

# 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 7, 2025

2nd 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

### 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



### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

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

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Year End Gifts

It's not too early to think about Year End Gifts to the parish. Consider giving your donation to our parish now before you forget to do so at the end of the year.

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### WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending November 23, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$34,594	\$27,125	\$7,469
YTD	\$540,080	\$555,998	(\$15,918)
Needs	\$1,673	\$1,738	(\$65)

### WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending November 23, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,229
Second	\$745

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 Parishioners,

A few years ago, in a homily reflecting on Mary's place in our faith, I noted that someone once said that we were "lucky" to have Mary as our Mother in faith. That term "lucky" didn't sit well with me. I noted how Frank Sinatra once crooned the words, "*Luck be a lady tonight.*" He did that in the 1940s movie "Guys and Dolls," in which the character that sings those words is a gambler who hopes that he will win a bet, because the outcome of that gamble will decide whether or not he is able to save his relationship with the girl he loves.

**Not a Gamble.** There is a lady whom we as Catholics love, but our relationship to her, as our Mother, was not granted by a roll of the dice or by some form of luck; rather, it was granted to us by the love of Christ. Thus, the grand and vast difference between "luck" and a blessing: Luck is just that — it is a chance happening, a flip of a coin, a roll of the dice. A blessing is not luck — it is done with intention. And, so Mary's presence in our faith is not the result of a gamble or luck, but rather a certainty of God's blessings to us. And that Mother with whom we are blessed is Mary, our most Blessed Mother. We are not lucky to have our Mother in faith; we are blessed to have her.

**Titles and Subtitles.** Mary is the Mother of God — the primary title by which she is known, a title that speaks to her essential role in salvation history. But she also has many other titles: Queen of all saints, Mother and Model of the Church, Mother of Divine Grace, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mirror of Justice, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Cause of our Joy, Gate of Heaven, and many others. Mary is also the one whom we call on in prayer to "*pray for us sinners; now and at the hour of our death.*"

**Mary, Mary.** Because of the profound and special role of Mary in our faith, in addition to the many titles with which she is adorned, she is also honored with many holy days each year. Each year, as we make our way through the Season of Advent, we come upon two important Marian days (holy days related to Mary). One of those days will be observed on Monday, namely the Immaculate Conception (December 8), and the other will be observed on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

**Growing Devotion.** In this week's column, I will focus on our Blessed Mother Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. So, let's take a trip back in time to learn the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe and see how devotion to her and liturgical recognition of her have grown over the centuries, especially in the past 100 years.

**Here's the Story.** Now, let us step into the wayback machine. Let us set the dial to the year 1531 (way back)! On December 9, 1531, in what is now Mexico, a young convert to Catholicism named Juan Diego was on his way to Mass. As he passed Tepeyac Hill,

he saw a brilliant light at its peak. Much like any of us going through Camden-Wyoming in the 25MPH speed zone, Juan Diego slowed down and looked around. He heard a woman calling him to the top of the hill, and after climbing to the peak, he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary standing amidst divine illumination.

**Mary Speaks.** Mary spoke to Juan Diego, identifying herself and saying,

*"I am your merciful Mother, to you and to all mankind who love me and trust in me and invoke my help. Therefore, go to the dwelling of the Bishop in Mexico City and say that the Virgin Mary sent you to make known to him her great desire."*

Juan Diego went to the Bishop, who didn't believe his story; he asked Juan to seek a sign to bear out his claim. On December 12, Juan Diego encountered our Blessed Mother on a road near Tepeyac Hill. He asked her for a sign he could take to the Bishop. Mary told him to climb to the hilltop, pick the flowers there, and bring them to her. This seemed odd to him, as no flowers bloomed at this time of the year, and certainly not on a stony summit. But more stunned than a vegetarian at a pig roast, Juan Diego did find flowers there. He cut them, put them in his *tilma* (cloak), and brought them to Mary, who arranged them; she then sent Juan Diego to the Bishop with this sign to persuade him.

**Juan Diego's Assumption?** Juan Diego assumed that the "sign" Mary put forth was these beautiful flowers found at a place and in a season when they shouldn't have been blooming. So, he went to the Bishop and opened his *tilma* to show forth the sign. The flowers fell onto the floor. But to the amazement of Juan Diego and the Bishop, the inside of the *tilma* now bore an intricate colored portrait of the Blessed Virgin, just as Juan Diego had previously described her. In a later apparition, Mary made known that the image on that *tilma* was to be known as "Santa Maria de Guadalupe" (or in common parlance, Our Lady of Guadalupe). Thus, on December 12, 1531, the Church confirmed Mary's first apparition in the New World. Soon thereafter, 8,000,000 natives converted to Catholicism, and thereafter the Church in Mexico thrived and grew. Today, Mexico boasts a Catholic population of over 100,000,000. It is the second-largest Catholic country in the world (second only to Brazil, with approximately 180,000,000, according to a 2025 report by the Catholic News Agency).

**Looking Sharp.** The most identifiable aspect of Our Lady of Guadalupe is that beautiful, glorious image of her

**HC & ICC CLERGY**

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor  
 Rev. John Enemuo Parochial Vicar  
 Rev. John Hynes In Residence

**HC CLERGY**

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

**HC STAFF**

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

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**ICC STAFF**

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

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL**

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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**DEC 14- 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-6A, 10**

The wilderness and the dry land will rejoice and blossom at the Lord's coming.

**SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10**

Be patient and do not grumble for the Lord's coming is at hand.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11**

Jesus is the one who brings true hope in the midst of our wilderness, bringing healing to all and proclaiming the Kingdom especially to the poor.

**RECEPTIONIST POSITION**

**Holy Cross Parish is looking for a Full Time Reception-**

**Help Wanted**

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

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

**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS**

Please be generous when the Retirement Fund for Religious collection is taken in our parish the weekend of December 13/14.

Rising health-care costs and the absence of traditional retirement plans have placed significant financial strain on many religious communities. The Retirement Fund for Religious helps address this need, supporting more than 21,000 religious over the age of 70. In 2024, the average annual cost of care was about \$56,600 per person, with skilled nursing care averaging \$96,000.

### SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

We are now in need of hams for our Christmas baskets. They can be left in the freezer at the Samaritan drop off. Of course, we can always use canned goods such as soups, vegetables, instant potatoes, jello, peanut butter/jelly, etc. Thanks for your generosity.

### CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, local author, Mike McGrew will discuss his picture book titled, "The Boy Who Would Be Santa". The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceoseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Condolences and prayers go out to the families who recently lost a loved one:

- Wendy Pizzadli
- Rose Shuh
- Camille Weyant
- Judy Rennick

### YOU ARE INVITED!

Come and celebrate the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**Thursday, December 11th**

10:00 PM Prayer of the Holy Rosary

10:30 PM Re-enactment of the Apparitions of Our Lady at the Tepeyac

11:45 PM Mañanitas

**Friday, December 12th**

7:PM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

follow by the "Gran Fiesta in the GYM"



### CEMETERY NEWS

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

### MASS INTENTION DECEMBER

#### 8 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am John Trinkle  
 HC 12:10 pm Mary Czupryna  
 ICC 5:30 pm For the People  
 ICC 7:00 pm For the People

#### 9 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Cathy Castiglione

#### 10 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Michelle Brooks

#### 11 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am William Ernst (LI)

#### 12 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Seelig Family  
 HC 7:00 pm Angela Dosman

#### 13 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am John and Edna Asman  
 HC 5:00 pm Claudia Zuchowski

#### 14 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Sheila Brothers  
 ICC 8:30 am James & Elizabeth Griffith  
 HC 9:30 am Stump & Coverdale Families  
 ICC 11:00 am Deacon Sherman Mitchell  
 HC 11:30 am William Vadi  
 ICC 1:00 pm For the People

*Dec 7—Dec 13 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of Michele Thomas.*

*Dec 7 - Dec 13 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Paul Abato..*

### KENT CHAMBER CHOIR

Join the Kent Chamber Choir for its Winter Concert, under the direction of Artistic Director Rocky Tejada. The concert will be performed on Saturday December 13, 2025, 7pm, at the Presbyterian Church of Dover (54. S. State). Tickets are \$20 (students \$5, w/ ID; children 12 & under, free) and are available on [www.kentchamberchoir.org](http://www.kentchamberchoir.org) or at the door. The concert will feature works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Sebastian Bach and Francesco Duarte.

DECEMBER 13/14, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

M. MacLeish  
M. Miller

G. Murphy  
M. Phillips

M. Wenck  
L. Curley

LECTORS

D. Dixon  
R. Fanelli

7:30 AM

J. Davis  
J. Denney

A. Fischer  
J. Fischer

T. Logan  
G. Thomas

LECTORS

A. Wylie

9:30 AM

V. Pepper  
C. Robinson

J. Salamone  
A. Siegel

G. Hawk  
J. Hawk

LECTORS

J. Lausten  
M. Lausten

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez  
M. Richard

E. Pastoriza

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

J. More

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM

L. Schlaupitz

LECTORS

S. Tucker



**HELP WANTED—WE NEED YOU**

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

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

ADORATION CHAPEL

*"A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."*

Padre Pio Pietreicina

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

Contact John Murphy 302-233-1779 or jkm2015@verizon.net for any of the times available listed below;

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

Friday 6-7am

Saturday 12-1pm, 1-2pm, 8-9pm

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE (2026 PROGRAMS)

In 2026, the programs will be held February 6-8, July 31 - August 2, and October 21-23, at the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit [MarriageHeldDeVal.org](http://MarriageHeldDeVal.org) or call 215-766-3944. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

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

FROM THE DIALOG

To our readers and advertisers. The Dialog publishes two more editions in 2025. The only edition in December publishes Dec. 12. The Dialog will not publish a print edition Dec. 26. As always, we will be regularly updating our website, [TheDialog.org](http://TheDialog.org), on daily basis through the holiday season. The Dialog returns to print Friday, Jan. 9, 2026.

- Adviento: Hoy es el Segundo Domingo de Adviento donde escucharemos el anuncio del Reino de Dios y denuncia de las injusticias, cada uno de nosotros tenemos como cristianos la responsabilidad de anunciar el Reino de Dios y denunciar las injusticias contra el prójimo, velar por las necesidades básicas del prójimo, comida, casa y ropa, pero también ayudarlos en su salvación. Abremos nuestros corazones para ser verdaderos servidores, testigos discípulos misioneros del amor de Dios en nuestros hogares, en nuestras comunidades y en nuestra sociedad.
- La Inmaculada Concepción: Mañana celebraremos Solemnidad de la Inmaculada Concepción de la Santísima Virgen María. Es Día de Precepto las misas serán Holy Cross 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 12:00 PM. ICC 5: 30 PM 7:00 PM en Español .Felicitamos a nuestros Hermanos de nuestra parroquia gemela en celebración de sus fiestas patronales
- Celebraciones Guadalupanas: Ya se acerca nuestra Gran celebración en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que necesitamos muchos voluntarios. Este año volveremos a hacer la dramatización de las Apariciones Guadalupanas. Si tiene niños entre 3- 6 años para que participen como indígenas. Necesitamos voluntario para hacer el Rosario del largo y grande, a adornar y a arreglar y la limpieza del templo y el Gimnasio y si desea ser voluntario por favor anotarse con la Sra. Arline Dosman o con cualquier miembro de la Junta Directiva. Los mares se estarán ensayando para las mañanitas en nuestra parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción.
- POSADAS: Todas ya están tomadas unase a la Posada de la iglesia o una familia si desea contribuir ¿Qué son las Posadas? Es la Novena de Navidad. Las posadas navideñas es una tradición popular hispana que se celebra durante los nueve días previos a la Navidad, del 16 al 24 de diciembre. Representan la búsqueda de María y José de un lugar para el nacimiento de Jesús, recreando el pasaje bíblico de su peregrinación a Belén. A menudo los pequeños se disfrazan de María y José algunos pastorcitos o ángeles van cada noche, visitan una familia que ha pedido posada en su casa cantando villancicos para pedir alojamiento y, una vez que se les concede, entran y se reza el santo Rosario, se canta y celebran con comida, música y piñatas. Ayuda a preparar el corazón para la Natividad del Señor. En la última parte del Adviento, esperamos con alegría su Primera Venida, en Belén. Una buena forma de hacerlo es meditar el Santo Rosario las antífonas de Adviento que se usan en la Misa, porque cada una evoca un título mesiánico de Cristo del Antiguo Testamento.
- Foro Cristiano : El Foro Cristiano, todos los viernes de 6:00pm a 8:00pm en el ELC segundo piso. El tema de este año es Symbolon “ LA FE DE LA IGLESIA”. Esta basado en el Credo. y lo que creemos como Católicos. Quedan todos invitados a conocer y a profundizar más en su Fe católica.
- Se Necesitan ministros: Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como Catequista, Lector, ministerio de Música, Hospitalidad,, ministros EMC, Arte y Ambientación. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ
- Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia... (P. Gerald Fitzgerald, SP) Únase al Apostolado de las Siete Hermanas en Holy Cross para ofrecer: Una hora santa, Por un sacerdote; Cada semana, Un corazón de oración. Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com



## ICC

### Primera Reconciliación Prep:

Sesión # 6- Martes, Diciembre 9, 6:30-7:30pm, Salón de eventos

Por favor comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 o email to dre@iccmaryl.org para cualquier pregunta.

### Confirmación Prep:

Session #3- Sunday, December 14, 3-5:30pm , Salón de evento

Session #4- Sunday, Enero 18 2026, 3-5:30pm , Salón de evento

OCIA: Domingos 5:30 PM -7:15 PM en La Oficina Parroquial, Llámanos y aprenda nuestra Fe.

## RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

### Next Class:

December 10th All classes (Kindergarten-8th and sacramental prep students) – students are to report to the parish hall no later than 6:00pm.

Parents are invited to meet the classes in the Parish Hall at 7pm for a presentation put on by our religious education students! Ramp doors will open at 6:45pm.

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

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

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

December classes are 12/7 and 12/21

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

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

### ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

"Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church" will take a pause until 1/6/2026.

In preparation of the third week of Advent, on December 9th Father Lentini will join us for a 90 minute Advent/Christmas presentation at both the AM and PM sessions.

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

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

## YOUTH MINISTRY

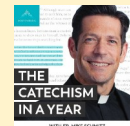
**Confirmation Class:** Next class is Sunday, December 7 from 5-6:30 pm in the Parish Hall or Wednesday, December 10 from 6-7:30 pm in the Matthew Mark room. Parents are welcome to join us for this class.

**Youth Group:** Please come help serve at 8 pm on Friday, December 12 at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta in the school gymnasium.

Our next youth group meeting will be on Sunday, December 14 from 6:45 - 8 pm in the Luke Room of the ELC building. We will have a small white elephant gift exchange and games and food.

### CHECK OUT THESE LINKS:

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



### In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

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

### In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

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



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

Classes resume on December 7th.

### First Reconciliation Prep:

Session #6– December 9,, 6:30-7:30pm, Parish Hall

### Confirmation Prep:

Session #3- Sunday, December 14, 3-5:30pm in Parish Hall

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

This past week was both busy and filled with tremendous joy as we entered the sacred season of Advent and the month of December.

Last weekend, a large group of Holy Cross parents, students, and teachers traveled to the beach to volunteer at Schellville's enchanting winter celebration. It was a beautiful afternoon where our Holy Cross community offered their time and talents so that others could experience the joy of the season. Our students helped guide sleigh rides and train rides and brought delight to many families as they assisted with snowball fun and photos with Santa. To see our community serve with such enthusiasm on the first day of Advent was inspiring and truly reflected the spirit of giving. This past weekend also marked the close of our first trimester of the school year.

On Monday, students enjoyed a day off while teachers gathered for professional development. The morning was led by our school resource officer who provided an informative session on school safety. Teachers then spent the remainder of the day preparing their classrooms for the Advent season. Prayer tables that had been set for ordinary time were changed to reflect the liturgical season of Advent. Advent wreaths, candles, and in some classrooms Jesse Trees were placed out with reverence. Teachers also used this time to transition their grade books from the first trimester to the second and to ensure that report cards will be ready for distribution next week.

Tuesday brought the joyful return of our students after the Thanksgiving break. They were eager to share stories of how they spent time with family, prayed, and expressed gratitude. In the afternoon, we held a school wide Advent prayer service led by our students and our religion committee. Together we reflected on the meaning of the candles on the Advent wreath, lit the first candle of hope, and listened to our kindergarten students sing a song that helped open our hearts to Christ during this season of anticipation. Later that day, the religion committee met to plan upcoming opportunities for prayer and reflection, including rosaries, school masses, and celebrations for Catholic Schools Week.

Wednesday was a calm and joy filled day of learning, and on Thursday our students received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It was beautiful to see them approach this sacrament with such reverence and sincerity. We ended the week with another peaceful day of learning and laughter.

During this past week of Advent we lit the first candle of hope, and this upcoming week we will light the candle that symbolizes faith. We place our trust in Christ who guides our steps and prepares our hearts. In the coming days we look forward to celebrating the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, enjoying our Home and School Association Secret Santa Shop, participating in field trips, attending meetings, and cheering on our students at the next math league competition.

Thank you for your continued support of our school. May God bless you abundantly as we journey together through this holy season of Advent.

In Christ,  
Mrs. O'Mara

that is so very famous. The original image is still around and enshrined in Mexico. And you know what? Much like the infamous Ginsu Knives long-advertised on TV infomercials, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has never dulled or faded. As a matter of fact, even now in 2025, in defiance of science and age, the image of Our Lady on that cloak has miraculously remained crisp, sharp, and brilliant for over 494 years (if my math is correct). The cloak and its image are on display at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, where it hangs reverently behind the main altar.

**Meanwhile, at the Vatican.** Over the centuries, many of our Popes have expounded on Mary as Our Lady of Guadalupe and have expanded the honor accorded her in this regard. Here are some key dates in the evolution of this important Holy Day.

- **Pope Benedict XIV**, on May 25, 1754, declared Our Lady of Guadalupe patroness of what was then named New Spain (Spanish Central and Northern America).
- **Pope Leo XIII**, on February 8, 1887, authorized the canonical coronation (and now famous) of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- **Pope St. Pius X**, in 1910, proclaimed her as the patron saint of Latin America.
- **Pope Pius XI**, on July 16, 1935, declared Our Lady of Guadalupe the "Heavenly Patroness of the Philippines" (though in 1942 this was changed to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception).  
Pope Pius XII, in 1945, accorded her the title "Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas" and "Patroness of the Americas" in 1946.
- **Pope St. John XXIII**, in 1961, invoked her as "Mother of the Americas." In his prayer to her, under this title, he said: *"Hail, Mother of the Americas, Heavenly Missionary of the New World! From the Sanctuary of Tepeyac, you have been, for more than four centuries, the Mother and Teacher of the Faith to the peoples of the Americas. Be also our protection and save us."*
- **Pope Paul VI**, in 1976, raised the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City to the status of a Basilica (the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe) by way of the Papal decree *Sacra illa Aedes*.
- **Pope St. John Paul II**, on January 22, 1999, reiterated her title of Patroness of the Americas and granted the rank of solemnity in parts of that region. He also added this holy day, worldwide, to the Church Calendar. He said of Our Lady of Guadalupe, reflecting on her place in the history of the Americas: *"The first missionaries who reached America from lands of eminent Marian tradition taught the rudiments of Christian faith; they also taught love for you, the Mother of Jesus and of all people. And ever since the time that the Indian Juan Diego spoke of the sweet Lady of Tepeyac, you, Mother of Guadalupe, have entered decisively into the Christian life of the people of Mexico. No less has been [Mary's] presence in other places... in [people's] pilgrimage of faith."*
- **Pope Benedict XVI** underscored the significance of Our Lady of Guadalupe during a visit to Mexico, noting how Mary made Jesus known to Juan Diego. He said: *"This was how Our Lady of Guadalupe showed her divine Son to Saint Juan Diego, not as a powerful legendary hero but as the very God of the living, by whom all live, the Creator of persons, of closeness and immediacy, of heaven and earth. At that moment, she did what she had done previously at the wedding feast of Cana. Faced with the embarrassment caused by the lack of wine, she told the servants clearly that the path to follow was her Son: 'Do whatever he tells you.'"*
- **Pope Francis**, speaking on the topic Our Lady of Guadalupe, said that: *[She] wants to meet us, too, as she one day met Juan Diego on the Hill of Tepeyac," Mexico, and "she begs us to allow her to be our mother, to open our lives to her son Jesus and to welcome his message so as to learn to love like him,"*
- **Pope Leo XIV**. Speaking of the effect of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the evangelization of the Americas, Pope Leo XIV described her as *"the Star of Evangelization,"* who will *"always accompany you with her motherly tenderness, showing you the way that leads to God."*

In this Holy Season of Advent in which we prepare for the Birth of our Savior, it is right and just that we pause to remember his Mother, and our Mother, Mary most holy. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor