



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 14, 2021

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am-Midnight (temporarily closed)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

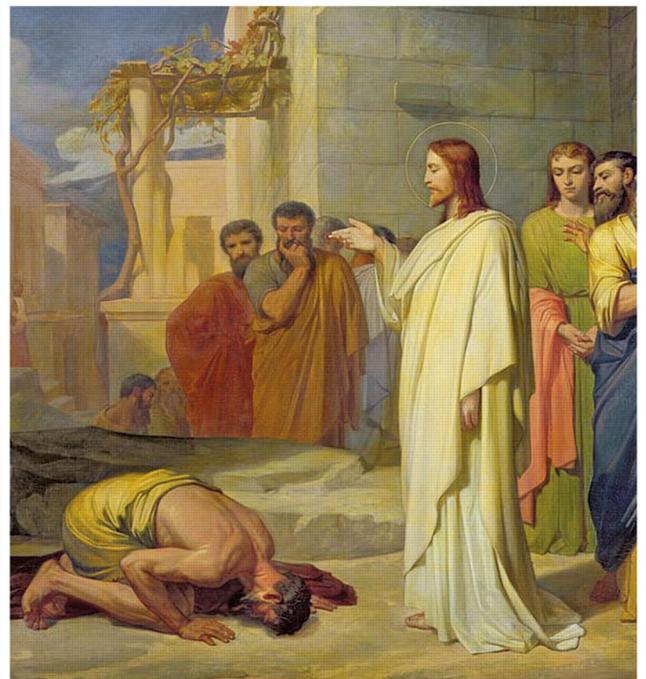
icc



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."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

Check out our websites

holycrossover.org
iccmarylodel.org

Holy Cross Church will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday, and 7 am to 7 pm on Sunday.

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

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, parishes must continue to adhere to all health and safety regulations without exception. Policies including wearing face masks, maintaining proper six-foot social distancing and proper hand hygiene remain nonnegotiable and are fundamentally rooted in protecting all people in our parishes and maintaining the health and safety of our community. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Masses on holy days remains suspended at this time.

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

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

January 31, 2021

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED | BUDGETED/ NEEDED | DIFFERENCE |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| Offertory | \$23,986 | \$27,800 | (\$3,814) |
| YTD | \$757,747 | \$863,400 | (\$105,653) |
| Needs | \$1,497 | \$1,550 | (\$53) |

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 31, 2021

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED |
|----------------|----------|
| Offertory | \$3,082 |
| 2nd | \$125 |

Tax letters are ready at ICC. Please call the Parish Office at ICC and they will be mailed to you.

Tax Statement for Holy Cross

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2020 year. If we have your email in our records, this information was emailed to you at the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossover.org. Thank you.

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

Dear Parishioners,

As you read this, we are a few days away from starting the Season of Lent. And so, I would like to do a little history and a quick refresher on the meaning and disciplines of this holy Season. It is a time of turning back to God and repenting of our sins. It is a time when are to renew listening to and living the teachings of our faith and hearing and heeding God's voice.

Tweeting Lent

Most people will be familiar with social media service Twitter (which 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 add (which I found out would cost \$60-75 to run), 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 almost all romance languages the name for this season finds its origin in the Latin word Quadragesima (the forty days) which refers to the length of season. Speaking of days, Lent (unlike Christmas) is based upon the lunar calendar. The lunar calendar, you see, 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 Lent? Well, when Easter moves, so does 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 Twitter 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 them-

selves to receive ashes. At Masses that day, following the homily, ashes are blessed and then applied to 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 road to repentance. Those ashes in the shape of Christ's salvific cross are like a — dare I say — soot of armor... protecting up 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 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 Cinerum" (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 girl who cleaned ashes. She was named for 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 6th century, perhaps making him the first Cinder-fella.

Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust. "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 dirt remains left behind after something was burned or offered up – had two key symbolisms. When worn on person's face, ashes were, firstly, a sign of man's humility and mortality and secondly, a sign of

(Continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. | Pastor |
| Msgr. Daniel McGlynee | Pastor Emeritus |
| Rev. Mano Salla | Parochial Vicar |

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Mr. Sherman Mitchell | Deacon |
|----------------------|--------|

HC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Linda Pollitt | Principal, ext. 111 |
|---------------|---------------------|

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LEAVING ITEMS IN CHURCH

Please **do not** leave cards, religious items, clothing, or other such items in the lobby area of the Gathering Space. We cannot accept any of these items at this time.

DELAWARE STATE CHINESE AUCTION

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be sponsoring a virtual Chinese Auction on Sunday, February 28th at 2:00 P.M. There will be dozens of baskets with a minimum value of \$35.00. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to Debbie Petka, 30 Freedom Drive, Dover, DE 19904 (Dpetka1@verizon.net). Please include your name, email and phone number when sending your check so we can contact you with the Zooming information and let you know if you win! Tickets will be priced at \$25.00 for a single sheet (20 chances to win) or \$15.00 for a half sheet (10 chances to win)! Please RSVP by February 15th! We look forward to having you join us.

RECENT DEATHS (HC)

Our condolences to the families of:

- Charles Hoopengardner
- Christine Hoopengardner
- Grover C. Rigby
- Aloysius Wanmanjo

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY MASS LIVE-STREAM
FROM THE
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER
IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

WATCH LIVE SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30
OR WATCH THE REPLAY ANYTIME

www.YouTube.com/DIOCESEOFWILM

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 21

1ST SUNDAY LENT

FIRST READING: GENESIS 9:8-15

SECOND READING: 1 PETER 3:18-22

GOSPEL: MARK 1:12-15

K OF C FISH FRY

Every Friday in Lent from 4 pm to 7 pm the Knight will offer Lenten Dinners at the Columbian Hall. Proceeds will go to Holy Cross and Immaculate conception Churches at the discretion of Fr. Lentini.

All meals are take out and can be picked up at the Columbian Home, 219 Vepco Blvd, Camden.

Menu is subject to change.

Feb. 19—Manhattan Clam Chowder, \$10 first Quart, \$5 additional Quarts

Feb 26—Tuna Subs, chips cole slaw \$10

Mar 5—3 pcs cod, french fries cole slaw \$10

Mar 12—6 large shrimp, tator tots, cole slaw \$10

Mar 19—2 crab cakes on HB bun, mac & cheese, cole slaw \$10

Mar 26—Shrimp or cod, mac & cheese or tater tots, cole slaw \$10

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

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

POST ABORTION SUPPORT

If you or someone you know has struggled with feelings of guilt, pain, sorrow, or regret after an abortion, please know that you are not alone. Join us for our monthly support group! We will have a time of optional sharing, prayer, and a book or bible study. No registration needed...just show up!

2nd Tuesday of the Month

630PM to 8PM

New Day Pregnancy Care Center

811 South Governors Ave Dover, DE

VOCATIONS

Jesus told His Disciples, *"I came to serve, not to be served."*

A vocation is a call to serve. It is a profession, an urge, a predisposition to undertake a certain kind of work. It is a choice for which you are particularly suited. The central question always is, "How best can I serve my God and others?"

MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY

15 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Gino Galli

16 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Mary Lapinski

17 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am E. Mark Tigani, Jr.

ICC 9:00 am For the People

HC 12:10 pm Service for Ashes

HC 5:30 pm Service for Ashes

ICC 5:30 pm Service for Ashes

18 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Joseph F. Kowalczyk

ICC 6 pm For the People

19 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Michael Ciccarelli

20 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Boa Q. Vu

HC 5 pm M/M Sigmund Balcerak

21 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am David Cummins

ICC 8:30 am Barbara Thompson

HC 9:30 am Sarah Fillat

HC 11:30 am Rev. Joseph Etim

ICC 11 am Salvador Schepens

ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION

DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

If you feel a calling to the married life, there are many Church ministries from which to choose. Many are in need of your service, as a deacon, a Eucharistic minister, a visitor to the sick and aged, or an usher. Whatever you choose, do something that serves others. When you do this, you are serving God.

If you feel a calling to priesthood or religious life, ask questions and talk to priests or religious. They know that surviving isn't enough. They can help you come to know your vocation or career, or even your own true self.

Above all, start with prayer. Whatever your vocation, if you are good at what you do, it is a gift from God. Only through prayer will you be able to recognize what vocation gift He wants to give to you.

Serra for priestly and religious vocations

MASS MINISTERS

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

Lector Schedule for February 2021

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass

Feb 13 Dennis Dixon
Feb 20 Lori Christiansen
Feb 27 Judi Coffield

7:30 am Mass

Feb 14 John Davis
Feb 21 Donna Kilby
Feb 28 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass

Feb 14 Colin Parks
Feb 21 Suzanne Ford
Feb 28 Chris Petka

At Immaculate Conception

8:30 am Mass

Feb 14 Gerry Godfrey
Feb 21 Diane Smith
Feb 28 Theresa Thompson

11 am Mass

Feb 14 Donna King
Feb 21 Laura Schlopitz
Feb 28 Donna King

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at dbelt@holycrossdover.org so we can add you to the names of those who have already volunteered to lector.

At ICC, please get in touch with Marilyn Dixon at mdixon@icmarydel.org Thank you.

DIRECTORIES (HC)

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

RETURNING TO MASS

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

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Today we celebrate Valentine's Day. Choose one favor to surprise your beloved with. Your love is a daily act, not just one day a year.

PARENTING POINTERS

Think first before you are tempted to say to your child, "Later, dear" or "Can't it wait", or "We'll do it tomorrow (or next week)". Consider that love and a listening ear are the greatest things you can give your children.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, February 20th, tune in to hear an interview with Martin Joseph, author of the book, "Searching for Hope." Listen to Catholic Forum online anytime at www.cdow.org/CatholicForum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts.



Feliz día de San Valentín. Día del amor y la amistad, que todos seamos embajadores de amor, confraternidad y caridad.

Continuamos con nuestras prácticas de Posturas y Gestos durante la Santa Misa con la ayuda de la Conferencia de los Obispos de Estados Unidos,

Las Posturas y Gestos Corporales durante La Eucaristía.

Cada postura corporal que asumimos en la Misa enfatiza y refuerza el significado de la acción en la que estamos participando en ese momento de nuestro culto. Gestos -Después del Padrenuestro viene el Saludo de la Paz, gesto en el cual expresamos, que estamos en paz y libres de enemistades con nuestro prójimo. Debido a la pandemia el saludo de paz se hace espiritualmente.

Por último, en la nueva Instrucción General, se nos pide que hagamos una señal de reverencia, antes de recibir de pie la Comunión. Los obispos de este país han determinado que Sagrada comunión se reciba de pie y se haga una venia antes de recibir la comunión signo de nuestra reverencia y que honramos a Cristo, quien viene a nosotros como alimento espiritual. La Iglesia ve en estas posturas y gestos corporales comunes tanto un símbolo de unidad de aquellos que han venido a reunirse para rendir culto como un medio para proteger dicha unidad. No somos libres para cambiar estas posturas para acomodarlas a nuestra propia piedad, ya que la Iglesia deja bien claro que nuestra unidad en las posturas y gestos corporales son una expresión de nuestra participación en el único Cuerpo formado por los bautizados con Cristo, nuestra cabeza. Cuando nos ponemos de pie, cuando nos arrodillamos, cuando nos sentamos, cuando hacemos una reverencia, lo mismo que cuando hacemos una señal como una acción en común, atestiguamos sin ambigüedades que somos en verdad el Cuerpo de Cristo, unidos en el corazón, la mente y el espíritu.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

¡Traiga sus mochilas Azul con libros a clase!

Grupo 2- grados 1, 2, en el salón, 4,5 en el sótano, y RCIA estará en el salón de computadoras - presencial el 14 de febrero.

Grupo 1- grados 3, 6, en el salón, 7, 8 en los salones del Basement (sótano) y RCIA para estar en el salón de computadoras- presencial 21 de febrero

Si prefiere que sus hijos continúen haciendo Educación Religiosa en casa, hágaselo saber a la Sra. Alicia Poppiti, Directora de Educación Religiosa al 410-482-8939 o envíele un correo electrónico a dre@iccmaryl.org

¡**Cuaresma!** A partir del 7 de febrero se entregarán los materiales de Cuaresma para sus hijos.

Preparación para la Confirmación 2020-2021-ICC

Nuestra próxima sesión de preparación es el domingo 14 de febrero, de 2: 30-5pm en el Salón Parroquial.

Esto es para los jóvenes de octavo grado y de secundaria que están registrados para comenzar la preparación para la Confirmación. Esto es solo para los jóvenes, no para padres ni padrinos en esta sesión.

RETIRO: El Retiro de Confirmación será el sábado, 13 de marzo de 12-5pm en el salón parroquial de la Inmaculada Concepción.

2021 clases de Preparación para la Primera Comunión.

La próxima sesión: martes, 23 de febrero, a las 6:30 en el salón.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class February 21 3:30-5:30

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

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

Gr. 4-5 5:30

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

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

February 14 10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room; Next Sessions March 14th

CONFIRMATION CLASSES (HC)

Confirmation class will take place on Sunday, February 21 at 2 and 4 pm and Wednesday, February 24 at 6 pm .

PARENT MEETING FOR CANDIDATES:

Sunday, February 28 OR Monday, March 1, at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. Please have one parent attend - candidates welcome to join the meeting. Final instructions for Confirmation will be shared.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

Bring your Blue Book Bags with books to class!

Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement classes and RCIA to be in the computer center- on site **February 14th.**

Group 1- grades 3, 6, in the hall, 7, 8 in the basement, and RCIA to be in the computer center -on site **February 21st..**

If you would prefer to have your children continue to do Religious Education at home please contact Alicia Poppiti, at 410-482-8939 or send me an email to dre@iccmaryl.org

LENT

Lenten booklets for the children will be given out starting February 7th.

2021 FIRST COMMUNION PREP-ICC

Next session: Tuesday, February 23rd at 6:30pm in the Hall.

CONFIRMATION PREP 2020-2021-ICC

Our next Prep session is today, Sunday, February 14th, 2:30-5pm in the Parish Hall.

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

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

RETREAT

Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, March 13th from 12-5pm in the hall at Immaculate Conception.

LENT

Lent will begin on **Ash Wednesday, February 17.**

Below is the schedule for the distribution of ashes at HC and ICC.



Holy Cross: 8 am

Mass, 12:10 pm service , 5:30 pm service.

Clergy will also be available in the church from 10 –11 am and 2-3 pm to distribute ashes to those who stop in the church.

Immaculate Conception: 9 am Mass, 5:30 pm

service, 7 pm Spanish service ; Clergy will be available from 9:30—Noon to distribute ashes to those who stop in the church.

Parishioners are reminded that receiving ashes is not required. The faithful should recognize that their own internal disposition and intention to repent is the importance of Ash Wednesday and that the ashes are an external sign of that internal reality. Individuals who cannot receive ashes can still enter into Lent with a repentant heart.

During Lent Holy Cross will offer the daily 8 am Mass, Monday thru Saturday. They will also offer a 12:10 pm Mass on Mondays and Fridays only.

No Lenten Talks this year.

Confessions at Holy Cross will be at 5:30 pm on Fridays during Lent in addition to the normal Saturday morning time of 8:30—10 am.

Stations of the Cross will take place at HC and ICC at 7 pm on Fridays during Lent.

Perhaps you're under the same deluded impression as I. I have always thought that Mr. Ben Franklin was solely responsible for the printing, and publication of the first newspaper in Colonial America. So, prior to making all sorts of mistakes in my weekly communication, I did a small bit of research. As it turns out, I was mistaken. The historical facts point to a fellow by the name of Richard Pierce as being credited with the publication of what we now call a daily newspaper. I love the title. Pierce named his novice journal, Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestick. It made its way into circulation in the late seventeenth century. The newspaper was all of three printed pages measuring 6 X 10 inches in size.

I never considered the city in which I spent most of my formative years a major metropolis. In relation to other American cities, I always believed it to be average. Over the years and under the watchful eyes of a visionary mayor, it grew considerably in population, and industry. During the hay day of the newspaper industry in this certain municipality, one could select from three different publications. Two of them were daily publications while the third published three times weekly. The particular publication that my family subscribed to was published twice daily, the morning and the evening edition. With the massive canvas bag containing the papers for his route slung over his shoulder, the young man tossed the newspapers up against the front door. PLOP! It must have been a horrendous job. Getting up before the roosters to fold all the papers, placing them in plastic bags on rainy days, going door to door to collect the fees, and then, having to listen to grumpy complaints if the paper was not in hot off the presses condition when it reached the doorstep. Just like the milk, eggs and butter, home delivery was a convenience.

I listed for the plop, because I always enjoyed reading the newspaper. The publication we subscribed to had different parts. There was the news section, both foreign and domestic, (thank you Mr. Pierce), with another section for sports, the classified ads, the funnies, puzzles, and the editorial page. The editorial page was always a favorite.

Sundays were the best. I guess it weighed two pounds or more. The editorial page was given its own section; it was called The Perspective. Editors and journalists from all over the country had placed typewriter ink to paper proffering opinions on every topic imaginable. I just found it all very interesting.

On very rare occasions, mostly in the summer, I would treat myself. My grandfather would drive me to the local drug store where they sold Sunday newspapers from other cities. Knowing I would have extra time for reading I would pick up a Washington Post and a Wall Street Journal. Both my grandfather and I would enjoy our Sunday afternoons with the three newspapers, and our cups of

tea.

The news industry has changed over time. Before I moved from the city, the three different publications had been reduced to just one. The current Sunday publication doesn't compare to that of my childhood. But, the major metropolitan publications nationwide seem to be hanging on to the "printed for distribution" variety. Many opt to read their news online.

Recently, Father Lentini made mention of an interesting article he read in The Wall Street Journal. As it happens, the article entitled Catholic Schools Are Beating Covid authored by William McGurn appeared on their Opinion page, Main Street. Mr. McGurn describes the 2020-2021 Catholic school teacher as the unsung hero (amen to that) who has worked to maintain some normalcy in this school year that is so very far from typical. The author goes on to quote the Superintendent of Schools in the Archdiocese of Boston, Tom Carroll; "The science is clear that there is no substitute for in person learning... across the nation the Catholic school approach is to stay open wherever we are allowed." It is an unfortunate truth that some schools met their demise during the 2020 spring shutdown, while others have found better fortune. During that period of shutdown, HC was perfecting our approach to what has come to be known as virtual learning. Daily diligence on the part of our teachers opened doors to new and different methods for bringing new grade appropriate material to our students. Indeed, it was a challenge. I recall a conversation I had with a parent whose eighth grade son had been accepted by one of the local public schools. The school was sending representation to the homes of incoming freshmen for in person interviews. She relayed to me her appreciation for the way HC had picked up the ball and run with it. She knew her son was going to be okay, because HC had not fallen down on the job when it came to seeing her son prepared for his transition. But, the one thing this grateful mom mentioned was that "HC was going to benefit from this, you wait and see." She was convinced that the work HC had done for their students would bring others in.

Mr. McGurn further credits the Catholic schools for keeping the classrooms open "while keeping Covid-19 at bay." At HC, this has been a true team effort with Mrs. Bernadette Kolakowski, our school nurse leading the way.

My fond recollection is of sitting at the table with my grandfather, black ink fingertips, reading of current events, both foreign and domestick on a Sunday afternoon. I miss that. But if I had that chance once again, I am certain that across the nation, in nationwide news publications, I would be reading of the Catholic school teacher being rightfully touted as the unrecognized and silent hero of this dreadful time in the history of education in America.

one's repentance for his sins. Thus, when a person receives ashes on Ash Wednesday, they are administered in a visible place (the forehead) in the form of a cross; as they are administered 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 upon receiving ashes 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 Bgins 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 fast and abstinence from meat. This means the faithful are generally prescribed to engage in a day of fast (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 our faithfulness to 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 my vote)? One way of reflecting on this sacrifice is this: Think of it in the context that the animals that we commonly get meat from were 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 are not sacrifices at all). This further unites to Christ's sacrifice and draws us closer to God. 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.

While the Church does put in age limits, it is commendable for all Catholics of all ages to join in the disciplines of Lent if they are able — no matter their ages.

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 well spent season that brings you closer to God and his one holy Church.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor