

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

February 11, 2024

6th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

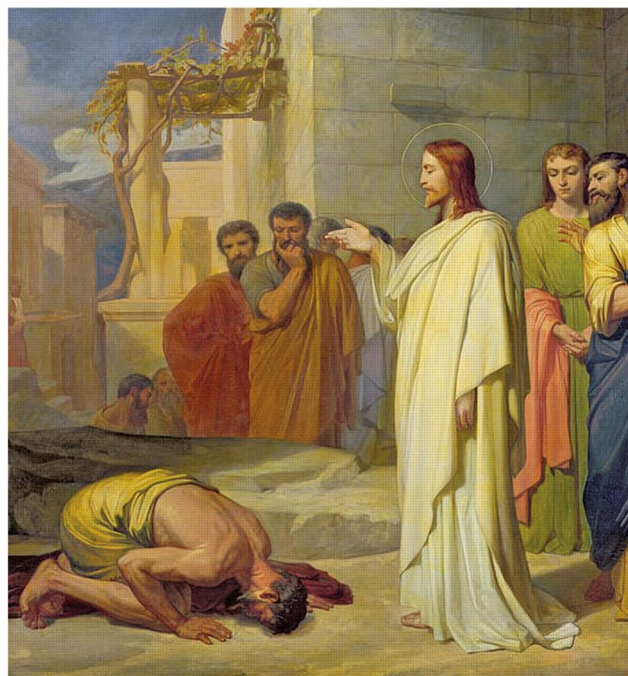
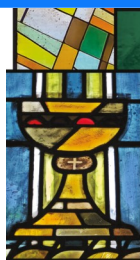
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A leper came to him
and kneeling down begged him and said,
"If you wish, you can make me clean."
LUK 1:40



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.

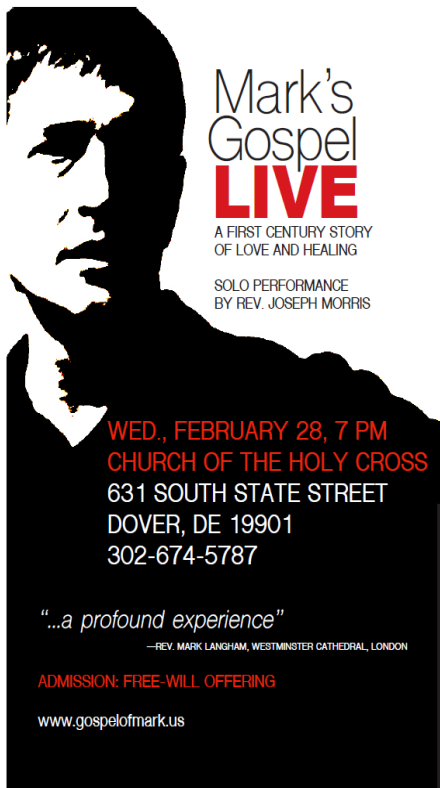
Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

Ash Wednesday: February 14, 2024

Ashes will be distributed at Holy Cross during the 8:15 am Mass, 12:10 pm Mass, 5:30 pm service, and 7:00 pm Mass.

At Immaculate Conception, ashes will be distributed at the 5:30 pm Mass and 7:00 pm Hispanic Mass.

Make Plans Now to Attend on February 28 in the Parish Hall at Holy Cross:



Mark's Gospel LIVE
A FIRST CENTURY STORY OF LOVE AND HEALING
SOLO PERFORMANCE BY REV. JOSEPH MORRIS

WED., FEBRUARY 28, 7 PM
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
631 SOUTH STATE STREET
DOVER, DE 19901
302-674-5787

"...a profound experience"
—REV. MARK LANGHAM, WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, LONDON

ADMISSION: FREE-WILL OFFERING
www.gospelofmark.us

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending January 28, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$28,200	\$28,840	(\$640)
YTD	\$831,549	\$842,660	(\$11,111)
Needs	\$1,648	\$1,712	(\$64)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 28, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,154
Second Collection	\$628

TAX STATEMENTS

The **HC Parish Office** has sent out tax information to all those who we have an email on file.

If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org. Thank you.

For ICC please contact the ICC parish office to pick one up or have it mailed to you.

Dear Parishioners,

Wednesday, February 14 marks the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. And yes, it also marks Valentine's Day. And no, you are not exempt from the Church's rules on abstinence from meat and fasting that day. And, yes, you can go out for dinner on a romantic date with your spouse that evening... to Salad Works. And no, you will never hear me use the word Salad Works in a pastor's column again.

And now, back to the subject of the Season of Lent with a little history and a quick refresher on about this holy Season, marked by the color violet.

Tweeting Lent

Most people will be familiar with the social media service Twitter (now called "X"). Twitter/X is to civility what cheesecake is to weight loss. On Twitter, at least originally, you had to sum up your message in 140 characters or less. That 140-characters-or-less message was dubbed a "Tweet." Well, I cannot sum up Lent in 140-characters-or-less, but I can sum it up in 140-words or less. This description makes for long classified ad but makes for a very abbreviated summation of Lent. Here are those 140 words:

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word 'Lencten' meaning March (or spring). As a Church term, "Lent" is unique to English, in the romance languages the name for this season finds its origin in the Latin word Quadragesima (the forty days) which refers to the length of the season. Speaking of days, Lent (unlike Christmas) is based upon the lunar calendar. The lunar calendar is used to determine the date of Easter. It was the calendar used by the people in Israel in the time of Christ. Easter is celebrated in the Catholic Church on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. What does this have to do with Lent? Well, when Easter moves, so does the start of the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday) – which is "40 days" before Easter.

Now, while that is short and to the point, there is more to the Lent than what a Twitter-esque text, or brief summation will allow one to say. But that's the price that is paid for brevity (I guess you have to take the bitter with the Tweet – ouch!).

Ash Wednesday – Soot up for Lent. Now that we have the background about the name and timing of Lent in place, let's look at the first day of Lent: Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church's season of Lent -- a 40-day season of fasting, repentance and prayer. On Ash Wednesday, the faithful present themselves to receive ashes. At

Masses and Services that day, following the homily, ashes are blessed and then applied to the faithful in the form of a cross on their foreheads. These ashes are derived from burning the blessed palm branches used on Palm Sunday during the previous year. That Cross of ashes on the foreheads of the faithful serve as a reminder of their commitment to the way of Christ and the road to repentance. Those ashes in the shape of Christ's salvific cross are like — dare I say — a "soot of armor" ... protecting us by reminding us to Whom we belong.

Mass Appeal. It should be noted that while Ash Wednesday is not a solemnity (high holy day) or a Holy Day of Obligation (mandatory Mass attendance day), nonetheless, in recent years, more people tend to go to Church on Ash Wednesday than any other day of the year, except for Christmas and Easter. Why is this? Because even a somewhat lapsed Catholic has -- in his hard-wiring -- the need to repent and the desire to set his life right with God and His holy Church. Ash Wednesday presents that opportunity; it is like the opening ceremony of the redemption Olympics.

Cinderella and Pope Gregory. I should also mention a little history about the name and origins of Ash Wednesday: The name Ash Wednesday finds its roots in the Latin term "Dies Cinereum" (found in the Latin text of the Roman Missal used at Mass) – that term means, literally, "Day of Ashes" or "Day of Cinders." Cinders is a synonym for ashes; thus, poor Cinderella of fairy tale fame, was a girl who cleaned ashes. She was named for her cinder-cleaning activity (plus, Cinderella, as a name, sounds much nicer than Asherella). In any event, it is asserted that this practice of receiving Ashes was begun some 15 centuries ago by Pope Gregory the Great in the sixth century, perhaps making him the first Cinder-fella.

Ashes to Ashes — in the Old Testament.

"Okay," you may ask, "the last few paragraphs answer some basic questions about the origin of the name Ash Wednesday and the fact that people receive Ashes that day. But the bigger question is why do they do this?" For that answer, we have to step into the Wayback Machine and travel back to the Old Testament era. In Old Testament times, wearing ashes – which were the dirt-remains that were left behind after something was burned or offered up – had two key symbolism. When worn on a person's face, ashes were, firstly, a sign of man's humility and mortality and secondly, a sign of one's repentance for his

(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
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

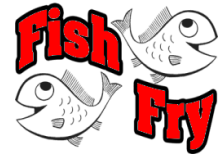
LENT

The rules for fasting and abstinence for Lent are as follows:

- Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent.
- Every person between the age of 18 and 60 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on all other Fridays of the year, unless he or she substitutes some other form of penance for abstinence.

FISH FRYS AT HC

Fish Frys will take place each Friday during Lent in the Parish Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus.



Dinners will be served in the Parish Hall from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. On Friday, February 16, the menu will be breaded cod, baked flounder, fish sticks, mac & cheese, vegetable, cole slaw, coffee, tea, and dessert. Cost is \$15 a plate/ family \$40.00. Eat in or take out available.

EXTRA RECONCILIATION TIME DURING LENT

During the Fridays in Lent, reconciliation will be available from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Holy Cross. One priest will be available each week during that time to hear confessions.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception will each offer the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7 pm.

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (FEB 18)

FIRST READING: GENESIS 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah, his descendants and every living creature.

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:18-22

Peter gives hope to his listeners. We are called to repent, to change, and believe. In the Gospel.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:12-15

Jesus stays in the desert for forty days. He emerges to tell the crowds that the kingdom of God is close at hand.

BABIES NEED US!

Is God calling your heart to stand in the gap for mothers and their babies to save a life from abortion? Women are under a lot of pressure to receive abortion, often being told it's their "only and best option." This simply is a lie! Delaware has many life affirming options which can help save the baby's life and help the mother too.

Abortion destroys the hearts of a mother and father, as well as the life of the child in the womb.

Contact Donna at 862-266-1099 or email: dlatterri86@gmail.com to learn more and volunteer in Dover. (Our training is required.)

HOLY CROSS RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of volunteers, will you join us? It involves creating ways to promote a pro-life, pro-love message to the community around events and special days. If you are creative and have a heart of love, please call me. Let's chat! Donna 862-266-1099 or email me dlatterri86@gmail.com

QUARTER AUCTION

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be hosting a Quarter Auction at the Holy Cross Parish Hall on Sunday, February 25 beginning at 1 pm. Ticket prices are \$25 which includes a hot lunch from Mission BBQ. All in paddles may be purchased for \$25. Quarter paddles are \$8, and items will range from \$.25 to \$1. Please contact Linda Darling at 302-233-2246 for more information and to reserve a ticket.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!!! No group sharing required. The next weekend is March 1-3, 2024 at the Brighton Suites in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. For information or to register visit our website <http://www.wwme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

RETROUVAILLE:

Rediscover the love in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-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 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For

MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY

12 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Jeanne Couls

13 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Bob and Bernie Whittman (LI)

14 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Alisha Coen

HC 12:10 pm Msgr. Daniel J. McGlynn

HC 7:00 pm Irene Sadusky

15 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am DM Farley Family

ICC 6:00 pm For the People

16 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Catherine Canfield

17 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Theodore Morris

HC 5:00 pm Jensen Reed

18 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Joseph F. Kowalczyk

ICC 8:30 am Andrea Nagyiski

HC 9:30 am Emma Zapanto Donato

ICC 11:00 am Crumlish and Brady Families

HC 11:30 am For the People

ICC 1:00 pm For the People

The Sanctuary Candle in the Church is lit during the week of Feb 11-17 in memory of Mark Tigani.

The Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is lit during the week of Feb-17 in memory of Mark Tigani.

more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

We are trying to start a new group that would meet one time a month on a Saturday morning called Mom and Baby. The meeting would be in the Early Learning Center Building, second floor. More details will be given in upcoming bulletins. Stay tuned!!!

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 17th, tune-in to hear an interview with Father Alexander Pocetto, OFSF, author of the book: "Journey Through Lent with Francis de Sales." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640.

FEB. 24/25, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

C. Helwig M. MacLeish J. Novack
D. MacLeish M. Phillipa N. Klaus

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
D. Kilby

7:30 AM

R. Pritchett T. Svienty J. Shevock
J. Salamone M. Thompson S. Shevock

LECTORS

A. Wyllie

9:30 AM

S. Lascano V. Pepper E. Ksenich
D. McGinnis C. Robinson G. Maddalena

LECTORS

C. Petka
M Sossich

11:30 AM

C. Garcia A. Luna TBD
B. Guzman

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

E. Cramer

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00 PM

TBD

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

LENT

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. Ashes will be distributed during the 8:15 am Mass, 12:10 pm Mass, 5:30 pm service, and 7:00 pm Mass at Holy Cross.

At ICC, ashes will be distributed at the 5:30 pm Mass and 7:00 pm Hispanic Mass.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings. Call John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



SUNDAY

7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY

5 pm

WEDNESDAY

7 am, 4 pm, 5 pm

THURSDAY

4 pm

FRIDAY

6 am

SATURDAY

5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm,
2 pm

This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival. What better time is there to select an open hour in our Adoration Chapel and spend some time with Jesus weekly. Please consider taking some time each week out of your busy schedule to sit in silence and prayer before Our Lord. Call today to reserve your hour. You will be so blessed and glad you did.

PURSE BINGO

Mark your calen-

dars! Our annual purse bingo to raise money to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer will



take place on Saturday, March 9. Please contact Linda Darling in the parish office for tickets. Cost is \$35 per ticket—tables of 8. Tickets are going quickly so get yours today!

You can reach Linda by email at: ldarling@holycrossdover.org.

Please plan on joining us for a fun evening.

- **Un agradecimiento especial**-Gracias a todas las personas que colaboraron con la celebración de nuestra tradicional fiesta de la Candelaria.
- El Foro Cristiano Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche con el padre Brennan Ferris. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” donde todo el año las clases se centrará en la EUCARISTIA y la PRESENCIA REAL en la Eucaristía Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024.
- **Peregrinación Diocesana:** Nuevamente la diócesis nos ha pedido que participemos en la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig, el sábado, 23 de marzo, 2024 en Wilmington. Los Jóvenes y adolescentes que desean participar por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Tendremos los ensayos todos los miércoles a de 7-8:30PM en el salón de nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel , comenzando el 24 de enero día del santo patrón de nuestra diócesis . ¡San Francisco de Sales ruega por nosotros!
Este mismo elenco también presentara la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia.
- Pase un día en peregrinación con el Señor Obispo por las calles de Wilmington. Se les invita a todos los jóvenes y a las familias a participar de la Peregrinación, el 23 de marzo de 2024 de 9:30 am a 5:15PM para la 13.^a Peregrinación de CYM. Se espera reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia.

ICC

- **Clases de Preparación Sacramental:**
- Para la preparación **Sacramental de la Confirmación** Sesión #5 el domingo 11, de febrero de 3:00 – 5:30PM en el salón.
- **No Habrá clases de Educación Religiosa el 18 de febrero.**
- **Clase de Preparación para La Primera Comunión:** Segunda Sesión el martes, 20 de febrero en el salón.
- **Se necesitan voluntarios para participar en la dramatización de la Vía Crucis,** anotarse con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- **CYM Peregrinación:** Acompáñenos el 23 de marzo de 2024, para la 13.^a Peregrinación de CYM. Esperamos reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias mientras caminamos por las calles de la ciudad de Wilmington con el obispo Koenig, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia. El Itinerario es: Oración de apertura y entretenimiento a las 10:00 am en la iglesia St. Elizabeth, pasar por el Hospital St. Francis para una bendición especial a los pacientes, la oportunidad de celebrar la Reconciliación en San Antonio de Padua ,experimentar las Estaciones de la Cruz en la Academia de Padua. Seguir a la iglesia de San Pablo para arrodillarse ante el Santísimo Sacramento y regresar a St. Elizabeth para la Bendición de las Palmas y la Misa de las 4:00 pm. El día termina después de la Misa (alrededor de las 5:15 pm). El costo es de \$15 por persona (\$45 por familia) y contamos con autobús, por \$10 adicionales/persona mayor de 10 años (debes registrarte para tener un asiento). Deberíamos regresar a ICC alrededor de las 7:00 p.m. Hay que llevar su almuerzo. El evento del día es de 9:30 am a 5:15 pm. Comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti para obtener más información y formularios de registro para ICC y detalles del autobús, 410-482-8939.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: February 18th at 3:00 pm-5:00pm

Save the Date!

February 28th at 7pm in the Parish Hall "Mark's Gospel" presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

"The one-person performance is not a "reading" or a "talk" but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It's fast paced, energetic, up close and personal."

All are welcome!

The families of all Holy Cross students LAFF, and Religious Education Students are encouraged to attend.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

LAFF class is February 11 at 10:30 am. Next one is Feb. 25 at 10:30 am. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. See above for a special Lent formation opportunity.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming formation opportunities!

Tuesday offerings:

January 16th-February 6th Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession (*cancellation due to inclement weather on 1/16th will be made up date to be determined*)

"Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bout of God's love.

February 13th-March 19th No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion.

"Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life."

Special Lent offering:

February 28th at 7pm in the Parish Hall "Mark's Gospel" presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

"The one-person performance is not a "reading" or a "talk" but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It's fast paced, energetic, up close and personal."

For more information, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call Tammy Korosec at (302) 674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:

Sunday, February 18 or Wednesday, February 21. Please return your Sponsor Form and have your Confirmation name ready at this class.

Parent Meeting:

Sunday, March 3 at 5:15 pm or Monday, March 4 at 7 pm. Final instructions for the Sacrament of Confirmation and schedule for interviews will be discussed.

Youth Group:

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, Feb. 12 from 6:30-8:30 pm. We will meet in the Luke room of the ELC building 2nd floor. Please join us for Faith, Music, Food and Fellowship. A great place to meet some great people. Friends welcome

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

No SRE on February 18th

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

Confirmation Prep: Session #5, Sunday February 11th, 3pm-5:30pm in the Parish Hall.

First Communion: Prep Session #2 on Tuesday, February 20th, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

CYM Pilgrimage: Now in its thirteenth year, and better than ever. Plan today to join us on March 23, 2024, for the 13th CYM Pilgrimage. We hope to gather one thousand youth, young adults, and families as we walk the city streets of Wilmington with Bishop Koenig, carrying the Pilgrimage Cross from parish to parish. Plans include opening prayer and entertainment at 10:00 am at St. Elizabeth, stopping by St. Francis Hospital for a special blessing of the patients, the chance to celebrate Reconciliation at St. Anthony of Padua, experiencing the Stations of the Cross at Padua Academy, to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul, and return to St. Elizabeth for Blessing of Palms and 4:00 pm Mass. The day ends after Mass (around 5:15pm). The cost is \$15 per person (\$45 for a family) and we have a bus, for an additional \$10/person over 10 years old (you must register to have a seat). We should be returning to ICC at around 7:00pm. I will have the youth contact you as we leave Wilmington, we may make a short stop for fast food. The day's event is from 9:30am-5:15 pm. Please contact Alicia Poppiti for more information and registration forms for ICC and bus details, 410-482-8939.

*But you, O LORD, are my shield; my glory, you lift up my head!
When I call out to the LORD, he answers me from his holy mountain. R: Lord, rise up and save me.*

Taken from the third psalm, these were the words read by Kate O, our lector for the Catholic Schools Mass. Monday was the first school day of Catholic Schools Week, a week that promised to be very event-filled. It takes a five-day week to properly celebrate and pay tribute to all those who make our school function on an even keel every day. CSW is time set aside, not to ditch the academics, but to partner them with spirit, life, and celebration of our Catholic Identity.

It was only fit and proper that we launch our week of festivity with Mass. There's not an event, activity, meeting, or gathering where we fail to begin with prayer. Following Mass, Mrs. Benini recognized the Gold and Silver Key award recipients from this years' submissions into the National Scholastic Art Competition. It was a great way to begin our weeklong celebration. We congratulate the following recipients for their recognized excellence in the adjudication process.

Gold Key Recipients

Lily C. Grade 7: Beauty At What Cost? Lily sewed three stuffed bunnies and then placed them in a constructed a cage type container from wood and chicken wire to depict the holding and inhumane treatment of animals during the chemical testing process of substances used in cosmetic products.

Mackenzie L. Grade 7: Dis-Service Animals Mackenzie's editorial cartoon illustrates her concern for canines used for service and/or support purposes but lack proper training to respond appropriately in any given situation.

Andrew R. Grade 8: Eco-Canopy Complex Using the Tinkercad app for 3-D design, Andrew created a futuristic enclosed environment depicting a pollution-free urban area resting beneath a canopy of trees. He submitted his artwork into the Architecture and Industrial Design category.

Adrianna V. Grade 8: This Is My Home, Too An editorial cartoon depicting the rash of hate crimes against Asian communities during the Covid pandemic.

Honorable Mention Recipient

Zachary K. Grade 7: Maui: A Spark of Negligence Zachary expressed distress over the plight of animal life showing their flight into the ocean to escape the danger posed by the encroaching wildfires on the island of Maui.

Silver Key Recipients

Macie E. Grade 8: Missing Daddy: Macie created a quilt. She used a jet ink printer to print family photographs onto a special cotton fabric. The photographs depicted a time in their lives when Macie's father had been deployed overseas. The prints were then sewn together with fabric strips.

Macie E. Grade 8: Extinction Disaster: Macie sculpted a panda bear which bears a distraught facial expression by virtue of the manner in which she painted the animal's physical features. Macie chose to sculpt the panda bear because of her own anxiety over the rapidly reduced numbers worldwide.

Margaux S. Grade 7: Waste Not, Want Not: Margaux fashioned an adorable, over-the-shoulder handbag composed of recycled plastic illustrating her concern for the environment.

Alaina T. Grade 8: Helpless Homeless: Using the editorial cartoon format, Alaina illustrated the plight of the homeless by drawing a figure representing homelessness in America. She posed her figure in front of the US Capitol while others walk by oblivious to the presence of the figure.

Father Ferris...We are coming for you! Just a little good-natured ribbing; Father was joining forces with members of the faculty in their futile attempt to defeat the eighth grade in the annual Student-Faculty Volleyball Game. Father was just a little effusive last year when eighth grade bowed to defeat. This year's eighth grade team turned it all around and walked off the floor victorious. Let's go eighth grade!!

America the Beautiful and the Star Spangled Banner beautifully complemented our morning prayers as HCS gathered 'round the flag poles to honor our nation during CSW. Family members joined us in prayer and song on that damp and sunless morning. But the voices of the choir and the sounds of the band brought sunshine to the hearts of all. It was a splendid way to start the day, I wish we could do it every day!

Holy Cross has talent X 2!! I just have to pause sometimes and remind myself that I work with children. When I witness their God given talent and accomplishment, I marvel. It takes a lot of guts to take the stage at the age of 5 and sing,,,, or dance....and don't think it's any easier if you're 11 or 12. HC was so enthusiastic in showing admiration and appreciation for the talented participants— and for good reason. Joining us in for the morning show was our Associate Superintendent Miss Carol Ripkin. "I loved it!" were the words used to describe her thoughts on the talents shared by our young performers.

Who eats chicken for breakfast?? Apparently, quite a few folks choose poultry over porridge. Chick-Fil-A breakfast biscuits, fresh fruit and juice were served to those who serve God at his altar. It was Vocations Awareness Day and we invited our altar servers to breakfast in appreciation for their answer to God's call. Following breakfast eighth graders had to make a hasty escape to prepare for their Vocations Presentations in the classrooms. Phenomenal! Very well organized, and professional were all terms used to describe the students and their presentations.

"Where are the oboes?" said the Pastor. I think it fairly safe to say that Father Lentini was a little out of his element when B-Shoc took the stage. I tell you, the place was rockin', Literally. It was so much fun watching everyone have so much fun jumping, and waving arms high for Jesus!! The light show, the fog machine, honestly; B-Shoc had it all. Thanks to B'Shoc, there is one thing I am pretty sure of and that is **every single Crusader knows how to spell.... B-A-N-A-N-A-S!!**

When I call out to the LORD, he answers me from his holy mountain.

Thank God for a wonderful CSW.

sins.

Ashes to Ashes — in our Faith. Thus, when a person receives ashes on Ash Wednesday, those ashes are administered in a visible place (the forehead) and commonly in the form of a cross. As the ashes are imposed, the Priest (or Deacon or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion) commonly says the words, *“Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”* This admonition serves to remind us of our mortality, our need for humility and the truth that one day we will, each of us, have to stand before God to answer for our lives. Thus, it is time to repent, or as the old song says, time to “straighten up and fly right.”

Who is Walter B. Pitkin? So, Ash Wednesday rightly and propitiously begins our 40-day season of repentance. At the end of that 40 days of penitence and repentance, the glory of Easter and Resurrection beckon. In 1932, a man named Walter B. Pitkin wrote a book that became a seminal writing in the American understanding of life; the book was called *“Life Begins at 40.”* The book reminds folks that the best things are worth waiting for. And so, for us, as Catholics, a season of penitence begins on Ash Wednesday, and *“New Life Begins at 40 (Days)”* — and that’s definitely worth waiting for!

Big Macs Beware! This 40-day season of Lent, also begins a time for fasting and sacrifice. To remind us of this, Ash Wednesday is designated as a day of both fasting and abstinence from meat. This means the faithful are generally prescribed to engage in a day of fasting (only one full meal, two much smaller meals) and abstinence (no consumption of meat). Fasting and abstinence also applies on Good Friday. Abstinence from meat (without fasting) also applies to every Friday in Lent.

The Fast and the... Fasting is put in place to get our minds away from food and earthly desires so that we may focus our mind on Christ and his salvific act, and, in turn, focus the eyes of our faithfulness on God and his Church. Or maybe in simpler terms it is a season wherein we are called to reflect on the great sacrifice of what Christ did for us, and then ask ourselves if we are living lives that honor of that great sacrifice. This is exactly what Lent calls us to do in our spirit of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Meat-ing Cancelled. Why do we abstain from eating meat on Fridays? Why meat, why not abstain from broccoli (that would have been my vote)? One way of reflecting on this sacrifice is to think of it in this context: The animals that we commonly get meat from are traditionally the animals that were offered in Sacrifice by the Priests in ancient Judaism in the Temple. With Christ’s sacrifice, animal sacrifices no longer were necessary. Abstaining from meat is one way, within Church discipline, that we can share in and recognize Christ’s perfect sacrifice that did away with sacrifices required under the Old Covenant. There are other historical reasons that speak to the development of Catholicism’s “meatless Fridays” – but the devotional understanding above is probably a good way to understand the significance of these days of abstinence, these Fridays of Lent. Further the Church teaches that fasting and abstinence “prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart” (CCC 2043) allowing us to focus on our relationship with the God who gave us life.

Of Radishes, Rutabagas and Rules. We are also commended to make sacrifices during Lent – to give up something during the 40 days of Lent that would be a sacrifice for us (thus, for me, giving up broccoli, radishes or rutabagas would not really be acceptable – as those would not be sacrifices at all). Our Lenten sacrifice further unites us to Christ’s sacrifice and draws us closer to God. The rules for fasting and abstinence for Lent are found elsewhere in this bulletin.

The Color Purple-Violet. Violet (or “purple” as we say in our everyday vernacular) is a symbol of penance and humility. Violet is the color used during the Seasons of Lent as well as the Season of Advent – both seasons associated with a penitential tone, one awaiting the birth of the Savior, the other pointing towards His passion, death, and resurrection. Violet, as used by the Church for Lent (as well as for Advent) is an amaranth red (i.e., reddish purple). Contrary to a commonly held ecclesial urban legend, the Church does not demarcate a different shade of violet for Advent as opposed to Lent; thus to put it poetically, “Roses are red, and Violet is amaranth red.”

The violet-tinged Season of Lent is a time of turning back to God and repenting of our sins. It is a time when we are to renew listening to and living the teachings of our faith and hearing and heeding God’s voice. During this season of Lent live your faith more fully by prayer, repentance and fasting. If you live your faith in this manner, Lent will be a time well-spent that brings you closer to God and his one holy Church.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

