



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 20, 2022

7th 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—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

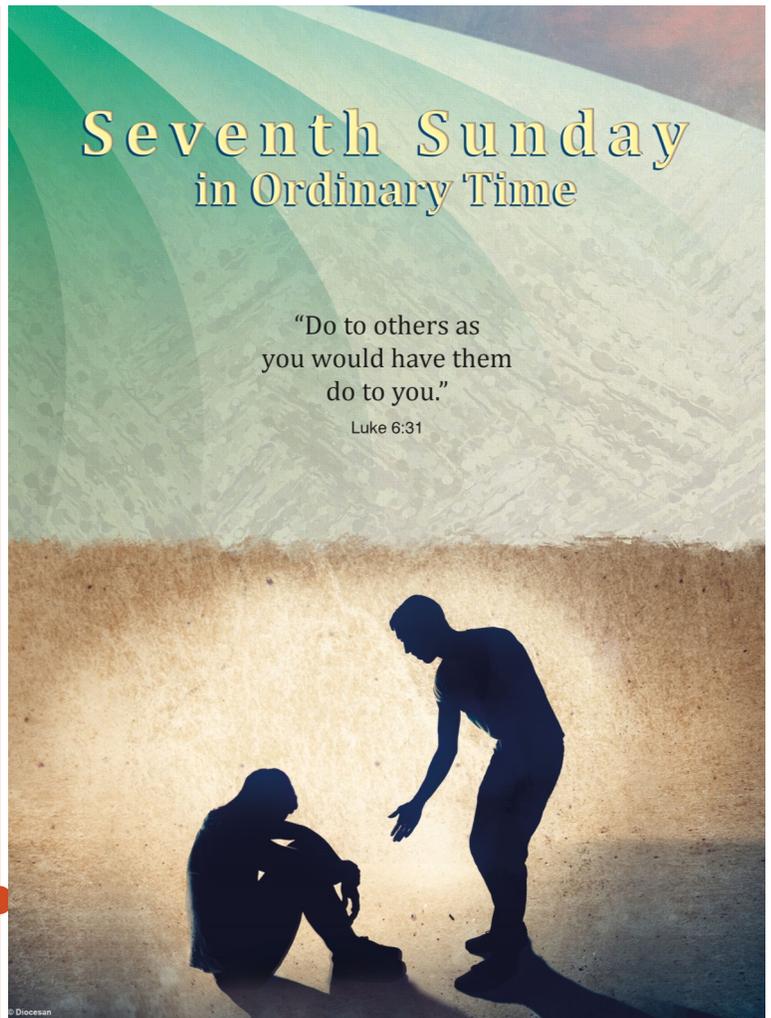
CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do to others as
you would have them
do to you.”

Luke 6:31



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.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

PARISH BREAKFAST AT HOLY CROSS

THE PARISH BREAKFAST WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 7:30 AND 9:30 AM MASSES IN THE PARISH HALL.

COST: \$10.00 PERSON, \$ 25.00 FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN UNDER 10 FREE.

IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH FATHERS EAT FREE!

MENU: SCRAMBLED EGGS, BACON, SAUSAGE GRAVY, AND BISCUITS. COFFEE, TEA AND JUICE.

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LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 2, 2022

PLEASE WATCH FOR DISTRIBUTION OF ASH TIMES IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BEGIN ON FRIDAY'S IN LENT.

K OF C FISH FRY'S AT HOLY CROSS EVERY FRIDAY IN LENT..... DETAILS WILL BE COMING NEXT WEEK

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

February 6, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$24,835	\$26,000	(\$1,165)
YTD	\$840,767	\$832,200	\$8,567
Needs	\$1,426	\$1,480	(\$54)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending February 6, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,687
2nd collection	\$326

For tax statements for ICC, please contact the ICC Parish Office.

Tax Statements
The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2021 year. If we have your email in our records, this information will be emailed to you by the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org. Thank you.

Dear Parishioners,

Are smartphones good or evil? I can say for certain they are not that smart — just look at the auto-spelling correction feature (like when I texted a friend saying “I will meet you at a quarter to twelfe” and rather than correcting “twelfe” to “twelve” it changed it to “tweed” — not smart at all). So, is it an evil or a benefit? I think the jury is out. But I think that collectively we have become, as a society, afflicted by a slavish devotion to our smartphones. Even as I am typing out this column, my iPhone is — seemingly with malice a forethought — peppering me and distracting me with “notifications” of texts, emails, etc.

New Word. I read in a recent column that this constant distraction by smartphones, tablets, etc. has a name: “technoference.” What does technoference do? It distracts us, it tempts our eyes, it screams for our attention and kills any hope of focus. It takes our eyes off the prize.

Baby Love. One doctor, a psychologist, was teaching her college students that responsiveness is one of the most important things a parent can do to nurture his/her child. She then applied that concept to the way she was treating her phone and was shocked as she noted: “Through my responsiveness to my phone’s demands, I have nurtured it [like a baby].” She notes in the article that like a baby, she carefully wipes its screen to remove smudges and keeps it clean. She carries it close to her everywhere she goes, establishing bonding. And she gets nervous if she cannot find it, like separation anxiety. She added that what troubled her in all this, is that is not a baby, yet: “We are bonded, and I am smitten.”

Splendid Isolation? The benefit of the smartphone is that it can keep us more connected to others; yet it has seemingly isolated us more than ever. Just look at the family dinner table or friends at a restaurant or people at a party — all present together — yet how many are looking at their phones rather than one another. In the 19th century, Great Britain and its empire experienced what was called “splendid isolation” — meaning it did not need to engage with any other countries. That isolation came

calamitously crashing down with the carnage of World War I. The isolation was not splendid, it was ultimately debilitating — it distracted Britain from its necessary connection to the world. So, too, we may feel splendidly isolated with our phones, but that isolation will hurt us. As God says in Genesis, “It is not good for man to be alone.”

What’s Up? So, if isolation hurts us, and separates us, then what’s up with our love affair with the phone? What’s up with this device that we now talk to? (“Siri, find me a restaurant that serves braciola.”) What’s up with this computer-in-hand device that is now part of nearly every moment of everyday of our lives?

Synching or Sinking? Here’s what’s up... and it is nothing new. I often tell people that in his tempting of us, the best the Devil can do (and desires to do) is distract us from God. He can make us lose our focus on God and reduce our quiet time for prayer and reflection. Remember in scripture when Christ tells St. Peter to come to Him on the water... and slowly St. Peter begins to walk on the water. Then, Peter gets distracted by the noise and the storm around him and begins to sink into the water (Jesus then pulls him out). Well, imagine that same story, with Jesus beckoning to St. Peter who then slowly walks on the water, but then is distracted by a text from St. Andrew on the iPhone (“Big wedding at Cana! Tell Jesus bring wine.”). This message distracts St. Peter from Christ, and he starts sinking. When he stopped “synching” with Christ, St. Peter started “sinking” away from Christ.

Tales from the Darkside. That is the dark side of our smartphone life. It’s a distraction that we have made part of every moment of every day of our life. It is temptation in our pocket. Think of it this way: What is the ratio of the time we spend holding a smartphone in our hand, rather than a rosary, or rather than pressing our hands together in prayer? The smartphone

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

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/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 8Is
302 674 5787
holycrossover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Worries come naturally into most couple's lives. It may seem unrealistic not to worry. Try watching some birds today. It's winter, but somehow they are surviving. Do they look sad? Learn from the birds.

PARENTING POINTERS

Family chores: It's not just about keeping your home clean. Sharing household work (once a child is old enough to walk and talk) promotes family unity, life skills, and cooperation. Do your household chores need any updating?

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 26th, tune in to hear an interview with Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, author of the new book, "Restore: A Guided Lenten Journey for Prayer and Meditation." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome the newly registered members of our Parish:

- Alex and Kathy Gallagher
- Joseph and Elizabeth Micucci and Anthony Nordberg
- Abigail Cervantes-Lopez and Angelina Buitron Cervantes

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of:

Rosa P. Cervantes, Larry J. Napolitano, Sr. and Donna LeMieux

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

ST. HEDWIG'S PRESENTATIONS

Join St. Hedwig Church on February 18 & 19 for a fascinating set of presentations by Dr. A.J. Jarrouj on the greatest love story ever told - the Love of the Triune God for Mankind; a love story whose last act is yet to be fulfilled. Reservations and more information is available by calling Eileen Siter at 302-442-8171. Donation is \$30 and includes continental breakfast and lunch

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 27 8TH ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: SIRACH 27:4-7

SECOND READING : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:54-58

GOSPEL: LUKE 6:39-45

K OF C PRAYER SERVICE

Our Knights of Columbus will host a St. Joseph Icon Prayer Service on Monday, February 27, beginning at 7 pm at Holy Cross Church. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Deacon Bob will lead us in prayer.

MEN OF THE HOLY CROSS (NEW AND MORE CONVENIENT MEETINGS)

It is now easier than ever for you to join the Men of The Holy Cross! You are welcome to come in person



on the second floor of the ELC building, or participate from the comfort of your home, sitting in your favorite chair with a cup of coffee. Thanks to our newest innovation (a state of the art "Meeting Owl" which makes you feel like you are there in person), all you need is your smartphone, tablet or computer. Just type in or click on the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our hybrid meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/30861480> Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM (time certain) for prayer, gospel reflections, Church teachings and timely discussions. Even for busy men who are constantly on the go, it has never been more convenient for you to give us a try; our meetings are as close as your phone!

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Orders are being accepted for our Memorial Area brick pavers that will be placed in "Honor and Memory of Loved Ones" by Memorial Day. Orders must be received no later than March 15th. Order forms are available at the Parish Office or by contacting Len Dornberger at LDornberger@HolyCrossDover.org -- 302-674-5787 ext. 135.



MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY/FEBRUARY

21 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Mark Konrad
22 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Frank Szell
23 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Leon and Krystyna Kabzinski (LI)
24 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	DM Dorberger & Bruno Families
ICC 6:30 pm	For the People
25 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	David J. Kaltenbaugh
26 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Sheila Berninger
HC 5 pm	Louis Jara
27 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Bill Denney
ICC 8:30 am	Cathy White
HC 9:30 am	Bettina Lavoie
ICC 11 am	Rosemary Vasquez
HC 11:30 am	Joseph Girgis
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

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. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 11-13, 2022 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.

HOLY CROSS FEB 26/27, 2022

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Bieker D. McLeish M. Costa
C. Bugglin J. Salamone E. Costa
J. Clendaniel A. Costa

LECTORS

F. Urick
V. Viddy

7:30 AM R. Fritzsche P. Sheldon B. Gyamfi
D. Novack A. Wyllie E. Gyamfi
R. O'Neill C. Wilk

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM P. Ford R. Willey J. Beugre
S. Ford J. Zajac C. Beugre
M. Sossich E. Seeling

LECTORS

C. Parks
H. Showell

11:30 AM R. Ramirez R. Richards K. Espinosa
B. Guzman E. Guzman C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM B. Lawson

LECTORS

D. Smith

11:00 AM F. Cristiano

LECTORS

L. Soule

1:00 PM To be determined

LECTORS

B. Gonzalez

ATTENTION ALL EXTRA-ORDINARY
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Parishioners in need of our Homebound Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds, and we need more EM's who are willing to become part of our homebound ministry. We serve nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the hospital, and those at home.

Please consider joining this ministry. We will train you and have you shadow another EM to get you ready. Call the Parish Office so we can get you started. Please pray to discern if this ministry would be for you. We need your help!!

Call 302-674-5787,
ext. 110 or 113 to leave your name.

PURSE BINGO

Purse Bingo: Tickets are on sale - don't wait!



Join us Saturday evening, April 2 for a fun-filled evening, and a chance to win a great purse!

Cost is \$25 for 10 games, door prizes and light refreshments served. 50/50 and Chinese Auction chances for sale. Must be 18 to play. Please see Linda Darling for tickets - tables of 8 may be reserved.

ldarling@holycrossdover.org

Proceeds will go to help our high school teens attend Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer in Greensboro, NC. Thank you for your support.

VIRTUAL BASKET AUCTION FUNDRAISER

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be sponsoring a virtual Basket Auction on Sunday, February 27th at 1:00 P.M. There will be dozens of wonderful baskets to take a chance on. Tickets are \$25.00 for a single sheet (20 chances to win) or \$15.00 for a half sheet (10 chances to win)! They may be purchased by sending a check made payable to Delaware State Columbiettes with your name, email and phone number, to Arlene Brown, 87 Paige Place, Felton, DE 19943 (amb550@hotmail.com).

We will email you your ticket number and the Zoom information prior to the event if you would like to attend. If you cannot attend, we will contact you if you win! TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY February 23rd! We look forward to having you join us for a fun filled afternoon.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you. **We really need volunteers to take some time on Saturday and Sunday. Please consider taking one hour in the chapel to spend with Jesus.**

SUNDAY 10 am, 12 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANA

- Gran Retiro de Cuaresma. Todos están invitados. Preparémonos para "La Cuaresma como Camino gradual de Conversión" gran Retiro
- Presentado por el Rev. Juan Alberto Cárdenas. Sacerdote Agustino de Colombia
- Fecha :26 de febrero, 2022. Hora 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- donación: \$15 para los alimentos
- Parroquia La Inmaculada Concepción. Dirección 522 Main St. Maryland, Maryland 21649
- Habrá confesiones, Hora Santa, charlas, música y reflexiones y mucho más.
- (1). ¿Cómo se está dando este caminar juntos hoy en nuestra Iglesia local?
- (2) ¿Qué pasos nos invita a dar el Espíritu para crecer en nuestro caminar juntos?
- Proceso del Sínodo iniciado por el Papa Francisco. Ya empezó la fase Diocesana y el obispo Koenig invita a todos en la Diócesis de Wilmington a participar en las sesiones de escucha como parte del reciente proceso del Sínodo. El Papa Francisco está pidiendo a toda la Iglesia en todo el mundo que reflexione en oración sobre cómo el Espíritu Santo nos está llamando a mejorar nuestro "caminar juntos" como Iglesia hacia el reino celestial de Dios. Con este espíritu, la experiencia de la sesión de escucha nos brindará la oportunidad de escuchar al Espíritu Santo Dios en nuestros corazones y en las voces de los demás. En efecto, esto nos ayudará a crecer en los objetivos del Sínodo para una mejor comunión, una mayor participación y claridad de nuestra misión como cristianos en nuestro tiempo presente.
- Formato de Sesión de Escucha. Información adicional del sínodo. Se puede encontrar más información sobre el proceso del Sínodo en: www.cdow.org/synod
- Estamos buscando a jóvenes que desean participar en la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig el sábado, 9

de abril, 2022 2n Wilmington.

- Tendremos los ensayos todos los miércoles comenzando el 23 de febrero. También tendremos la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia. Si usted desea participar por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- El comité de Arte y Ambientación está buscando voluntarios para ayudar con la ambientación y arreglo del templo, si usted desea participar anótese después de la santa Misa. Nos reuniremos el martes, 1 de marzo a las 5:00 de la tarde para hacer la ambientación para la Cuaresma..
- Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Prebautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA ICC

- Inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa estará abierta desde el 1 de Marzo, 2022
- Todas las clases se reúnen todos los domingos de 9::40 – 10:50 de la mañana Por favor de estacionarse correctamente y camine a su hijo(a) al salón y recógelo (a) enfrente del salón a tiempo a más tardar a las 10:55. SE le agradece que lleguen a tiempo. Mascarillas es requerido por todos los estudiantes y maestros. Si su hijo se siente enfermo quédese en casa hasta que se sienta bien.
- Clases de preparación para la Primera Comunión
- Próxima sesión el martes, 22 de febrero de 2022 de 6:30 a 7:30 de la tarde.
- Maestros y estudiantes deben de usar mascarillas. Si su hijo no se siente bien que se quede en casa y cuídese.
- Preparación para los candidatos a la Confirmación – próximo domingo, 13 de marzo, 2022 a las 2:30-5pm en el salón.
- Preparacion para los candidatos a la Confirmación – próximo domingo 13 de febrero, 2022 a las 2:30-5pm en el salón.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: February 27 3:30 to 5:30 pm

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.
- 7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.
- No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
- Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

- Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm
- Grades K-1 -5:20pm
- Grades 2- 5:25pm
- Grades 3-4 5:30pm

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.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class March 13 [See email from Deacon Vince with instructions](#)

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

Adult Eductaion (HC)

The Bible in a Year Podcast

“In The Bible in a Year podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes. Using an exclusive reading plan rooted in The Bible Timeline (a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by Biblical scholar Jeff Cavins) you won’t just read the Bible ... you’ll finally understand how all the pieces fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!” Also available in Spanish led by Father Sergio Serrano. See the links below:

In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

[https://](https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/)

media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/



In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

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



YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Classes:

Next classes are February 23 for Wednesday class and February 27 for Sunday class.

Youth Group:

Next Youth Group Meeting- please mark your calendar for March 26. Junior High - 3-4:30 High School 6-7:30

Catholic Heart Work Camp Meeting:

Tuesday, March 15 at 7 pm in the ELC Matthew/Mark room upstairs.

Any 8th through 1st year college teens interested in attending Greensboro camp July 17 to 23 are asked to attend. Registration and fundraising will be discussed.

Work Camp in Dover

We have a large group of teens and adults who are traveling to Dover to help our residents. They will be working June 27 to June 30. If you have projects that they would be able to assist you with, please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org. Painting, yard work, organizing, small repairs, cleaning - whatever you have that you are not able to do on your own, they would love to help.

SRE (IC)

All classes are meeting from 9:40-10:50am every Sunday in classrooms.

Please park, walk your children to hall, and pick up in front of the hall.

Please be on time and pick up no later than 10:55am, our Catechist need to attend Mass at 11am.

Masks are still required for students and teachers.

Parents, please keep your children home if they have a fever, or they are not feeling well.

Registration for 2022-2023 school year will open up March 1st, 2022.

Sacraments:

Youth confirmation prep- Next session is today, Sunday, March 12, 2022 at 2:30-5pm in the hall. Please be on time.

1st Communion Prep: next session, Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 6:30-7:30pm in the hall. Please be on time. Please be on time..

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matthew 21:22

To even give thought to working in an environment where I am not surrounded by colleagues who freely and openly express their faith, who freely and openly request others for prayer, who freely and openly rejoice when prayers have been answered is completely abhorrent to me. It is one of the many reasons that we remain employed in a Catholic school. To be told that we cannot express our faith among colleagues and with those who we teach is abhorrent to me. I can personally attest to the solidification of my own faith over my years of employment at HCS. When I retire, I will miss the camaraderie and commonality with my colleagues that is rooted in our Catholic beliefs and faith in God the most.

It is precisely 8:00 am and each day at Holy Cross begins in the same manner. With prayer.

"Good morning Holy Cross, please stand for prayer." Every student in every classroom rises in response and faces the classroom crucifix. Strategically placed in the classroom, the ever-present walkie-talkie allows us to pray as an entire school community. Morning prayer begins with a brief introduction for the day as it appears on the liturgical calendar. Perhaps it is a significant Feast-Day, or a national holiday such as Veterans Day, a topical preface is read before our prayer leader for the day continues with *"In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Our reading is taken from the Gospel of Matthew."* (or maybe its Mark, Luke, or John). The reading is followed by a brief reflection, which is in turn followed by silent prayer for communities throughout the world. In many years past we would pray the words that Jesus taught us; however, in the past several years the Our Father has been replaced with the diocesan prayer that coincides with the Diocesan theme for the year. In the past we have prayed such prayers as the Apostles Creed, the Morning Offering, the Memorare, or recited the Beatitudes. It's a great way to introduce our students to the different prayers as they commit them to memory over time. This year our daily prayer is the Prayer of St. Francis. *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

We are all of one accord in the beauty of those words. It serves as the perfect model for life, and a wonderful lesson for children as they learn to live in harmony with those whose path may cross their own as they walk life's journey. I love that we pray these important words together as a school community every day. The Prayer of St. Francis concludes the prayer portion of our morning exercise as it is followed by our school Mission Statement. A mission statement is a clear pronouncement of a reason for being, that which gives reason for existence, a statement of objective. Are you familiar with the Mission Statement for HCS?

"Holy Cross School is an academically rich, faith-filled learning environment thus ensuring a Catholic values-based education. At Holy Cross we strive to convey a sense of justice, peace, compassion and respect for all God's creation." You'll find our Mission Statement in clear view displayed in every classroom.

"And now let us face the flag" continues the cheerful voice over the radio. With right hand over the heart, (still a bit of a struggle with the youngest Crusaders...) facing the classroom flag the Pledge of Allegiance is recited. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all."

"God bless America!" "Have a great day, Holy Cross!"

It is 8:07 am. Building location and grade level will determine the plan for the first hours of the school day. 8:07 does not mark the end of the prayer experience for the day.

In Junior High, each class begins with prayer. *"In the name of the Father who created me, The Son who redeems me, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies me, I offer my thoughts and works to you during this class, Amen."*

Before a crumb of food is placed on the tip of the tongue, every child age three through eighth grade prays the Grace Before Meals at snack time or lunch. *"Bless us O Lord an these Thy gifts which we are to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord, Amen."*

It will remain a favorite story of mine; so many parents have told us that they have had to institute the Grace Before Meals in their family routine because their children have learned to do so at school.

In Junior High, the Prayer of Thanksgiving following meals is recited. *"We give you thanks Almighty God for these and all they benefits, You who reign now and forever. Amen."*

And with that, it's back to class....until.... It's 2:00 pm at HCS. That same cheerful voice is heard school wide, once again. *"Good afternoon Holy Cross. Please stand for prayer." "In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen. Our Lady of the Highway, be with us on our journey, for all your ways are beautiful and all your paths are peace."*

"Have a great afternoon Holy Cross!"

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matthew 21:22

is a good technology, one that can help us greatly, but one that can bring us down if we let it consume us by addiction to it.

The Garden State. Think of it this way: The way Adam and Eve were tempted away from — distracted from — from God’s grace, was by the temptation of, ironically, an apple. They thought that that apple could give them everything that God couldn’t. The serpent tempted them saying that if they ate the apple, “*Your eyes will be opened, and you will be like gods.*” Eve went to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and found it “*pleasing to the eyes, and... desirable for gaining wisdom.*” And she and Adam ate from that tree; by falling prey to that temptation, and being distracted from God’s promises, paradise was lost, and not much wisdom was gained.

A Moderate Response. Today, temptation doesn’t come in the form of an apple, but rather in the form of an Apple and an Android... smartphones. These devices have the possibility to be our forbidden fruit if we let them. Smartphones technology is amazing and can be a blessing to you. But, if we are more connected to our phones than to God and neighbor, then Houston, we have a problem. Technology is a blessing from God, unless we let it become a curse. So, as St. Thomas Aquinas wrote in his *Summa Theologica*, we need to embrace the Cardinal Virtue of temperance (moderation): “Temperance brings moderation into those things wherein it is most difficult to be moderate.”

Let our devotion to the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, limit “technofence” in our lives, so that we might veer from being distracted and tempted away from God and neighbor. As it says in Ephesians 6:6, let us be “*slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart*” rather than slaves to technology. Remember, just like the Sabbath, technology was made for man, not man for technology.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

Answers from last week’s
Crossword Puzzle:

