

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 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

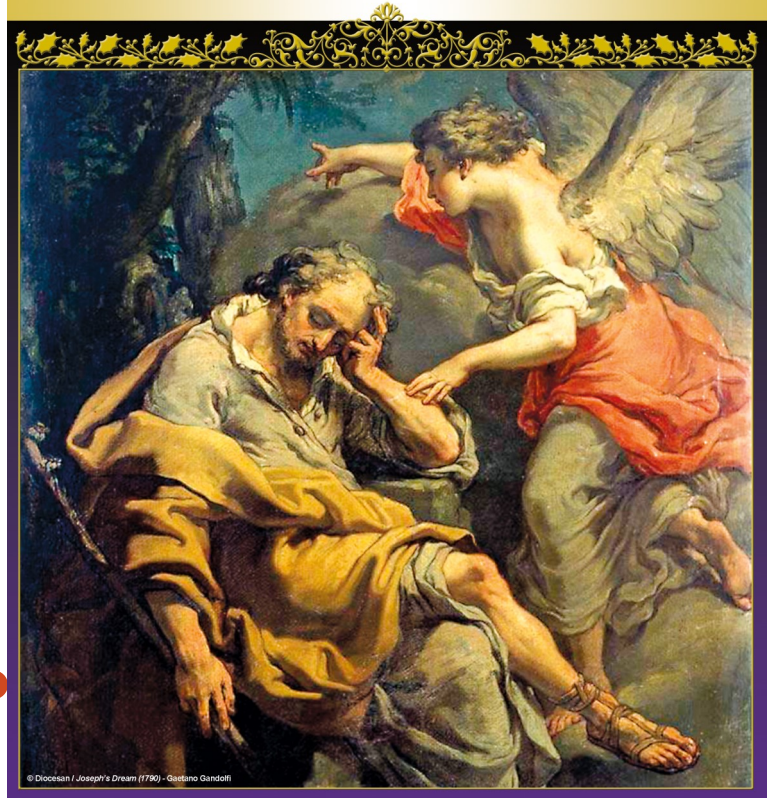
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

PEACE

...all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Lk 3:6



© Diocesan / Joseph's Dream (1790) - Gasparo Gandolfi

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.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

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>



Get ready for Rosary in a Year by Ascension Press

If you've ever struggled to build a habit of prayer, this podcast is for you. In Ascension's Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life. By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world.



Listen to discover....

- How to build a daily habit of prayer
- How to form a relationship with Jesus and Mary
- The Biblical foundations of the Rosary
- How to meditate with sacred art (visio divina), saint writings, and scripture (lectio divina)
- The power of Mary's influence in your life
- ...and more.

Follow this link for more information:
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending November 24, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$29,040	\$27,840	\$1,200
YTD	\$542,491	\$564,206	(\$21,715)
Needs	\$1,836	\$1,775	\$61

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending November 24, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,487
2nd Collection	\$425

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,

On Monday, December 9, our Parishes will observe the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception as a Holy Day of Obligation. It was transferred to that date (rather than its customary berth of December 8) because the Second Sunday of Advent falls on that day this year. In recent years, when this day fell on a Saturday or Monday, the Mass obligation was lifted. However, by way of a recent ruling by the Vatican's Dicastery for Legislative Texts, a body that interprets the requirements of Canon Law, that practice has been ended.

This change came about in response to a question posed to the Dicastery by one of the U.S. Bishops. The question posed was: "If a Holy Day of Obligation in the Advent Lent or Easter season falls on a Sunday and the Solemnity is transferred to a Monday, does the obligation to attend Mass still apply?" The response was to the point. Thus spoke the Dicastery: "As a matter of fact [Canon Law] establishes the feasts which must be observed as days of obligation... the canon does not provide for exceptions. For those reasons, those feasts are always days of obligation, and so even when the aforementioned transfer of the feast occurs."

And with that, Monday, December 9 — the date on which the Immaculate Conception will be observed this year — maintains its status as a Holy Day of Obligation. And shout out to our Immaculate Conception Parish in Marydel: the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the Parish's Patronal Feast Day!

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And now, we return to our regularly scheduled Pastor's Column: As Advent advances, it is worth taking a pause — how appropriate in this season of patient waiting — to look at some of the holy days (saint days) that are coming. And there are many:

The Immaculate Conception (December 8, this year observed on December 9). 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 Con-

ception, 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 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 entreat 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 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 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!

St. Lucy (December 13). Sicilian-born St. Lucy came from a noble family and was wealthy. She took a vow of virginity and divested herself of all of her wealth, giving it to the poor. This ticked off a man who had hoped to marry Lucy one day, and he appealed to the local authorities that Lucy should be his. They concurred and approved that this man could violate Lucy's virginity. When he approached her, she stood firmly in place and was unable to be moved; he then gouged her eyes out. She was later beheaded, suffering martyrdom, but remained a virgin. It is said that when her body was being prepared for

Continued on page 10

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Brennan Ferris	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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Sharon Seelig	Records Office, ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I18
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

Mallory O'Mara	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This year the obligation to attend Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception falls to **Monday, December 9**. Masses at Holy Cross will be at 8 am, 9:30 am school Mass, and 12:10 pm. At Immaculate Conception Masses will be at 5:30 pm and 7 pm Spanish Mass.

THIRD SUNDAY ADVENT (DEC 15)

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18A

The day of the Lord's coming is a day of great rejoicing that will see evil expelled and the world renewed in the presence of the Lord.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

The early Christian Church is encouraged to live model lives as they immanently await with hope the Lord's return.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:10-18

With hopeful expectation, John guides the people to prepare themselves by putting aside the passing world.

SAMARITANS

The Samaritans are in need of to work our outreach hotline. You work from your own home to vet the calls coming in to the Samaritans for help. You do not use your own phone number, rather a cell phone that is connected to the Samaritans. If interested, please call the Holy Cross Parish Office to leave your name and contact information please.

WEBSITE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

In the weeks ahead, our parish representative from Solutio, Inc., will be setting up the advertising for our website for the year. Please consider participating in this effort since the revenue from the ads is what makes the website possible at no cost to the parish.

It's a great way to get your name in front of the families in the parish. Advertisements may be purchased for a business, family memorial, or you can sponsor an ad supporting Catholic Charities, Knights of Columbus, Vocations, etc.

Please give these ideas some thought. We need and appreciate your help! If you are interested or just curious as to prices and want more information, please contact (302) 865-7153 or Sponsor-ship@SolutioSoftware.com.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Holy Cross will celebrate Mass at 7 pm on Thursday, December 12, in honor of OLOG. All are welcome to attend the Mass, which will be celebrated by Bishop Koenig. A Fiesta will follow in the Gymnasium following the Mass.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of those who recently lost a loved one:

- Rosemarie Caparoso
- Joseph Golba
- Veronica Campanella

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in pace. Amen.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Anyone wishing to sing with the combined choirs at 5 PM Christmas Eve Mass?

Please join us for practice in between the Masses at 9:40 AM on December 8, 15, and 22.

PRO-LIFE INFORMATION

In upcoming weeks I will reveal how NARAL and Doctor Nathanson used an 8-point-propaganda strategy to get America to view abortion as a "right" and even convince Catholics to go along with it.

The year was 1973, a pivotal year in American history...the year that both the Ultrasound Machine was made available, and also when abortion became legal. For the first time, we had a window inside the womb which enabled a mother to see the magic of her child growing in her womb! However, the abortion industry, which profits millions of dollars from abortion, was opposed to showing mothers their ultrasound as mothers would cancel their scheduled abortions. Consequently, the abortion industry decided to start hiding the images from the moms.

"As an "expert witness" Nathanson lobbied legislators and testified in legislative hearings across America which primed our nation for the 1973 Roe v Wade decision." (Nathanson admitted to providing false testimony to sway the hearings to his favor.)

The Silent Scream was the video documenting an actual ultrasound procedure by Doctor Nathanson while performing an abortion. As he recorded the ultrasound, Nathanson was stunned to see the child throw back its head and open its mouth as though

MASS INTENTION DECEMBER

9 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Robert Pritchett
 HC 9:30 am School Mass
 HC 12:10 pm Meacham—Green Family
 ICC 5:30 pm For the People
 ICC 7:00 pm For the People

10 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am John Trinkle

11 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Milton Feliberty

12 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am LI Robert Devereux
 HC 7:00 pm For the People

13 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am John Tyrrell

14 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am John Rigo
 HC 5:00 pm Claudia Zuchowski

15 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Patrick Lewandowski
 ICC 8:30 am Andrea Nagyiski
 HC 9:30 am DM Cartanza Family
 ICC 11:00 am Glen Wilhelm
 HC 11:30 am Nancy Roger
 ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Dec. 8 – Dec. 14 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for Priscilla Garnache Lefegzore.

Dec. 8 – Dec. 14 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the DM of Durk and Kerr Family

silently screaming in pain during the procedure. This was the last abortion Nathanson ever performed!

Dr. Bernard Nathanson "claimed responsibility for the death of over 75,000 unborn babies, including 2 of his own children. He personally aborted over 5,000 babies; instructed doctors how to perform abortion on 10,000 babies; and while he ran the largest abortion facility in the western hemisphere, another 60,000 babies were murdered under his management" according to his admission to Terry Beatley, author of *What if We've Been Wrong*, in which Nathanson commissioned Ms Beatley to tell his story as he was terminally ill.

For more information on Terry Beatley's mission to carry out Dr Nathanson's request, go to www.hosea4you.org. Be part of a movement to spread the truth.

DECEMBER 14/15, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. Darling
L. Darling

B. Richard
G. Richards

J. Novack
J. Novack

LECTORS

D. Dixon

7:30 AM

S. Gede
P. Jackson

M. Jacobs
L. Luckett

L. Thomas
S. Corpuz

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM

K. Kelly
K. Boyer

D. McGinnis
L. Olmstead

LECTORS

S. Crossen
J. Coffield

11:30 AM

A. Cisneros
C. Garcia

B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

TBD

11:00 AM

LECTORS

L. Soule

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

We are in need of more volunteers to help with taking Holy Communion to our sick and homebound, visit the hospital, and to help at our Masses in the Church.

Have YOU ever considered becoming an extra-ordinary minister? We will notify you when we have a training class in the next few weeks.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!! Please consider this important ministry. Thank you.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Adorers needed! Do you have an hour a week to spend with our Lord in the Adoration Chapel? We are so blessed at Holy Cross to have the ability to spend time with Christ in the Eucharist. If you look at other parishes in our Diocese, they may have an hour a week, or a day a week to Adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Here at Holy Cross, we have 16 hours a day, seven days a week. Unfortunately, we are not filling all these hours.

If you are able to, get another parishioner, to fill a time with you, or you can join someone who has an hour, we can give Glory to God in the Eucharist. We should never leave our Lord alone...

Most Saints spent an hour or hours a day in Adoration. Please consider your time. An hour a week. Is this too much? For more information, call, text or email John Murphy for a time convenient for you. 302-233-1779, jkm2015@verizon.net

QUOTE: "Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament remember that Jesus has been waiting for you for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you." (St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei)

SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY 5 pm

TUESDAY 4 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm 7 pm, 8 pm

RETROUVAILLE

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 14 - 16, 2025 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, hear an interview with Steffani Aquila about her new book, "Festive Faith: Catholic Celebrations Through the Year and Around the World." The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

- El Adviento: Nos despierta no sólo para el nacimiento de Cristo, sino también para el comienzo de un nuevo año en la Iglesia. Con la venida de Cristo, empezamos de nuevo: el primer domingo de Adviento, el 1 de diciembre, este nuevo Año litúrgico, seguimos el ciclo C y leeremos fundamentalmente el Evangelio de San Lucas., que escucharemos en cada misa de este tiempo de Adviento. , renovados por Su nacimiento. Su objetivo es literalmente iluminar el camino hacia la verdadera Luz del Mundo. La corona circular, hecha normalmente de hojas perennes como el pino o el abeto, representa el amor infinito y eterno de Dios por nosotros. También contiene cuatro velas para encender cada domingo de Adviento. Primera vela / Domingo: ESPERANZA (Vela de la Profecía), Segunda vela / Domingo: LA PAZ (La vela de Belén), Tercera vela / Domingo: ALEGRÍA (Vela del Pastor), Cuarta vela / Domingo: AMOR (Vela del Ángel). Culturas de todo el mundo celebran el Adviento de diversas maneras. La mayoría de estas tradiciones y actividades giran en torno a la esperanza, la preparación y la celebración con amigos y familiares.:
- Novena en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe: 3 de diciembre la Primera Novena hasta el 11 de diciembre cuando entra la virgen peregrina y no vuelve a visitar casas hasta el mes de mayo.
- Se necesitan voluntarios para ambientar para el día 11 de diciembre a las 4:00 pm y después para ayudar con la limpieza. Para mas información llame a la oficina de Ministerio Hispano de la parroquia al 302-674-5787 ext. 118.
- Fiesta en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: miércoles 11 de diciembre a las 11:00pm Las Mañanitas, iniciaremos con el rezo del Santo Rosario. El jueves, 12 de diciembre, La Santa Misa a las 7:00 PM y la procesión para la Gran Fiesta en el GYM.
- Las Posadas: Primera Posada el 16 de la iglesia a las 7:00pm si desea unirse a la Posada de la iglesia por favor hable con los hermanos José Cruz Pérez y Mireya Rodríguez. Les pedimos que nos acompañen todas las noches a las Posadas.
- Peregrinos de Esperanza: El próximo Año del Jubileo será en 2025 y el tema escogido por el Santo Padre es "Peregrinos de Esperanza El Año Jubilar dará inicio con la gran tradición de abrir la Puerta Santa comenzará cuando el Papa Francisco abra la Puerta Santa de la Basílica de San Pedro el 24 de diciembre de 2024. Somos Iglesia, Somos parroquia, somos comunidad, somos familia en camino al jubileo. Como comunidad oremos y seamos peregrinos de esperanza para el prójimo.

ICC

Educación Religiosa en Inmaculada Concepción: . clases se reanudan el domingo, 8 de diciembre. 9:40

Sacramentos:

Confirmación 2025: Sesión # 3 domingo 15 de diciembre de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial. Si aún no ha inscrito a su hijo para el 8.º grado, comuníquese con Alicia en la oficina parroquial llame al 410-482-8939 o por correo electrónico a dre@iccmaryl.org

Primera Reconciliación: Sexta sesión será el martes 10 de diciembre de 6:30 a 7:30 p. m. en el Salón Parroquial. Si no ha inscrito a su hijo y está en segundo grado o superior, comuníquese con Alicia al 410-482-8939 o envíele un correo electrónico a: dre@iccmaryl.org

Retiro: Sábado 11 de enero 2025 de 9-12 en el salón, solamente los niños

Sacramento: El sacramento de la Reconciliación será e sábado, 18 de enero en la Santa Cruz , en Dover a las 10:30 de la mañana .

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Class: December 1, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Next class December 1. Please arrive between 2:45-2:55 to be on time and not disrupt classes. Bring textbook, snack and a pencil.

Grades K-7 in the Elementary Building, drop off at double doors near school office. Pick up, parents walk through those same doors, pick up child(ren) and exit doors past bathroom. Second Floor students will be sent down to siblings on the first floor for easier pick up.

Grade 8 in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office Building C, second floor

Any questions or concerns, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

Adult Education with Deacon Bob – Tuesday, December 9, 2024 New Class! - continues.

“Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Advent”

Receive a deeper understanding of the ancient Jewish prophecies of the Messiah to help unlock the hidden meanings of the season of Advent! The discussion is lead by Dr. Brant Pitre who is an American New Testament scholar and Distinguished Research Professor of Scripture at the Augustine Institute.

Classes Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C

All are welcome, this is a free class. No workbooks will be made available. If you 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)

Class : December 8, Matthew/Mark room in the Parish office, 2nd floor building C.

This program engages the family, whether it be parents with K-8 children, or a family who wants to enter the Catholic church and receive the sacraments of initiation together hand in hand. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences. Registration forms can be found at: <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the->

[faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation](https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation)

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Class: Our next class takes place Sunday, December 15, at 3 pm in the Parish Hall and Wednesday, December 18 at 6 pm in the Matthew Mark room in the ELC.

Catholic Heart Work Camp Summer 2025:

We will be traveling to Richmond, VA June 15 to June 20, 2025. Spots are going quickly, so if you would like to attend, please let Mrs. Darling know to save you a spot.

Kerygma Review Class: Our next class takes place on Wednesday, December 11, from 6-7:30 pm in the Matthew Mark room of the ELC building.

Youth Group: All Junior High and High School teens are invited to join us on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9 am to noon to bake cookies for the Samaritan Food Baskets for Christmas. All help is welcome - bring a friend - make sure they have a Form A. Rolling pins and cookie cutters welcome.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

Classes will resume on Sunday, December 8 at 9:40 am.

Sacraments:

First Reconciliation: Session #6 will be on Tuesday, December 10th, from 6:30-7:30pm in the Parish Hall. If you have not registered your child and they are in the 2nd grade or above, please contact Alicia at 410-482-8939 or email her at: dre@iccmaryl.org

- Retreat: Saturday, January 11, 2025 @ ICC, 9am-12noon in Hall, children only.
- Sacrament: Saturday, January 18 @ Holy Cross, Dover at 10:30am

Confirmation Preparation: Session #3 on Sunday, December 15th at 3pm-5:30 in the Parish hall. If you have not registered your child for the 8th grade, please contact Alicia at the Parish office, at 410-482-8939 or email me at dre@iccmaryl.org Youth must be registered in RE, or Catholic School to attend.

Dear Parishioners,

This past week marked our return to school after the Thanksgiving holiday. The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas is always filled with joy and anticipation as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.

On Monday, while students enjoyed an extra day off, our faculty and staff participated in our annual retreat day. This year's retreat was led by Father Jasper from Immaculate Conception Parish in Elkton. We began the day with Mass and then Father Jasper guided us through two meaningful sessions.



The first session focused on our diocesan theme, "We Walk by Faith." Father Jasper encouraged us to deepen our trust in God, especially during uncertain times. The second session was an Advent reflection, offering a perfect transition from the Thanksgiving holiday into the new liturgical season. We reflected on the significance of awaiting the birth of Christ and renewed our commitment to sharing His love with our school community. This retreat strengthened our bond as a faculty, and we are grateful to Father Jasper for leading this day of prayer and growth.

On Wednesday, students and staff gathered for our weekly Mass. At the conclusion of the service, we bid farewell to Father Ferris, who has been a true blessing to our school. Students presented him with heartfelt cards and tokens of appreciation. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him well on his next journey and keep him in our prayers.

Thursday brought an opportunity for spiritual renewal as students in grades 3–8 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Teachers prepared their students for this important moment, and we are proud of the reverence and faith our students displayed.

On Friday, we held our school Advent prayer service, beautifully organized by our religion committee. Kindergarten students sang a special song, and we reflected on the meaning of each candle on the Advent wreath. The service reminded us of the hope and joy this season brings. We extend our thanks to the religion committee, our Kindergarten teachers and students, the choir, and everyone who contributed to this inspiring ceremony.

This week was filled with meaningful moments that brought our community closer together and filled our hearts with hope. As we continue through Advent, we look forward to sharing this special season with friends, family, and our Holy Cross community.

God bless,
Mrs. O'Mara

burial, her eyes were restored. This was God's way of saying to the faithful: "I Love Lucy." And he did, greatly. She is the patron saint of the blind and those with eye trouble.

St. John of the Cross (December 14). St. John of the Cross bore many crosses. One of his greatest achievements yielded him his greatest sufferings: He worked to reform his Carmelite order, and while the powers-that-be approved his reform, the senior members of the order did not take kindly to John's changes. They accused him of apostasy and imprisoned him; eventually, he was released but was oft treated badly by his brethren. His greatest writing was a book called "Dark Night of the Soul" – while not as exciting as "The Dark Knight" movies – it was a compelling spiritual work. St. John called the spiritual journey we are on "The Dark Night" because drawing closer to God's light means shedding much of the things of this world, which oft bind us in darkness. For John, life was a journey from darkness to the light of Christ. He died in 1591 at the age of 49.

St. Peter Canisius (December 21). St. Peter Canisius was born in the Netherlands in 1521, around the time of Luther's Protestant revolt. He became a priest in 1546. He is remembered as a great defender of the Church against the Protestants, the writer of many catechisms, and a key player at the Church's Council of Trent.

St. John of Kanty (December 23). St. John of Kanty was a Polish priest born in 1397 in the town of Kanty; he was known for his sanctity. The story is told that St. John was attacked by robbers who took everything from him. They asked him if he had anything more, and St. John replied that he didn't. After they left, he found two gold pieces sewn into his clothing. He took the two gold pieces and ran after the crooks. Not wanting to have lied, he told them that he did have more to give them and presented them with the two gold pieces. Initially they were excited at the prospects of so easily getting more loot (I guess you could say they were like kids in a Kanty store). However, the robbers were ultimately so moved by his honesty that they gave him back all of his belongings that they had stolen. Those two gold coins offered to the thieves by this great saint changed their lives; I guess that was this saint's way of putting his two cents in!

Ss. Adam and Eve (December 24). What? Are folks who got the Godly eviction notice from their Creator saints? In the Roman Martyrology, Adam and Eve are designated as Ss. Adam and Eve and their feast day, December 24, Christmas Eve. Here's the story:

It is the long tradition of the Church, especially the Eastern Church, that Adam and Eve were cast out of paradise (and, in some traditions, sent to the island of Ceylon/Sri Lanka). During this time, they repented of their sins and worshipped God along with their children (Gen 4:26). Adam and Eve served their penance through hard work and suffering, which God had given to them as both a punishment and an opportunity (see Gen 3:16-19), died, and entered into the "limbo of the fathers." From there, along with all the holy men and women who died before Jesus, they were delivered by Jesus on Holy Saturday and brought into the Heavenly Kingdom. As part of that tradition, it developed over the centuries that many folks, especially in Eastern Europe, would put up what were called paradise trees and decorate their homes with greenery on December 24 – the feast of Ss. Adam and Eve. This was done to represent the restoration of the Garden of Eden (Paradise), even in the midst of winter. This is the origin of our modern-day Christmas Trees.

Putting the feast day of Adam and Eve (not celebrated as a memorial at Mass but as a traditional saint day) on December 24 is the perfect date for this. The birth of our Savior is directly linked with the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. Or as it is said at the Easter Vigil, "O happy fault that earned for us so great, so glorious a Redeemer." Also, by tradition – one especially observed in Eastern Europe on December 24 – shortly before midnight, the local churches would sound the "death toll" – a slow clanging of the bells symbolizing the death of the old Adam, who, with the woman Eve, put man out of paradise. Then, at midnight, at the start of midnight mass, a jubilant ringing of the bells would begin to celebrate the coming of the new Adam, Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Our Blessed Mother Mary (Our Lady of Guadeloupe, the Immaculate Conception), St. Juan Diego, Pope St. Damasus I, St. Lucy, St. John of the Cross, St. Peter Canisius, St. John of Kanty... and even Ss. Adam and Eve... pray for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor