



# 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 27, 2020

The Holy Family

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

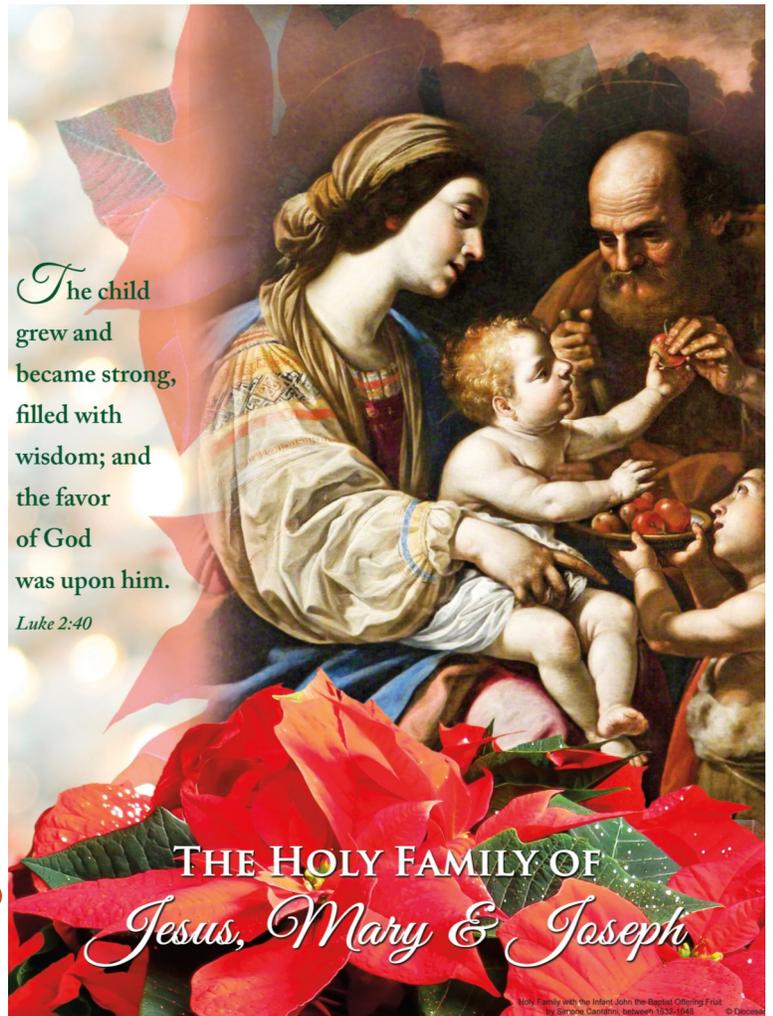
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am  
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



*The child  
grew and  
became strong,  
filled with  
wisdom; and  
the favor  
of God  
was upon him.*

*Luke 2:40*

icc

### 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

### 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](http://holycrossover.org)

[iccmaryl.org](http://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	\$22,830	\$28,800	(\$5,970)
YTD	\$574,425	\$666,800	(\$92,275)
Needs	\$1,301	\$1,550	(\$249)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 6, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,181
Second	\$265

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,

For those who read this column regularly, you probably know that I like to infuse TV, movie, music or cultural references into my column. This weekend, as the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the possibility for pop-culture references is endless. But there's not enough space for endless, so I'll limit my comments to some key references.

**Family Time.** Every family likely has something that identifies it or marks it as unique. Every family has its characters, and its stories. Take some of these TV families, and see what identifiably marks them:

- The Addams Family (they were creepy, kooky, mysterious and spooky, all together ooky);
- Modern Family (they were quirky, really, really quirky);
- The Hogan Family (they were so clean cut, they made the Brady family seem like the Mafia);
- The Partridge Family (they sang together, though not that well);
- Mama's Family (a show which presented the paradox of the youngest member of the adult cast, Vicki Lawrence, playing the role of the oldest member of the family, Mama)
- A New Kind of Family (a widow and a divorcee, with a daughter, share a home... well at least for 13-weeks, until the network cancelled their lease).

**Family Ties.** What about the Holy Family? What marks it out as distinct? I guess the answer might be simply, "Well, they are holy." And yes, they are. This family is, dare I say a New Kind of Family — one with a Divine son. They were also Mama's Family, with Mary's prayerful and peaceful presence shining brightly. And with Joseph marrying the expectant Mary, many of the Pharisees of the day probably looked on derisively and thought of them as some "Modern Family" — breaking with the cultural mores of the day. In spite of the Pharisees being their pharisaical selves, the Holy Family was and is holy, yes, but they are more than that! As a family, and individually, they are not just "holy," they are emblematic of holiness; of the holiness to which we are called by our Baptism. Here's what I mean by that:

**Jesus.** Jesus is God incarnate; according to Hebrews 1:3 (get ready for a \$50 word), he is the "refulgence of his [God's] glory, the very imprint of his being." That means, to quote, Isaiah 6:3, he

is Holy, Holy, Holy! Thus when he was thought missing, he was found in the Temple being about his Father's business... and he was doing likewise his Father's business in the Garden of Gethsemane, at the Cross, and in the Tomb.

**Mary.** The angel of the Lord came unto Mary, and asked her to bear the some of the most high. Mary said "yes" to God's call. This would mean she would be with child, though not married at that time. It would put her in a tough position with family, friends and her community. Yet, without blinking, she said "yes." But what is also important is that she kept on saying yes to whatever God was doing in her life and her home. She said, "Yes, I will marry Joseph." She said, "Yes, I'll go to Bethlehem with my husband even though I am heavy with child." She said, "Yes, I'll settle for a stable." And later, she said, "Yes, I'll let my Son leave home to become to preach throughout Israel, and serve God." And then she said, "Yes, I'll be with Him no matter what" — even to the foot of his cross at time of his death.

**St. Joseph.** St. Joseph likewise was open to God's call. When his wife was pregnant with Jesus, he heard the message of an Angel, and said Joseph said "yes" to God's call, thus welcoming Mary into his life and marrying her. St. Joseph said "yes" to God in raising Jesus in the faith. St. Joseph said "yes" to God in making sure his family observed the holy festivals. St. Joseph said "yes" to protecting his family. And even today, St. Joseph is the protector of the Catholic Church, saying to "yes" to praying to God on our behalf.

**Mary and Joseph.** As a married couple, Mary and Joseph were in harmony with God's call (better harmony than even the Partridge Family could ever muster), and they raised their child with the example of faithfulness, so that in His human nature, when the fullness of time came, Jesus Christ understood the importance of saying "yes" to God.

**Super Model.** So, that's the Holy Family. That Holy Family's individual and collective holiness sets out the terms for familial holiness even 2020 years later. But, a question might be rightly asked, is the Holy Family the sole exemplar in that regard of holiness. Well, while the Holy Family is certainly the model of faithfulness to which we are called, there have been other faithful families in scripture. However, more importantly, there is also the antithesis of the Holy Family contained in scripture — in the New Testament — that shows what happens when a family discards holiness, God's call and embraces

*(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](http://holycrossdover.org/school)

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## GIVING TREE

This will be the last weekend for the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space. Any donations from this tree will go to the Samaritans to help them throughout this coming year.

We thank all who have already contributed during the Advent season with monetary gifts and gift cards. We were able to help 24 various families with gifts for their children and the rest will be used to help those in need throughout the year. **May God bless all who helped make this a success this year by their donations.**

## 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)

Once again we are grateful to all who have contributed to our food pantry this Advent season and throughout the entire year. Your generosity lets us continue to help those in need on a daily basis.

We not only provide food to needy families, we help some with their utility bills and other expenses. This has been a rough year on so many and we thank God for the people of Holy Cross who continue to show God's love to others by helping the Samaritans.

## READINGS FOR JANUARY 3 EPIPHANY

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

The prophet foretells the manifestation of God's glory to the whole world. Those who do not yet know God will be drawn joyfully to the light of truth.

### SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:2-3, 5-6

Jesus is mystery made known, and through God's generosity the apostles are entrusted to share that good news with Jews and Gentiles alike.

### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

Mysterious visitors from the east come seeking the long-prophesied king of the Jews. Though Herod deceives them, they are led to the Christ child by a star.

## 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

The seeds of vocations are sown in the family. Through the loving support of parents who nurture the love of God in their children, young people see that serving God is an important and satisfying lifestyle.

So that you parents can encourage your children to listen to God's call in their lives, the following might be one of your prayers at home.

Lord, we thank you for our children.

You are Father and Mother to us;

Help us to be good parents.

Make our home a place of life and love,

Where strangers are welcome and sins are forgiven.

Make us a family, Lord.

Whatever you may call our children to be,

Give us the grace to say "yes" and let go of their lives.

May our family's love extend beyond our table

And be a blessing for the whole world.

Help us to have a part in making your Kingdom come.

Amen.

*God has the key to your life. Ask Him to show you how to be the best parents.*

*Serra for priestly and religious 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 Valen-

## MASS INTENTIONS

### DECEMBER

#### 28 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am John Deighton

#### 29 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Normita Phillips

#### 30 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Ellen G. Laskowski

#### 31 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Lloyd Barrett

HC 5 pm For the People

ICC 5 pm For the People

HC 7 pm For the People

ICC 7 pm For the People

#### 1 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am For the People

ICC 9:00 am For the People

HC 10:00 am For the People

#### 2 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Reynaldo Cruz

HC 5 pm Gerard Dayato

#### 3 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am DM Mc Lane Family

ICC 8:30 am Richard Brusca

HC 9:30 am Sarah Fillat

HC 11:30 am John Darcy, Sr.

ICC 11 am Salvador Schepens

ICC 1 pm For the People

*(LI = LIVING INTENTION  
DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)*

tine'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.wwmedelmar.org](http://www.wwmedelmar.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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

What a year 2020 has been! Talk with each other about what helps you heal your relationship and bring you back together after a disagreement.

## PARENTING POINTERS

Relish the glee of giving and receiving a gift. After the hubbub dies down, pause as a family not only to thank each other, but to be thankful that you have the resources to give gifts and that you have a family to share this time with. Don't let the day slip away without this pause.

## 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](http://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@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

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## LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

January 17th (The January 10th classed was cancelled.) 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)

**NO CLASSES DURING CHRISTMAS BREAK: December 21-January 2nd.**

**Bring your Blue Book Bags to class!**

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.

Group 1- grades 3, 6, in the hall, 7, 8 in the basement, and RCIA to be in the computer center -on site January 10th.

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

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@iccmaryl.org

**Unit 3 ready for pick up after New Year .**

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

## 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.

# Happy New Year from the Religious Education Departments of Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes



We all face obstacles in life. Not a single solitary soul reading these words can attest to an obstacle free day in life. Some are not a large as others. Some are downright extreme. I remember a few years back when Mrs. Stant's son was a newbie at the Air Force Academy. I would sit enthralled by some of the stories she would tell of his first year, one of them being of his experience in a place called Jacks Valley. Jacks Valley, (named for the family who donated in excess of 3000 acres to the Academy) is a training complex. It is used for military field training and represents a grueling physical and intense mental training experience; certainly not intended for the faint of heart. Google tells us that these young cadets "undergo one of the most physically demanding parts of their training at the Academy." I think I remember Mrs. Stant telling me that they even have to hunt and kill their own food. Something tells me they are trying to separate the sheep from the goats.

As I understand it, most rise to the occasion. Most just grit their way through. I wouldn't want to be the one to admit to defeat at Jacks Valley. *It's a certain mindset that helps us humans make our way in life when we come face to face with a brick wall that we simply must scale; because there are no other viable options but to admit defeat.*

For me, defeat is not a viable option. I know I speak for my colleagues as well. This school year has presented many obstacles that we have had to overcome.

Last summer Holy Cross gym served as the sight for the Bayhealth DayCare for the children of their employees. As circumstances would have it, a few of our teachers assisted in the centers' operation. One of the teachers who responded to the need for qualified educators was Mrs. Swartzentruber. This afforded she and I the opportunity to have a few discussions on the repercussions the pandemic was having on music programs throughout the state. To say the least, she was very upset. There were times when it looked like we may have to scrap the entire program. But... *It's a certain mindset that helps us humans make our way in life when we come face to face with a brick wall that we simply must scale; because there are no other viable options but to admit defeat.* Mrs. S. was ready to scale that wall.

She spent months researching mask alternatives. I admit to thinking it unlikely that a musician could perform effectively in a mask; maybe a drummer...?

"What am I supposed to do Mrs. Pollitt?" "Music is who I am; it's what I do... I have to find a way to keep our program in-tact." Nearly in tears, she was scaling the wall.

Who was I to be the Doubting Thomas?

But, by golly, by the end of the summer she had it figured out! There was a veritable mound of masks piled atop one of the tables as I entered her music room. If you've never seen it, it's a beautiful space, a lot of beautiful music by some talented young folks happens in there.

So, anyway there were specially designed masks for the flute, a different design for the horns, and yet another for the saxophone and trombone (bones as she calls them). Oh yes, there was going to be band!! Still scaling the wall....

With still a little of the Doubting Thomas in me; I asked "but what about the choir?" Beaming with victory, she produced a mask that cupped underneath the chin and protruded forward allowing for the vocalists to sing to their hearts content. And, thanks be to God, and all the angels and saints, the large music room allows for the distancing needed, for both band and choir.

SO! We have masks, + masks, + band,+ choirs and it all = the HCS music program. Is it the same? Of course not.

But we won't be robbed completely. No, our sweet little Crusaders in the ELC didn't join our primary grades for the annual Christmas pageant. No, our Junior High couldn't have their evening of seasonal song....but wait a minute.... Mrs. S. went back to the wall and started the climb.

How about a "mini parade" here on the parking lot? "We can have the students sit or stand along the curbs like we did for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross!" "We can ask Deacon Vince to lead the parade as St. Nicholas; the Tri-M members can hand out some candy..." She was off and running...I love it when she takes on that wall!

And so it was. Holy Cross Band and Drum Line paraded the parking lot and never skipped or missed a beat. It brought some Christmas cheer to all...moms and dads watched from their cars, and despite the cold, it all happened! Teachers were taking video, and the band played on.

It will be after Christmas that the mini concert is recorded. I've heard the practices, three of my favorites. Such a beautiful blend of voices; I can't wait!

On another note (no pun intended) our fifth graders expertly prepared our annual Christmas Rosary. It is my favorite prayer service of the year. Mrs. Speed always prepares the students in their readings, and the period regalia in such professional style. Of course this year it had to be recorded and viewed in the classrooms, but the students were outstanding despite the obstacles.

*It's a certain mindset that helps us humans make our way in life when we come face to face with a brick wall that we simply must scale; because there are no other viable options but to admit defeat. And so we climb.*

base worldliness.

**An Unholy Family?** To this end, let me juxtapose for you the Holy Family to the family of King Herod — which is more like an Addams Family model of family, wherein everything disturbing is the norm. King Herod was a king, who headed a family with more drama, division, deception and distrust than the Borgias or the Medicis of European infamy. Some of what went on might make us look at the family of Herod as the mirror universe version of the Holy Family, that is: an unholy family.

**Power Failure.** Herod reigned in a family in which his unholiness seethed like venom in the bloodstream. The paranoid King Herod, didn't care for his wife and distrusted her; and so he killed her. Likewise he distrusted his children, his three sons, and killed them, too. Why were these folks killed? Because he was suspicious of all of them trying to supplant him as ruler. The dynastic history of that period of time, would posit that Herod's suspicions likely had a basis. Nonetheless, his crass seeking of power and of all things worldly (while shunning the spiritual) likely helped to create the self-destructive family life he headed. It was a family in which the quest for power, the quest for the things of this world, left no room for God — or neighbor.

**A View to a Kill.** Thus, it was that King Herod sought to kill a child in Bethlehem, after he had learned that this child was the considered to be by some as the newborn king of the Jews. As in Herod's family, as in his Kingdom, there was no room any challenge to his power. And so, to make sure there was no challenge, Herod ordered the massacre of all the boys two years old and under in Bethlehem and its vicinity, to make sure this challenge to his throne would be done away with. King Herod is what we would call today a murderous tyrant at best, and serial killer, at worst. His lack of virtue and his love of power infected his family and those around him.

**Adjusting the Contrast.** So, while Mary and Joseph struggled and sacrificed, and heeded the grace and call of God, to bring salvation into the world — in the person of Jesus Christ who they loved as their son and their Lord — King Herod and his family did quite the opposite. They connived, calculated and plotted, one against the other, not to bring salvation into the world, but to bring power into their hands — each at the expense of the other. That darkness of King Herod, and destructiveness in his family life, makes the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph shine even brighter for us. The contrast is stark, and the choice is a no-brainer. We are called to emulate that Holy Family — a family built around God in the flesh (Jesus Christ) and a mother and father open to doing the will of God, continuously. Mary and Joseph show that when two or more are gathered in the Lord's Name, He will be with us — just as He was with them.

**All in the Family.** That is why we should allow ourselves to be inspired by the Holy Family and strive to do our best to model ourselves and our own families after their good examples. Let us all rejoice together in this glorious and joyful season of Christmas as faithful and devout Catholic families that embrace Christianity in its fullness. Let us spurn a destructive love of self, and resist the temptations of the world, the flesh and the Devil that lead to the destruction of families and relationships — and instead, with all of our hearts, embrace faith, hope and love.

May God bless us all, as we enthrone Him at the center and heart of our Catholic families, uniting ourselves to Him and to the family of all His faithful children: the one family of God's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. A blessed Octave of Christmas to all of you.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor

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**YEAR END CONTRIBUTIONS**

*If you wish to make a year end contribution to the church, please be sure to have it into the Parish Office by December 31 at Noon. Donations received after that time will have to be credited for the following 2021 year.*

*Thank you for your generous donations.*