



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 4, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent

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

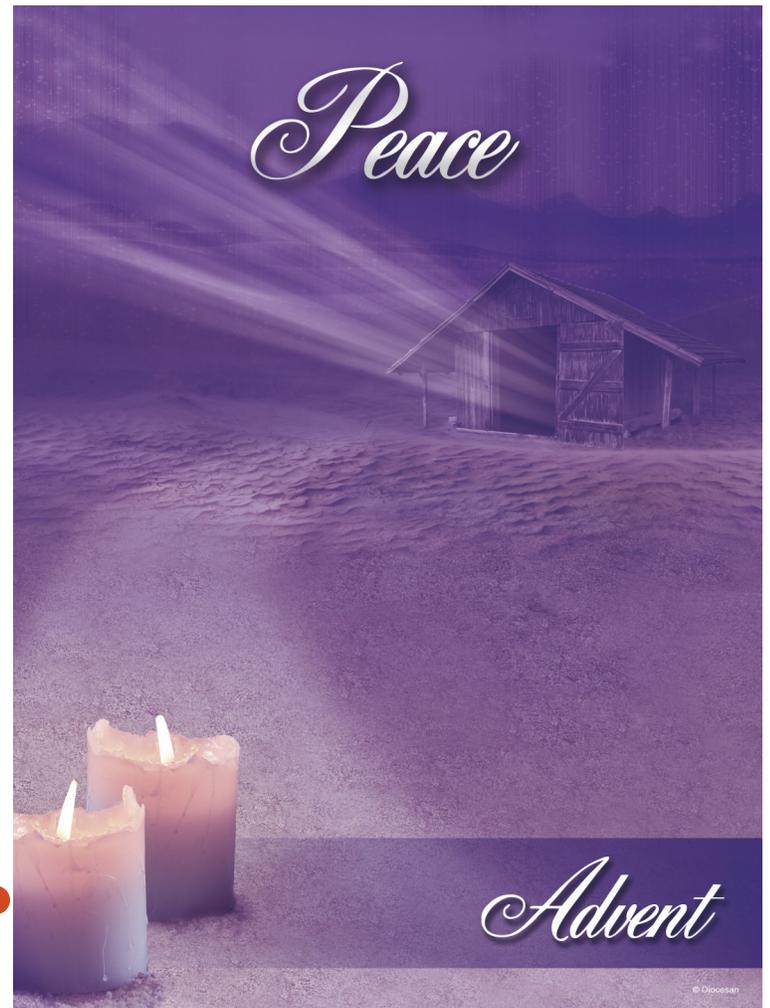
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
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 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.

Giving Tree

The small Giving Tree you will find in the Gathering Space is filled with envelopes for you make donations to Holy Cross for our Samaritans and those in need in our parish and community.

The money collected will be used to help the Samaritan Outreach Programs and help those with financial needs.

Once you take an envelope, please place it in the Offertory Basket, mail or bring it to the Parish Office, or give it to one of our clergy.

Code Purple Tree

Our larger tree has been designated to collect some basic items to help with Code Purple in Kent County. Code Purple's mission is to help those suffering from homelessness.

Take a tag if you can purchase and donate some socks, underwear, gloves, hats, scarves, or small toys for the children.

Return the item, unwrapped, and place it in the boxes under the tree. We will distribute these items to those helping the homeless this winter. Thank you.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending Nov. 20, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$29,858	\$28,000	\$1,858
YTD	\$526,116	\$568,500	(\$42,384)
Needs	\$1,662	\$1,604	\$58

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending Nov. 20, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$2,655
Second Collection	\$182

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

Dear Parishioner,

This week's Pastor's Column is a crossword puzzle all about Advent and the Church in December. To complete the puzzle online you may go to www.iccmarydel.org/adventpuzzle.

Also: To learn all about the Season of Advent go to www.iccmarydel.org/advent (or just go to front page of the website and click the "Advent" image).

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor

ACROSS

3 Which Archangel announced to Mary that she was chosen to be Christ's mother?

8 The prophecies of the Old Testament prophet ____ are read often during the Advent season.

9 Advent hymn: O Come, O Come _____

10 Advent comes from the Latin word, "adventus," which means ____.

11 In Luke's Gospel we are told that the reason that Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem was for a census that required you to go to your hometown. In the Gospel it is expressed this way: "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be ____"

15 Name given to the Third Sunday of Advent: _____ Sunday.

17 The Patron Saint of India celebrated on December 3 is St. Francis ____.

18 Two days after the Immaculate Conception and two days before Our Lady of Guadalupe, we celebrate another holy day of Mary: Our Lady of ____.

21 Common name given to the last day of Advent: Christmas ____.

22 The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe shows Mary standing upon a _____ (2 words)

24 During Advent we hear the phrases "O Wisdom" "O Key of David" "O Root of Jesse" -- these are three of the seven phrases called the "O _____"

29 The candles on the Advent wreath symbolize Christ, the ____ _ _____. (4 words)

31 What is the last word of the last scripture (Gospel) read on the last day of Advent?

35 In St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 1, an Angel of the Lord tells St. Joseph that Mary is to have a Son, and is

to be named Jesus, "because he will save his people from their ____."

36 From the French word for crib, this is a common sight in many homes as Advent comes to a close, and people prepare for Christmas.

37 The first word of the Angel when he came to Mary in St. Luke's Gospel 1:28.

39 Number of violet candles on an Advent Wreath.

41 Maximum length of the season of Advent: ____ days.

43 Mary revealed that she was the Immaculate Conception to St. ____

44 The first Saint Day celebrated after the end of Advent. The Feast of St. ____ (Dec. 26)

45 Number of candles on a traditional Advent Wreath

46 When Mary and Joseph stopped at the Inn to find lodging for the night, in what town was the Inn located?

DOWN

1 The first holy day after the conclusion of the Season of Advent

2 On Dec. 9 we celebrate the saint who encountered Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe; his name is St. Juan ____.

4 On December 8 we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary in the womb of St. ____.

5 What flowers are associated with Our Lady of Guadalupe?

6 When Mary accepts her role as Mother of God, she tells the Angel, "Behold, I am the ____ of the Lord."

7 On December 7, the Church celebrates the Memorial of St. Ambrose, Bishop. Of note, he is the patron saint of _____. (2 words)

12 Color associated with the Third Sunday of Advent.

13 On December 13 the Church celebrates the Memorial of the Virgin-Martyr St. ____.

14 In St. Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 1, we are told that St. Joseph gets visited by an angel in a ____.

15 Prayer that is not said or sung at Mass during

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Brennan Ferris	Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
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
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

WEDNESDAY MASS TIME TO CHANGE (HC)

The Wednesday morning Mass is now held at **8:15 am**. We switched to this new time on **Wednesdays only** to allow the school children to attend the morning Mass on Wednesdays. All other weekday morning Masses will remain at 8 am.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The pre-Christmas clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 11th. This includes the removal of Halloween and Thanksgiving decorative items as well as anything in violation of the cemetery's Rules and Regulations. If you wish to reclaim your decorations for reuse, please do so by then. Your assistance in disposing of decorations at home will help reduce our clean up time and costs.

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

NEW PARISHIONERS (HC)

We welcome our newly registered parishioners:

- Agnes Coleman
- Mary Deo

RECENTLY DECEASED (HC)

Condolences to the families of those who have recently died:

- Alfred Sera-Jose
- Ida Mondì
- Peter Kozulko
- Joan Valentine

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (DEC 11)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-6A, 10

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11



SAMARITANS

It's time to start again asking for help with food items for our Christmas baskets. We are also collecting hams for these baskets. Items can be left inside the door by the Samaritan doorway. There is a freezer there to put the meat into.

SODALITY (HC)

The next Sodality meeting will take place on Sunday, **December 11, at 12:30 pm** on the second floor of the Early Learning Center. New members are always welcome. Stop by to see what we have to offer.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! Get away for an intimate weekend – no group sharing required. We would love more couples to attend the next weekend. For information or to register, visit our website <http://www.wwme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

NEW YORK TENORS ARE COMING TO WILMINGTON!

The Diocese of Wilmington will present The Magic of Christmas with the world-famous New York Tenors at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, at Salesianum High School in Wilmington. Event proceeds will support the work of Catholic Charities.

The public is invited to experience memorable music, moments and magic through the vocal artistry of the New York Tenors, Andy Cooney, Daniel Rodriguez and Christopher Macchio, as they take audiences on a truly entertaining holiday journey.

A meet-and-greet with Wilmington's Bishop William E. Koenig and the New York Tenors will be held after the show. For show tickets, sponsorship information, and meet-and-greet tickets, contact Andrea Rotsch at 302-573-3120 or arotsch@cdow.org. Tickets may be purchased online at WilmingtonDiocese.simplenetix.com.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"One advantage of marriage...is that when you fall out of love with each other, it keeps you together until maybe you fall in love again." (Judith Viorst) What stirs you back to your love when it becomes routine? Try it soon.

MASS INTENTIONS DECEMBER

5 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Teri Dupuis
6 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Jimmy Luff
7 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Joe McLaughlin
ICC 5:30 pm	For the People
HC 7:00 pm	Ann-Marie O'Donnell
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
8 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Gregory Steven Brownawell
ICC 9:00 am	For the People
HC 12:10 pm	Theodore Morris
9 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Cathy Castiglione
10 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Gina Mayers Morris
HC 5 pm	Alice McGlynn
11 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Gumersindo Figueroa
ICC 8:30 am	James and Elizabeth Griffith
HC 9:30 am	Adalgisa Pietro Ranieri
ICC 11 am	Teresa Crenshaw
HC 11:30 am	Olga Sanchez
ICC 1 pm	For the People
	<i>(LI—LIVING INTENTION DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)</i>

PARENT POINTERS

"Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" (Isaiah 11:6) Generally a wolf and lamb are enemies...yet this reading invites us to see them resting together. Most of us have some folks we don't get along with. Is there a way to see some good even in a person you don't like. Talk about it.

SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on World Marriage Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 1 pm at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, Delaware. The Mass coincides with National Marriage Week, February 7 through 12. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage and Family Life 302-295-0657 or egaus@cdow.org

HOLY CROSS DEC.10/11, 2022

	EMHC		SERVERS
5:00 PM	M. Caccese M. Casey	D. Darling L. Carling	L. Curley B. Richardson L. Richardson
LECTORS			
L. Christiansen D. Dixon			
7:30 AM	J. Clendaniel J. Davis	T. Dinan R. Fritzsche	E. Bydlon E. Wadhams C. Wilk
LECTORS			
C. Cuffee			
9:30 AM	K. Boyer K. Canfield	D. Martinez F. Hanlin	J. Beugre C. Beugre G. Maddalena
LECTORS			
M. Sossich T. Baurys			
11:30 AM	C. Garcia B. Guzman	A. Luna	K. Espinosa C. Geronimo
LECTORS			
A. Luna			
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	A. Smith		
LECTORS			
T. Woodeshick			
11:00 AM	J. Carrow		
LECTORS			
S. Tucker			
1:00 PM	To be determined		

Thank you to all who help with our various ministries at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception. We are truly grateful for your service to your parishes.

We are always in need of more Lectors, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion, and Altar Servers.

Please call your parish offices if you would be interested in joining in with those who already serve.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HO)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY	6 am, 4 pm, 5pm, 6 pm, 8 pm
MONDAY	5 am, 5 pm
TUESDAY	6 am, 12 Noon, 8 pm
FRIDAY	1 pm
SATURDAY	12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

DECEMBER 8—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY

Thursday, December 8, is a Holy Day in honor of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Masses will be offered at Holy Cross on Wednesday evening, Dec. 7, at 7 pm, and on Thursday, Dec. 8, at 8 am and 12:10 pm.

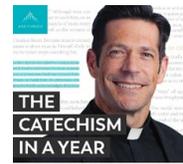
Masses will be offered at Immaculate Conception Parish on Wednesday evening, Dec. 7, at 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm (Spanish), and on Dec. 8, at 9 am.

DECEMBER 12—FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

We will offer a Mass on Monday, December 12, at 7 pm at Holy Cross Church in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. After mass, there will be a procession to the gymnasium where we will host a fiesta to celebrate the day. All are welcome to attend the Mass and fiesta.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Catechism in a Year
With Fr. Mike Schmitz
Coming Jan. 1, 2023



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>

- Si usted desea colaborar con algo o desea participar con las celebraciones en honor a la virgen de Guadalupe anótese o hable con las Sras., Marta Espinosa, Mireya Rodríguez, Lina Mejía o llame a la oficina parroquial.
El domingo, 11 de diciembre de 10 de la noche en adelante tendremos las mañanitas y el Santo Rosario Infantil. El lunes, 12 la santa Misa a las 7:00 de la noche, seguida por la procesión al gimnasio donde tendremos la cena y serenatas a nuestra virgen de Guadalupe. Póngalo en su calendario y celebremos a nuestra Madre.
- La palabra latina "adventus" significa "venida". En el lenguaje cristiano se refiere a la venida de Jesucristo. La liturgia de la Iglesia da el nombre de Adviento a las cuatro semanas que preceden a la Navidad, como una oportunidad para prepararnos en la esperanza y en el arrepentimiento para la llegada del Señor. El morado y el rosa son los dos colores litúrgicos designados para representar el tiempo de Adviento. El morado se usa como símbolo de penitencia y preparación, pero el tercer domingo de Adviento, conocido como "Domingo Gaudete", se usa el rosa, que representa la alegría por la venida de Jesús. Los protagonistas del Adviento son: Isaías, San Juan Bautista y María. Vivamos nuestro Adviento en preparación para la Segunda venida de nuestro Redentor y Justo Juez. Feliz Año Nuevo a todos
- El Foro Cristiano todos los viernes de 6:00 – 8:00 de la tarde en el salón Mateo/Marcos. hasta el 2 de junio tendremos la formación es para toda la familia. Este año el curso será sobre Signos, símbolos, sacramentos y sacramentales.
- Ministerio de Arte y Ambientación invita a que te unas a ellos. Dios nos ha dado a cada uno talentos para que lo usemos a la su mayor gloria y para el bien común, donar tu tiempo y ayudar a tu parroquia es algo gratificante y descubrirás todos los talentos que el Señor te ha dado, compartirás momentos agradables, aprenderás del otro y enseñaras a otros,

es importante recordar y necesario que sigas el horario y directrices del Ministerio de Arte y Ambientación que es para decorar, limpiar, y ambientar nuestro templo para las celebraciones litúrgicas. Anótese con la Sra. Arline Dosman.

- Si usted desea colaborar con algo o desea participar con las celebraciones en honor a la virgen de Guadalupe anótese o hable con las Sras., Marta Espinosa, Mireya Rodríguez, Lina Mejía o llame a la oficina parroquial.
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- Si usted desea tomar una Posada por favor de anotarse con las Sra. Fabiola Cebrero-Gómez o Cristina Cebrero-Guzmán. Se les pide que se unan por vecindario para tomar una Posada o por familias. Las Posadas son del 16 al 23 de diciembre.
- 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

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

- PRIMERA RECONCILIACION: 5 Sesión para niños es el martes 13 de diciembre, a las 6:30pm en el salón, la clase termina a las 7:30pm. Se su hijo no está inscrito por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti
- Retiro para la Primera Reconciliación: es el sábado 7 de Enero, 2023 de 9:00 AM - 12 mediodía en el Salon Parroquial. Esto es solo para los niños
- CONFIRMACION DE JOVENES: Tercera Sesión es hoy domingo, 18 de diciembre. a las 2:30pm en el salón.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Class 12/4/2022 at 3:00pm-5:00pm

Nex Class 12/18/2022

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions contact Tammy Korosec Early L either 302-674-5787 x122 or tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class December 4 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Early Learning Center. Next class on 1/8/2023

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF? Contact Tammy Korosec.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

"The Eucharist in Scripture" with Scott Hahn
"In *The Eucharist in Scripture*, discover God's plan as it is expressed through the Bible and the Mass. This six-lesson study, presented by Dr. Scott Hahn, will unlock the meaning of covenant, sacrifice, and sacrament as understood in the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation.

Built around three of Dr. Hahn's foundational talks: "The Lamb's Supper," "The Fourth Cup," and "Consuming the Word," *The Eucharist in Scripture* examines the biblical foundations of the Eucharist and explores the Church's liturgy as the original context for the books of the Bible."

Classes begin January 10th at either 9AM or 7PM in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Office. This will be a free class. No workbooks will be provided. If you are interested contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

CONFIRMATION AT HOLY CROSS

Our next class takes place on Sunday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 14.

MOUNT 2000

We have 4 spots left for Mount 2000 retreat February 3-5, 2023 at Mt. St. Mary's University.

Cost is \$100 per teen - open to any high school teen interested in joining us.

Please contact Mrs. Darling for a link to register.

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP 2023

We will be traveling to Drexel Hill, PA June 25 to June 30 for a week of service, faith and fun. Please consider joining us - spots available. See Mrs. Darling.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Come join us for a delicious breakfast of pancakes and sausage, crafts, and a visit with Santa! Cost is \$3 ages 2-8 and \$5 ages 9 to adult.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Religious Education classes run Sunday mornings until May 7th, 9:40 am-10:50 am. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Alicia Poppiti @410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryladel.org for more information. Also, If you have any difficulty with affording RE, please call Alicia Poppiti, and the office can assist you.

First Reconciliation Immaculate Conception: Session 6 for children is on Tuesday, December 13th beginning promptly at 6:30pm in the Church Hall, class ends at 7:30pm.

Retreat for 1st Reconciliation is on Saturday, January 7th, 9am-12noon in the Parish Hall. This is for the children only.

Youth Confirmation for Immaculate Conception:

Third Session is Sunday, December 18, at 2:30-5pm in the Parish hall. If your youth is not registered, please contact Alicia Poppiti, 410-482-8939.

“Excuse me miss but register 10 just opened if you want to change lines.” There I was in one of those big box stores waiting in line to pay for my purchase. I opted to stay where I was because the gentleman in front of me didn’t have that many items, and for a change, I was in no particular hurry. Little did I know the gentleman in front of me was going to be a conversationalist with the cashier. Being a captive audience of sorts, I had no alternative but to hear bits and pieces of their friendly exchange. It all started with the gentleman inquiring after the wellbeing of his cashier; she in turn responded by informing him of her current level of fatigue and the time of day that she reported for work that morning. Well, an amiable back and forth ensued which included his story on his service in the military, how they had both had younger siblings predecease them, and the cashier revealing that it had been 70 plus years since her birth and she was ready for the Lord to come. He concurred, offering his views on that very subject, “yes, indeed; now more than ever! At that point the cashier stopped and stood there with a grapefruit in her hand and proceeded to converse with the patron in front of me regarding the end times. Grapefruit still in hand, the conversation veered to the Book of Isaiah and how he had predicted it all along. “Earthquakes, floods, and that Covid thing; you know they’re all signs.” She scanned the grapefruit. [Thank heavens, I wondered if the Lord was going to come first!]

You, me, the friendly cashier, my neighbor down the street. No one knows.

Not too very long ago I listened to a wise man tell the story of a young child who inquired of his mother as to when was the best time to pray. “Is it the morning when God has given us a new day? Is it the afternoon, or is it the night when God has brought us safely to the end of a day?” His mother offered her son the sage advice that it was best to pray right before one’s death. “But how do you know when you’re going to die?” the young boy asked. “No one knows, that’s why we should be praying all of the time.”

We learn from the gospel of Matthew to:

*Therefore, stay awake!
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.
Be sure of this: if the master of the house
had known the hour of night when the thief was coming,
he would have stayed awake
and not let his house be broken into.
So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”*

It is Advent. During Advent we sing one of the favorite Advent hymns written by Dan Schutte, a Jesuit priest; City Of God. The first verse sums up the liturgical season well, I think:

*Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.*

The message is not new, but it never gets old. Get ready! Advent is a good time for a bit of a self-study. A time of reflection. Taking stock of our spiritual selves can be a cleansing experience.

Perhaps just start off with a few simple questions such as...

1. How is my prayer life? Could I pray more? You might pray the Rosary or even a daily decade, spend time in personal prayer driving down the road or peeling potatoes for dinner.
2. Or give yourself an early Christmas gift and sign up to receive the daily readings from the USCCB website through Advent.
3. How often do you go to Mass?
4. How about Reconciliation?
5. Is there an Advent wreath to be found anywhere in your house? If not....

Why not make one? What a great family project! I know we will be making and using them in our classrooms. The Advent wreath will be seen all over the school, in the church, and the giant wreath outdoors by the ramp, thanks to Mrs. Rider. It’s only right that our children see one in their own home. Here are a few websites for some fun kid-friendly suggestions.

<https://thekennedyadventures.com>
<https://www.pinterest.com/>
<https://www.catholicicing.com/>

I don’t sit upon a seat of judgement. These are simply questions I ask myself; might I humbly suggest you do the same? In so doing, be the best role model you can be for your children because they mimic what they see. Let them see you making room for Jesus in your heart, and they will do the same.

And, maybe, just maybe; that conversation I heard between those two sweet souls in the big box store register line isn’t just a bunch of hooley. You, me, the friendly cashier, my neighbor down the street. No one knows. So, bring on the purple!! And get ready....

the Season of Advent (except on the Immaculate Conception)

16 Saint who wrote "Dark Night of the Soul" has his Memorial observed at Mass on December 14: St. _____. (4 words)

19 Our Lady of Guadalupe marked the first appearance of Mary in the new world. In what country did Our Lady of Guadalupe appear?

20 In declaring the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) in 1854, Pope Pius IX stated that Mary, through God's grace, was conceived free from the stain of _____. (2 words)

23 Advent begins the new _____ year.

25 Type of feast day (rank) that describes the Immaculate Conception.

26 Six months before Mary gave birth to Jesus, her relative Elizabeth gave birth to a son. They were going to name the child Zechariah, after his father, but instead they named him _____.

27 Between December 16-24, in Hispanic culture, Las _____ are nine nights of prayer that dramatize the search of Joseph and Mary for lodging (leading up to the birth of Jesus).

28 In Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ as our Savior, and his second coming as our _____.

30 During Advent we hear about John the Baptist proclaiming: "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the _____." (4 words)

32 The color of the Season of Advent

33 Man and woman saint whose holy day (according to the Roman Martyrology) is observed on December 24: Ss. _____ (3 words)

34 In Chapter 1 of St. Matthew's Gospel, this described the relationship of Mary to Joseph: "Mary was _____ to Joseph"

38 The Season of Advent begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. _____.

40 Traditionally, the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after December 13 were observed as special days of fasting and prayer called _____ days.

42 Last saint day on the Universal Calendar of the Church in Advent -- on December 23 -- is the optional memorial of St. John of _____.

The Church in December

In the Catholic faith, the month of December is focused on Advent, but there are other key dates and events to know.

