



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 5, 2021

Second Sunday 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
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 and Friday, 12:10 pm
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

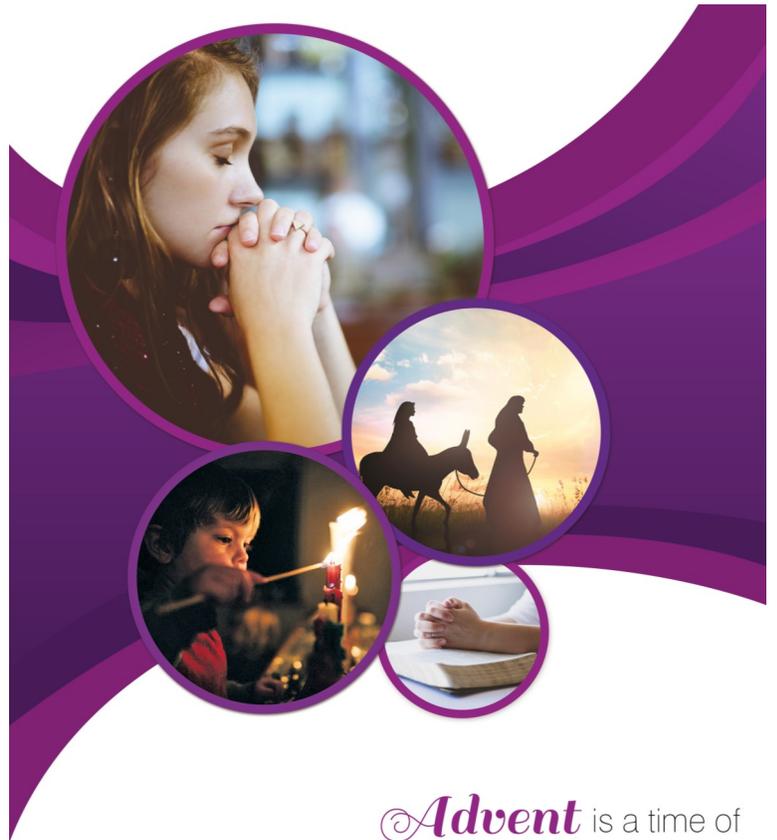
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm



Advent is a time of
Hopeful longing, Joyful expectation,
Prayerful penance and Spiritual
Preparation.

© Diocesan

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.

MASS BOOK 2022 (HC)

The **Mass Book for 2022 is now open.** Due to the reduced number of Masses we are currently offering, we must restrict the number of requests. Please see below:

1. You can **request ONLY 3 Masses** and payment of \$10 per Mass is required at the time of the request.
2. Requests **MUST** be written out providing **your name, phone number, email, maximum three requests listing date and time of request (with alternative dates) and with person's name (remember intention can be for one person or members of same family only for the intentions).** We will do our best to honor your request. *Please note we are only offering the 8 am Masses Monday through Saturday, 5 pm Saturday Mass, Sunday 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am Spanish Masses.*
3. Requests for the Church tabernacle candle or Adoration Chapel candle can also be made. \$10 per request. Limit **one** request per person.

Please call the office with any questions.

MASSES FOR FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—DECEMBER 8

Holy Cross: Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 pm; Wednesday, December 8 at 8:00 am and 12:10 pm. No 7 pm on Dec. 8

Immaculate Conception: Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 pm in English, 7:00 pm in Spanish/ Wednesday, December 8 at 9:00 am in English.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

November 21, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$27,660	\$26,000	\$1,660
YTD	\$527,974	\$543,300	(\$15,326)
Needs	\$1,754	\$1,480	\$274

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending November 21, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,405
2nd	\$376

For Holy Cross, 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 appreciate your generosity to the church.

Dear Parishioners,

In the 1970s there was a soda, I believe only available in the northeast, it was called “Purple Passion.” If you remember it, gift yourself with \$10 in Monopoly money. Purple Passion had about 15 minutes of fame and fizz and then famously fizzled into the sunset. Produced by the Canada Dry company, it was a fairly disgusting soda, which as I recall, was a mixture of grape soda and ginger ale. It tasted marginally better than an accidental swig of turpentine. I also remember that it was a soda that proudly placed its chemical preservatives on the front of the can, like advertising. I recently saw an old can of this, and my memory proved correct; the front of the can boasted: “Purple Passion... with artificial coloring and flavoring; preserved with sodium benzoate and stannous chloride.” Yum! Yum!

From Fizz to Fizzle. In any event, the passion for Purple Passion, in its psychedelic 12 oz. cans, petered out preemptively, and never made it to the mid-1970s. It joined the ranks of PDQ (“the crunchy drink”), Moo-Juice Milk Shake Mix, and the ominously named “Devil Shake” (Pepsi’s version of Yoo-Hoo) on the ash heap of 60s and 70s beverage history. But among all of these drinks, it was the makers of Purple Passion who really believed that consumers would be won over by its powerful purple image; it was thought to be so cool, that it couldn’t miss. But it did. And so, while “Purple Haze,” “Purple Rain,” and “The Purple-People Eater” found a home in our pop culture memory, “Purple Passion” fizzled out, like a too-long-opened can of Coke on a summer day.

Setting the (Pan)Tone for Advent. Moving from purple soda back to matters in our faith life, in this week’s Pastor’s Column, I want to talk about the special role of the color violet, or purple, in our Church. A color that should provide for us a passion, dare I say, a purple passion, during this season of Advent. So, let’s set our Pantone paint palette to purple and begin our Advent-ure.

Color Me Purple. Violet (or “purple” as we say in our everyday vernacular) is a symbol of penance and humility. Violet is used during this Season, that is, Advent, as well as during the Season of Lent. Both seasons are associated with a penitential tone, with Advent focusing on awaiting the birth of the Savior, while Lent points towards Jesus’ passion, death and resurrection. In addition to Advent and Lent, violet may also be worn at Funeral Masses and at Masses on All Souls Day — both of which are times when we remember our beloved dead. Violet, aka Purple, as used by the

Church for both Advent and Lent is, officially speaking, not the color that paint store would identify as violet. Violet as used by Church is actually the color amaranth red (i.e., reddish purple). The Church, contrary to commonly held church-ish urban legend, does not demarcate a different shade of violet for Advent as opposed to Lent. Thus, to put it poetically, “Roses are red, and Violet is amaranth red” regardless of whether it is Advent or Lent.

Let Purple Reign. This week as we continue in the Season of Advent, purple — or as officially identified by the Church, violet — is pronounced clearly through our liturgical life, most especially at Mass. Altar cloths, Advent candles, priestly vestments, diaconal (deacons’) vestments, etc. — are all passionately purple. All of this purple is there to remind us that we are preparing for our Savior’s birth, and his second coming at the end of time. It reminds us that we are to set right our lives and to make way for Jesus Christ in our world and in our lives. It reminds us to prepare for his coming patiently, penitently, prayerfully, and anxiously. Thus, as Advent arrives the question of this purple-tinged season is placed before us: Are we ready for the coming of Christ? Our response to this will determine whether our passion fizzles like the fizz of that failed 70s soda of which I spoke, or whether that desire to ready for Christ will become part of our daily lives in the days and weeks ahead.

Colorful History. Did you ever wonder why violet (purple) is connect to the Season of Advent? Well, to answer that question we have to take a journey in the Wayback Machine; we’ll set the dial to take us to the First Century, around the time of Christ’s birth. Purple (violet) at that time had a strong significance: Purple was considered then (and even today) to be the color of royalty. It was a color associated with the Roman Empire: Emperor Caesar’s official robes were always purple. This showed his royal persona. But why purple? Why not red, green or blue? Purple showed status because to produce that color required the most costly dyes available at the time. If you could afford to have purple garments, you were well off. Purple clothing or cloths were the Louis Vuitton product of the era. It is worth mentioning that some folks in the Roman Senate and at Caesar’s Palace (the emperor’s house not the Casino) likewise wore purple to show to their allegiance to reigning authority of Rome. Thus purple, dubbed by some at the time “Imperial Purple,” was a symbol of Roman imperial power, sovereignty and might.

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mano Salla	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/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
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



Second Sunday of Advent

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Do you have a pet name for your spouse (baby, honey, a nickname that only you use)? It's not essential but often it can remind both of you of your special relationship. It's like calling God, "Abba."

PARENTING POINTERS

It is the season we prepare again for Jesus coming into the world. It's also a very hectic time for most families. Pause today to remember the reason for the season to calm yourself and your children.

SVDP MEETING (IC)

St. Vincent de Paul meeting will meet from now on in the office building every month on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (IC)

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 AM in the ICC Parish Hall. Knitters & crocheters Welcome. Questions call Karen Cairns 302-382-9316

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 12

THIRD SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

The prophet looks forward to a time of joy as he awaits the coming of the Messiah.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Trust in Jesus Christ and you will find true happiness.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:10-18

John the Baptist announces the coming of the Christ, the Anointed One, and baptism by water and the Holy Spirit.

SAMARITAN GIVING TREE

This year, we will continue with our Giving Tree for the Samaritans. We would still like to collect monetary donations in order to help those in need. We have our Samaritan Tree in the Gathering Space with envelopes on it. All funds received will go into the Samaritan account so we can then help those in need who contact us and are cleared that they truly need help. Please consider making a donation to the Samaritans through this Giving Tree so we will have funds available to help those in need throughout the year. Take an envelope from the tree and return it to the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket in the envelope. All funds go into the Samaritan account. Do not leave checks or money at the tree.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The pre-Christmas clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11th ; this includes the removal of Halloween and Thanksgiving decorative items except artificial flowers. 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.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, December 12th, tune-in for an interview with seminarian, Manuel Vaz Guedes from the Seminary of Saint Peter Wigratzbad in the German Alps, and hear samples of their new Christmas CD, "Sancta Nox: Christmas Matins from Bavaria." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at facebook.com/CatholicForum.

MASS INTENTIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

6 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Ellen Blasiotti

7 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Lida Smith
 ICC 5:30 pm For the People
 HC 7:00 pm Mattheew & Mary Seben
 ICC 7:00 pm For the People

8 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Mark Patrick Tigani (LI)
 ICC 9:00 am For the People
 HC 12:10 pm Richard Adam

9 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Janet Dyba
 ICC 6:30 pm For the People

10 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Alice McGlynn

11 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Cassidy Snow Cruz (LI)
 HC 5 pm Daryl Dawson

12 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Pauline Crescenzo
 ICC 8:30 am Henry Mitchler
 HC 9:30 am Bernadette Miriello
 ICC 11 am Alexis & Marlene DeFrancesco
 HC 11:30 am DM Dorigo Family
 ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION

DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

VOCATIONS

The loving environment of a family draws forth an individual's greatest talents and gifts. We've come to realize that creating an atmosphere in which children can hear the Lord's call is one of the most significant responsibilities resting on our shoulders as parents. Our own lives must reflect the presence of God, His Word, and the love He offers His people.

Parents, do you encourage your children to develop their talents and gifts? Do you encourage your children to think of Church ministry as a possible life choice?

Serra for priestly and religious vocations

MASS MINISTERS

DEC 11/12

HOLY CROSS

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 P M D. Darling L. Darling P. Gerard J. Bieker M. MacLeish A. Torbertr B. Torbert

LECTORS

D. Dixon

7:30 A M S. Hands R. Fritzsche R. O'Neill A. Wyllie M. Thompson C. Wilk

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 A M D. Martinez V. Pepper P. Ford S. Ford K. Kelly E. Seelig

LECTORS

S. Crossen

11:30 A M M. Ramirez E. Pastoriza T. Hernandez C. Costes E. Cortes K. Espinosa

LECTORS

M. Reyna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 A M B. Casey

LECTORS

T. Woodeshick

11:00 A M G. Taraila

LECTORS

L. Soule

1:00 P M

LECTORS

- Attention Holy Cross liturgical ministers: If you have not responded to our request to send in updated information on which ministry you are involved with, your name, contact information, and your ministry you are involved with, please do so now so we can get you on our next schedule. If we don't hear from you, we cannot place you on the schedule. Contact M. Dornberger at 674-5787, ext 116, or email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org

WANTED—PICKUP TRUCK (HC)

Holy Cross Parish is in need of a used pick up truck for our maintenance department. Our current pick up has died and is beyond repair. If you have, or know of someone who would like to donate a used pickup that is in good condition to the parish, please contact the Parish Office, extension 113. Thank you for your consideration.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you and/or your family.

SUNDAY 7 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 2 pm

FRIDAY 8 am, 7 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm

HEAP APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities is taking applications for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** for the upcoming heating season. This federally-funded program assists low-income Delawareans with heating bills through direct payments to home energy suppliers. The benefit is based on a household's income, size, and type of fuel.

In order to qualify, you must make an appointment with Catholic Charities. Call your local Catholic Charities office. Regular office hours are 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. In Kent County, call 302-674-1782.

SAMARITAN DONATIONS

Thank you to all who donated canned items and turkeys to assist with our Thanksgiving baskets. Your generosity is truly appreciated and allowed us to help those in need this holiday season.

We will continue to collection donations for our upcoming Christmas baskets. Again, any canned goods, juices, etc can be placed on the tables. The freezers are available to place any frozen meat items.

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANIA

- La fiesta en honor a Nuestra Sra. De Guadalupe se llevará acabo de la siguiente manera: el sábado, 11 de diciembre de 10-e la noche a 12 media noche tendremos las mañanitas. El domingo que es el Tercer Domingo de Adviento se celebrara la misa correspondiente al Adviento. La imagen estará dentro del templo con sus respectivas flores. Se dará una bolsa con tamales y atole para llevar después de la misa. Si usted desea colaborar para las flores, los tamales, atole por favor comuníquese con el Sr. Epitacio Méndez y la Sra. Marta Espinosa.
- POSADAS: Diciembre 16-24. Este año las Posadas serán presenciales. Tradicionalmente la primera Posada de Holy Cross es la Posada de la iglesia o del Padre, si alguien quiera unirse o ayudar con esta Posada hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Puede colaborar con Tamales, Atole, Piñatas, Refrescos, Buñuelos, Dulce, Aguinaldos, platos, vasos y utensilios desechables. Necesitamos personas para el arreglo y la limpieza.
- 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 Prebautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- Symbolon Explicación de la fe católica: conocimiento de la fe. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 1

- En español en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. Con el padre Oscar y la Sra. Arline. Todos los viernes a las 6:00 – 8:00 PM de la tarde el ELC. Si está interesado hable con la Sra. Arline.
- En ingles en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción con la Sra. Alicia. Todos los lunes a las 7:00P.M. La primera parte continuara hasta el 13 de diciembre y la segunda parte comenzara después del Año Nuevo.
- Necesitamos voluntarios para ayudar con el Arte y Ambientación navideña de la parroquia por favor de anotarse si desea ayudar con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Trabajaremos el día miércoles, 22 de diciembre y el día jueves, 23 de diciembre a las 4:00 de la tarde en el vestíbulo de la iglesia.

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA - ICC

Las clases de Educación Religiosa se reanudan este domingo 5 de diciembre en el salón.

Primera Reconciliación: Nuestra próxima sesión será el martes 30 de noviembre. De 6:30 PM -7:30pm en el salón.

Adolescentes en Preparación para la Confirmación la próxima sesión será domingo, 12 de noviembre a las 2:30 de la tarde a 5:00 PM en el salón.

Formación de Adultos: Si usted está interesado en algún curso de formación para adultos, o ha oído de algún curso que sea de su interés por favor llame a la oficina.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class – December 5 at 3:30 pm

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.
- 7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.
- No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
- Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

- Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm
- Grades K-1 -5:20pm
- Grades 2- 5:25pm
- Grades 3-4 5:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class December 12th; 10:30am-12:30pm in the Matthew/Mark Room;

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION (Corrected Information)

Advent is around the corner! Holy Cross is offering the class Advent: Preparing for Christ Cycle C. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at 9 am or 7 pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the Early Learning Center upstairs. Classes will begin on November 30, 2021. There will be a \$17 for the workbook that accompanies the class.

If you are interested in attending, please register by either emailing Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or calling (302)

674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Cookie Baking - Saturday December 11.

Attention all Junior and High School teens. We will be baking cookies to place in the Samaritan Food Baskets for Christmas. Please come help with our dozens of cookies.

We will divide into two groups - two times. 9 am to 10:30 am and 10:30 am to noon. Please let Mrs. Darling know which time you would like to help. Contact her at ldarling@holycrossdover.org

Youth Choir—If you are interested in assisting with music at the 5 pm Saturday Mass on the third Saturday of the month, please contact the Parish Office. We are in need of singers, percussion, piano and guitars. Rehearsal is each Tuesday evening at 6:30 in the choir room.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (IC)

Classes resume December 5th.

Sacraments: 1st Reconciliation Prep- next session on Tuesday, December 14, at 6:30 pm in parish hall.

Youth confirmation prep- Next session will be Sunday, December 12th, 2:30-5pm in the hall.

Symbolon will continue until December 13th. Part 2 will begin after New year.

Adult Formation: If there is a course or series you have heard of and have interest in, please call the office and let Alicia Poppiti know. We would be happy to offer more courses for adults in our parish.

There she lay in such quiet, restful repose, safe and secure in the folds of my lap. Her sweet caramel and white dapple head resting on her extended short right front leg never moved as I pet her gently behind her petite ears, one caramel, the other, white. Her quiet purr seemed to relax everyone in the car. She was on her way to her new home, and she seemed just fine with that notion. The picture of tranquility, she was. Before reaching the inside of her new home where she would spend the next few hours exploring and establishing her monarchy, she had been dubbed Snoozy! Snoozy was a rescue.

Oftentimes on a not so nice weather morning as I prepare to leave for my drive north, zipping up my coat, hefting my heavy bags to my shoulder, balancing the tea cup, lunch bag, purse, and turning off the last light I spy my cats all resting quite comfortably in the warmth of their bed or mine as I make a hasty exit. I've often remarked I wish I had their life. Breakfast had been served, their boxes cleaned, the house is warm, and I just want to be them!

I don't know a single thing about raising a dog, but I can attest to a wide range of knowledge in the field of fostering felines. They possess several unique qualities that I find most appealing. One being their sense of play, we love playing mousey-toy! The other is their fondness for snacks, another commonality shared between us. One more being their love of peace, quiet, and tranquility. Now, it's not to say that we don't have feline fireworks and fisticuffs in the ranks occasionally, but it quickly passes with a "no-no" from mommy. In the day to day, my furry friends lead a serene lifestyle.

It is in my hasty exit from all the comforts of home that I embark upon my day. Just like all of you who read these words, a typical day will often, unfortunately bring unplanned stresses, crises, and on the spot decision making. Peace and tranquility are not often found until the evening hours when thoughts are focused on the upcoming day. I don't always think of that as peaceful and tranquil.

I recently read a magazine article, the title of which is Chill Time. In this article the author comments on the shame behind the busyness of people's lives. She comments on the rush about in the shops, the hustle and bustle, the adrenaline rush just all seems to drive us to be driven. Now, the author of this particular article must live a very charmed life as she describes her daily routine of setting aside personal time each day tostop. She goes on to remark that there's a "certain beauty in doing nothing at all; just sitting on a chair for a couple of minutes and watch the world go by." She further comments that it doesn't take much longer than seven minutes. "Seven minutes of doing nothing at all serves to boost energy and inspiration." Turning the page, my thoughts wandered to the impossibility of it all. Nice concept, though!

It's Advent. A liturgical season celebrated during the four weeks preceding Christmas, and it's a time in which Christians reflect on the coming of Christ and on the remembrance of his birth. Advent, like Lent is a time when we are encouraged to slow it all down a little bit, to take the race out of the daily rat race in life. A return to the days of yore, when not too very long ago families took time to light the Advent wreath candle, say prayers before the evening meal. A return to the days of yore when families prepared for the Christmas season with their focus on the nativity; not so much the presents. Presents are good, there's nothing wrong with presents. The Wise Men came bearing gifts! I was watching a movie the other evening and a young child's uncle was so excited about the gift he had purchased for his nephew. It was a fully outfitted art set, beautifully arranged in a lovely wooden case. The man's excitement was greatly diminished when his nephew actually had to be prompted to express appreciation for the gift. Clearly, it wasn't the glitz and pizzazz anticipated or hoped for.

I propose that we might take the initiative to take a page from little Snoozy's book of life. Find the peace, security and solace in the one who saved us, in the one who rescues us, in the one who loves us, and in the one who preserves us. To offer our unconditional love, just as Snoozy does out of sheer commitment and blind faith.

I use the word initiative because that is what it will take----a conscious act and commitment to affect change in the mindset that has been created by the life that has engulfed us.

What have we done to have so drastically changed the face of Advent? Or perhaps the better question would be what have we done to preserve the face of Advent?

Perhaps we might start with just seven minutes per day?

Purple and Advent. In this same vein, in Advent, we likewise use purple for its connection to royalty — a connection to a very special King. In Advent, we look forward to coming of Christ at Christmas, when we harken as the Herald Angels sing, “Glory to the new born king.” In Advent we await a King greater than a Caesar. We await a king whose throne shall be forever. A king for whom we are not just subjects but co-heirs to the heavenly kingdom. A king who will free us from slavery to sin and re-open the gates of Heaven to his faithful. As we await this King’s birth, we “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” (Mark 1:3). The Church marks this preparation time, in terms of color, by using violet (purple); this is an overarching reminder that a new born King, a royal king for all mankind, is coming. Likewise, his second coming at the end of time, should also be in mind during our Advent preparation. In either event, as one prepares to meet this King, no doubt that person would anxiously prepare and make sure all is right for the arrival of the king.

People Get Ready! So, how do we prepare? We prepare our houses and homes, perhaps with an Advent wreath; as each week of the season passes an additional candle on the wreath is lit, gradually bringing more and more light to our homes. We prepare ourselves spiritually at Mass by hearing the readings that speak of the coming of Christ and the prophecies that Jesus fulfills by his birth to Mary. We prepare our souls by going to confession — the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important practice to partake in to get ready for the Christmas season, and the worthy celebration of Christ’s birth.

A Colorful Reminder. So, as you see purple abound in our Parish this season, let it remind you to prepare for the coming of the Lord, to examine your faith life and your relationship with the Lord, and above all, to move you to “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

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Marydel’s Feast Day! Our Immaculate Conception Parish in bucolic Marydel, Maryland, celebrates its patronal feast on December 8th. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics; there will be Mass on the eve of the Holy Day and on the Holy Day itself at both ICC and Holy Cross.

What is the Immaculate Conception? Our Blessed Mother, Mary, gets two special holy days during Advent, the second is Our Lady of Guadeloupe on Dec. 12 (more on that in the next bulletin) and the Immaculate Conception is the first on Dec. 8. Many folks believe that the Immaculate Conception speaks to the idea of Jesus being conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit. But they would be wrong. The Immaculate Conception is celebrated nine months to the day before the Birth of Mary (September 8); it recalls the conception of Mary in the womb of St. Ann. Mary, was conceived by St. Ann and St. Joachim, however she was preserved from the taint of original sin which was passed onto us by the original sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve. On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX declared infallibly that the long-standing teaching about the Immaculate Conception was in fact a dogma of the Church.

Hail Mary! Our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception, is the patron saint of the United States, and thus we pause during Advent to celebrate her special holy day honoring her unique role in salvation history; we honor this day, when God first showed us why we hail Mary!

My blessings to each and every one as you continue to prepare the way of the Lord, patiently and prayerfully, during this holy season of Advent!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

PS: To find out more about Advent and visit our Advent calendar page, go to www.iccmarydel.org/advent.