



CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmaryl.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

February 21, 2021

1st Sunday of Lent

holycross

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)

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

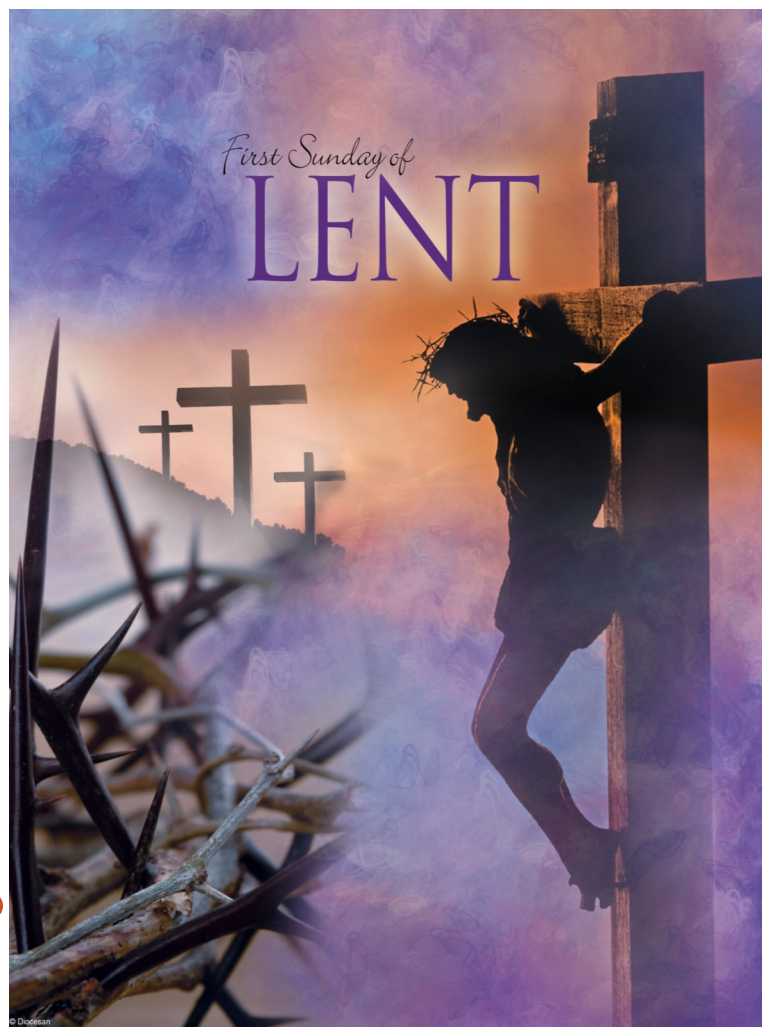
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



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

holycrossdover.org
iccmarylidel.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)

February 7, 2021

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED | BUDGETED/ NEEDED | DIFFERENCE |
|----------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|
| Offertory | \$24,206 | \$27,800 | (\$3,594) |
| YTD | \$781,953 | \$891,200 | (\$109,247) |
| Needs | \$1,508 | \$1,550 | \$42) |

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending February 7, 2021

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED |
|----------------|----------|
| Offertory | \$1,902 |
| 2nd | \$95 |

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@holycrossdover.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,

In 1968, two of America's leading R&B music groups, The Supremes and the Temptations teamed up for an album and for a TV special. Both did very well, and yielded several hit songs. One of those hits was a song called "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me." Part of the lyrics of that song read as follows, "And I'm gonna use every trick in the book / I'll try my best to get you hooked."

The Supreme (Being) vs. The Temptations. In this Sunday's Gospel (from St. Mark 1:12-14, though told more fully in St. Matthew 4:1-11, and St. Luke 4:1-13), we don't see the Supremes or the Temptations singing and performing. But what do see is the Supreme Being (Jesus Christ, God in the flesh) being pelted with the Temptations of the Devil. And the Devil is, for all intents and purposes, singing those words from "I'm Gonna Make You Love Me" — "I'm gonna use every trick in the book / I'll try my best to get you hooked."

Meanwhile in the Garden. And thus it was that our Lord, led into the desert by the Spirit, went on to face three temptations. Just as the nasty little serpent had tempted Adam and Eve, he was now testing God himself (God-in-the-flesh) in the person of Jesus Christ. And those temptations of Christ in the barren desert were similar to, and indeed, parallel the temptations that occurred in the Garden of Eden.

- **In the Garden of Eden: the Devil tempted** Adam and Eve with the allure of food (coaxing them toward the forbidden fruit, he said in Genesis 3:1, "Did God really say, 'You shall not eat from any of the trees in the garden'?"); **In the desert:** he tempted Christ with the allure of food (recognizing that Christ, who had been fasting was hungry, he said, in Matthew 4:3, "command that these stones become loaves of bread").
- **In the Garden of Eden:** the Devil tempted Adam and Eve to test God's promises (Genesis 3:4, the serpent commends Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, telling her to ignore God's warnings: "But the snake said to the woman: 'You certainly will not die'"); **In the desert,** the Devil tempted Christ to test God's promises (the Devil took Him to the top of the Temple and told Him to jump off, because, "[God] will command His angels concerning you and 'with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'")

- **In the Garden of Eden:** the Devil tempted Adam and Eve with the allure of power (Genesis 3:5, "When you eat [the forbidden fruit] your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods."); **In the desert:** he tempted Christ with the allure of power (In Luke 4:5-7, the Devil shows Jesus all of the kingdoms in the world and says, "I shall give to you all this power and their glory... if you worship me.")

The Desert: It Was a Devil of a Time. And so, it is during the Season of Lent that we are commended to reflect prayerfully on this scene of the Temptations of Christ in the desert, and reflect on how we can overcome temptations that befall us, in imitation of Christ. Thus, the Church teaches: "By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert." That is what we are fundamentally doing in Lent — we are sharing in the experience of what Christ experienced in the desert, when he faced down the Devil.

A Desert Excursion. In Christ's experience with the Devil, as we travel a little deeper into this "mystery of Jesus in the desert," we can glean much in handling the presence of that serpent's temptations in our own lives. Let's take a closer look at the scene in that desert, in a fuller spiritual context:

Fast As Ever. Christ had fasted as a way of preparing for his holy work and his life ahead. The Devil came and tempted Christ to turn stones to bread and to give up that fast. Christ didn't. Tempting Christ in the frailty of hunger, felt keenly in his human nature, the Devil hope to have Christ fall from grace, yielding to temptations of human needs. It didn't work, Jesus upheld his fast.

Don't be Down-cast. Christ had imbued himself as a humble, indeed a suffering, servant of God, and thus in the desert he separated himself from any trappings of status or power. The Devil tempted Christ to throw himself from the parapet of the Temple, and show off his power, reminding him that angels would protect him in his fall. He did this to test the Lord's humility. He rebuked the Devil and didn't cast himself down.

No Deal. Christ was — to use a phrase from the "Blues Brothers Movie" — on a mission from God. His upcoming ministry, which he was preparing for in the desert, would call people to draw close to God. The Devil, in a role like Howie Mandel from the "Deal or No Deal" TV show,

(Continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn
Rev. Mano Salla

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn
Mr. Philip Belt
Mr. John Harvey
Mr. Robert McMullen
Mr. Vincent Pisano

Pastor Emeritus
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
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
holycrossdover.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:

- Wilma Fifer
- Charles Hoopengardner
- Christine Hoopengardner
- Grover C. Rigby
- Margaret McPhail

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

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Juan Daniel Garcia-Castellanos, Jr.
- Mason Benjamin Macklin

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

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 28

2ND SUNDAY LENT

FIRST READING: GENESIS 22:1-2, 9A, 10-18
SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:31B-34
GOSPEL: MARK 9:2-10

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 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.

VOCATIONS

Religious priest; diocesan priest. Why the separate designations?

Religious priests usually live in a religious community which centers their lives. It is from this root and from his own interior life that a religious priest is able to meet the needs of the Church in ministries such as teaching, overseas ministry, social work, pastoral ministry, chaplaincy and the like. He takes vows of chastity, poverty and obedience according to the spirit of his own congregation. A person who feels called to this life may contact any member of a community with which he is familiar.

A diocesan priest ordinarily serves the people of God in a given area (a diocese) as a parish priest. Yet, diocesan priests are also involved in administration, campus ministry, hospital and prison chaplaincy and the like. Beneath the visible surface of these ministries lies and abiding prayerful relationship with our Lord, for whose sake and for whose people he ministers.

MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY

22 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Dan Rodowsky

HC 12:10 pm John Deighton

23 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Doris Roussell

24 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am DM Dornberger Family

25 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am David Duke

ICC 6 pm For the People

26 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Louis Jara

HC 12:10 pm Eugene Belt

27 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Merian Rochino

HC 5 pm Audrey Bronk

28 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Michael Ciccarello

ICC 8:30 am Barbara Thompson

HC 9:30 am William Woodlin

HC 11:30 am For the People

ICC 11 am Peter Brelia

ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION

DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

Are you serving our Church?

Pray for vocations.

Serra for priestly and religious vocations



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

MASS MINISTERS

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

Lector Schedule for February 2021

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass

Feb 20 Lori Christiansen
Feb 27 Judi Coffield

7:30 am Mass

Feb 21 Donna Kilby
Feb 28 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass

Feb 21 Suzanne Ford
Feb 28 Chris Petka

At Immaculate Conception

8:30 am Mass

Feb 21 Diane Smith
Feb 28 Theresa Thompson

11 am Mass

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@iccmaydel.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

Have you thought of a meaningful Lenten practice? If not, why not choose at least one penance that you will both do. It can reinforce and bond you in a common effort.

PARENTING POINTERS

We all must at some point let go of our expectations for our children and trust God to lead them in ways we might not have chosen.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, February 27th, Richelle Vible, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Wilmington will look back at her 13-year career at the agency's helm. Listen to Catholic Forum online anytime at www.cdow.org/CatholicForum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Catholicforum.

LENTEN IDEAS

Need a little help as you journey through Lent? Visit the Diocese of Wilmington's Lent web page at cdow.org/Lent for a calendar of Lenten activities, videos, resources, and more.

¿Qué es la Cuaresma? La Cuaresma es el tiempo litúrgico de conversión, que marca la Iglesia para prepararnos a la gran fiesta de la Pascua es tiempo de penitencia, de oración, de limosna y de renovación para toda la Iglesia, con la práctica del ayuno y de la abstinencia. Se debe observarse un espíritu penitencial y de conversión. La Cuaresma dura 40 días; comienza el 17 de febrero, 2021 Miércoles de Ceniza y termina el 1 de abril 2021 antes de la Misa de la Cena del Señor del Jueves Santo. Después entramos en el Tiempo litúrgico más corto y sagrado de la iglesia el Triduo Pascual del 1 de abril al 4 de abril. A lo largo de este tiempo, sobre todo en la liturgia del domingo, hacemos un esfuerzo por recuperar el ritmo y estilo de verdaderos creyentes que debemos vivir como hijos de Dios. la Cuaresma está basada en el símbolo del número cuarenta en la Biblia. En ésta, se habla de los cuarenta días del diluvio, de los cuarenta años de la marcha del pueblo judío por el desierto, de los cuarenta días de Moisés y de Elías en la montaña, de los cuarenta días que pasó Jesús en el desierto antes de comenzar su vida pública, de los 400 años que duró la estancia de los judíos en Egipto. En la Biblia, el número cuatro simboliza el universo material, seguido de ceros significa el tiempo de nuestra vida en la tierra, seguido de pruebas y dificultades. La práctica de la Cuaresma data desde el siglo IV.

Si hay algún adulto que no ha recibido su sacramento de la Confirmación y desea información sobre las clases por favor anótese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. adosman@holycrossdover.org

El domingo 28 habrá una reunión de padres de familia para los candidatos a la Confirmación, será a las 7 de la noche en el salón de eventos, se compartirá instrucciones finales para la Confirmación si no puede asistir el domingo la misma reunión se repetirá el lunes 1 de marzo a las 7 en el salón de eventos. Un solo padre de familia por favor.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

¡Traiga sus mochilas Azul con libros a clase!

Grupo 1- grados 3,6, en el salón, 7,8 en el sótano (basement), y RCIA estará en el salón de computadoras - presencial el 21 de febrero.

Grupo 2- grados 1, 2, en el salón, 4,5 en los salones del Basement (sótano) y **RCIA** para estar en el salón de computadoras- presencial 28 de febrero

Si tiene alguna pregunta o 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@iccmmarydel.org

¡Cuaresma! Los libros con material de la Cuaresma para los niños, todavía se siguen entregando.

Preparación para la Confirmación 2020-2021-ICC

Nuestra próxima sesión de preparación es el Retiro será el ** SABADO, 13 DE MARZO ** de 12-5pm 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 21st 3:30-5:30pm (snow make up)

March 7th 3:30-5:30pm

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.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

March 14th 10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room

Next session April 11th

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

Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement and RCIA in the computer center- on site February 28th.

Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryl.org

LENT: Lenten booklets for the children are still being given out.

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

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

LENT

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.

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.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION ON-LINE OPPORTUNITIES

Morning Offering

<https://www.morningoffering.com/>

A Catholic daily devotional email delivering daily wisdom and inspiration to help you grow in faith

Popes in a Year

<http://flocknote.com/popes>

We know the current pope traces his authority all the way back to the first pope (St. Peter). But do you know much about all the popes in between? Join us (and thousands of your closest friends!) on a journey from St. Peter all the way to Pope Francis. Each weekday morning, we'll send you a short, engaging 2-minute something about one pope. By the end of the year, you'll know something about every single one!

Daily Reflections

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/daily-reflections.html>

Start each day with an inspiring quote sent directly to your inbox. These simple yet powerful messages will help you to live each day with passion and purpose.

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast

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

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz, and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Timeline® learning system, a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

*O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer you my prayers, works, joys,
and sufferings of this day.
For all the intentions of your Sacred Heart
In union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world,
For the salvation of souls, the reparation for sins,
the reunion of all Christians
And in particular for the intentions of the
Holy Father this month.
Amen.*

This is Lent. From the adult perspective, we realize and understand the full significance of this holy season of the liturgical year. We know the symbols, the obligations we are to fulfill during this most holy season. But, for those who might need a little reminder, according to the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, "Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully." As adults, we get it.

"What are you giving up for Lent?" I was asked that very question just a few days before the season had even begun. I offered a vague response because I hadn't made that decision. My point is that in many cases this is the face of Lent for some, the time to sacrifice the joys of ice cream, or some other delectable delight. And then that's it. No ice cream for forty days and it's time to buy a new outfit for Easter Sunday Mass.

Truly and honest to goodness, I am not trying to be cynical. However, it is our responsibility as Catholic educators to partner with the parents of our students in the teaching of the true meaning and significance of Lent. At Holy Cross, we approach that responsibility very seriously.

But, this is the challenge. How do we take the seriousness and true meaning of such a solemn season and make it kid friendly? How do we present this in age appropriate terms that our students will buy into?

I was speaking with Mrs. McGowan recently. We were talking about how she was presenting the monthly (diocesan) theme to her four year olds. She commented on how appropriate the theme of "Called To Serve" is for this particular school year and how well the children understand the meaning of each of the Corporal Works of Mercy presented with each new month. For absolute sure, it is one that can be brought down to kid-friendly terms. They can buy into the meaning of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, providing shelter to the

homeless. It's real world stuff and easily related to by a child, by the adolescent.

I believe our students know the power of prayer. They have seen the manifestation of prayer. Every morning as part of our morning prayers, we pray the Morning Offering. It's a beautiful prayer. But, we don't always have to say a lengthy formalized prayer to be heard.

It's a fact of life; we spend a lot of time in the family automobile. This is valuable time. Silence the phones, take out the ear buds. Make it family time.

Say some prayers. Keep it short, keep it kid-friendly--"Lord, I trust in you." "Give me grace, Lord." "Thank you Lord, for sunshine!" "Thank you Jesus for all the blessings of this life." "Lord,...help!" I once knew a priest who called these short little blips to God breath prayers. He told us that it takes no more than a few seconds to send off a message heaven-bound. It's so easy to do with the kids in the car. Everybody can get into sending off a quick prayer of thanksgiving, or of supplication in just a few words.

And then as you go driving along, who doesn't like to sing? St. Augustine told us that singing is praying twice. With the littles, *Thank you Lord for this Fine Day* is a true golden oldie. For the more sophisticated, contemporary Christian music stations share a powerful message over the radio waves. The littles like it, too.

Pray a short, kid-led litany of saints that they know and have heard of in school. St. Francis of Assisi, St. Theresa of Calcutta, Holy Mary Mother of God, St. Padre Pio,... followed by a rousing "pray for us!" You gotta make it fun!

So now, the drive to school is over. It's time to part company for the duration of the school day. Before slipping out of the back of the car, before setting foot on the first step of the school bus, before saying good-bye at the ramp door, remind your child of a special intention for the day, and then tell them how much you love them. To plant those seeds early in life teaches such a valuable lesson.

I was in a classroom last year (when we could still have our rugs on the floor). Everyone was seated criss-cross applesauce. With her hands folded, sort of nestled in skirt portion of her uniform jumper one of the little girls spontaneously turned to her neighbor and said "I love Jesus so much." That's a true story.

Make it a Lenten challenge this year. Be the role model who makes prayer a thing your kids will like to do. Lent; it's not just about the sacrifice, it's about changing the heart.

tried to make a deal with Jesus. The Devil told Christ that he'd give him all the kingdoms of the world, if Christ would serve (and worship) him rather than God. Christ said: No deal. Why? Because the world's treasures are all perishable, transient and fading.

The Devil is in the Details. On the most basic level, each thing the Devil offered represented a bad deal. God gave us the things of this world to help us in this life (food for nourishment, a temple for worship of God, and kingdoms for the faithful to abide in, in freedom) to be used in care and service to ourselves and to our neighbor. The Devil used these very same things to nefarious end, distorting what God has given us and call us to. Thus in Lent we should focus on prayer (not testing God, as the Devil wanted Christ to do, but seeking Him), fasting (focusing on the Kingdom of Heaven, not the kingdoms of this world, with which the Devil tried to lure Christ) and almsgiving (helping to sate human needs, by providing spiritual nourishment — and not just bread alone, as the Devil tempted Christ to do). So, when the Devil comes-a-tempting, and says "Deal or No Deal?" our response should always be: No deal.

Lessons Learned. So, how do can be best live out these experiences of Christ during Lent and take on board the lessons learned from those temptations in the desert? The Church commends us to three faith-filled actions to counter act those three temptations: namely, to pray, fast, and give alms (and be sure to keep those commas in place lest we delude ourselves to "pray fast" and give alms).

We pray. This doesn't just mean going to Mass or saying grace before meals. Both of which you should be doing anyway. It means deepening one's prayer life before God. Pray to God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. Turn back to God, seek his strength to resist temptation and to be able to lead a good life. So, pray fervently. Pray an extra rosary, take up praying the Divine Office, perhaps, or another devotion that speaks to your spiritual life in the Church.

We fast. We adhere to the regulations of the discipline of the Church which guides Catholics, universally, to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and to abstain from meat and all Fridays of Lent. In this we remind ourselves of our great dependence on God, rather than the things of this world. We also remind ourselves that Christ made that ultimate sacrifice which replaced all of the Old Testament animal sacrifices that were required to be made under the Old Covenant to keep peace with God. Christ became our peace on Good Friday with that ultimate Sacrifice for all.

About Fasting and Sacrifice. In an extension of this concept, during Lent, we sacrifice beyond the prescription of the Church. There is a standing Catholic tradition that for 40-day we give up something that we like to do or like to enjoy, as a way of sharing in the sacrifices that Christ made in the desert during those 40-days. In this regard, some people give up sweets, soda, coffee, etc. This is a commendable practice. In recent years, some folks have said that rather than sacrificing something for Lent, do something positive... like, be nice to people. That sounds nice, but it doesn't mean much – being kind to people is what you are supposed to do anyway. Sacrificing is giving up something that you normally would not give up. That's what makes it a sacrifice. If you follow the "be kind to people" route of thinking, then at the end of Lent would you go back to being mean to people, the same way that a person who gave up sweets would go back to having some sweets? (Just the way Christ didn't turn stones to bread during his fast but did go back to eating bread later).

We give alms. We commit ourselves to help righting wrongs and addressing needs in our community and our world. We are called to give generously and be of a generous heart. One of the ways we do this is through the annual Rice Bowl campaign sponsored by Catholic Relief Services; this program invites Catholics to help the poorest and most vulnerable among us through almsgiving. Of course, you can also express your generosity by, among many other ways, giving additional assistance in the collection basket, making a gift to the Diocese's Annual Catholic Appeal, donating to our Parish's social outreach program, making a gift to Holy Cross School, or by giving assistance to Catholic Charities.

So, whether in prayer, fasting or almsgiving, during this 40-day Season of Lent, we are called to strengthen our faith in Christ and the teachings of his one, holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. We are, by these practices, to draw ourselves away from evil and toward God. The wisdom of the discipline of the Church in its call for prayer, fasting (sacrifice) and almsgiving, is profound. It moves us away from the trappings and passing things of this world, and puts our focus more clearly on God, who sustains us. My blessings to all of you, as we continue through this holy season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor