



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 20, 2020

4th 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

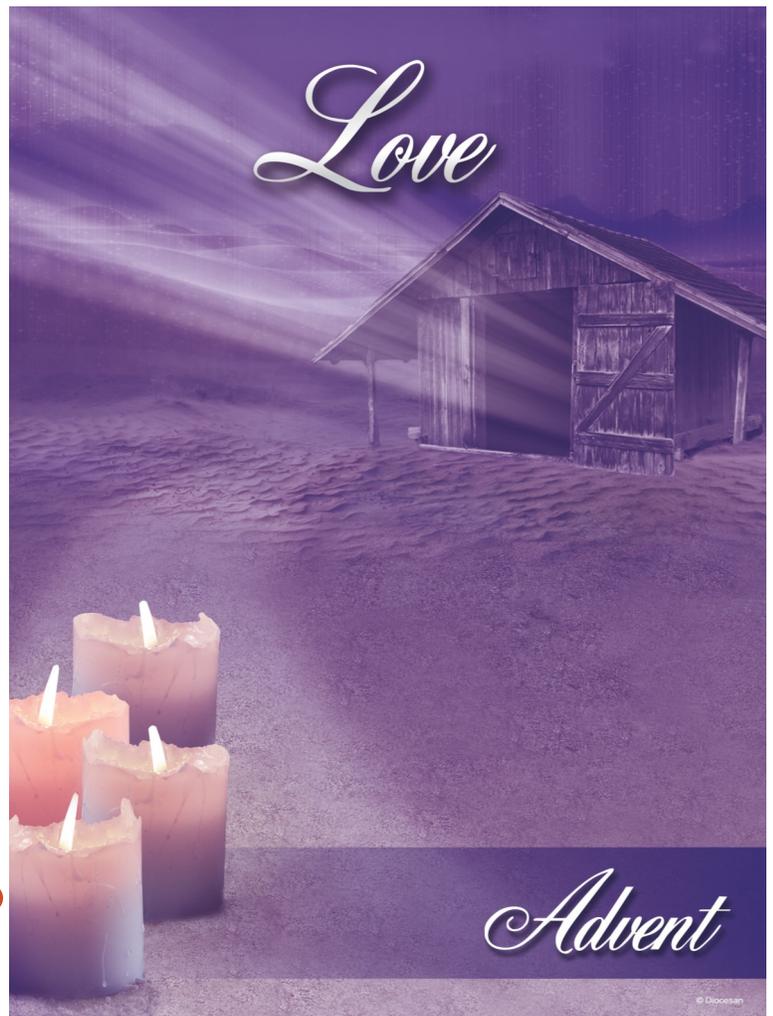
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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)

December 6, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$23,935	\$28,800	(\$4,865)
YTD	\$551,595	\$638,000	(\$86,405)
Needs	\$1,425	\$1,550	(\$125)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 6, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,778
Second	\$165

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,

Pastor's Column for Christmas 2020. Yes, 2020 has been a tough year (that's an understatement), it has been a year we all want to see in our rearview mirror. With that in mind, I want to start this Christmas column talking about another tough year: 1940. But before we get to 1940, let's take a brief step, a few year's further back.

Toeing the Line. In the years following World War I – the Great War, as it is commonly called – there was much consideration and self-examination by the nations of Europe regarding World War I, specifically as to how to avoid such a conflict (and such destruction) in the future. There was little consensus. So, the French government decided to go it alone and build an “impregnable” defense with an eye towards protecting itself from a future attack by Germany; this defense was deemed to be France's savior against future attacks. How would this defense be set up? Well, the idea for the defense came from the France's then Minister of War, Andre Maginot (and although his name began with “magi,” it would be proven he was not a wise man). Maginot devised a military line of fortification on border between France and Germany, called the Maginot line. This 1,000-mile-long line of defense sported a line of weaponry concrete-mounted in the ground; all built facing east -- toward the German frontier. Any invasion of France could be easily repelled. Or so it was thought.

Facing Trouble. In 1940, Germany did decide to invade France, but rather than facing the Maginot line, the German army went through Belgium, and around, to attack the Maginot line from behind. When this happened, the French forces were unable to defend themselves as their heaviest artillery on the Maginot line was mounted into the ground, unmovable and facing Germany – which in this case was the wrong direction. The Germans quickly vanquished the French and decimated its “impregnable” Maginot line. And so, in this morality play, the defense that France thought was its savior, turned out to be a part of its recipe for defeat. Ultimately France, would be saved, when American, British and other allied forces came on the scene – boots on the ground – and liberated it in 1944. France's defense, France's salvation, long-awaited, came in the flesh – men on the ground, ready to come to the aid of their ally to restore what had been lost.

Holding out for a Hero. The story of the Maginot line reminds us that mankind often tries to be its own savior, but when we do this, success can be elusive and oft illusory. In this case, France's attempt to go it alone -- to save itself -- fell flat. It was not until salvation came in the flesh that France was able to be restored. And so, it is for us. After our first parents yielded to sin in the Garden of

Eden, and after covenant upon covenant extended by God to man was breached by us, we awaited a Messiah to set things right, to fix the breach between man and God. And so, it came to pass: Mankind's defense, mankind's salvation, long-awaited, came in the flesh: The Son of God, the Son of Man, boots on the ground, came to the aid of his creation to restore what had been lost! God became man and our Savior walked among us!

The Word became Flesh. Now, amidst this talk of a Savior, what do we mean when we say God became man? The phrase, “*Et Verbum caro factum est*” may provide some understanding for us on this topic. You see, for the better part of 800 years, that phrase from the Gospel of St. John was read at the end of Mass each day as part of what was called “the Last Gospel.” And when these words were spoken, the congregation would go from standing to genuflecting. What was the meaning of this Latin phrase from the Gospel of St. John which caused Catholics around the world to bend their knee at its mention? “*Et Verbum caro factum est*” translates as “and the Word became flesh”. It is a reference to the Son of God -- the Second Person of the Trinity -- becoming man and dwelling among us. It refers to the conception and birth of Jesus Christ. The word that encapsulates this moment of God becoming man is “incarnation.” The term “incarnation” finds its root in “*caro*,” the Latin term for “flesh.” So, when we say, “God incarnate,” we mean “in the flesh.” It is our faith that Jesus Christ, born to our Blessed Mother Mary, was and is God in the flesh.

His Story in History. To put this all in fuller context, from before all time there was God. He was and is one God, a unity, but that one God is of three Divine Persons (God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit). God created the heavens and earth, and man.. The first man and woman (Adam and Eve) were disobedient to God and they caused a breach in the relationship between man and God. Through covenants, commandments and a coterie of prophets, God tried to heal that breach. However, while God honored the covenants, mankind, again and again, fell away in disobedience. God had promised a Messiah, a long awaited one, for the Jewish people. This Messiah would be a prince of peace (not in the sense of no more fighting or war, but in the sense of bringing peace to the relationship between man and God).

Paradise Regained. And, in fact, in time, in history, God did send a Messiah. Not an exalted prophet, not a king or emperor. Nope. He sent Himself: God the Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, the Logos (the Word) became flesh and dwelt among us. He was conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary and born into time. His birth would give hope, a restored relationship between man and God, and the gates of paradise closed by

(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 27 4TH SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: GENESIS 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Abram, a name which means "father figure", is told his name is to be Abraham, which means "father of a great nation".

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Abraham is extolled as the example of great faith, trusting in God, even when what he experienced appeared to be the opposite of what God promised.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2: 22-40

Jesus' parents present him in the Temple to fulfill what the Law required. Jesus is revealed as the savior, as witnessed by the prophetic figures of Simeon and Anna.

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

Do you consider yourself an informed Catholic?

Think hard. How do you perceive the meaning of Christ, the nature of the Church and the Church's relationship to the world? When is the last time you read, discussed or listened to Scripture, ethics, Church history, spirituality or doctrine, other than at Mass?

Heavy? Not very. While you don't need to do the course work leading to a master's degree in theology, you should learn enough to be a very informed Catholic. You should have some beliefs on these perceptions based upon your reading, your study and your dialogue with other Catholics.

In *The Responsible Person in Society*, Fr. John Pawlikowski, OSM, a professor of social ethics, asks the reader: "What sets apart the moral vision of Christians in general and of Catholics in particular? Who is the Christian, according to this moral tradition? What kind of person is the Christian called to become? How are the principles of Catholic and Christian moral theology applicable in daily life and to specific dilemmas and conflict situations?"

Pray for vocations.

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.wwme-delmar.org or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER

21 MONDAY
HC 8:00 am DM Donnatien Family

22 TUESDAY
HC 8:00 am Bernadette Miriello

23 WEDNESDAY
HC 8:00 am Cathy Castiglione

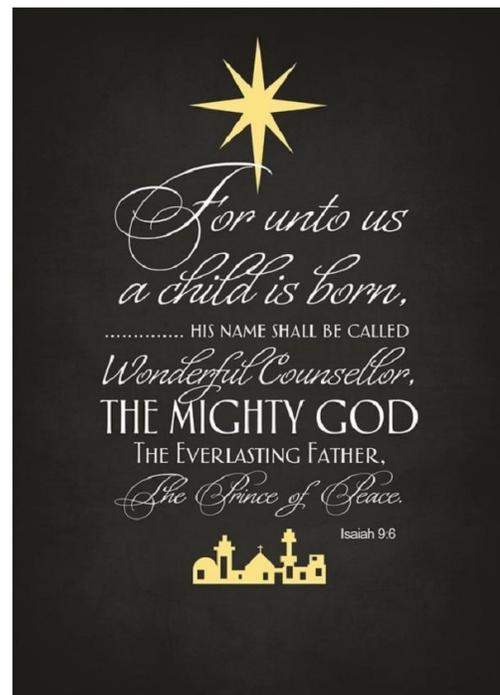
24 THURSDAY
HC 8:00 am Jackson Rey Cruz (LI)
HC 4 pm All
ICC 5 pm
HC 6:30 pm Masses
ICC 7 pm
HC 9:00 pm For the People

25 FRIDAY
HC & ICC 12 am All
HC 8:00 am Masses
ICC 9 am are
HC 10:00 am For the People

26 SATURDAY
HC 8 am Eugene Belt
HC 5 pm Eliska Grimes

27 SUNDAY
HC 7:30 am Hans Crews
ICC 8:30 am Costello & Lemp Families
HC 9:30 am Michael McLaughlin
HC 11:30 am John M. Sclesky
ICC 11 am Salvador Schepens
ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION
DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)



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 19 Lori Christiansen

Dec 26 Fran Urick

7:30 am Mass (HC)

Dec 20 Donna Kilby

Dec 27 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass (HC)

Dec 20 Colin Parks

Dec 27 Mary Louise Sossich

At Immaculate Conception:

8:30 am Mass (ICC)

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. Mass Schedule is on the back page of this bulletin.

EM's are asked to volunteer to come forward at the Mass you attend for Christmas.

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.

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

Dark nights can be cozy when warmed by love and candlelight, but they can also refer to times our love was challenged or a time of personal depression. Please pray for those who have experienced challenges.

PARENTING POINTERS

How do you teach a child to wait for something good, to delay gratification? Model it yourself. Find a subtle way to show your child you are waiting for something – a food, a purchase, an experience.

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 marriage 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. Stay healthy!!

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL AFTER-CARE PROGRAM HELP NEEDED

The After-Care Program at Holy Cross School provides a safe, nurturing environment, as well as organized activities for students in grades Pre-K thru 8. Activities include homework completion, indoor and outdoor play, arts and crafts, and games.

Interested parties must have experience working with young children. Background check will be required.

The hours for this position are from 2:30-5:30 pm each

school day.

****Our After-Care space is fully aligned with all mandates and restrictions associated with Coronavirus protocol. ****

Please call 302-674-5787, ext. 111 if interested in obtaining additional information.



- 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.

this & that

comunidad hispana

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class January 17 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)

January 17th
10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room
Next Sessions February 14th

CONFIRMATION CLASSES (HC)

Next class for Confirmation Preparation will take place on Sunday, January 17 and Wednesday, January 20.

RETREAT: HC CONFIRMATION

For those teens who were unable to attend retreat in December, please mark February 6 on your calendar for makeup retreat.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

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

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

Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement classes and RCIA to be in the computer center- on site again January 3rd.

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.

FIRST COMMUNION 2020 ICC

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.

2020/21 FIRST RECONCILIATION ICC)

Retreat is planned for January 9th from 9-12noon in Immaculate Conception hall.

Sacrament of First Reconciliation is planned for Saturday January 23rd at 10:30am at Holy Cross in Dover.

CONFIRMATION 2020-2021 (ICC)

Our next Prep session is Sunday, January 17th, 2:30-5pm in the Parish Hall.

This is for 8th grade and HS youth that are registered to begin Confirmation Prep.

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

Merry Christmas from the Religious Education Departments of Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes



All the Sisters wore rubber sole shoes. We never knew how long she had been standing in the doorway, we would just notice her standing there with her arms crossed; never a smile on her face. The children called her Sr. Principal. I wouldn't say she was a nice person. I wouldn't say she was an effective administrator. But there was one thing I learned from her and the rest of the teaching sisters. That was classroom management. I often thought that she didn't really care much about what the students learned, but by heavens, they were going to be quiet. Admittedly, in the first year I had some difficulties with that. I was young. The kids knew I was a first year teacher. The other first year teacher across the hall from me resigned at Christmas. She couldn't work under Sister and her hard and fast rules for what amounted to near silence in the classrooms. I quickly learned. As a result of my years working under Sister, I became an effective classroom manager. She didn't teach me how, I just learned that I better fulfill her expectations, or else.

I remain a firm believer in the relationship between effective classroom management and effective learning. My classroom was always quiet. I couldn't have it any other way. On the occasions where I would plan for small group work, I would tell the students that they could make all the noise they wanted, but I didn't want to hear it.

In my role as Administrator, I am pleased to say that my colleagues share much the same philosophy. It doesn't mean iron fist ruling, it simply means management. We love our children; we want them to learn successfully in an environment that is affable and conducive to their grade level and age.

C-O-M-P-L-I-M-E-N-T. On the front board of the second grade classrooms, I would often see a few of the letters of the word. C-O-M, or C-O-M-P-L-I-. I wasn't sure what it was all about. I thought I had seen the same in Miss Hauss's classroom. I figured it must be *a thing*. So, one day I asked Miss Christiansen to explain it to me. She explained that if and when her students would receive a compliment for their behavior, or their work, or their nice manners, listening to directions, etc. that another letter would be added to the word. She and her students decide upon goals for achieving the complete spelling of *compliment* and then have the occasion to celebrate themselves. She went on to share that if they receive kudos from Mrs. Pollitt, there's a two letter reward!

This past week it was my pleasure to accept the invitation to their waffle breakfast. They had accomplished their goal and during morning snack time they were having waffles hot off the iron prepared by Chef Christiansen. I arrived for breakfast and walking into the classroom I saw three students reading a poem they had written. Miss Christiansen had her students write poetry entitled *Waffles, Waffles, Waffles*. The waffle iron was hot and I was immediately asked to take charge of the condiment table. While the waffles were baking, students were volunteering to read their poems. Using their very best manners, the students would select their toppings from strawberries, syrup, and whipped cream. Each second grader sat beautifully in their seats awaiting their turn to be served while listening to the poetry and snapping their fingers in appreciation for the short epics written on all the attributes of a waffle. In between time, one of the students asked Miss Christiansen what the logo was on her apron. She explained that the logo represented a service organization in Dover and how important it is to serve your community throughout your lifetime. Now, how perfect was THAT!?

I had a great time with my second grade amigos. I am looking forward to their next celebration. I've already been invited!! I'm going to have to dig out my party hat for their Noon Year's Eve celebration. I say, be there or be square.

In case you're wondering about other goals achieved so far this year in second grade; I asked Miss Christiansen to share some of her ideas with me. The students are a part of the decision making and have enjoyed a few minutes extra recess back in the fall, a virtual Disney field trip, (I was there for the trip, it was great), sock and slipper day (only in the classroom) homework passes for everyone, and crazy hair day. Right now, everyone is looking forward to the Noon Year's Eve gala. I'm going to have to remember to ask her what time it starts....



On behalf of the teachers and staff of Holy Cross School, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!!



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the sin of our first parents might again be opened (or as the traditional Christmas hymn says: “*Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till he appeared and the soul felt its worth*”). And so, as we approach the day of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, what we need to hold in faith is that when we say Christ as the Son of God became man that is not some merely nice-sounding platitude on a Hallmark card, but rather it is a truth at the core of our faith.

God rest ye merry, Gentlemen! On Christmas morning, this year, as you sit with friends or family, or just are staying at home alone, opening some gifts and sharing the joy of the day, look at that nativity scene, it will undoubtedly be in eye shot. And as you see that little image of a child lying in a manger, remember the key point of the incarnation is not some exalted theological concept, wrapped in centuries old language. Rather, it is knowing, in faith, that God so loved the world that he came into the world to save us; to save you. He came to restore peace in the relationship between God and man, and from crèche to cross he succeeded, making him the Prince of Peace, the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings. And for this reason, as the hymn “*God rest ye merry, Gentlemen*” says: “*Let nothing ye dismay, remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.*”

And so, this is Christmas... And so, to us, in 2020, even amidst the craziness of this year, on Christmas Day, a Savior is born unto us, as one of us, for all of us. And history is changed forever and for better, because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We needed a Savior and, in a manger, in a stable, to a mother 2,000+ years ago, that Savior was born. St. Paul famously noted that we work our own salvation “with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12); but, praise God, we have an abiding who walked among us, who brought that salvation to fruition and made it tangible to us. Salvation was born unto us in person of Jesus Christ. And that truth will make this Christmas, and Christmases yet to come, joyful, holy and, dare I say, merry. And so, with Christ in your heart, in faith, make Christmas 2020 a day to remember, during a year to forget. I wish all of you a most joyful and Merry Christmas! God’s blessings to all of you and your families. *Pax et bonum.*

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

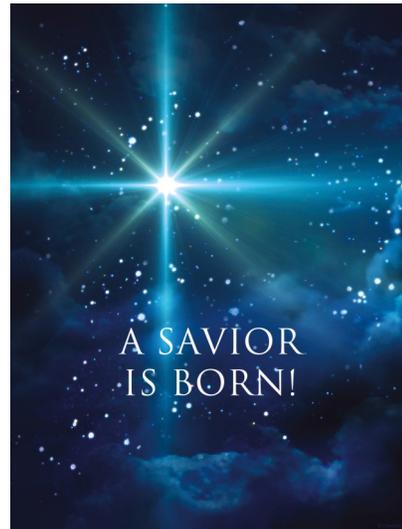
CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE HOLY CROSS

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