrificial offerings."

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45

Mary, carrying Jesus in her womb and in her heart, visits her cousin Elizabeth. We too are called to bring Christ to all we encounter and, in the same way, all those we meet bring Christ to us.

SAMARITANS

The Samaritans are in need of to work our outreach hotline. You work from your own home to vet the calls coming in to the Samaritans for help. You do not use your own phone number, rather a cell phone that is connected to the Samaritans. If interested, please call the Holy Cross Parish Office to leave your name and contact information please.

We are in need of donations to help make Christmas Food Baskets. Donations of hams or turkeys are appreciated, along with canned goods of potatoes, vegetables, fruit, pudding, rice, soups, etc.

WEBSITE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

In the weeks ahead, our parish representative from Solutio, Inc., will be setting up the advertising for our website for the year. Please consider participating in this effort since the revenue from the ads is what makes the website possible at no cost to the parish.

It's a great way to get your name in front of the families in the parish. Advertisements may be purchased for a business, family memorial, or you can sponsor an ad supporting Catholic Charities, Knights of Columbus, Vocations, etc.

Please give these ideas some thought. We need and appreciate your help! If you are interested or just curious as to prices and want more information, please contact (302) 865-7153 or Sponsorship@SolutioSoftware.com.

YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS

As the year draws to a close, we invite you to recommit your donation to the parish offertory collection, or consider an increase in your giving. Perhaps an additional gift to your parish over the holidays. Contributions received by December 31 will qualify as a 2024 tax deduction. Thank you for being part of our mission of hope and service.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Anyone wishing to sing with the combined choirs at 5 PM Christmas Eve Mass?

Please join us for practice in between the Masses at 9:40 AM on December 15, and 22.

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER

The Cathedral of St. Peter, 6th and West Streets, Wilmington, DE will present a Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15 at 3PM. The concert will feature scriptures, choral music, and congregational hymns performed live and live-streamed by the choirs of the Cathedral and St. Patrick. (302-654-5920)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all married couples in the Diocese of Wilmington to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on World Marriage Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 1:00pm at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Those celebrating significant anniversaries (5-year increments) - 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or any anniversary beyond 50, will receive a special certificate from the Bishop. Reservations are needed, no matter what the anniversary year. Reservations are required by February 4, 2025.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing OMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – <https://cdowcym.wufoo.com/forms/zdx6q1g0hx3j5m/>

PRO LIFE INFORMATION

Dr. Bernard Nathanson's - 8-point Strategy (Taken from the book FACT CHECK by Terry Beatley)
 "In April 1970 NARAL was successful in decriminalizing abortion in New York through the 24th week, making abortion a multi-million-dollar industry overnight... Planned Parenthood joined the abor-

MASS INTENTION DECEMBER

16 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Frank and Gertrude Trojan
17 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Ludwik Kosior and Kosior Family
18 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Mike Dunlop
19 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Rosita and Harry Donnatien
HC 7:00 pm	For the People
20 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Efren Sanantonio
21 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Fred Bulinski
HC 5:00 pm	Bernadette Miriello
22 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	John B. Asman, Jr.
ICC 8:30 am	William F. And Ann R. Sullivan
HC 9:30 am	DM Calla and McLaughlin Family
ICC 11:00 am	Crumlish Family
HC 11:30 am	Nancy Roger
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

Dec. 15 – Dec. 21 Sanctuary Candle in Church and Adoration Chapel is for .Mike Dunlop.

tion movement and Nathanson trained their doctors how to kill babies in the womb."

NARAL's strategy changed the cultural tide on abortion using their 8-points of propaganda.

I'm sure you will be familiar with much of their strategy." Point #1 - Frame the Argument - Words have power... "Choice"

"NARAL did not frame the debate around the "right to kill a pre-born child." That slogan would not have attracted followers.

Instead, the debate was framed simply as a choice to stay pregnant or not. This played on the American love for freedom and made it appear that abortion is just a choice and simply a decision between a woman and her doctor. Fathers were stripped of their right to protect their children as abortion was marketed to bring women freedom and equality with men. NARAL was extremely crafty to distract people from thinking "what" they were choosing.

According to Dr. Nathanson, NARAL denied in public what they knew to be true: Abortion kills an existing human being."

www.hosea4you.org for more information.

DECEMBER 21/22, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM M. MacLeish M. Miller M. Sirolli J. Clendaniel J. Cutrona M. Rubino

LECTORS

L. Christiansen

7:30 AM C. Brown R. O'Neill T. Svienty M. Thompson J. Shevock S. Shevock

LECTORS

K. Meire

9:30 AM V. Pepper B. Richards G. Richards C. Robinson A. Wilk C. Wilk

LECTORS

M Sossich J. Amoako

11:30 AM T. Hernandez E. Pastoriza M. Richard

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM J. Moore

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM L. Schlaupitz

LECTORS

K. Perez

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are in need of more volunteers to help with taking Holy Communion to our sick and homebound, visit the hospital, and to help at our Masses in the Church.

Have YOU ever considered becoming an extra-ordinary minister? WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Please consider this important ministry. Thank you. Call the Parish Office if needed.

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Training for current EMHC to homebound for those who missed the retraining will be held on December 19 at 5:30 pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the ELC building.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Adorers needed! Do you have an hour a week to spend with our Lord in the Adoration Chapel? We are so blessed at Holy Cross to have the ability to spend time with Christ in the Eucharist. If you look at other parishes in our Diocese, they may have an hour a week, or a day a week to Adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Here at Holy Cross, we have 16 hours a day, seven days a week. Unfortunately, we are not filling all these hours.

If you are able to, get another parishioner, to fill a time with you, or you can join someone who has an hour, we can give Glory to God in the Eucharist. We should never leave our Lord alone...Most Saints spent an hour or hours a day in Adoration. Please consider your time. An hour a week. Is this too much? For more information, call, text or email John Murphy for a time convenient for you. 302-233-1779, jkm2015@verizon.net

QUOTE: "Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament remember that Jesus has been waiting for you for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you." (St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei)

- SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
- MONDAY 5 pm
- TUESDAY 4 pm
- SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm 7 pm, 8 pm

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, tune in to hear the annual Christmas program featuring Bishop Koenig's annual Christmas message. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT HOLY CROSS

LADIES: Would you like to give a gift of prayer for our Priest, specifically Fr. John Enoumu? We are still in need of additional sisters to give:

- One Holy Hour One Day a Week
- One Priest One Heart of Prayer

MEN are welcome and encouraged to join this ministry as substitutes.

PICK UP A PAMPHLET IN THE GATHERING SPACE AND contact: Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez -- email: 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

- El Adviento: Nos despierta no sólo para el nacimiento de Cristo, sino también para el comienzo de un nuevo año en la Iglesia. Con la venida de Cristo, empezamos de nuevo: el primer domingo de Adviento, el 1 de diciembre, este nuevo Año litúrgico, seguimos el ciclo C y leeremos fundamentalmente el Evangelio de San Lucas., que escucharemos en cada misa de este tiempo de Adviento. , renovados por Su nacimiento. Su objetivo es literalmente iluminar el camino hacia la verdadera Luz del Mundo. La corona circular, hecha normalmente de hojas perennes como el pino o el abeto, representa el amor infinito y eterno de Dios por nosotros. También contiene cuatro velas para encender cada domingo de Adviento. Primera vela / Domingo: ESPERANZA (Vela de la Profecía), Segunda vela / Domingo: LA PAZ (La vela de Belén), Tercera vela / Domingo: ALEGRÍA (Vela del Pastor), Cuarta vela / Domingo: AMOR (Vela del Ángel). Culturas de todo el mundo celebran el Adviento de diversas maneras. La mayoría de estas tradiciones y actividades giran en torno a la esperanza, la preparación y la celebración con amigos y familiares. Somos pueblo de Dios, somos Iglesia, somos parroquia, somos comunidad, somos familia en camino a la santidad. Como comunidad oremos y seamos peregrinos de esperanza para el prójimo.
- Gracias: Nuestro más sinceros agradecimiento a todos los que ayudaron en las celebraciones en honor a nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. .Bendiciones. Que nuestra Sra. Los cubra con su santo manto.
- Las Posadas: Primera Posada el 16 de la iglesia a las 7:00pm si desea unirse a la Posada de la iglesia por favor hable con los hermanos José Cruz Pérez y Mireya Rodríguez. Les pedimos que nos acompañen todas las noches a las Posadas.
- La Santa Misa Nochebuena 8:45 PM . Nuestro sincero agradecimiento a las familias que nos acogen 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.”
- Peregrinos de Esperanza: El próximo Año del Jubileo será en 2025 y el tema escogido por el Santo Padre es “Peregrinos de Esperanza El Año Jubilar dará inicio con la gran tradición de abrir la Puerta Santa comenzará cuando el Papa Francisco abra la Puerta Santa de la Basílica de San Pedro el 24 de diciembre de 2024. Somos Iglesia, Somos parroquia, somos comunidad, somos familia en camino al jubileo. Como comunidad oremos y seamos peregrinos de esperanza para el prójimo.

ICC

Confirmación 2025: Sesión # 3 domingo 15 de diciembre de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial. Si aún no ha inscrito a su hijo para el 8.º grado, La hoja de los padrinos entregarlos el 1 de enero .comuníquese con Alicia en la oficina parroquial llame al 410-482-8939 o por correo electrónico a dre@iccmmarydel.org

Primera Reconciliación: Sexta sesión será el martes 10 de diciembre de 6:30 a 7:30 p. m. en el Salón Parroquial. Si no ha inscrito a su hijo y está en segundo grado o superior, comuníquese con Alicia al 410-482-8939 o envíele un correo electrónico a: dre@iccmmarydel.org

Retiro: Sábado 11 de enero 2025 de 9-12 en el salón, solamente los niños

Sacramento: El sacramento de la Reconciliación será e sábado, 18 de enero en la Santa Cruz , en Dover a las 10:30 de la mañana .

Sacramento: El sacramento de la Reconciliación será e sábado, 18 de enero en la Santa Cruz , en Dover a las 10:30 de la mañana.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Class: today, December 15.

Next class: January 15, 2025!

Please arrive between 2:45-2:55 to be on time and not disrupt classes. Bring textbook, snack and a pencil.

Grade 8 in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office Building C, second floor

Any questions or concerns, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Class : January 12, 2925 Matthew/Mark room in the Parish office, 2nd floor building C. This program engages the family, whether it be parents with K-8 children, or a family who wants to enter the Catholic church and receive the sacraments of initiation together hand in hand. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences. Registration forms can be found at: <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

Deacon Bob's Adult Education – No Class on December 17th or 24th.

Coming January 7th! “The Wild Goose Series”. This series is an invitation for Catholics to make a more profound, life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit. “The gift of the Holy Spirit is not merely something reserved for Confirmation. The Spirit desires a relationship with us that will take us on the greatest adventure imaginable: a journey to the very heart of God. The Holy Spirit desires to be present to us in a manner that brings light out of darkness, freedom out of bondage, order out of chaos and life out of death. Come Holy Spirit!” Classes Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C.

All are welcome, this is a free class. No workbooks are available for this series. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Class: Our next class takes place Sunday, Dec 15 from 3-5 pm or Wednesday, Dec. 18 from 6-7:30 pm.

Purse Bingo:

Save the Date! **March 22, 2025** for our fundraiser to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp in June. More details to follow.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Get ready for Rosary in a Year by Ascension Press

If you've ever struggled to build a habit of prayer, this podcast is for you. In Ascension's Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life. By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world.

Listen to discover....

- *How to build a daily habit of prayer*
- *How to form a relationship with Jesus and Mary*
- *The Biblical foundations of the Rosary*
- *How to meditate with sacred art (visio divina), saint writings, and scripture (lectio divina)*
- *The power of Mary's influence in your life*
- *...and more.*

Follow this link for more information:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

Sacraments:

First Reconciliation:

Retreat: Saturday, January 11, 2025 @ ICC, 9am-12noon in Hall, children only.

Sacrament: Saturday, January 18 @ Holy Cross, Dover at 10:30am

Confirmation Preparation: #4,

Sunday, January 12th at 3pm-5:30 in the Parish hall.

Sponsor sheets due January 1st

Catechist Formation: Sunday, January 12th at 12noon-2pm in office Meeting room

Dear Parishioners,

This week has been a wonderful time of faith, celebration, and reflection at our school.

On Monday, we began the week with a Feast Day Mass celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our sixth-grade class led us beautifully in this special liturgy. We extend our gratitude to Mr. Bauer for preparing his students and to the choir for filling the church with their beautiful voices. While our pre-kindergarten students traditionally begin attending Mass in January, one of our pre-k classes joined us for this feast day. They demonstrated remarkable reverence and faith, and we are so proud of them! The teachers have spent the first half of the year guiding our youngest learners in prayer and church etiquette, and their hard work is paying off. We look forward to seeing all pre-k classes participate in the months ahead.



On Tuesday, the Christmas spirit filled the air with our elementary Christmas musical. Students in grades 1-5 led us in a heartwarming performance of songs and stories centered on the true meaning of Christmas. We held a daytime show for students and an evening performance for families. A special thank you goes to Ms. Swartzentruber for her dedication and passion. Her work with the students was evident in their joyful and inspiring presentation, making it a memorable experience for everyone.

On Thursday, first-trimester report cards were sent home. The first trimester was a busy and blessed time as we adjusted to routines, built relationships, and worked diligently. As we move into the second trimester, the fun, learning, and growth will continue to flourish. We are excited to share in these moments with our students and families.



Looking ahead, next week marks the final days before our Christmas break. Highlights include our junior high Christmas concert, another school tour, the Christmas Rosary, and a half-day dismissal. It will be a meaningful and festive way to close out the calendar year.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. May the Advent season bring peace and joy to your hearts and homes.

God bless,

Mrs. O'Mara



David on his shoulder, what he opens no one will shut, what he shuts no one will open.” By the time of His passion, that key on the shoulder of Christ would take the shape of a Cross. A Savior from the day of his birth, Jesus had the authority to give access to what a key unlocked: salvation and redemption.

Christ is the key to our Salvation. His birth began the part of Salvation history in which the Gates of Heaven would become unlocked.

December 21 - O Oriens (O Radiant Dawn) *“O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.”*

In the Old Testament, things in the East often presaged trouble. In Genesis 4:16, after running afoul of the Lord, Cain *“left the LORD’s presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.”* When the folks were building the ill-fated Tower of Babel, they moved east *“to a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there... Then they said, ‘Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens.’”* In Genesis 13:11-13, Lot *“set out eastward... pitching his tent near Sodom... the inhabitants of Sodom were wicked.”* Also, recall that when the Jews were sent into exile, they were sent to Babylon -- in the east. Yet, the prophecies tell us — just as they told the Magi — to look to a rising star in the East. From the place of man’s low points would come restoration. Where sin abounded, grace would abound more. The Bethlehem’s star, rising in the east, was a lesser light, which pointed the way to a greater radiant light. Thus, the Messiah came from an unlikely place: the East — where the sun rises, and the Son comes forth.

December 22 - O Rex Gentium (O King of the Nations) *“O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.”*

King of the Nations refers to Christ coming as not just King of Israel but King of Heaven and Earth. God coming as man, as the newborn king, begins in a small manger in the little town of Bethlehem, with few eyes looking on. But his mission as Messiah, as Lord, a Savior, is finished in the sight of all, lifted in the air on the hill of Golgotha. There Jesus becomes united to his bride, the Church. Only God could accomplish this! From the creche to the Cross, he is our King. This King of Heaven and Earth saved us whom he had “fashioned from the dust” of that same earth.

Jesus is the King of the Nations. He is the Salvation of the world. As we are reminded in John 3:17, “God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

December 23 - O Emmanuel (O God with us) *“O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.”*

In Isaiah, chapter 7, we hear of Ahaz's prophesy of the virgin who will give birth to Emmanuel (meaning God-with-us). But why a virgin? Because if God were becoming man, then he would need to be born from a perfect and sinless womb. Thus, Mary, preserved from original sin and living a sinless life, is the model disciple: she loved, served, and said "yes" to God to bring "Emmanuel" (God-with-us) into the world. For “us men and for our salvation,” we needed God to be with us (Emmanuel), and with Mary’s fiat (her "yes"), Christ was born, of a virgin, into this world. He was the Word-made-flesh who dwelt among his people and who would give his life for our redemption. Thus, our Salvation came by way of having God-with-us, and among us.

Not only is Jesus our Emmanuel (God-with-us), but he promised to remain with us until the end of the age. He is with us always.

Fun fact #1: Of coincidence, or of providence, if one takes the seven titles of Christ from “The O Antiphons” in reverse order (Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia) and takes the first initial of each word you get *“Ero Cras,”* a Latin phrase that means “Tomorrow, I will be.” What an appropriate message to hear as one finishes these seven antiphons in time for Christmas Eve, knowing He will be here tomorrow!

Fun fact #2: If you want to hear “The O Antiphons” set to music, then just listen to all of the verses of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* — these antiphons are the basis for that well-known Advent hymn.

A happy final week of Advent to all! God bless.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini

Pastor