

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 26, 2023

1st Sunday of Lent

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

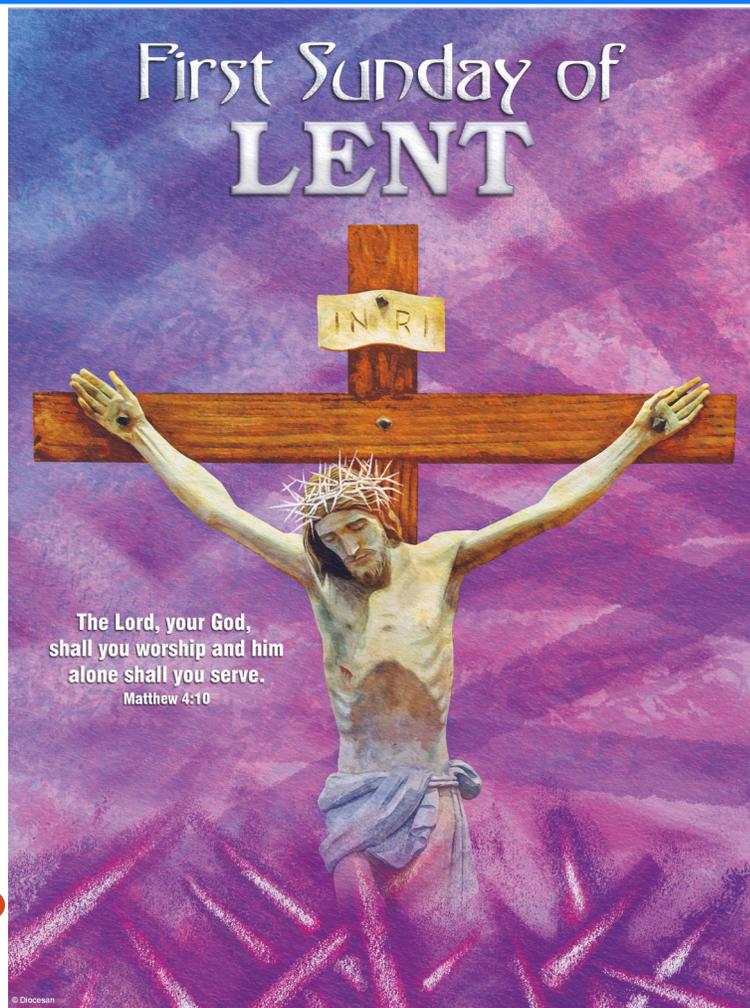
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
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 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.

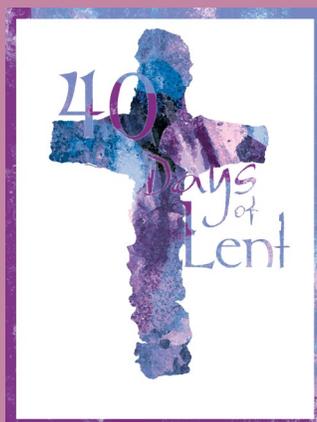
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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.

LENT

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

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



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending February 12, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$23,048	\$27,225	(\$\$,177)
YTD	\$875,012	\$906,550	(\$31,538)
Needs	\$1,477	\$1,604	(\$127)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending February 12, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,934
Second Collection	\$550

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.

We appreciate your support!

If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact

Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

In 1940, a man named Vidkun Quisling, who was the leader of an opposition party in Norway became very famous. And not in good way. Quisling desired power, to that end he befriended Hitler in the lead up to the invasion of Norway. Quisling betrayed the locations of and levels of Norwegian defenses, allowing Hitler to successfully roll into Norway. Quisling, then, in turn, asked the King of Norway to appoint him as Prime Minister with his hand-picked cabinet, and to dismiss the former Prime Minister and cabinet. The Norwegian King, Hakon, rejected the request, and had the unanimous support of his Government. The King said he would abdicate before capitulating.

The King has Left the Building. Ultimately, Hitler stepped up his takeover of Norway, and had Quisling — a traitor to his people— installed as Prime Minister. The King was as good as his word, and he went into exile rather than lend credence to a Nazi-led government in Norway. Meanwhile, Quisling, as a Nazi collaborator grabbed the reins of power and ruled on behalf of and on the behest of Hitler. Quisling as a betrayer of his people was despised by them — he was known as a traitor who sold out his countrymen for political power.

Fox, Lion, Dog. In 1945, as the Allies advanced, Quisling was abandoned by the failing Nazi forces, and was captured, arrested and tried in a Norwegian court. From accusations of treason and a raft of other charges, the prosecution made clear that the “Final Solution” (capturing and killing of Jews and other opponents of the Nazi regime) carried out in Norway had Quisling as its perpetrator. He was sentence to death and was executed. And this man, Quisling, who rose to power like a fox and ruled like a lion, died like a dog.

The Definition of a Traitor. Quisling had wanted power, fame, and status — and he got them, for a while, but at the cost of his soul. As Judas betrayed Christ with a kiss, Quisling betrayed his countrymen with the kiss of selfish desire. And in some sense, Quisling, in the end, did get fame. You see, if you pick the Webster’s Dictionary and look up the word “quisling” you’ll see the definition: “one who betrays another’s trust or is false to an obligation or duty.” And in thesaurus if you look up the word “quisling” you see these synonyms: “apostate, backstabber, betrayer, double-crosser, double-dealer, Judas, recreant, serpent, snake, turncoat.” Vidkun Quisling is now a byword for a traitor or a Judas. That’s the fame you get when you dance with the Devil.

A Morality Tale. That morality tale being told, there are some who would say that Quisling just took advantage of an opening to boost his political career. In other words, Quisling used what he had to get what he wanted. Others might say, from a point of amoralism, that Germany was going to invade anyway, so Quisling just

made the best of it. Yes, a nauseating defense, and yes, the scale of what Quisling did was so grandiosely awful that it becomes hard to find parallels.

The Devil’s Philosophy. “Use what you have to get what you want.” I am sure you have heard that phrase or some variant of it, before. Quisling certainly embrace that idea in his rise to power. Many people indeed still take it — or some form of it — as their philosophy of life. In our Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Jesus makes clear that the principle of doing whatever you need to do to get whatever you want is not always right. In fact, when that principle is applied without putting God first, it becomes a philosophy of the world; it becomes the devil's own philosophy, a philosophy that should be rejected by us, just as Jesus rejected it.

Bread, Worship and the Temple. The Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, every year, is about the Temptation of Jesus in the desert by the Devil. In this famous scripture passage, there are three temptations noted: The temptation (1) to change stone into bread, (2) to fall down and worship the devil, and (3) to jump down from the pinnacle of the Temple. In each of these temptations what the devil is saying to Jesus is, “Come on, do whatever you have to do to get what you want.” In each of these three temptations Jesus overcomes the temptation by basically telling off the Devil — and making clear that one can only use godly ways to achieve things.

The First Temptation. In that First Temptation of Christ, our Lord had fasted for 40 days in the desert and was, as any of us would be, very hungry. The Devil, plays on our weaknesses and our human needs, and so that serpent who tempted Adam and Eve into that original sin, puts an idea into Jesus’ ear: “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread” When the Devil attacks us, he tries to make us doubt ourselves, he does the same thing to Jesus — he sows the seeds of doubt: “If you are the Son of God...” If! He tries to make Christ waver in his faith. Going back to the Garden of Eden, that serpent did same thing. Remember? He asked Eve: “Did God really say you should not eat of any fruit of the garden?” Temptation, whether of the world, the flesh or the Devil, starts with the sowing of the seeds of doubt. When the Devil tempts us, he wants us to doubt — he wants us to ask: “What did God really say” “Does God really want me to do this, or give up that?” Jesus cast off those temptations by refusing let the doubt of that snake-oil salesman, the Devil, to even get his foot in

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Brennan Ferris	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	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED (HC)

Condolences to the families of those who have recently died:

- Lynn Nellius
- Richard Willemin, II
- Jacqueline Cohan

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

All winter and Christmas decorations will be removed on Monday, March 6th. 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

FISH FRYs

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 7 pm. Menus will be posted in the bulletin each week. On Friday, March 3, the menu will be fried cod, baked flounder, mac & cheese, stewed tomatoes, green beans and dessert. Cost is \$15 a plate.

EXTRA RECONCILIATION TIME DURING LENT

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT (MAR 5)

FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4

When God calls Abram, it is a life-changing moment, for he is asked to leave everything that he knows.

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-10

JPaul tells Timothy that Jesus brings us the Good News, but following him can come at a price.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:1-9

The wondrous sight of Christ in Glory also inspires fear in the apostles.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!!! Get away for an intimate weekend – no group sharing required. The next weekend is March 10-12, 2023 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.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

A Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of April 21-23, 2023. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with the pain of abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 7.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, March 4th, author Marlene Watkins will discuss her book, "Everyday Miracles of Lourdes: Twenty Extraordinary Experiences along the Way to the Grotto." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640.

TOTAL ABANDONMENT TO GOD'S WILL

Please join us Monday mornings at 9:00 this Lent for Matthew Leonard's Total Abandonment to God's Will. We will view and discuss the videos in St. Luke's room in the ELC beginning February 27. All are welcome! For further information you can contact (text or call) Carol Bugglin, Ph.D. at 302-423-6654.

IRISH DINNER DANCE

Hosted by Knights of Columbus Council #4182

MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY

27 MONDAY
HC 8:00 am Russell Cletus Warne

28 TUESDAY
HC 8:00 am Angelina Lewis

1 WEDNESDAY
HC 8:15 am Maximo Chao, Sr.

2 THURSDAY
HC 8:00 am Hyacinth Sealy
ICC 7:00 pm For the People

3 FRIDAY
HC 8:00 am Antonio Granitto

4 SATURDAY
HC 8 am Steven Peer
HC 5:00 pm Louis V. Jara

5 SUNDAY
HC 7:30 am DM Charles Feigh Family
ICC 8:30 am Valerie Adam
HC 9:30 am DM Bell & Koresec Families
ICC 11:00 am Teresa Crenshaw
HC 11:30 am Robert Fries
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

Music provided by: The Godfather of New England Doo Wop
Saturday, March 18th at 6pm
at the Columbian Hall
Cost \$40.00 per person
Contact Don Ryan
at mairdon@verizon.net or go to our website kofc4182.org to pay online.

FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE

This Lent make your special sacrifice to come pray to save the lives of both mother and child! You can make an impact.
When: Each Thursday, March 24 through Good Friday
Where: Planned Parenthood
805 S. Governors Ave., Dover
Time: 9:30 am—11:30 am
Any questions, please contact Donna Lateri at 862-266-1099

HOLY CROSS MARCH 4/5

	EMHC	SERVERS	
5:00 PM	F. Hettinger	D. MacLeish	G. Coyle
	D. Kaltenbaugh	M. MacLeish	M. Coyle L. Curley
LECTORS			
J. Davis F. Urick			
7:30 AM	J. Davis	A. Fischer	E. Bydlon
	T. Dinan	J. Fischer	T. Catipay S. Shevock
LECTORS			
M. Jacobs			
9:30 AM	L. Olmstead	M. Sirolli	K. Fernandez
	V. Pepper	N. Sirolli	G. Maddalena C. Imhof
LECTORS			
C. Petka M. Sherlock			
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez	M. Richard	
	E. Patoriza		
LECTORS			
TBD			

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	E. Costello		
	LECTORS		
D. Smith			
11:00 AM	F. Cristiano		
	LECTORS		
L. Soule			
1:00 PM	TBD		

Thank you to all who help with our various ministries at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception. We are truly grateful for your service to your parishes.

We are always in need of more Lectors, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion, and Altar Servers.

Please call your parish offices if you would be interested in joining in with those who already serve.

REUPHOLSTERING THE PEWS

The work on the church pews continues. We will have daily Mass in the church. Thank you for your patience as we have this task completed.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HO)

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 where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY	6 am, 4 pm, 5pm
MONDAY	5 am, 5 pm
TUESDAY	5 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
WEDNESDAY	11 am
THURSDAY	5 am
SATURDAY	8 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

ADULT EDUCATION

The Bible in a Year

In English: Father Mike Schmitz

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

In Spanish: Fray Sergio Serrano

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

LADIES RETREAT

We reflect on the lives of Four Teresa's and how their example guides us today. Saturday, March 4 at St. Bernadette Church Hall, 109 Dixon St. Harrington, DE.

Cost is \$10 per person - we ask everyone to bring their own lunch - breakfast, snacks and drinks provided. Retreat begins at 8:30 am with breakfast, 9 am we begin our day and conclude at 3:30 pm with Mass at 4 pm. Please make checks payable to Delaware State Columbiettes and mail to Linda Darling, 206 Pitch Kettle Ct., Magnolia, DE 19962 by February 24, 2023. Questions? 302-233-2246.

- Retiro de Cuaresma “Del Desierto a la Tierra Prometida”. El sábado 4 de marzo, en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, en Marydel. De 8 de la Mañana a 5 de la tarde. Donación de \$ 15.00 por persona y \$45.00 por Familia.
- Felicitamos a la nueva junta Directiva de 2023 – 2025. Oremos para que trabajen por el bien y crecimiento espiritual de la comunidad.
- Febrero es por excelencia el mes del Amor y la Amistad. Y se destaca el amor Conyugal y la Familia. Este 7 al 14 de febrero de 2023, celebraremos la Semana Nacional del Matrimonio! Esta celebración anual es una gran oportunidad para que todos reflexionen sobre el regalo que es el matrimonio para nuestra Iglesia y nuestro país, así como una oportunidad para que las parejas revivan y crezcan sus propios matrimonios. El tema de este año es: Matrimonio: Una sola carne, entregada y recibida. El Papa Francisco en Amoris Laetitia nos exhorta acerca de lo importante que es priorizar momentos juntos entre las parejas. (Amoris Laetitia 219) Por eso es importante para la salud de toda relación, ya tengan un año de casados o cincuenta, cultivar momentos donde comparten actividades juntos, y profundizan su relación. La Rutina es mortal para el Matrimonio. Oremos por los Matrimonios.
- El ministerio de Arte y Ambientación se reunirá el Martes, 21 de Febrero a las 4:00 Pm en la iglesia para limpiar y ambientar el Templo para la Cuaresma. Si usted desea ayudar, solo tiene que venir. Mientras más manos tengamos es más fácil y rápido el trabajo.
- Todos están invitados a la reunión de planeamiento para el domingo, 5 de marzo en el salón parroquial de eventos. Esta reunión es de suma importancia para planear todas las actividades del próximo año litúrgico que será desde Julio 2023 a Junio 2024. Si usted está interesado en contribuir con ideas, trabajo por el bien común de nuestra comunidad y nuestra parroquia venga a esta reunión, que durara aproximadamente 2 horas. Es una reunión de trabajo y les pedimos encarecidamente de no traer niños, porque es una jornada larga y los niños se inquietan y hay que atenderlos y se hace más larga la reunión. Todos están invitados, todos somos iglesia. Si no puede venir a la reunión le pedimos que ore para que esta reunión sea un éxito y que hagamos la voluntad de Dios y para el bien común de nuestra comunidad.
- Si usted desea compartir su talento o quiera participar en alguno de los ministerios por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman o llame a la oficina parroquia al 302-674-5787 ext. 118

ICC- EDUCACIÓN

CONFIRMACION DE JOVENES:

Quinta Sesión es el Domingo, 12 de marzo, a las 2:30-5pm en el Salón Parroquial. Todas las tareas, y asignaciones hay que entregarlo

Clases de Primera Comunión en ICC:

Tres Sesión es el martes 7 de marzo de 6:30 – 7:30 en el salón

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

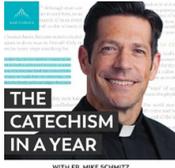
Next Class 2/26/2023 3 to 5 pm
Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>
If you have any questions contact Tammy Korosec either 302-674-5787 x122 or tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class March 12, 2023 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Early Learning Center. Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF? Contact Tammy Korosec.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

The Catechism
In a Year



www.ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:

Next Class Sunday, February 26 at 3:30 pm or Wednesday, March 1 at 6 pm

Parent Meeting for Teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer:

Parents are asked to please attend Sunday, February 26 at 7 pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the ELC building. We will go over registration, fundraising, as well as answer any questions parents may have.

Parent Meeting:

For parents of candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation - please mark your calendar for our final parent meeting on Sunday, March 5 or Monday, March 6 at 7 pm in the ELC Building Matthew Mark room. Sign up for interviews as well as final instructions for Confirmation will be shared.

Purse Bingo:

Tickets are going fast - please join us for our annual Purse Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, March 25.



Doors open at 6 pm and Bingo begins promptly at 7 pm.

Email ldarling@holycrossdover.org to reserve your spot. Cost is \$30 per person - includes snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Cash Bar with beer and wine available.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

First Communion classes Immaculate Conception: Third Session is Tuesday, March 7th, 6:30-7:30pm in the ICC hall.

Youth Confirmation for Immaculate Conception:

Fifth Session is Sunday, March 12, at 2:30-5pm in the Parish hall. This will be final session for the Sacrament.

All paperwork due this day. We will be adding a catch up session for one evening as well.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE: (HC AND ICC)

Bishop Koenig invites youth, young adults, and families from all parishes and schools to join him as we come together for the twelfth Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Pilgrims from across the diocese will carry the diocesan pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wilmington with the Bishop as a representation of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and His journey on Good Friday to Calvary. The day begins at St. Elizabeth parish with opening prayer and a concert featuring The Scally Brothers at 10:00 am. We conclude with the 4pm Mass at St. Elizabeth. Don't miss this great opportunity to wrap up your Lenten journey with hundreds of your peers. Cost for the day is \$15 per person or \$45 max per family (bring your own lunch). There is a \$10 fee for the bus.

For Holy Cross: To register, please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org. For more information, visit www.cdowcym.org. Registration deadline is March 20, 2023.

For Immaculate Conception: To register, please contact Alicia Poppiti 410-482-8939 at Immaculate Conception for more information. You may register your family separately/on your own as well.

Holy Cross School resides in the Capital School District. As a school that takes up residence (so to speak) in the district our students are entitled to receive additional educational services through the federally funded Title One program. These students have demonstrated a certain need for additional assistance in Reading, over and above the daily classroom instruction. Without going into great detail on the allocation of these funds, suffice it to say that there are Holy Cross students who benefit from Title One funding. Holy Cross is in partnership with Back To Basics Learning Dynamics, an agency located in Wilmington that places qualified resource specialists in schools to provide educational services to those students who have been referred for 1:1 tutorial sessions.

Holy Cross is blessed to have Mrs. Sharon Wendel in our school to work with our students. She offers additional assistance in Reading. She meets with them 2-3 times per week depending on the need. The children love Mrs. Wendel for the compassion she shows as she coaches them along with their sight words, phonics, reading fluency, or building comprehension skills. Mrs. Wendel began working with our students in the 21-22 SY and was eager to return in the 22-23 SY because she loves our students for their kindness, good manners, and commitment to improving upon their reading skills. We were saddened to learn following our Christmas holiday of an illness that prevented Mrs. Wendel from returning to school. Due to unforeseen circumstances her absence was prolonged causing concern over the interruption in services for our students. Sharing our concern, Back To Basics was working to provide some alternative to the tutorial sessions provided by Mrs. Wendel. Due to the lack of agency personnel in the Dover area we were forced suspend the in-person sessions temporarily in favor of virtual sessions provided by a reading teacher who resides out of state. I admit to being a naysayer. Never a fan of the virtual approach to learning for young children, I immediately questioned its effectiveness. The element of choice was not mine. It was the only alternative on the table.

Enter Mrs. W. She brings a bright smile, an obvious love and commitment to her work with children. She appears on the computer screen and our children respond to her as if she were sitting in the same room. Since their learning station is in the elementary office, Mrs. Arndt can work through any technology glitch that occurs as well as lend an ear to the friendly exchange between Mrs. W. and her student as she works towards their individual skill building. Mrs. W. like any experienced teacher has many rabbits in her hat and a bevy of tricks up her sleeve. One morning she and her student were reciting nursery rhymes. The student would read the nursery rhymes back to Mrs. W. Nursery rhymes, as a learning tool are valuable resources in skill building. Repetition of the rhyme will cultivate clear enunciation in speech development; this repeated practice will also improve memory and comprehension because a nursery rhyme in all actuality is just a short story.

And so it was an excited Mrs. Arndt who was just about over the moon when she relayed the story of the session between Susie Q. and Mrs. W. She began; "Guess what Mrs. Pollitt!" At a bit of a loss as to how to adequately respond, I began with "I don't know....what?" And then she told me the story.

It seems that our adorable Susie Q. shed her role of student and took on the role of teacher on that very morning.

Mrs. W. used the nursery rhyme Mary Had A Little Lamb in her lesson. Susie Q. dutifully repeated the rhyme before taking the reins.

*Mary had a little lamb, whose fleece was white as snow.
And everywhere that Mary went, the lamb was sure to go.
It followed her to school one day which was against the rules.
It made the children laugh and play, to see a lamb at school.
And so the teacher turned it out, but still it lingered near,
And waited patiently about, till Mary did appear.
"Why does the lamb love Mary so?" the eager children cry.
"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know." the teacher did reply*

As it happens, Susie politely interrupted the lesson by informing Mrs. W. that the lamb in the rhyme is Jesus and follows Mary, his mother wherever she goes. She went on to inform Mrs. W. that we are all like Mary, followed by the lamb, Jesus. Responding to Mrs. Arndt, "Oh my gosh, I don't think I ever really thought about that." Quickly pulling up the words of the rhyme, Mrs. Arndt and I studied the rest of the lyrics. I suppose there's such a thing as reading too much into a situation, but if you read the words....do you see what I see?

It followed her to school one day which was against the rules.

It made the children laugh and play, to see a lamb at school.

And so the teacher turned it out, (Is Jesus allowed in our schools?)

but still it lingered near, And waited patiently about, till Mary did appear.

(Doesn't he wait patiently for us if and when we should become separated from Him through life's journey?)

"Why does the lamb love Mary so?" the eager children cry.

(Because God is filled with an indescribable love for all his children.)

"Why, Mary loves the lamb, you know." ("Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.") the teacher did reply.

This is Lent. As we embark upon these holy days, remember little Susie Q. who in her pure, sweet, and holy innocence stepped forth as a witness of our faith. Will we do likewise?

the door. He shunned the doubts and held true to the word of God.

Wonder, Bread? In regard to this first temptation, remember that people are tempted only with what they need or want. If we didn't need or want something, we wouldn't be tempted with it. In this case, after his fasting Jesus needed and wanted to eat. So, the devil tempted him with food. It is not a sin for Jesus to eat after fasting. The sin may lie in how the food is obtained. Should he follow the normal way of obtaining bread or should he take the shortcut suggested by the devil to obtain instant bread? Jesus refuses to take the devil's shortcut. The means we employ to satisfy our needs must be in accordance with the word of God. Feeding on God's word is ultimately more important than feeding on bread. "It is written, one does not live by bread alone."

The Second Temptation. In the second temptation the devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and promises to give him authority over them if only Jesus would worship him. Remember that Jesus was about to begin his public life and was looking for a way to get the whole world to know him and accept his message. Again, the Devil tempts him to use what he has (his heart, his soul) to get what he wants (the one faithful flock). Again, Jesus says no. The end does not justify the means. "It is written, worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." (verse 8).

The Third Temptation. In the third temptation, the Devil asks Jesus to throw himself down from the pinnacle of the temple as a way to prove that he was the Son of God. Remember that the people were asking Jesus for a sign to prove that he was the Messiah. Jesus wants to convince them that He was the one. But how do you do that! The devil suggested this sensational sky jump without a parachute. Again, use what you have to get what you want. Use your supernatural power to get the people to recognize you and believe in you as the Son of God, the Messiah. And again, Jesus says no. The God of Jesus Christ is not a God of the sensational but a God who works through the ordinary, everyday things of life. Thus, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Quisling vs. Faithfulness. So you see, unlike Quisling and those other quislings of this world, who believe you can trade off everything you have to obtain what you want, our Lord and our faith shows us and tell us that we should never trade off our faith in God or our moral principles to obtain anything in this world, because faithfulness to God is more precious than anything in this world. We should never seek to gain the whole world and lose our soul.

No, What to Say. And so, when we are tempted away from God, when we are tempted to be quislings, when the Devil tries to convince us that is nothing more important in the world than our own desires, remember these three temptations of the Devil to Christ. More importantly remember Christ's response all three temptations: No, no and no! And don't just remember those responses, repeat them: No, no, and no. When temptation comes your way – and it will – send it packing. Look that Devilish temptation square in eye and say "NO!" And, then add that quote from TV's Who Wants to be a Millionaire – and say, "and that is my final answer."

One Trick Pony. Here's the bottom line, the Devil can tempt us, he can dangle the bait, but only we can bite. Don't do it. Why? Because the Devil is a one trick pony, and he can only offer one thing: temptation of passing things. On Ash Wednesday you heard that you are dust and to dust you shall return – this is to remind us that when our brief life on this world is over, what good will earthly power be, what good will earthly possessions or things be to us? Those things pass!

Hope vs. Dope. As we begin Lent, and journey these 40 days, keep in your mind and heart this truth: one thing the Devil cannot tempt us with, which is the great desire of all – is the hope of paradise, of heaven – eternal life with God. God gives us hope, the Devil plays us for dopes. Choose your side.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

