

# 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 28, 2025

Holy Family

holy cross

### 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

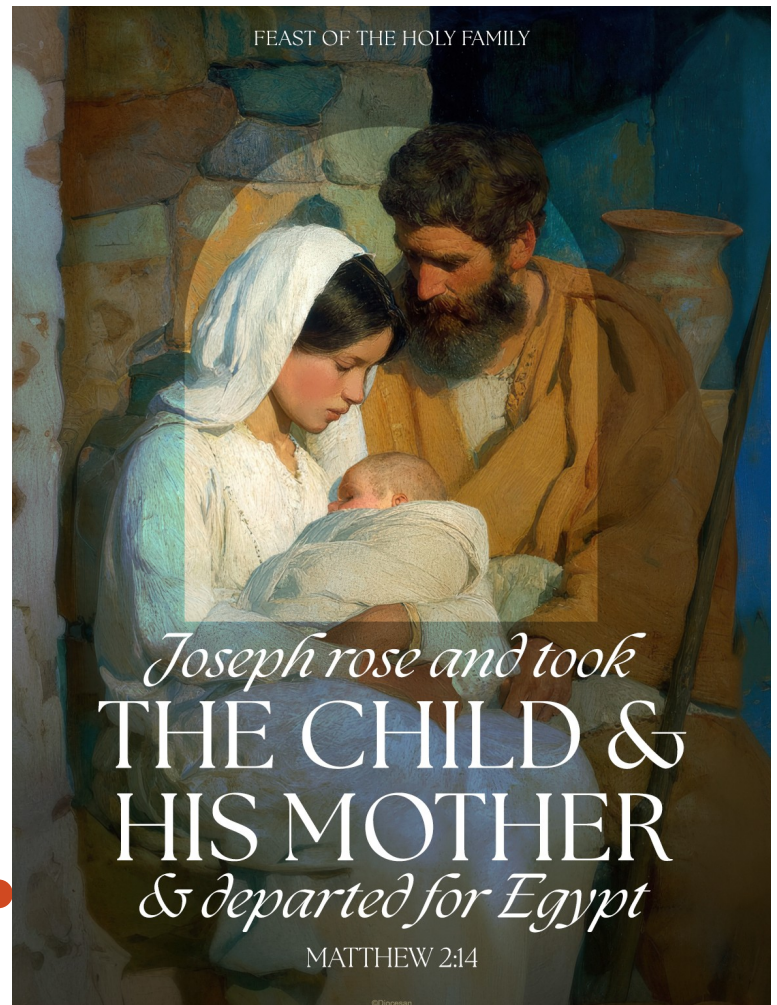
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Closed Wednesday and Friday

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

*Joseph rose and took  
THE CHILD &  
HIS MOTHER  
& departed for Egypt*

MATTHEW 2:14

### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

*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

New Year's Eve – Wed, Dec 31, 2025

Solemnity of Mary

5:00 pm Mass

7:00 pm Spanish Mass

New Year's Day – Thurs, Jan 1, 2026

8:00 am Mass and 10:00 am Mass

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### Immaculate Conception Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve – Wed, Dec 31, 2025

Solemnity of Mary

5:30 pm Mass and 7:00 pm Spanish Mass

New Year's Day – Thurs, Jan 1, 2026

9:00 am Mass

### WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending December 14, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$23,724	\$26,972	(\$3,248)
YTD	\$624,377	\$636,914	(\$12,537)
Needs	\$1,173	\$1,738	(\$565)

### WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 14, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,598
Second	\$1,108

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.

The Celebration of the day of Christmas has passed, but the Christmas Season itself continues onward in earnest. While everybody knows the story of that first Christmas, a question may come to mind: What's next? The story of God becoming man did not end on Christmas Day — it began there. What happened next? This column will follow the events that occurred after the birth of our Lord. So, casting our eyes back to Christmas, let us consider what happened next:

**The Angel Appears to the Shepherd.** Scripture tells us that an Angel of the Lord came to the shepherds in the field (who were *“struck with great fear”*) and said to them that a Savior had been born. The angel instructed the shepherds that they would find this newborn Savior *“wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”* Then a full complement of angels appears singing *“Glory to God in the Highest.”*

**So what's the significance of all of this?** Well, in the famous Psalm 23, written in the voice of King David, who was, of note, a shepherd king, states, *“The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.”* This passage identifies Jesus (who is also called *“King of Kings”* and *“Lord of Lords”*) as, in effect, *“the Shepherd of a shepherd”* (or of shepherds — plural). So, it is right, and just that when the Shepherd of shepherds is born, the first to whom He is revealed are shepherds. Thus, these nearby shepherds — caretakers of sheep and lambs — were the first to hear of the birth of *“the Lamb of God.”*

**The Visitation of the Shepherds.** In St. Luke's Gospel (2:15b-16) we read, *“[T]he shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.”*

I must confess, I always chuckle at the phraseology used in this passage. The shepherds *“found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger”* — that sounds like one crowded manger! Seriously, though, this passage nicely pairs with the angels' previous words. You will remember that the Angels (following one angel's announcement of the birth of the Savior) said *“Glory to God in the Highest”* in response to Jesus' birth. Now, the Shepherds visit that manger scene, they see the Newborn King, and their response is like that of the angels. For in Luke 2:20, the shepherds depart from their visitation to Christ, *“glorifying and praising God.”* Yes, they, too, gave Glory to God in the Highest. Thus, when we pray the Gloria at Mass, it is not just the Angels' song of praise; it is our song of praise, too. The Circumcision of the Lord. Luke 2:21 tells us that *“When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”*

This short passage reminds us that this Newborn King, this Savior, who was fully divine, was also fully human. He was also being raised in the Jewish faith. Before 1970, January 1 on the Church calendar was the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord. Today, it is the

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (a holy day of obligation).**

Interestingly, the readings are the same, the prayers are similar, but the focus is shifted. With the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord, the focus was on Mary and Joseph meeting their obligation as faithful Jews. But shifting the feast's focus to Mary, we see a good Jewish mother raising her son in the best way. She starts by having him circumcised eight days after his birth as a sign of loving faith. Thus, on January 1, eight days after the Angels sang of the coming of Christ, we, like Mary, come to God's house, fulfilling an obligation, yes, but fulfilling it out of love — as Mary did with Jesus.

**The Prophecy of Simeon.** Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the Temple to consecrate Him to the Lord. While there, they encounter a man *“whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout”* (Luke 2:25). This good man Simeon, *“blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.’”* (Luke 2:34-35).

This holy man Simeon, we are told in Luke's Gospel, was *“awaiting the consolation of Israel.”* God had told Simeon that he would not die *“before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.”* Thus, when Mary comes into the Temple with Jesus, Simeon says, *“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation...”* In short, like the shepherds, he recognized this child as the long-promised Messiah. But this wiseman, inspired by God, recognizes that salvation comes at a price. He counseled Mary that this child, this Messiah, would have his life, teachings, his suffering and death, serve to expose people's true faith, doubts, and intentions, leading to *“fall and rise of many in Israel.”* Thus, some will rise in faithfulness and fealty to Christ (believers, the faithful) or fall in rejection of their Savior (like his enemies, that bad man Herod). Christ's rejection, his condemnation, his suffering, and his death would be witnessed by Mary, whose heart *“a sword will pierce.”*

**The Prophetess Anna.** In that same temple scene with Simeon, we meet Anna, an 84-year-old widowed prophetess *“of the tribe of Asher.”* (Luke 2:36). According to Luke 2:37, *“She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And at that very time, coming forward, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.”*

So, Anna is from the tribe of Asher. What tribe is Simeon from? What about St. Andrew? What about St. Jude? For the most part, in the New Testament, a person's tribe is rarely mentioned. But for Anna, her tribe is specifically mentioned. Why? After Israel

*(continued on page 10)*

**HC & ICC CLERGY**

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor  
 Rev. John Enemuo 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

**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. 118  
 Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext 122  
 Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123  
 Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director  
 Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135  
 Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**ICC STAFF**

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

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL**

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8  
 302 674 5787  
[holycrossdover.org/school](http://holycrossdover.org/school)

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**JAN. 4—EPIPHANY**

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

The prophet describes the coming Savior as a beacon. People of all nationalities will be drawn to his light.

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

The spirit has made it clear: the promise of salvation is meant for everyone.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12**

The birth of Christ did indeed draw people from every corner of the globe. Visitors from the East were among the first to welcome our Savior.

**RECEPTIONIST POSITION**

**Holy Cross Parish is looking for a Full Time Receptionist.** Seeking an

enthusiastic candidate eager to work as the first point of contact

**Help Wanted**

for visitors. Your role is crucial in creating a positive and professional first impression. Responsibilities include answering and routing incoming calls, maintain confidentiality and manage sensitive information with discretion, receive and distribute mail, packages, and deliveries, provide support to others in the office; assist with clerical tasks, miscellaneous office tasks as requested; scheduling baptismal prep classes and securing dates for baptisms; recording sacramental information into appropriate records; prepare and set up weekly Mass binders ; Experience with Microsoft Word, Publisher, and Excel and have strong organizational and multitasking abilities.

Please send your resume to [secretary@holycrossdover.org](mailto:secretary@holycrossdover.org).

**SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY**

We can always use Hamburger Helper, Manwich, canned goods such as kidney, black, pinto beans, soups, instant potatoes, Brownie Mix, peanut butter/jelly, etc. Thanks for your generosity.

Thanks to all who contributed paper bags to aid in our packing of the food. Right now we have an ample supply so please hold off on bringing in more bags at this time. Thank you.

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Tune-in this week to learn about the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales as they bring their year-long 150th anniversary celebration to a close, with Father Michael Newman, OSFS. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceesofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum) and [Facebook.com/CatholicForum](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

## CEMETERY NEWS

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

## RACHEL MINISTRY

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is hosting a Weekend of Hope & Healing retreat offering a beautiful opportunity to any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. Information can be found on the CDOW website.

Date: March 20-22, 2026

Confidential Location: Ocean City, MD area, disclosed after registration

Suggested donation: \$250/person, \$400/couple (scholarships available)

For confidential inquiries and registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry:

Call (410) 625-8491

Text (410) 299-9345

[Projectrachel@archbalt.org](mailto:Projectrachel@archbalt.org)

## LAST CHANCE FOR YEAR-END GIFTS

If you are planning to make a year-end gift to the church, we must have it to the Parish Office no later than Noon on December 30 or postmarked by December 31 in order to count for this year's donations. Thank you for thinking of the church. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

## MASS INTENTION DECEMBER/JANUARY

### 29 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Evelyn Bunac

### 30 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Bobby and Nina Frank (LI)

### 31 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Jack Cutrona (LI)

HC 5 & 7 pm For the People

ICC 5:30 & 7 pm For the People

### 1 THURSDAY

HC & ICC All Masses for the People

### 2 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am John Lehnhoff

### 3 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am For the People

HC 5:00 pm HC priests, parents and fam.

### 4 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Steven and Donald Peer

ICC 8:30 am Jerry and Gerry Bevenour

HC 9:30 am Ronald Salamone

ICC 11:00 am Charles and Peggy Clifford

HC 11:30 am For the People

ICC 1:00 pm For the People

*Dec 28—Jan 3 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of parishioners of Holy Cross.*

*Dec 28 - Dec 27 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for parishioner of Holy Cross.*

## HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR FAITH-FILLED COMMUNITY!

Holy Cross High School is now accepting applications for the 2026–2027 school year. Located in Dover, Delaware, we offer a Classical Catholic education rooted in faith, virtue, and academic excellence. We warmly welcome families to explore our mission and discover how Holy Cross can be a place where your child grows in faith and knowledge. For more information, contact Christina Klaus, Director of Admissions: [cmklaus@hchs.org](mailto:cmklaus@hchs.org) or visit our website at [www.hchs.org](http://www.hchs.org).

JANUARY 3/4, 2026

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Clendaniel L. Darling J. Novack  
D. Darling F. Ernst J. Novack

LECTORS

D. Dixon  
R. Finelli

7:30 AM C. Brown J. Davis L. Thomas  
J. Chandler J. Denney G. Thomas

LECTORS

M. Jacobs

9:30 AM D. Martinez F. Hanlin M. Willoughby  
S. Ford K. Kelly L. Boggs

LECTORS

M. Sossich  
R. Alderman

11:30 AM G. Hernandez F. Mendoza  
N. Almengor A. Garcia

LECTORS

R. Rangel  
D. Runser

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM B. Casey

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM F. Cristiano

LECTORS

A. Poppiti



**HELP WANTED—WE NEED YOU**

We are looking for more volunteers to help us bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound of our parish. Call the Holy Cross Parish Office if interested in this ministry.

We can always use more volunteers to help at Mass as an Altar Server, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Communion, or a Lector. If interested please contact the Parish Office at 3020-674-5787.

ADORATION CHAPEL

*"To entrust our struggles to Jesus, we have to spend time with Him in prayer. We have to have a relationship with Him. In quiet, we can speak honestly with Him about what is in our hearts. During Eucharistic adoration you can look at Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. You know that He looks at you and He looks at you with love. He often speaks to us gently, in stillness."*

Pope Leo XIV, November 21, 2025

Come, signup for Adoration and make this the best Advent ever. You may just decide to make this a weekly commitment after Advent. You don't need a time if you cannot make a commitment. Please feel free to come in and sit with our Lord, when you can.

Contact John Murphy 302-233-1779

or [jkm2015@verizon.net](mailto:jkm2015@verizon.net) for any of the times available listed below:

**Sunday:** 7-8am, 5-6pm, 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm, 8-9pm

**Monday:** 9-10 am

**Wednesday:** 5-6 pm, 8-9 pm

**Thursday:** 8-9 pm

**Saturday:** 5-6 am, 12-1pm, 1-2pm, 7-8 pm, 8-9pm

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE (2026 PROGRAMS)

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of 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 and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 6-8, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit [www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org](http://www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org). All inquiries are strictly confidential.

- **Gracias:** Nuestro más sincero agradecimiento a todos los que nos acogieron y nos dieron posada en sus hogares. Tanto los hermanos de la parroquia de Holy Cross como la de la Inmaculada Concepción es una verdadera bendición poder compartir nuestras tradiciones navideñas
- **Día de Precepto:** El 31 de diciembre celebraremos la vigilia de la solemnidad de María Madre de Dios, nuestra santa Misa en español, a las 7:00 de la noche en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz en Dover, también a las 7:00 de la noche en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel. Es día de precepto y tenemos la obligación de asistir a misa.
- **Feliz Año Nuevo 2026:** En nombre de los que laboramos en la parroquia y del Ministerio Hispano les deseamos un Próspero Año Nuevo lleno de esperanza deseando que la paz, el amor y la alegría inunden los corazones, sirviendo para superar las dificultades y retos que tenemos y encontrar fuerza en la unión familiar y los buenos momentos, recordando que cada día es una nueva oportunidad para construir un mañana mejor, iluminado por la magia de la fe, la bondad, el amor y la esperanza que Cristo nos da.
- **Día de Reyes:** El domingo, 4 de enero, 2026 celebraremos la Epifanía del Señor, conocido como día de Reyes, tendremos nuestra tradicional Rosca de Reyes. Los reyes llegaran para adorar al Niño y darles aguinaldo a nuestros niños. Si usted desea colaborar con una Rosca o con una olla de atole o champurado hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- **Foro Cristiano:** Reanudaremos nuestro Foro Cristiano “ Santos y Camino a la Santidad” el viernes 9 de enero 2025 de 6-8 de la noche, en el ELC. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados.
- **Voluntarios:** Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- **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.
- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ**
- Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia... (P. Gerald Fitzgerald, SP) Únase al Apostolado de las Siete Hermanas en Holy Cross para ofrecer: Una hora santa, Por un sacerdote; Cada semana, Un corazón de oración. Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

## ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

- **Misa de Maria Madre de Dios el 31 de diciembre a las 7:00PM.** En nombre de los que Laboramos en la oficina Parroquial queremos extenderles Feliz Año Nuevo 2026, Que este año que comienza sea de mucha Paz, Salud, amor y prosperidad.
- **Educación Religiosa: No hay clase Dominical el 28 de**
- **Confirmación Prep:**
- Sesión #4- Domingo, Enero 18 2026, 3-5:30 pm, Salón de evento
- **OCIA:** Domingos 5:30 PM -7:15 PM en La Oficina Parroquial, Llámanos y aprenda nuestra Fe.

### RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

"To our wonderful Religious Ed families, wishing you a New Year filled with God's abundant grace and peace. May the Lord bless you and keep you, as Psalm 29:11 says, 'May the Lord give strength to His people; may the Lord bless His people with peace.' May this year bring you closer to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, and strengthen your family's faith journey. Happy New Year!"

**Next Class:** January 6th (K-4th Grade) and January 7th (5th Grade and Sacramental Prep)

All Classes in the Elementary Building from 6:00pm-7:30pm (please arrive between 5:45pm and 5:50pm so classes may begin on time.

If you still need to register, or have any questions please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

### LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

**Next class: January 4th**

We gather after 9:30am Mass in the Matthew/Mark room. Class will begin at 11:00am and will last until approximately 1:00pm.

Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 for further information.

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

**Next class: January 6th** – Foundations of Faith session 12

"Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the ultimate way for your parish or small group to encounter the wisdom of the Catechism and deepen your understanding of the Catholic Faith.

This is a free class; however, the workbook set associated with this program is available

for a cost of \$40 (workbook and catechism chart)

Deacon Bob's Adult Ed Class is every Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C

If you have any questions or would like to order the workbook set, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Confirmation Retreat -

at Holy Cross on January 10. Please check emails for details

#### Confirmation Class -

January 11 and January 14 will be cancelled because of retreat on January 10..

### CHECK OUT THESE LINKS:

- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/luke-in-50-days-announcement>
- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>
- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



#### In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

- <https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>



#### In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration>



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### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

**OCIA: Monday nights in Parish Office from 5:30-7:15pm, Please call and join us.**

**NO SRE Sunday, December 28th, classes resume on January 4th**

**Confirmation Prep:** Session #4- Sunday, January 18th, 3-5:30pm in Parish Hall

**First Communion Prep:** Parent meeting- Tuesday, January 6th, 7pm, parish hall **OR** Sunday, January 11th, 2:30pm in Parish Hall

Session #1: January 13th at 6:30pm-7:30pm in Parish Hall

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter this blessed holiday season, Holy Cross Catholic School has been filled with excitement, joy, and deep gratitude. From our festive holiday concerts and plays to the Santa Workshop hosted by our dedicated Home and School Association, this time of year has offered countless opportunities for our community to come together in celebration. Just as importantly, it has been a season rooted in service. Throughout the month, volunteers from the Knights of Columbus, along with parents and students, gathered to continue the important work of building our new library. We are deeply thankful to Doug D, Bernie S, Rich C, Santiago C, Wayne T, Nick B, Teddy Graham, John S, Robert P, Logan T, Liam B, Moira B, and Aurora G for spending a cold Saturday helping to strengthen our school for generations to come. We also had students and families travel to the beach to volunteer at Schellville Christmas Village, spreading Christmas joy through service and presence. These moments remind us how truly blessed we are to be part of such a generous and faith filled community.

Amid the busyness of the season, we have been intentional each day about reflecting on the true reason for Christmas, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Through daily prayer and reflection, we worked to ensure that the love of Christ was felt in every classroom, hallway, and gathering space. It is this love that unites us and gives meaning to all that we do.

This past week, we celebrated the birth of Jesus with joy in our hearts. As a child, one of my most cherished Christmas memories was gathering with my family around the nativity in our home on Christmas morning. Before we could look at any gifts under the tree, my sisters and I were given the special responsibility of placing the baby Jesus in the manger. That simple tradition left a lasting impression on my heart and instilled in me the true meaning of Christmas as a celebration of God's love made present among us. At Holy Cross Catholic School, it is our hope that we share this same message with our students and help them embrace the miracle of Christ's birth as the heart of this holy season.

We were blessed with time away from school this past week, and we hope that all of our families were able to celebrate Christmas together. We pray that you were able to attend Mass and then gather with loved ones to continue celebrating the birth of Christ. During the holiday season, it is especially important that we pray together, serve one another, and spend meaningful time with our families. I often reflect on the example of the Holy Family and how Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus model faith, love, and unity. Their example reminds us of the importance of centering our own family lives on prayer and devotion.

When I think of family, my thoughts naturally turn to my grandparents, who were deeply rooted in faith and family and led us by example throughout our lives. This Christmas looks different for my family, as it is our first without my grandfather, Poppop Frank, who passed away this past summer. Every Christmas morning of my life was spent with him, beginning with Mass and ending gathered around a large table sharing a meal, laughter, and gifts. While he will not be with us physically, I know he will be present in spirit, watching over the family he built and smiling as we carry on the traditions he started and held so dear. I am profoundly grateful for the faith, love, and sense of family he instilled in all of us.

My hope for each of you is that you are able to continue your own family traditions this season and take time to pause, look around your tables, and truly soak in the memories and love that surround you. These moments are precious gifts.

As we look ahead to the new year, we eagerly anticipate welcoming our students back to campus and embracing the many blessings and opportunities that this next year will bring. Together, we will continue to grow in faith, nurture the gifts God has given us, and create lasting memories as a Holy Cross community.

On behalf of everyone at Holy Cross Catholic School, I wish all of our Crusader families a blessed and joyful Christmas season. May the love of Christ fill your hearts and homes, and may the coming year bring you peace, health, and happiness.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Blessings,  
Mallory O'Mara, Principal

split into two kingdoms, the 10 northern tribes (including Asher) broke from the lineage of King David and fell away from the Covenant, entering apostasy (such as Pagan worship).

In contrast, the southern kingdom (Judah and Benjamin) remained faithful, albeit imperfectly, maintaining the Temple and the true priesthood in Jerusalem. In 722 B.C., the northern kingdom fell to Assyrian forces, who exiled and dispersed its people, most of whom never returned. These are called the *"Lost Tribes,"* and Asher was one of them. This makes Anna, a remnant of the unfaithful Tribe of Asher, faithfully living in Judah, where she, also in faith, has awaited the Messiah. The message is that even a member of this scattered tribe that apostatized and rejected the lineage of King David can return to the fold and be blessed to see and tell others about the Messiah. She represents, in some sense, the restoration of Israel after all of its trials and tribulations.

**The Magi Come to Town!** I am going to keep a lot of my powder dry on this one, as Epiphany is coming up soon, and this will be the topic *du jour* that day. But I will note the tentpoles of this story: Three Magi (wisemen, kings) follow a star to find the Newborn King, Jesus. They stop to visit the local King, Herod, who doesn't want to hear about any competing King. He tells them to let him know where they find Him. They do find Him. They don't tell Herod. They go back home. Which leads to...

**The Flight to Egypt.** After the Magi departed, *"the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him'"* (Matthew 2:13). Joseph indeed took Mary and Jesus and fled to Egypt for safety. This event is called *"The Flight to Egypt"* (flight meaning fleeing, not a Delta Airlines booking). Scripture says Joseph stayed there *"until the death of Herod,"* after which he returned to Nazareth.

King Herod, who heard of this "newborn king," seethed with jealousy and fear. He would brook no challenge to his rule. He wanted the Newborn King (Jesus) dead. Thus, the Angel told Joseph to seek safety in Egypt. Something to note, when Joseph and Mary went from Nazareth to Bethlehem (where Jesus was to be born) for the mandated Roman census, that long journey was 90 miles. After the angel's warning, Mary and Joseph (with Jesus) packed up and headed for Egypt. From Bethlehem to the frontier of Egypt was about 91 miles. Thus, to heed earthly authorities, Mary and Joseph travelled 90 miles, but to heed the Divine call, as conveyed by the Angel, Mary and Joseph went the extra mile. They went that extra mile to protect our Lord; they went the extra mile to heed God's call. And we, too, like Mary and Joseph, with Jesus in our midst, are called to go that extra mile in the service of the Lord.

**The Slaughter of the Innocents.** King Herod had expected the Magi to report back to him the location of the Christ child, but when they didn't, his anger flared. Realizing that "he had been deceived by the Magi, he became furious." Beset with anger management issues, Herod "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." This would ensure that this baby, who was born and identified by the Magi and others as a king, would not be able to pose a threat to his rule.

It is said that King Herod ascended his throne like a fox, ruled like a lion, and died like a dog (from a putrefying illness that saw his body decay and rot, in the most painful of manners). The underlying significance of this story is that Herod committed the most profound evil imaginable to stop the most wonderful good the world would ever know. He thought only of himself, not of God, not of neighbor. Just himself. When our little world has a population of one, bad things happen. But regardless of how horrendous an act this was, God's goodness was in the mix. Our Lord escaped the clutches of Herod's evil, the slaughtered innocents became our first martyrs (thus being the first to conveniently enjoy the opening of the gates of Heaven), and evil didn't prosper. Thus, the world got its Savior, the Innocents got Heaven, and Herod got nothing.

**The Return to Nazareth.** The post-Nativity scriptures end with Joseph and Mary, with Jesus heading back to Nazareth following Herod's death. An angel tells Joseph, "Take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel." (Matthew 2:20a) So, Joseph packed up the family and went back to Nazareth, where he and Mary raised Jesus, who "was obedient to them" (Luke 2:51b). In his time there, we are told that "Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man" (Luke 2:52).

Onward to Epiphany!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor