



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 6, 2020

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
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday-Friday, 12:10 pm also
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am—10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am-Midnight (temporarily closed)

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

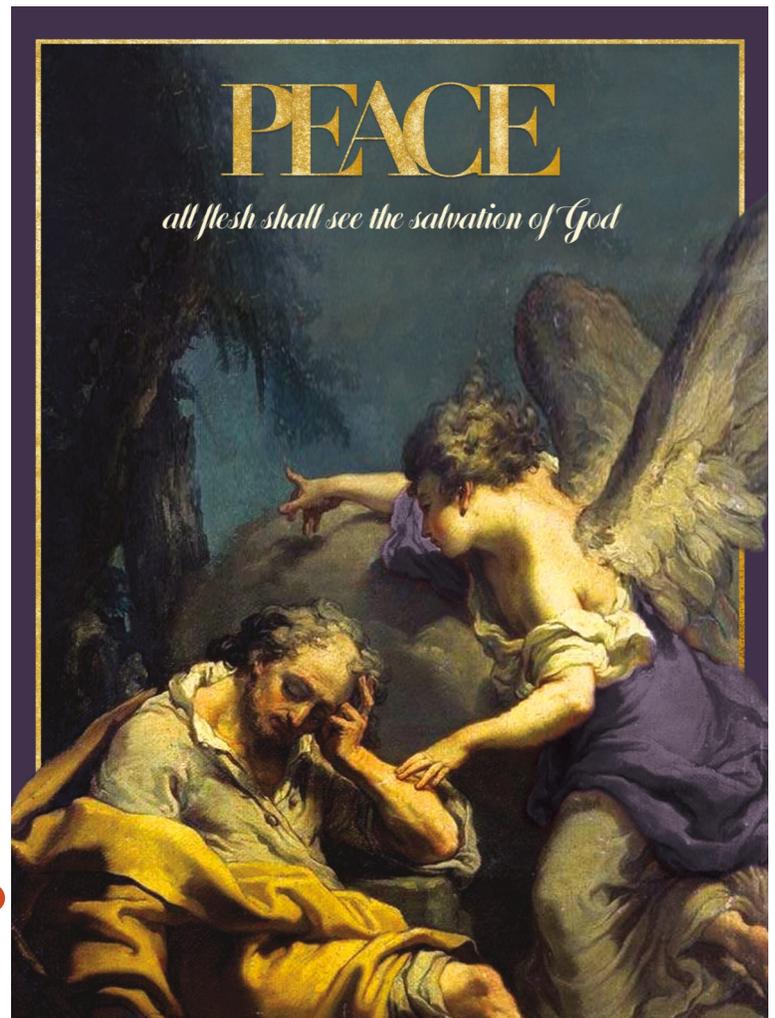
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



PEACE

all flesh shall see the salvation of God

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the parish office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

Check out our websites

holycrossover.org

iccmaryl.org

Holy Cross Church is unlocked and available for private prayer. The doors will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday, and 7 am to 7 pm on Sunday.

Immaculate Conception will be open daily 9 am to 7 pm.

Daily Mass at HC at 8 am Monday through Saturday. Weekend Masses at Holy Cross are Saturday evening 5 pm, Sunday at 7:30 and 9:30 am, 11:30 am Spanish.

Weekend Masses at ICC are Sunday at 8:30 and 11 am, and 1 pm Spanish. Also a 6 pm Mass Thursday and 9 am Mass on Saturday morning, both in Spanish

We are limiting access to the parish offices, so you can buzz when you stop by, or call and leave messages and we will get back to you; or, you can email us. Stay safe and stay healthy.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

November 22, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$25,324	\$27,760	(\$2,436)
YTD	\$505,271	\$581,440	(\$76,169)
Needs	\$1,520	\$1,550	(\$30)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending November 22, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,415
Second	\$91

Thank you for your offering. It is with your continued support and the sharing of your time and talent that the ministries, programs, and activities of Holy Cross and ICC are made possible.

“Whatever you give to the Lord, He will return to you a hundred fold.”

Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time. May are still not attending Mass but we still need your support. You can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

We will call you back . Thank you for your continued support.

Dear Parishioners,

This column will be in two parts. Part 1 appears below and Part 2 will be a continuation in next week's bulletin. Enjoy.

Remember "The Love Boat?" It was a somewhat un-funny but long running TV show that took some major (and some not so major) celebrities and cast them into little vignettes that were wrapped up in the context of a cruise. Well, wrapped up in the context of the Season of Advent (a somewhat penitential and preparing season leading to Christmas), are some vignettes featuring our Catholic celebrities of holiness – the Saints. While we mainly think of Advent as Season in which we prepare the way for the birth of Christ, this season also features a number of saint days that remind us how these saints lived their lives preparing for life with Christ in Heaven. Now, while we won't hear of "Love Boat" type-folks like Charo, Jimmy Walker, Jamie Farr, Vicki Lawrence or Florence Henderson, we will hear about great holy men and women who served God well! To wit, here are the saints of Advent:

St. Andrew (November 30). Well, now, this one isn't as clear cut as it looks. Sometimes the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle is within Advent and sometimes it isn't. However, Advent has in some sense, become normed by his feast day. You see, the Sunday that is closest to November 30 is always the first Sunday of Advent. So, sometimes the feast of St. Andrew comes before the first Sunday of Advent and other times on or right after it. St. Andrew was the first Apostle called by Christ, and he is the patron of both Russia and Scotland. He suffered a martyr's death by being crucified on saltire (and "x" shaped cross); we see that "x" shaped cross on the flags of Scotland and Florida.

St. John Damascene (December 5). If you ever see a beautiful stained glass window in a church showing one of the saints or a scene from the life of Christ, thank John Damascene. Born in 675 A.D., John Damascene was a priest who fought valiantly against the iconoclasts. The who? The iconoclasts

were folks emanating in the Eastern Church who opposed the use of any images in sacred places. They deemed that these images created a violation of the Old Testament's proscription against worshipping "graven images" of the Divine. Bolstered by Emperor Leo III, the iconoclasts (meaning "image breakers") went about destroying many images. St. John Damascene defended valiantly the use of images and stirred up the faithful to refute and rebuke this movement. St. John Damascene's writings would play a key role at the Second Council of Nicaea; the Church council that settled the icon dispute once and for all. There's much more I could write about the iconoclasts and St. John Damascene, but — dare I say — you get the picture.

St. Nicholas (December 6). Though there is no record of him coming down a chimney, driving a sled led by deer, or holding a coca-cola, the real St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, born in the late third century, was the inspiration for the fictional Santa Claus we speak of today. St. Nicholas was a Bishop in what is modern day Turkey. He was famous for his generosity. In one revelation about him, a man in his community had gone broke and could no longer support his family; Nicholas then found out that the man was going to take his three daughters and put them on the streets as prostitutes as a way of making income. That night Nicholas secretly hurled three big round sacks full of gold into the window of the man's house, to provide money for the family and dowries for his daughters. It is said that those three round sacks of gold provide the origin of three golden balls that you see on pawn shop signs. St. Nicholas died in 345.

St. Ambrose (December 7). Ambrose was a convert to the faith who was so highly regarded, he was ordained a Priest and a Bishop on the same day. It is said that St. Ambrose, the Bishop of Milan, was a powerful preacher whose words moved St. Augustine to change from his wicked ways to becoming a great saint of the Church. The accolade "Honey Tongued Doctor," was given to Ambrose in honor of his gifted preaching; that

(Continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F. Pastor
 Rev. Mano Salla Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn Pastor Emeritus
 Mr. Philip Belt Deacon
 Mr. John Harvey Deacon
 Mr. Robert McMullen Deacon
 Mr. Scott Peterson Deacon
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787
 Jane Green/Susan Cutrona Receptionist, ext. 110
 Diane Belt Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
 Kenneth Trojan Business Manager, ext. 119
 Michele Dornberger Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
 Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
 Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
 Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123
 Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director
 Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
 Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

GIVING TREE

This Advent we cannot do our normal Giving Tree activity due to the current COVID situation. 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 your donation to Holy Cross through this Giving Tree so we will have funds available to help those in need. Take an envelope from the tree and return it to the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket in the envelope so we know it is to help those in need through the Samaritans. Do not leave checks or money at the tree.

LEAVING ITEMS IN CHURCH

Please do not leave cards, religious items, clothing, or other such items in the lobby area of the Gathering Space. We cannot accept any of these items at this time. They will all be thrown out. The only things to be left in the Samaritan container in the lobby of the Gathering space are non-perishable food items for the pantry.

SAMARITAN FOOD NEEDS (HC)

The Samaritan Food Pantry is collecting items to help with the great demands being placed on them during this crisis. Please leave perishable items in the freezer by the Samaritan pick up door and non perishable items can be left there also. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

MASSES FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—DECEMBER 8

Holy Cross: Monday, December 7 at 7:00 pm; Tuesday, December 8 at 8:00 am and 12:10 pm.
Immaculate Conception: Monday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 pm in English, 7:00 pm in Spanish/ Tuesday, December 8 at 9:00 am in English.

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 13

3RD SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 61:1-2, 10-11

When humanity truly flourishes, the earth flourishes.

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24
 Human beings need to pray, like the need to eat and drink.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

We can say what God is not, we can say what the Christ is not, but it is God who reveals God to us, first in the humanity of Christ and finally in the vision of his Godhead.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Even though we are not opening the Adoration Chapel at this time, anyone who was on the normal adoration schedule is encouraged to come into the church to pray during your assigned hour. The church is unlocked from 7 am to 7 pm and Our Lord is waiting for you to come spend time with Him. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle all day long and would love for you to spend time praying. It's a great way to get back into the routine of praying during your scheduled hour.

MASS BOOK

The Mass Book for 2021 is now open. Due to the current restrictions of people coming to the office and the number of Masses we are currently offering, we must restrict the number of requests. Please see below:

1. We are only opening up the Masses for the months of January, February, March, and April at this time.
2. You can request ONLY 2 Masses at this time and payment of \$10 per Mass is required at the time of the request.
3. You may drop off your request from 9 am through 1 pm Monday through Friday ONLY please.

Please call the office with any questions.

VOCATIONS

Jesus called each one of us to a vocation, not just our priests and religious. Our Church needs committed lay ministers to spread the Gospel in our world.

Some of us have heard the Word of God preached by lay ministers at a special time of year in our parishes. Some of our parishes may have lay pastoral associates who administer the parish because there is no full-time priest/pastor.

Most of us encounter lay ministers of the Eucharist at our Sunday celebrations, as lectors and altar servers. Many of the homebound are regularly visited by lay ministers of care who pray the Scriptures with them and distribute Communion. These are but a few of the ministries that lay people are called to.

Ask yourself — how can I serve? Do you have your “shoulder to the wheel?” Are you “pulling an oar in the ship of our Church?” Can you befriend the lonely, visit the sick, assist the elderly, prepare

MASS INTENTIONS

DECEMBER

7 MONDAY HC 8:00 am HC 7:00 pm	Karen Bergman Soledad & Martin Banez
8 TUESDAY HC 8:00 am HC 12:10 pm	Doris Tate John Deighton
9 WEDNESDAY HC 8:00 am	Don Smith
10 THURSDAY HC 6:30 am HC 8:00 am	Alice McGlynn John & Genevieve Helmick
11 FRIDAY HC 6:30 AM HC 8:00 am	Cassidy Snow Cruz (LI) Gumersindo Torres Figueroa
12 SATURDAY HC 8 am HC 5 pm	Gabriele Maddalena Ann Schuster
13 SUNDAY HC 7:30 am ICC 8:30 am HC 9:30 am HC 11:30 am ICC 11 am . ICC 1 pm HC 1 pm	Therese M. Stump Blanche M. Smith Ed Furjanic Thomas Ward Salvador Schepens For the People Bernice Sensenig

Where we do not have 6:30 or 1 pm or 6 pm Masses, the intentions will still be said privately by one of the priests.
(LI = LIVING INTENTION
DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

and give homilies? If so, sound off. Let us inform our pastors of the talents we are ready to freely offer to serve our parish.

Christ said, “I came to serve, not to be served.” How about you?

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The pre-Christmas clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12th ; 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.



PLEASE COME FORWARD TO HELP DISTRIBUTE HOLY COMMUNION AT THE MASS YOU ATTEND. THE PRIEST WILL INDICATE HOW MANY EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS ARE NEEDED.

Lector Schedule for December 2020

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass (HC)

- Dec 12 Lori Christiansen
- Dec 19 Dennis Dixon
- Dec 26 Fran Urick

7:30 am Mass (HC)

- Dec 13 Christina Cuffee
- Dec 20 Donna Kilby
- Dec 27 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass (HC)

- Dec 13 Tamra Baurys
- Dec 20 Colin Parks
- Dec 27 Mary Louise Sossich

At Immaculate Conception:

8:30 am Mass (ICC)

- Dec 18 Terry Thompson
- Dec 20 Karen Cairns

11:00 am Mass (ICC)

- Dec 13 Donna King
- Dec 20 Sharon Tucker

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at dbelt@holycrossdover.org so we can add you to the names of those who have already volunteered to lector. At ICC, please get in touch with Marilyn Dixon at mdixon@iccmarylodel.org Thank you.

DIRECTORIES (HC)

The Parish Directories are in the Parish Office. If you would like to stop by the office to pick up your copy, please call ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it for you to pick up. Please do not just show up without calling first.

HOLY CROSS CELEBRATES 150 YRS.

We will place another order on December 7 for our next order of the Anniversary Book. It makes a great gift. So, if you would like to still purchase a copy, please call the office or send in your order form. The is a comprehensive coverage of our parish's history from 1870 to present day parish life is presented in nearly 80 beautifully designed pages. Numerous pictures, some in black & white while others are in vivid color, help to bring the material to life. Major sections include: a short biography of all our pastors since 1870, articles describing many of the important events through the years, and several more in-depth stories covering specific areas of our parish from both a historical and current perspective.

Go to HolyCrossDover.org and look under "Headings" to get a glimpse (teaser) of the book's content and to download the order form. The books are available in three levels of quality and are priced at \$9.00 (Good), \$18.00 (Very Good), and \$25.00 (Best). The variations include softback vs. hardback covers, paper type, and standard vs. premium color. Sample books can be viewed at the parish office receptionist desk. **Our second order will be placed on December 7. Please get your order in by then.**

RETURNING TO MASS

- Attendees must **wear a face covering (mask)**(when inside the Church ; **masks are to be worn over the nose and mouth and must be kept on during the entire Mass.**
- Pews have been marked off to accommodate social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is available as you enter the church.
- **When receiving Holy Communion, please remember to stay socially distanced.** We encourage you to receive Holy Communion in your hand, but **if you wish to receive on the tongue, you are asked to be at the end of the Communion line.** There will be no Cup distributed at this time.
- As you leave the church, please **do not gather in the Gathering Space** or parking lot.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Dec. 7 is the commemoration of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Life is often a mixture of comfort, pain, and waiting. Comfort each other when necessary.

PARENTING POINTERS

This Advent is a time of waiting and life is often a mixture of joy and waiting. Let Advent teach your child to wait for good things.

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

Couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next

program begins the weekend of February 12 - 14, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information or to register please visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



¡Feliz Año Nuevo! Estamos en Adviento. El nuevo año en calendario Litúrgico de la iglesia y el ciclo B, y nos acompañará a través del año el evangelista San Marcos. La palabra “adviento”, que quiere decir “venida” y se asocia con las cuatro semanas de preparación para la Navidad. El adviento siempre incluye cuatro domingos y empieza desde el domingo más cercano a la fiesta de San Andrés Apóstol (30 de noviembre) y continúa hasta el 24 de diciembre. Las cuatro velas representan los cuatro domingos de Adviento. La primera, segunda y cuarta vela que se encienden es de color violeta/ morado. El color violeta representa el espíritu de vigilia, penitencia y sacrificio que debemos tener para prepararnos adecuadamente para la llegada de Cristo. El tercer domingo o Domingo de Gaudete se enciende la vela rosada. Este color representa el gozo que sentimos ante la cercanía del nacimiento del Señor.

Celebraciones para el mes de diciembre en medio de COVID-19 Parroquias de Holy Cross y La Inmaculada Concepción

Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción Misa en Holy Cross- Dover: vigilia 7pm Diciembre 7, Martes: 8:00 de la mañana, 12:10 pm. En La Inmaculada Concepción -Marydel, Misa de vigilia el lunes, 7 de diciembre, 5:30 de la Tarde en Inglés, 7 de la tarde en español, martes, 8 de diciembre - 9 de la mañana en inglés.

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Holy Cross - Dover, la Misa de la Virgen de Guadalupe el viernes 11 comenzará con el rezo del santo Rosario a las 11:00 de la noche, Santa Misa a media noche. NO habrá fiesta... después de la Santa Misa se repartirá tamales y atole para ir siempre guardando el distanciamiento social. Restricciones de capacidad se aplican.

En la Parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción se celebrará el día 12 de diciembre las Primeras Comuniones a las 10 de la mañana, asientos limitados para los primeros comunicantes. No habrá ninguna otra celebración.

Iglesia y salón. Happy Helpers 19 de diciembre.

Posadas. Ambas parroquias. No habrá posada patrocinado por la comunidad parroquial. Familias en pe-

queños grupos harán las posadas en sus respectivas casas si desean. Se pide que, si van a tener posada familiar, por favor seguir las reglas del CDC Límitenlo a 1 hora, canto limitado.

Misa de Nochebuena (24 de diciembre)

Holy Cross En español a las 9:00 de la noche no habrá ninguna otra celebración.

La Inmaculada Concepción. En inglés 5:30 y Misa de Gallo (media noche) en español a las 7:00 de la noche no habrá ninguna otra celebración. **Misa de Navidad:** 9:00 de la mañana en inglés.

María Madre de Dios: Misa en Español Vigilia 31 de diciembre 7:00 de la noche en ambas parroquias

El salón solo se usará solamente para la Santa Misa para las celebraciones del mes de diciembre.

La Santa Misa durante el COVID -19 Las reglas de la pandemia siguen en vigor y todos tenemos la responsabilidad de protegernos y proteger a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

- Usar mascarillas cuando entra al templo durante todo el tiempo que permanezca adentro la mascarilla debe cubrir la nariz y la boca.
- Desinfectante de manos está disponible al entrar a la iglesia.
- Distanciamiento social, los asientos están marcados para que guarde su distancia.
- Al recibir la Sagrada Comunión, recuerde mantenerse socialmente distanciado. Le recomendamos a recibir la Sagrada Comunión en su mano, pero si desea recibirla en la lengua, se le pide que esté al final de la línea de Comunión. No se distribuirá la Preciosa Sangre de Cristo en este momento.
- Al salir de la iglesia, no se reúna en el Nártex ni en el estacionamiento.
- Lavarnos las manos con frecuencia.
- Si está enfermo quédese en casa. Protegemos nuestra salud y la salud del hermano especialmente los más vulnerables.

Las Misas dominicales: Holy Cross: Sábado: 5:00 pm Domingo: 7:30 am.-9:30 am - 11:30 am en español.

Confesiones Sábado 8:30-10:00 am

La Inmaculada Concepción: Domingo 8:30 am, 11:00 am - 1:00 de la tarde en español **jueves** a las 6:00 de la tarde, sábado- 9:00 a 11:00 de la mañana en español. **Confesiones** las 11:00 am

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class December 6th 3:30-5:30

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office. No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter the building. Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.; Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows: Upstairs Grades 6-8 and sacramental prep 5:15; Down stairs (a teacher or assistant will escort to the ramp):

Gr. K-1 5:20 Gr. 2-3 5:25 Gr. 4-5 5:30

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

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

December 13th

10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room

CONFIRMATION CLASSES (HC)

Classes for December 13 and 16 have been cancelled. Since most of the teens attended retreat on December 5, we will not have class to maintain our two weeks apart class time.

Next class will take place on January 10 at 2 pm and 4 pm, and January 13 at 6 pm. We wish all our families a very blessed and safe Christmas.

COOKIE BAKING:

For Junior High and High School youth will take place on Saturday, December 12 at 9am, 10:30 am and 12 pm in the school cafeteria. We ask youth to please sign up for a specific time to keep numbers at a lower level. PLEASE DO NOT JUST SHOW UP WITHOUT SIGNING UP. We will not be able to do this as we have in past years. Thank you for your cooperation. A mask is a MUST.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

Pick up for Unit 2 books has started, please stop by and get your books at hall entrance, before your class begins, your schedule for classes is with your books.

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

Group 1- grades 3, 6, 7 & 8 to be on site starting December 6th.

Group 2- grades 1, 2,4 & 5 to be on site starting December 13.

If you would prefer to have your children continue to do Religious Education at home please let me know,

Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or send me an email to dre@iccmaryl.org

2020/21 FIRST REC/COMMUNION ICC)

Our fifth session will be on Tuesday, December 1.

CONFIRMATION 2020-2021 (ICC)

Our next Prep session is Sunday, December 13th, 2:30-5pm in the Parish Hall.

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

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

FIRST COMMUNION 2020

The Sacrament of First Communion for the Children is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. The Sacraments of Initiation are scheduled for 8:30am on Saturday, December 12th at 8:30am. First Communion will be following that at 9am Mass.

Any questions, please call Ms. Alicia at 410-482-8939

ADVENT RECONCILIATION (HC)

This year, we will offer several times for you to be able to go to Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. We cannot gather in one Advent Reconciliation Service for the Deanery as we have in the past few years because we have to keep the numbers gathering at one time to a limit.



With that in mind, these are the days we will offer Reconciliation at Holy Cross in December:

Saturday, December 12, 8:30— 10 am

We will have 2 priests available

Monday, December 14, 6:00 pm— 8:00 pm

We will have 5 priests available

Saturday, December 19, 8:30 am— 10:00 am

We will have 5 priests available

Please take advantage of these times to go to Reconciliation and prepare for Christmas. Remember masks must be worn and social distancing must be kept as you are waiting in line.

It has been a problem ever since I have been in Catholic education. My first school was termed a “cluster school.” This meant that the building I was in was part of another school located somewhere else. The other building wasn’t on the same property, but in a different part of the city. It was within walking distance, but it wasn’t a pleasant walk, and it wasn’t a short walk. My building housed grades 5-8. The other grades, K-4 were in the other building in the other part of the city. My building had at least one teaching sister for each grade level. It was a two track school at the time. Years later, I learned that the other part of the “cluster” in the other part of the city had closed. All eight grades were housed in the building I once taught in. It was now a one track school; and the reason for the closure? Low enrollment. Both of our buildings were small, old, and very run down. I really don’t know how they had fit all nine grades in my old building. But, the reason that they could fit all nine grades in one, old, run down building was the same reason they closed the other half of what once was a cluster school. They could fit them all in my old, small building because of low enrollment. The area of the city where these schools were located wasn’t affluent, but the values held by the families who populated this urban community were strong. Most were lifelong Catholics, committed to their faith and church. In my time there I saw younger families moving out to suburban areas with their soon to be school age children. The rest of the story is easy to figure out.

I moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland many years ago. I learned upon my move that my school was a part of the Diocese of Wilmington Delaware. The area was far more affluent than my first placement, but the same problem seemed to exist. Low enrollment. Trying to figure out how to maintain enrollment while simultaneously trying to figure out HOW to attract new families to the school. Different state. Different Diocese. Different school. Same concerns.

In walking my career path with God by my side, I found myself in Dover. The entire school population could be found in the building we now know as the elementary building. It was a one track school. If I recall correctly, the enrollment was in the upper two hundreds. My principal had been hired and given one primary directive: Keep the school open. All of a sudden I was hearing about such things as Long Range Strategic Planning, and innovative ways to “market” the school. Even though I was no stranger to the threat that low enrollment can pose, this was the first time I had ever been involved with initiatives being taken to stem the tide. It was an exciting time. What was even more exciting is that I was seeing results. Over the next couple of years there came a need to reopen the Donohoe Center for the junior high. Why? Increased enrollment! The Early Learning Center was created. Why? Increased enrollment.

Demographics change. The times change. Priorities change. Enrollment...changes.... and then there’s that little word, technology. Technology was creeping in and beginning to have a huge impact on all of our lives. Who would have ever known how the future was to unfold in response to technology?

Change changes things. But, one thing I have learned is that it’s our response to the changes that change brings about that makes all the difference.

Enter Mrs. Jill Zink. Mrs. Zink has proven to be the most innovative, passionate, and determined voice I have ever known Holy Cross School to have working for us; and by using the phrase “working for”, I’m not just talking about being employed. I remember her first day, filled to the very brim with sheer excitement as she spouted off about how she couldn’t wait to “get us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram; I am so excited Mrs. Pollitt, this is gonna be just great!” And, off she went...to get started. I’m a little ashamed to admit to not really knowing how all that was going to help us, but who couldn’t have faith in all that enthusiasm?? I’m also a little ashamed to admit that this page isn’t long enough to list all of the wonderful and successful ways she has learned, researched, created, even dreamed up of putting Holy Cross School on the map. She amazes me with her knowledge of technology, and she’s not afraid to try anything.

Mrs. Zink has risen to the challenge that the pandemic has wrought, and has been the force behind the creation of beautiful and effective videos (funded through monies raised by Mrs. Zink) in response to not being able to invite people into our buildings. If you haven’t seen them I invite you to our website, another one of Mrs. Zink’s projects. We have received so many compliments on the ease of navigating our website. Speaking of such...one of her newest undertakings is in joining Mrs. Stant in the adoption of eCollect.

Mrs. Zink has also been a true force in fundraising. A few years back we participated for the first time in the NCEA Day of Giving. Very shrewd and frugal in the expenditure of funds, Mrs. Zink has financed projects that have benefitted HCS in many ways. Today, our school is currently involved in the iGiveCatholic fundraising effort. To date, we have exceeded our goal by nearly \$7000.00. Once again, her innovation in partnering with Mrs. Bifferato (another techno wiz) has proven to spell success!

On top of everything else Mrs. Zink (a career educator) also teaches an enrichment class. Her Publication Design students work to publish our yearbook. This year it’s all things new as we have switched over to a new publisher, but no problem there. Mrs. Zink quickly learned all the new ins and outs and with her characteristic enthusiasm, the class was off and running.

One day I walked into her office and looked at her stadium size screen (thank you Mr. Klaus!); I asked what she was doing. She replied, ‘oh, I figured out that with this program I can actually design and publish a magazine.’ Not much later, our first edition of what has become our Annual Report known as The Crusader was found in mailboxes across the state.

So now, it’s my turn to say “I can’t wait Mrs. Zink; it’s gonna be great!”

#jillzinkcrusaderproud!!

honorific began connecting Ambrose with bees (i.e., the makers of honey). Ultimately, St. Ambrose became Patron Saint of beekeepers, and to this day, his name gets a lot of good buzz. (ouch)

The Immaculate Conception (December 8). Our Blessed Mother, Mary, gets two special holy days during Advent, and this is the first of the two. 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 (December 8), celebrates an event 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 progenically 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. Our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception, is the patron saint of the United States.

Pope St. Damasus I (December 11). St. Damasus was Pope in the late 4th Century. He was Pope when Christianity was declared the state religion of the Roman Empire. His claim to fame: He directed St. Jerome to complete the translation of the Bible into Latin, the language of the day in the Roman Empire. This was completed shortly after his death. He also restored and maintained the catacombs, the shrines and the tombs of the martyrs so they would not be forgotten. Because of this he is the Patron Saint of archeologists. Dig it!

St. Juan Diego (December 9) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12). St. Juan Diego was born in 1474, but he wasn't baptized until 50 years later, by a Franciscan missionary. On December 9, 1531, our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Juan near Mexico City; she asked him to go to the Bishop and asked him to build a shrine in her honor at Tepeyac. Juan Diego met with the Bishop, who looked askance on his story. The Bishop wanted proof. Juan again encountered Mary, and though it was winter, she told him to gather up flowers. He obeyed, and although it was winter time, he found roses blooming. He gathered the roses and took them to Mary. She placed them in his mantle and told Juan to bring them to the Bishop. When Juan went to see the Bishop, he opened his mantle to present what he thought would be the miracle of having roses in the winter, and after some of the roses fell to the floor, there in place of the flowers was an image of the Blessed Mother as she appeared to Juan Diego at Tepeyac. When we place our faith in Mary, everything comes up roses! Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patron Saint of Mexico and of the Americas (North and South). It should be noted that, born in 1474, Juan Diego was the first saint of the Western Hemisphere — that's Juan for the record books!

More next week.....

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

