

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 25, 2024

Second 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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

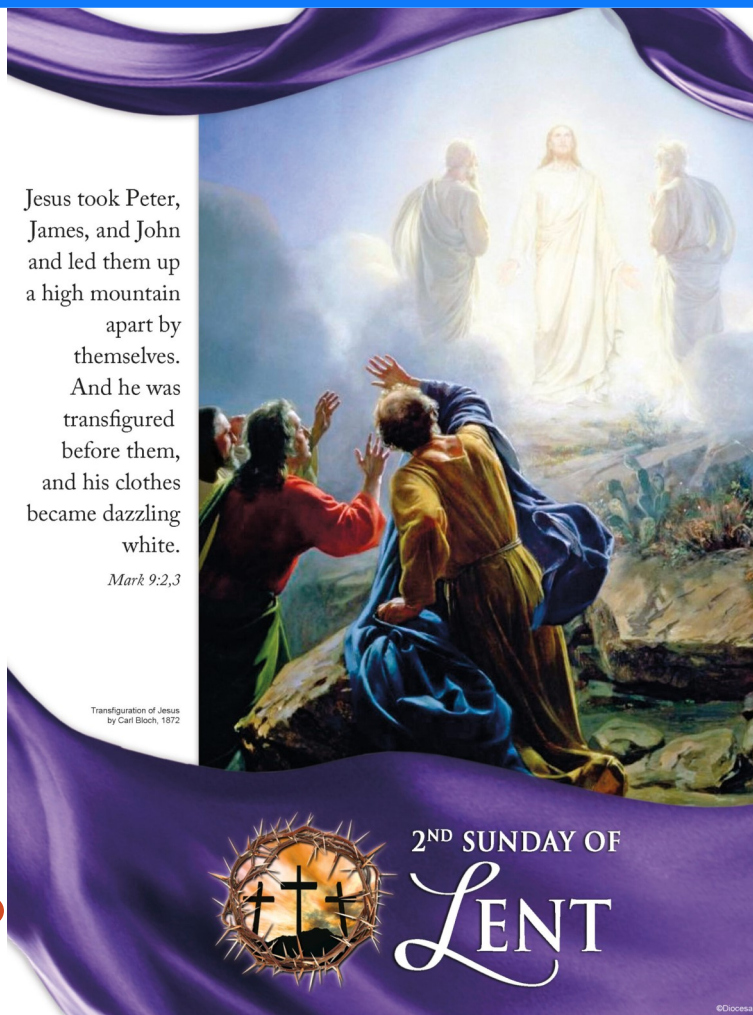
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Mark 9:2,3

Transfiguration of Jesus
by Carl Bloch, 1872

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.

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



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

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

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

ADMISSION: FREE-WILL OFFERING

www.gospelofmark.us

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending February 11, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$30,055	\$26,180	\$3,875
YTD	\$889,324	\$895,020	(\$5,696)
Needs	\$1,877	\$1,712	\$165

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending February 11, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,132
Second Collection	\$483

TAX STATEMENTS

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

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

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

Dear Parishioners,

I don't know how many of you remember the country song by the Charlie Daniels Band entitled *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*. It is a hit song from the late 70's that told the story of the Devil trying to steal the soul of a young fiddle player named Johnny. In the song, Johnny takes a bet from the Devil who claims that he can play the fiddle better than Johnny, who is a fiddle player too. And the bet is that if Johnny wins he gets a fiddle made of gold, but if he loses the Devil gets his soul.

Here's Johnny. Now, taking a bet with the Devil is always a bad bet, because the Devil never plays fair and targets our weaknesses. But Johnny, in his pride, does just that — he takes the bet. In the song Johnny says, *"My name is Johnny and it might be a sin But I'm gonna take your bet, you're gonna regret it, 'cause I'm the best there's ever been"*

Fiddler on the Hoof. And so as the song says, *"Hell breaks lose in Georgia"* — and so the fiddle battle begins. But if you listen to that song carefully, you will note that when that cloven-hoofed Devil plays the fiddle, there is no real music involved, no melody being played. The fiddle and the instrumentation that surround the Devil's playing are both imposing and bracing, but there is no music to it at all, it is all smoke and mirrors.

Duel Identity. On the other hand, when Johnny plays he fiddles up a storm in a great uplifting battery of music, melody, and lyrics, and all. And so, at the end of the song we are told that Johnny wins this musical duel against the Devil, and that the Devil, in fact, gives Johnny that a golden fiddle, laying it at Johnny's feet — as was the deal made in the bet.

Who Won? So, here's a few key question to ponder about all of this: Why is it that Devil didn't play his fiddle better and win? And if he couldn't play music, or if he knew he couldn't play well, why did he make the bet? In short, why didn't the Devil play better, and play to win? And the answer is: Because he didn't have to. The Devil already won. The Devil won that contest the moment Johnny made a deal with him. Johnny did not win. Johnny made a deal with the Devil; the Devil tempted him with a golden fiddle; the Devil preyed on Johnny's pride as a musician; and in the end Johnny grabbed at the temptation that the Devil dangled before him.

Being Played. And as the song finishes, Johnny says *"Devil just come on back, if you ever want to try again."* You see the bet with the Devil was for

Johnny's soul, and the Devil won — because Johnny played music with the Devil, while the Devil just plain played Johnny.

Johnny on the Spot. Johnny didn't realize that the deal that the Devil presented to him was a win-win deal — for the Devil. You see, if Johnny played and lost the music competition the Devil would win and take Johnny's soul in its despair, likewise if Johnny played and won the music competition (as the song said he did), the Devil would win because Johnny took the bait, and grabbing at the item the Devil tempted him with, the gold fiddle, and losing his soul in the mix. The minute Johnny made that deal, that bet, with the Devil, he lost.

Deal or No Deal? Much like with terrorists, you don't negotiate with the Devil. Because when you do, you lose. The only way to beat the Devil when he comes knocking at your door with a deal that plays on your pride, your need, or your want, is to say NO! To walk away. To send him packing. The only game to play with the Devil is "Deal or No Deal" — and our answer must be "No deal!"

Of Johnny and Judas. But sometimes we are like Johnny, and we let the temptation of the Devil lure us in. Have no doubt, the Devil has some form of a golden fiddle for all of us — that golden fiddle may be money, lust, power, pleasure, fame, etc. For Judas the golden fiddle was 30 pieces of silver mixed with a dose of vengeance. What is our golden fiddle? What is it that would make us strike a deal with the Devil?

The Three Temptations. In the famous Gospel passage, where Jesus is tempted in the desert by the Devil with three temptations, we find the Devil thinking he knows the Golden Fiddle that will lure Christ away. He offers Jesus a succession of Golden Fiddles, if you will. The fiddle of sating one's hunger, the fiddle of pridefully showing off one's power to impress others, and the fiddle of greedy conquest. And so let me lay out the scenarios and the responses of Christ at the time when, dare I say, the Devil went down to Judah., The Devil thinks that since God has taken on human flesh in the person of Christ, he can persuade him from righteousness.

First Temptation. Christ is praying and fasting in the desert. The Devil wants to tempt Him by an appeal to the human condition. The Devil loves to tempt man by temptations related to

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F.
Rev. Brennan Ferris
Rev. John Hynes

Pastor
Parochial Vicar
In Residence

HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt
Mr. John Harvey
Mr. Richard Kosior
Mr. Robert McMullen
Mr. Vincent Pisano

Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell

Deacon

HC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt

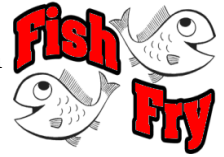
Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

FISH FRYS AT HC

Fish Frys will take place each Friday during Lent in the Parish Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Dinners will be served in the Parish Hall from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The menu will be breaded cod, baked flounder, fish sticks, mac & cheese, vegetable, cole slaw, coffee, tea, and dessert. Cost is \$15 a plate/ family \$40.00. Eat in or take out available.



RECONCILIATION TIME DURING LENT

During the Fridays in Lent, reconciliation will be available from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Holy Cross

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest registered member:

- Henry Leighton

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newly baptized:

- Aaron Nicolas Rivas Mendez
- Andrea Felicita Rivas Mendez
- Zofiya Renee Izabele Lopez Headen
- Aurora Luna Marie Lopez Headen

RECENT DEATHS

Our condolences to the family of Frances Tolliver who recently passed. May she rest in peace.

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT (MARCH 3)

FIRST READING: EXODUS 20:1-17

The Law is given to the people through Moses, teaching them how to live their lives and how to treat one another.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:22-25

The Risen Christ reveals the wisdom of God, a wisdom that is beyond anything we can imagine

GOSPEL: JOHN 2:13-25

Jesus drives the money-changers out of the Temple and proclaims that he will make all thing new.

GIVING UP CLUTTER FOR LENT

The Holy Cross Home School Associate welcomes the parish community to partake in a physical decluttering during this season of Lent. The school is hosting a textile drive from February 26—March 21

Donations can be dropped off to the Elementary Office ONLY. DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS IN THE GATHERING SPACE. Place items in plastic trash bags.

Items accepted: clothes, outerwear, swimsuits, belts, shoes purses, ties scarves, gloves that, linens drapery, plush toys, backpacks, briefcases.

Items NOT accepted: housewares, small appliances, toys, electronics, rugs, workout gear, baby ear, car seats, cribs, walkers.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

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

RETROUVAILLE:

Rediscover the love in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties, or crises. The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

Our Mom and Baby Group is intended for mothers with babies ages 0-2 years of age. Siblings are welcome to join! This group is for our mothers to connect with each other and our babies to enjoy themselves. We would love if you join us for prayer, discussion, and play time! If you have any small toys you would like to donate to the group, please contact Megan MacCormac. 302 535 9913 or email megs.farl@gmail.com. Our first meeting date will be Saturday, March 23, at 10 am in the Early Learning Center building, second floor.

MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY/MARCH

26 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Louis Jara

27 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Ray Costa (LI)

28 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Peter DeMario

29 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Rose Marie & Don McNelis
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

1 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Jonathan Mendoza

2 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Ben & Helene Wegemer Family
HC 5:00 pm DM Feigh Family

3 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Rita Rose Billings
ICC 8:30 am Jerome & Geraldine Bevenour
HC 9:30 am John Bell, Jr.
ICC 11:00 am Sachiko Saus
HC 11:30 am Robert Gabage
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

The Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is lit during the week of Feb 25-March 2 for Mathew Kropiewnicki, Jr.

HOLY CROSS RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of volunteers, will you join us? It involves creating ways to promote a pro-life, pro-love message to the community around events and special days.

If you are creative and have a heart of love, please call me. Let's chat! Donna 862-266-1099 or email me dlatteri86@gmail.com

"**Cabrini**" the new movie about Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first woman in America to be canonized, will be coming to Dover AMC 14 this March. A group will be attending Sunday March 10 at 1:00 showing. (See trailers on YouTube.) Join us! Ticket pre-orders are 50% off! \$4 a ticket via Angel Studios, see link on YouTube. Pay it forward or pay for someone else. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02S9IcBPefw>.

MARCH 2/3, 2024			
EMHC			SERVERS
5:00 PM	J. Bieker D. Darling	L. Darling P. Sheldon	L. Curley N. Klaus Z. Klaus
	LECTORS		
	D. Dixon F. Urick		
7:30 AM	C. Brown J. Chandler	T. Dinan W. Thomas	T. Catipay L. Thomas
	LECTORS		
	K. Meire		
9:30 AM	B. Richards G. Richards	N. West B. Whitworth	A. Wilk C. Wilk
	LECTORS		
	M. Sherlock S. Winfrey		
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez E. Pastoriza	M. Richard	TBD
	LECTORS		
	TBD		
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	TBD		
	LECTORS		
	T. Woodeshick		
11:00 AM	TBF		
	LECTORS		
	L. Soule		
1:00 PM	TBD		

Please Note: The schedule in the bulletin has been off one week from what is posted in the Sacristy. Sorry for any confusion this has caused.

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. Please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend

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

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

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



SUNDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
MONDAY	5 pm
WEDNESDAY	5 pm
THURSDAY	4 pm
FRIDAY	6 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm

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

CEMETERY POST-CHRISTMAS CLEAN UP

All winter and Christmas decorations will be removed on Monday, March 4th. If you wish to reclaim your decorations for reuse please do so before then. Your assistance in disposing of decorations at home will help reduce our clean up time and costs. As always, thank you for your understanding and cooperation in maintaining our sacred grounds.

PURSE BINGO

Mark your calendars! Our annual purse bingo to raise money to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer will take place on Saturday, **March 9**. Please contact Linda Darling in the parish office for tickets. Cost is \$35 per ticket—tables of 8. Tickets are going quickly so get yours today! You can reach Linda by email at: ldarling@holycrossdover.org.



CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, March 2nd, tune-in to hear an interview with baseball player/priest, Father Burke Masters, author of the book: "A Grand Slam for God." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, dio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

- **Cuaresma: Tiempo de Conversión,** El lema de este año «**A través del desierto Dios nos guía a la libertad**». El papa Francisco plantea un “paralelismo entre el pueblo de Israel en el desierto y el pueblo de Dios en la actualidad, que también lleva dentro de sí “ataduras opresoras que debe decidirse a abandonar”. “Nos damos cuenta de ello cuando nos falta esperanza y vagamos por la vida como en un páramo desolado, sin una tierra prometida hacia la cual encaminarnos juntos”, plantea. En este sentido, recuerda además que “la Cuaresma es el tiempo de gracia en el que el desierto vuelve a ser, como anuncia el profeta Oseas, el lugar del primer amor” (cf. Os 2,16-17). **A detenernos ante la presencia de Dios, en la carne del prójimo.** Por eso la **oración, la limosna y el ayuno** no son tres ejercicios independientes, sino un único movimiento”. El Papa “Invita a todos los cristianos a reflexionar sobre los estilos de vida” para evaluar y mejorar su contribución en la sociedad.
- **Retiro de Cuaresma:** En la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, el sábado, 2 de marzo, 8am-4pm en el salón parroquial. Donación \$15 que cubrirá el desayuno y el almuerzo.
- **El Foro Cristiano** Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024.
- **Peregrinación Diocesana:** Nuevamente la diócesis nos ha pedido que participemos en la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig, el sábado, 23 de marzo, 2024 en Wilmington. Los Jóvenes y adolescentes que desean participar por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Tendremos los *ensayos* todos los miércoles a de 7-8:30PM en el salón de nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel . Este mismo elenco también presentará la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia.

ICC

Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

- **Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión #5** el domingo 10, de marzo 3:00 – 5:30PM en el salón.
- **Clase de Preparación para La Primera Comunión:** Tercera Sesión el martes, 20 de febrero a las 6:30pm en el salón.
- **Clase de Preparación para la Confirmación :** Sesión # 6, domingo, 10 de marzo, 3:00pm a 5:30pm en el salón
- **CYM Peregrinación:** Acompañenos el 23 de marzo de 2024, para la 13.^a Peregrinación de CYM. Esperamos reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias mientras caminamos por las calles de la ciudad de Wilmington con el obispo Koenig, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia. El Itinerario es: Oración de apertura y entretenimiento a las 10:00 am en la iglesia St. Elizabeth, pasar por el Hospital St. Francis para una bendición especial a los pacientes, la oportunidad de celebrar la Reconciliación en San Antonio de Padua ,experimentar las Estaciones de la Cruz en la Academia de Padua. Seguir a la iglesia de San Pablo para arrodillarse ante el Santísimo Sacramento y regresar a St. Elizabeth para la Bendición de las Palmas y la Misa de las 4:00 pm. El día termina después de la Misa (alrededor de las 5:15 pm). El costo es de \$15 por persona (\$45 por familia) y contamos con autobús, por \$10 adicionales/persona mayor de 10 años (debes registrarte para tener un asiento). Deberíamos regresar a ICC alrededor de las 7:00 p.m. Hay que llevar su almuerzo. El evento del día es de 9:30 am a 5:15 pm. Comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti para obtener más información y formularios de registro para ICC y detalles del autobús, 410-482-8939.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: March 3 at 3:00 pm-5:00 pm

Save the Date!

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

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

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

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

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

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming formation opportunities!

The **Monday Morning Spiritual Support Group** will be doing Liturgy and Life: Unveiling the Mystical Movement of the Mass, from Matthew Leonard's The Science of Sainthood. Come for video and discussion Monday mornings at 9 am in St. Luke's room in the ELC. All are welcome!

Tuesday offerings:

Ongoing through March 19th No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion. "Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life."

Special Lent offering:

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

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

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:

Sunday, March 3 or Wednesday, March 6

Parent Meeting:

Sunday, March 3 at 5:15 pm or Monday, March 4 at 7 pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the ELC building 2nd floor. Final instructions for the Sacrament of Confirmation and schedule for interviews will be discussed.

Youth Group:

Our next meeting will take place on Monday, Feb. 26 from 6:30-8:30 pm. We will meet in the Luke room of the ELC building 2nd floor. Please join us for Faith, Music, Food and Fellowship. A great place to meet some great people. Friends welcome.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Classes will resume on February 25th.

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

First Communion: Prep Session #3 on Tuesday, February 20th, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

Confirmation Prep: Session #6, Sunday March 10, 3pm-5:30pm in the Parish Hall.

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

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open on March 1st.

Registrations will be taken for Sunday Religious Education classes from March 1st to August 30th. Registrations available at desk in hall during religious education classes and online.

Catechists are always needed and helpers always welcome!!

DIY projects can be most gratifying when all the directions are carefully followed, all the necessary materials are close at hand, a sufficient amount of time has been allocated for the project's completion, and the DIY'er has a certain passion for the endeavor.

For the past couple of weeks, the fifth graders have been presenting their 'How To' projects. I like the way Mrs. Thompson has assigned pairs of students. The job of the first student is to read the directions for completing the project while the second student implements the directions and completes the project. For example, last Friday I watched Joseph read the instructions for making a cheese omelet while his project partner Shane prepared the omelet, according to the directions. Shane scripted the spot-on directions fulfilling the written portion of the assignment. He collaborated with Joseph who read the instructions and sort of acted as a surgical assistant might during the operation. Joseph resembled the one-armed paper hanger as he reached for the butter, handed over the eggs, and insured the proper temperature for the pan. Shane busily whisked the eggs, and poured them into the frying pan that rested upon a portable countertop hotplate. Shane's able-bodied assistant was quick to produce the spatula that would prove to be the critical utensil in gently scraping the sides of the omelet as it began to set. Both boys were oh so very, very careful about choosing the optimum time for adding the cheddar cheese before the all-important flip-over ensuring that the polar-opposite sides land perfectly, edge over edge. (This is the part that always leads me to choose scrambled eggs.)

Success!! Our two fifth-graders produced the perfect omelet. Unfortunately, time would not permit preparing six omelets, enough for all twenty-four students to partake, so Mrs. Thompson created a raffle. While Joseph was choosing four tickets from the basket, Shane was carefully cutting the omelet into four pieces. My friends, that's what we call teamwork.

Within an instant, the countertop was made ready for the next project. All of Shane's accoutrement were packed away, Mrs. Thompson whisked away the cooktop, and we all waited patiently for Joseph's project. Shane acting in the role of the assistant this time began reading the instructions for the preparation of pizzelles. As one who has eaten my fair share of this delectable cookie, I had no idea how they were made. I was very interested in the process. As Shane began reading the recipe and handing over all of the ingredients, Joseph began mixing the mix. Joseph had carefully pre-measured all the ingredients in advance so all Shane had to worry over was distinguishing the flour from the baking powder. Again, both boys were intent on making sure the peak temperature was reached before adding the mixture onto the press. The pizzelle press resembles a mini waffle iron and is used in much the same manner. The mixture on the other hand is paste-like in texture. This came as a bit of a surprise to me. As I craned my head around to get a better view....."elementary office to Mrs. Pollitt" was heard by all over the radio. Mrs. Arndt was informing me of the arrival of my 1:00 appointment. As I prepared to leave the room, I watched both Shane and Joseph working together to drop a single teaspoon of the thickened, not very easy to work with mixture onto the press. And that's all I was able to see. Catching up after school I learned that everyone enjoyed pizzelles thanks to Joseph and his mom who had prepared enough at home knowing that, once again time would not permit making 24 of them in class.

I love this project. I love the attention to detail paid by the students in preparing for their presentation, as well as in the writing of the directions. The objective being clearly stated instructions enabling a novice the ability to produce a successful end-product. Not all of the presentations have involved a display of the culinary arts, although the preparation of such delights as brownies, grilled cheese, and pancakes has been enjoyed by all. Other student "how to" demonstrations include a beautifully created, larger than life three- dimensional snowflake, and demonstrating the proper technique for playing the guitar. The tissue paper flowers were such a hit that Mrs. Thompson requested an encore performance; Valentine bouquets for mom!

I have a fond childhood remembrance of sitting in front of the television positively mesmerized by the talent of artist Bob Ross. For the youngsters in the crowd, Bob Ross was a painter who in the span of his thirty-minute broadcast could create perfectly lovely landscapes such as waterfalls, forest scenes, and mountain vistas. I especially loved the tone of his calming voice as he demonstrated his artistic technique with such ease as he held a giant pallet completely concealing his left hand and forearm. Much in the fashion of Mr. Ross, one of the talented fifth grade students, Saanvi, created a mini-masterwork applying paint to canvas producing an astonishing sunset. Also, like Mr. Ross, she did so inside of a very short period of time!

This project envelopes so many different skills beyond just the writing objective. For example, effective public speaking, proper and efficient organization of materials, planning the sequence of a presentation, teaching and working cooperatively with others are a few of the valuable life skills learned while at the same time having a little bit of fun sharing what you enjoy. A win-win, wouldn't you say?

human needs, like hunger and of thirst. And so, Christ is in the desert fasting. The Devil, knowing Christ has gone without food, tells Him don't fast, eat. He tempts and flatters Jesus: C'mon you can turn that rock in to bread and eat – you don't need to fast – you need to satisfy your needs – it's all about you and your needs. The Devil is tempting Christ; the question is thus, deal or no deal?

And Christ replies NO DEAL: Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that falls from the mouth of God. That is to say: The love of God precedes all other human needs.

The Second Temptation. The Devil having failed to succeed in wooing Christ by appealing to his hunger (human need), appeals to the human vice of vanity. So, the Devil tells Jesus to throw himself down off the temple and see if God would save him. The Devil knowing Jesus is God is tempting him to show off his power, and the wonders He can do. Christ refuses because he realizes that if God used his powers to simply show off, to try to impress the Devil, he would be falling prey, and yielding his human nature to the dark one. And thus the Devil tempts Christ to impress him, to have God's power work at the behest of the Devil. The question is thus, deal or no deal?

Jesus tells the Devil NO DEAL: Don't put the Lord your God to the test – because God has not a darn thing to prove to you.

The Third Temptation. Having twice failed to get Christ to fall prey to temptation, he decides to play on the vice of greed. The Devil tempts people with it all the time with promises of the things of this world. He tells Christ, bow down before me and I will give you earthly kingdoms, earthly wealth, and earthly power. Why is he tempting Jesus with earthly things? Because that's all the Devil can do – he can only offer fading glory. And earthly things are all passing things, because as we were reminded on Ash Wednesday we are dust and to dust we shall return. All the kingdoms and all the gold in all the world we can't take with us. Nonetheless, the Devil tempts Christ, in his human nature, to choose the earthly over the heavenly. The question is thus, deal or no deal?

And Christ's response for the third time is NO DEAL. He reminds the Devil that there is only one God to worship... a reminder of Lucifer's own failure to serve God, and his fall from grace. Thus, the devil is thwarted again.

Three Strikes! Three temptations of the Devil to Christ, three appeals to vanity, greed and human weakness... and Christ's response: No deal, no deal and no deal!

The Devil Went Down to Judah. And we too when faced with these types of temptations should resist, too. Unlike Johnny the fiddle player in *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*, who struck a deal with the Devil, when the Devil went down to Judah, Christ showed us that the only way to deal with the Devil's temptations is not strike any deal with him, not to give ear to him.

Shiny Objects. The Devil craves to distract us from God by holding up that shining object and have us look away from God. If we don't engage, if we don't let the Devil in, if we don't get distracted by temptation, we keep the Devil at bay. If we do let him in, we then have a fight on our hands, with our soul in the balance.

Don't Fiddle with the Devil. So, please don't fiddle around with the Devil, say clearly and firmly: NO DEAL. Remember: the Devil really can't offer you anything – he's trying to sell you bad load of goods. Don't you buy it. Because the one thing the Devil cannot tempt you with, is the greatest desire of all: eternal life with God. The Devil, the angel Lucifer, had eternal life with God – but he turned from God and fell from grace. And he wants to take us down with him.

Temptations. When the Devil and his temptations come your way, say NO DEAL! Don't give ear to the Devil, rather pray, fast, and turn to God. The Devil has a lot of golden fiddles to tempt each of us with. And, that metaphor is appropriate because we are strictly instrumental to the Devil, that is he may tempt us, he may use us, but he doesn't give a whit about us. Bottom line: no fiddle of gold is worth turning from God for, no matter how tempting.

Let's be less like Johnny the fiddler, and more like the Christians we are called to be. This Lent, let us recall the lesson taught to us by Christ on that day when the Devil went down to Judah.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor